

A photograph of a historic stone prison building. On the left, a tall, square stone tower with crenelated battlements rises against a clear blue sky. The tower has arched openings. To the right of the tower is a thick stone wall. A large, dark, arched metal door is set into the wall. The ground in front of the wall is covered with dry, brownish vegetation. A blue semi-transparent banner covers the right half of the image, containing white text.

PRISON GROUP TOURS

— in —
JACKSON, MI

experience
jackson.com



PRISON GROUP TOURS IN JACKSON, MICHIGAN

Fascinating history and unique locations you can't find anywhere else!

Your group's adventure begins nearly 200 years ago just outside of downtown Jackson at [Michigan's first state prison](#). The 19-acre facility may look like a castle, but don't be fooled, the 25-foot brick walls were built to keep prisoners from escaping – they learned their lesson after ten inmates escaped in 1840.

Once inside the walls, tour guides will show your group around the grounds, telling fascinating tales of crime, corruption, punishment, escapes, and so much more. With the ability to accommodate large groups, everyone will be able to see where prisoners lived, worked, and planned escapes as you tour the building that held the prison cells until 1934.

The building may not be home to the criminal mind anymore, but it is home to the creative. What was once the cell block of Michigan's first state prison is now a residence with a focus on the arts. [Armory Arts Village](#) is the only old prison in the world repurposed as a residence with a focus on the arts – a unique blend with a prison past.



To book a tour or for more information about taking a group tour of Michigan's first state prison, contact Jackson Journeys at 517-817-8960.

Break for Lunch

After touring Michigan's first state prison, take a break for lunch to savor the mouth-watering delicacies you'll only find in Jackson. It's nearly criminal to come here without experiencing foods that are uniquely Jackson. Every direction you look you'll find great [restaurants](#) tempting you!



Next Stop: Downtown Jackson

After lunch, it's time for your group to head to the heart of downtown Jackson. With something for everyone, it's a great afternoon activity. Exploring the downtown area you will find it is packed with history, rich architecture, unique shops, art, and one-of-a-kind restaurants.

The [First Congregational Church](#) is a must-see stop as it is believed it was an integral stop on the Underground Railroad. Just walking around, you'll be able to see striking similarities between the buildings downtown and some of the most recognizable structures in the world. If you are looking for something you can only find in Michigan, then head over to one of our specialty or boutique shops.

The home of [Bright Walls](#) mural festival, visiting the downtown area is an art-filled experience! Murals cover dozens of building walls, providing an enchanting cultural experience. Dozens of internationally acclaimed muralists flocked to Jackson to leave their mark of the city with their artwork. Explore all the murals by taking the self-guided walking tour!

For more information about Bright Walls Mural Festival or the Self-Guided Walking Tours, visit ExperienceJackson.com

Check In & Freshen Up for Evening Entertainment

After a day exploring Jackson, you'll find your hotel to be a welcome retreat. Check in, freshen up and relax for a bit before heading out to enjoy an entertaining evening in Jackson.

Year-round, you'll find plenty of entertainment options that are perfect for your group. Whether it's a concert by the [Jackson Symphony Orchestra](#), a show at the [Potter Center](#), or music and wine tasting at [Sandhill Crane Vineyards](#), your group will have a wonderful time enjoying the evening.



DAY TWO

Attractions in all Directions

No matter which direction your next destination has you going, Jackson County has great attractions to stop at before heading out. Go north to take a step back in time to 19th century pioneer life at the [Waterloo Farm Museum](#). Located in the countryside of the northeast corner of the county, the drive there is a treat all in itself. Driving east will take your group to a time before paved streets, cars, and buses at [Lost Railway Museum](#) in the historic town of Grass Lake. With several unique museums documenting the area's history, you could spend an entire day in this charming town. Experience Jackson can help you plan your tour, too!



Traveling south, just before leaving the city, you'll find the iconic [Ella Sharp Museum](#). Nestled within the mature trees of the [Ella Sharp Park](#), here your group will truly feel like they are living in the Civil War Era as they explore the fully-erect historic village. Drive west to the charming town of Spring Arbor, where you'll discover Jackson's automotive manufacturing days at [Ye Ole Carriage Shop](#). In addition to housing the largest collection of Jackson-made cars, the museum's seven rooms showcase an original 1915 soda bar, dozens of classic cars, 150 gas pumps & globes, and so much more!



There are plenty of great places for your group. For more information about attractions and things to do, visit ExperienceJackson.com!



experience jackson.com

Big events are rolling through Jackson all year long. Find more adventures at ExperienceJackson.com/FeaturedEvents

Culture, nature, nourishment, art, museums, and trails. There is always something to do in Jackson County. Explore more of Jackson at ExperienceJackson.com/Things-To-Do

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