

## TRAVEL

## Michigan home to three favorite historic hotels

If you seek an unusual lodging, look about you.

Three Michigan hotels are among 41 historic properties selected in a poll of 65 AAA property inspectors who were asked for their favorite historic hotels.

One hotel in Indiana and one in Illinois also made the list.

## Michigan

» The Dearborn Inn, a Marriott Hotel, built in 1931 by Henry Ford on the grounds of the Ford Motor Company, the country's first airport hotel.

In 1937, five colonial homes were added to the inn and were designed as replicas of the homes of famous Americans: Edgar Allan Poe, Walt Whitman, Barbara Fritchie, Oliver Wokcott and Patrick Henry. In the same year, the property also became the first hotel in the country to offer air conditioning.

Info: tinyurl.com/dearborn-inn, 313-271-2700

» Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island opened in 1891 high on a bluff with spectacular views of the Straits of Mackinac from the hotel's famous 660-foot porch.

It also is listed on the National Trust's list of Historic Hotels of America.

The setting for the film "Somewhere in Time," with Jane Seymour and the late Christopher Reeve, the hotel's elegance is reminiscent of a bygone age.

Why stay at a historic



Sue Schroder

Booth News Service

(Note: Go to mlive.com/travel and enter to win a Getaway Giveaway for up to four people to the Grand Hotel.)

» Henderson Castle Bed and Breakfast overlooking Kalamazoo. Built in 1895, the castle is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Proprietors/owners Peter and Laura Livingston-McNelis, whose daughter was once diagnosed as terminally ill, host several arts-related activities there annually, including knights' and princess' camps for children. The camp emphasizes that if you have the luxury of wearing a crown, you also have the responsibility to share your gifts with others.

"The current owners have lovingly restored much of the original historical details and have created theme rooms based on cultures around the world," according to AAA. "Not to be missed is a nighttime dip in the rooftop hot tub, as this contemporary addition offers spectacular views of the twinkling downtown lights."

Info: hendersoncastle.com, 869-344-9827

## Out of state



**HISTORIC HOTELS** — Henderson Castle Bed and Breakfast in Kalamazoo is listed among AAA's top 41 historic hotels and inns. It is one of three Michigan properties on the list. | Booth News Service

It, with an ornately decorated domed, gold-leaf ceiling with intricate design and lovely murals," according to AAA. Info: hiltonfamilychicago.com/hotel9-palmer.aspx, 312-726-7300

Detailed reviews by AAA's inspectors of 41 historic properties can be found at AAATravelViews.com by searching "American History." The blog also features AAA

featured in "Anatomy of a Murder."

Info: bigbaylighthouse.com, 906-349-9972

» Sand Hills Lighthouse Inn near Alhambra. The rooms are decorated in a lavish

Victorian style with various amenities in different rooms including fireplaces, whirl-pool bathtubs and balconies with views of the lake.

Info: sandhillsighthouseinn.com, 906-337-4344

## On the ledge

Stephen Oparka of Flint and Stacy Ballard of Bay City are the winners of two free passes each to the Chicago Skydeck and Ledge offered through this column. Thanks to all who entered the random drawing. Here is an early review of a family's experience on the Ledge from Gretchen Mohney, who visited the attraction with her family:

"It was relatively easy for us to step out if we looked 'out' into the horizon, but when I looked back to where I came from, I immediately grabbed my daughter's hand to pull her back in! My 'peeked' but couldn't make the first step — especially if they looked down first.

"Lines were long but tolerable for the elevators, but the actual lookout (lines) were small. There were some disgruntled tourists who purchased the \$30 per person fast pass to skip lines, but once up at the Skydeck they had to wait in the same line to get back down. If you fast pass, you also miss the historical video, which even my children (ages 7 and twins at 9) found interesting and valuable."

— Get a travel tip! Contact Sue Schroder at [mschroder@boothmichigan.com](mailto:mschroder@boothmichigan.com).