

Lake Erie LIGHTHOUSES

& MARITIME ADVENTURES

EXPLORE LIGHTHOUSES AND
MARITIME HERITAGE ALONG
OHIO'S LAKE ERIE COASTLINE



COME CLOSER. EXPERIENCE THE
GREAT LAKES ALONG AN AMERICA'S BYWAY®



Lake Erie LIGHTHOUSES & MARITIME ADVENTURES

Byond their majesty and mystique, Lake Erie's lighthouses serve important maritime duties. For some, these duties have diminished over the years as technology increased. Even those lighthouses whose duties are replaced with hi-tech innovations still serve as valuable landmarks for boaters and mainland visitors.

Lighthouses on the Great Lakes

Lighthouses in the United States began appearing as early as 1716 along the Atlantic coast, a time when the Great Lakes region was largely vast wilderness. As settlers later arrived to the Great Lakes, boat traffic increased with the need for transportation and commerce. The first two lighthouses on the Great Lakes were built in 1818 at Buffalo and Presque Isle in Erie, Pa. The oldest continuously operating lighthouse on the Great Lakes is Ohio's Marblehead Lighthouse, operating since 1822.

Who Kept the Lights?

The federal Treasury Department first managed lighthouses. In 1852, after years of dealing with issues reported by inspectors, Congress created the United States Light House Services. This board established 12 lighthouse districts, each with its own supervisor. An army engineer officer supervised new construction and repairs, and regional distribution centers provided many supplies.





In 1910, the Bureau of Lighthouses was formed. This civilian group oversaw a period of rapid technological development. Automation, electricity, radio and electronic buoys transformed the efficiency and effectiveness of lighthouses. The U.S. Coast Guard eventually took charge of overseeing the nation's lighthouses.

The last 50 years included rapid advancements in radio and satellite navigation technology. Faced with rising costs of operating and maintaining lighthouses under their care, the U.S. Coast Guard began looking for organizations interested in taking over some of these beacons. As these lighthouses become available, local nonprofit groups have stepped forward to purchase and preserve these important icons. If you're interested in supporting the preservation of these lighthouses, contact the Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail Office at info@coastalohio.com or (419) 609-0399.



Legend



-  Ferry Lines
-  Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail
-  Interstate Highways
-  Federal and State Routes

EASTERN OHIO COAST



1 Conneaut Harbor Lighthouse

Location:

Best viewed from Conneaut Township Park off Route 531 in Conneaut. From Route 20, take Route 7 north. Route 7 turns into Broad Street. Follow Route 7 north to Lakeside Drive. This lighthouse guards the mouth of Conneaut Creek. The lighthouse is not open to the public.

History:

Conneaut Harbor traded in whiskey, lumber and grain. Today, this port transports coal, iron ore and stone. The present lighthouse was built in 1936 and features a 60-foot steel tower with a black band that serves as a navigational aide during the day. The "sister light" of one in Huron, Conneaut Harbor Lighthouse was automated in 1972 with alternating red and white signals from a 375 mm lens every six seconds. It's not the first lighthouse to guard Conneaut Creek. Pier lights lit this harbor until 1885 when the first lighthouse was built.

Contact:

Ashtabula County Convention and Visitors Bureau, (800) 337-6746 or www.visitashtabulacounty.com



Carl Stimac

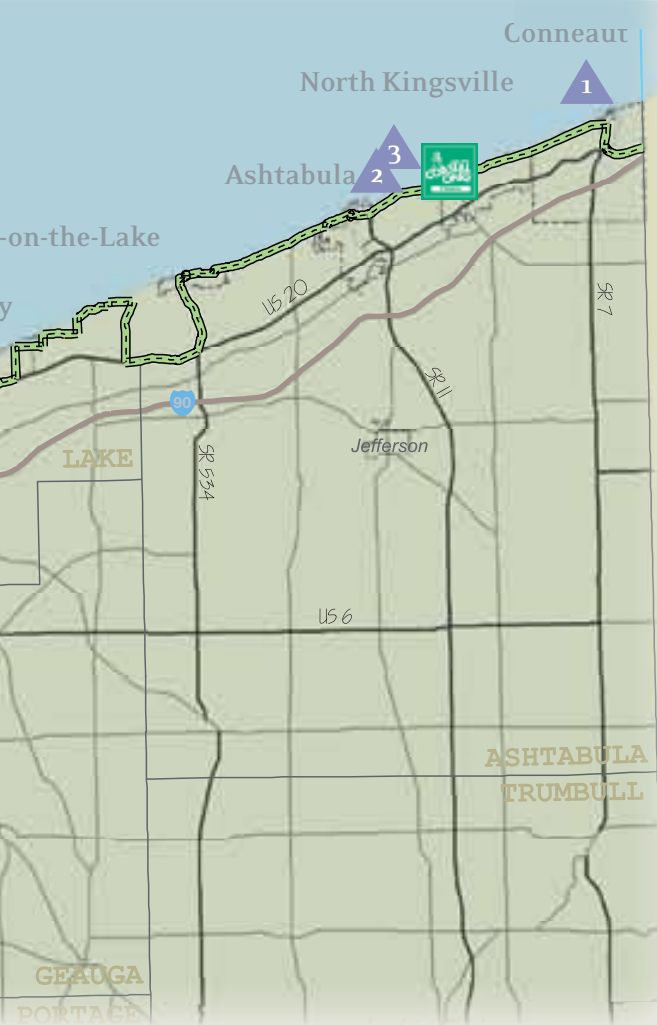
2 Great Lakes Marine and Coast Guard Memorial Museum (also known as Ashtabula Marine Museum)

Location:

1071 Walnut Blvd., Ashtabula. From either east or west on Route 20 or I-90, take Route 45 north and turn east on Route 531. Or, take Route 11 north and turn west on Route 531. Follow arrows on the blue signs to the museum.

History:

Lighthouse keepers, and later United States Coast Guard Chiefs, took turns living in this 1871 home. In 1898, an addition was built for an assistant keeper. Keepers alternated shifts of sleeping at the lighthouse and keeping warm and dry with family members on shore. Dedicated to maritime heritage, the museum includes the world's only scale model of a Hulett ore unloader. View freighters loading and unloading at Ashtabula Harbor, the Ashtabula Lighthouse, a unique arched conveyor belt that transports coal to fields behind the museum, and one of only two lit Bascule lift bridges in the United States. The museum also features an original 4th order Fresnel lens from the Ashtabula Lighthouse, lighthouse models, and Coast Guard artifacts.



Visiting the Museum:

Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays from Memorial Day thru August. Hours are noon to 5 p.m. The museum is also open Saturday and Sunday in September, noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$3 for those 6-16. Tours for 10 or more are available throughout the year.

Contact:

Great Lakes Marine and Coast Guard Memorial Museum, (440) 964-6847 or (440) 224-0972 or www.ashtabulamarinemuseum.com.

3 Ashtabula Harbor Lighthouse

Location:

Located at the mouth of the Ashtabula River, this beacon is best seen from the Great Lakes Marine and Coast Guard Memorial Museum (also known as the Ashtabula Marine Museum). The lighthouse is not open to the public.



Carl Stimac

History:

During World War II, Ashtabula received more iron ore than anywhere else in the world. This port still ships and receives goods from across the globe, including limestone, taconite, coal and agricultural potash. Lighthouses underwent many changes as technology advanced and boat traffic on the Great Lakes increased. This lighthouse was the last one manned on Lake Erie and was built in 1905.

Contact:

Ashtabula Lighthouse Preservation and Restoration Society, www.ashtabulalighthouse.com

4 Fairport Harbor Marine Museum and Lighthouse

Location:

129 Second St., Fairport Harbor. Located at the mouth of the Grand River. Take Route 2 to Painesville Exit. Head north on Richmond Street (Richmond Street becomes High Street). Museum is located at corner of Second and High Streets.



Carl Stimac

History:

A spiral staircase leads visitors to the top of this 60-foot sandstone and brick lighthouse built in 1871. An adjacent museum exhibits navigational instruments, lighthouse lenses, models of early sailing vessels, relics from Native American settlements along the Grand River, and salt-mining exhibits and iron ore displays. Fairport Harbor transports salt, limestone, sand and gravel. Nearby, the nation's deepest salt-mining operation extracts salt from beds 2,000 feet deep and up to two miles under Lake Erie.

Visitor Information:

Open from the end of May thru the third weekend in September on Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays, 1 to 6 p.m. Special tours by appointment. Admission to the museum and lighthouse tower is \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and \$1 for those 6-12. Admission for school tours is \$1 per child/chaperone and small tour groups have a \$20 minimum charge.

Contact:

Fairport Harbor Marine Museum and Lighthouse, (440) 354-4825 or www.fairportlighthouse.com

5 Fairport Harbor West Breakwater Lighthouse

Location:

Best viewed from Lake Metroparks Fairport Harbor Lakefront Park or at the Fairport Harbor Port Authority at the end of Water Street. A parking fee applies to both locations. To reach Fairport Harbor, take Route 2 to Painesville Exit and go north on Richmond Street (Richmond Street becomes High Street). You may also view the lighthouse from Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve by taking Route 2 to Route 44 Mentor and heading north. Bathers and folks in comfortable clothing and appropriate shoes can walk the rocky breakwall, weather permitting. Located along the Grand River. This lighthouse is not open to the public.



Carl Stimac

History:

Fabricated in Buffalo, this picturesque steel lighthouse was transported by the steamer WOTAN and began operations in 1925. The tower and lantern room were built on-site. Fairport Harbor's first lighthouse was constructed in 1825 and is said to have been a northern terminus for runaway slaves welcomed by the abolitionist keeper, Samuel Butler. This lighthouse, with its then-modern fog signal station, replaced the 1871 lighthouse (see Lighthouse #4 above).

Contact:

Lake County Visitors Bureau, (800) 368-LAKE

6

Cleveland Harbor East Entrance Lighthouse

Location

Best viewed from Cleveland Lakefront State Park's Gordon Park or E. 55th Street Marina.

History:

Guarding the east entrance to Cleveland's harbor, this 47-foot steel tower is still an active navigational tool. A red light flashes three seconds on, three seconds off. The original structure was a skeletal lighthouse built in 1915.

Visitor Information:

This lighthouse can only be viewed from a distance. Lake cruises, which include close-up views of Cleveland's lighthouses, are offered by the NAUTICA QUEEN (www.nauticaqueen.com) and the GOODTIME III (www.goodtimeiii.com).

Contact:

Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Cleveland, 800-321-1001



Rod Watson

7

Cleveland East Pierhead Lighthouse

Location:

Best viewed from the plaza behind the Great Lakes Science Center and the Steamship WILLIAM G. MATHER Museum.

History:

As early as 1818, Cleveland petitioned the federal government for a lighthouse. The waterfront city was still quite small, but the prospect for growth based on the construction of a new canal gave city fathers plenty of hope. Located on a bluff where West 9th Street is today, the first lighthouse was built in 1829 near the Cuyahoga River. This 63-foot lighthouse was built by Levi Johnson, a shipwright and home builder who also built the original Cedar Point Lighthouse in 1836 and placed buoys in Sandusky Bay. Johnson also oversaw the building of a 700-foot-long stone pier east of the Cuyahoga River. A breakwall protects Cleveland's harbor with lighthouses positioned at both ends. This cast iron lighthouse was built in 1910 and once housed a 5th Order Fresnel lens. At 30 feet tall, this lighthouse now operates with a 300mm plastic optic and is an active Coast Guard station.

Visitor Information:

This lighthouse can only be viewed from a distance. Lake cruises, which include close-up views of Cleveland's lighthouses, are offered by the NAUTICA QUEEN (www.nauticaqueen.com) and the GOODTIME III (www.goodtimeiii.com).

Contact:

Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Cleveland, 800-321-1001
Cleveland West



Rod Watson

8

Breakwater Lighthouse

Location:

Best viewed from the plaza behind the Great Lakes Science Center and the Steamship WILLIAM G. MATHER Museum.

History:

The West Pierhead Lighthouse is 67 feet high and built of cast iron. Constructed in 1911, it was attached to a fog signal building built a year earlier. The steam-driven fog signal could be heard for 12 miles. The original 4th Order Fresnel lens was removed in 1995 and is on display at the nearby Great Lakes Science Center. The lighthouse was automated in 1965. The small building adjacent to the lighthouse housed a lighthouse keeper and two assistants beginning in 1910. It still operates as a U.S. Coast Guard station.

Visitor Information:

This lighthouse can only be viewed from a distance. Lake cruises, which include close-up views of Cleveland's lighthouses, are offered by the NAUTICA QUEEN (www.nauticaqueen.com) and the GOODTIME III (www.goodtimeiii.com).

Contact:

Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Cleveland, (800) 321-1001



Rod Watson

9

Steamship WILLIAM G. MATHER Museum

Location:

305 Mather Way. Located in North Coast Harbor district just north of the Great Lakes Science Center. From I-90, take Ninth Street exit north and turn west at Erieside Drive. Follow Erieside past the Rock Hall, Science Center, and turn right at intersection between the Science Center and the football stadium. Proceed north one block to the next intersection and turn right.

History:

The City of Cleveland led the Great Lakes in the economic value of its shipping and receiving between World War I and World War II as the demand for steel products and military products grew. Leading the fleet from 1925-1952 for the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company was the 618-foot-long WILLIAM G. MATHER, a straight deck freighter that operated until 1980. Restored and preserved as a museum ship, the MATHER is open seasonally for visitors to tour and experience life as freshwater sailors as they explore living quarters, the pilothouse and a four-story engine room.

Visitor Information:

Open Friday thru Sunday in May, September and October. Open daily, June thru August. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., Monday thru Saturday, and noon to 5:15 p.m. on Sunday, Memorial Day and July 4. The last tour is scheduled for 5:15 pm. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors 60 and older, and \$4 for students, 5-18, and for those with fulltime college identification.

Contact:

Steamship WILLIAM G. MATHER Museum, (216) 574-6262 or www.wgmather.org



W.G.Mather

10 U.S.S COD

Location:

Located at the western edge of Burke Lakefront Airport and one block east of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

History:

Cleveland was the meeting place for raw materials and transportation. During World War II, Cleveland industries grew to support the production of planes, tanks, jeeps, artillery and other needs. This 312-foot GATO class submarine's five massive diesel engines were produced by Cleveland's General Motors plant.

Visitor Information:

Open daily, May thru September, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (last guests admitted at 4:30 p.m. to allow time for tour.) Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors ages 60 and older, and \$3 for students six and older. Those in military uniform and families of active duty submariners are admitted free. Limited free parking is available; however, you may park in the airport's parking area. Because this is an authentic submarine in an unaltered state, accommodations for the disabled are limited.

Contact:

U.S.S. COD, (216) 566-8770 or www.usscod.org



U.S.S COD

11 Great Lakes Science Center

Location:

601 Erieside Ave., Cleveland. Located at the foot of East Ninth Street and Route 2.

Information:

In addition to more than 400 exhibits, the center provides hands-on learning opportunities about Great Lakes ecology. An OMNIMAX® Theater presents shows daily. See the original Fresnel lens from Cleveland Harbor's lighthouse.

Visitor Information:

Open daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The center is closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Adult admission is \$8.95, youth (3-17) admission is \$6.95 and senior (65 and older) admission is \$7.95. OMNIMAX® tickets are sold separately. Military and group discounts are available. Additional fees may apply for special exhibitions.

Contact:

Great Lakes Science Center, (216) 694-2000 or www.glsc.org

12 Lorain Breakwater Lighthouse

Location:

Located at the mouth of the Black River in downtown Lorain. From Route 2, take Route 58 north and follow to shoreline. The lighthouse is not open to the public.

History:

Lorain's first "light" was a lantern hanging on a pole at the edge of Lake Erie. At least two other lighthouses stood guard over the Lorain harbor until the existing Lorain Lighthouse was constructed in 1917. This concrete building with steel walls was built to withstand Lake Erie. The walls are more than 10 inches thick and even baseboards and window frames are made of steel. Originally outfitted with a 4th Order Fresnel lens, the beacon was replaced with a small red Coast Guard warning light before the lighthouse was decommissioned in 1965. The lighthouse was replaced with an automated light at the west tip of the



Lorain Country Visitors Bureau

harbor breakwall.

Visitor Information:

The lighthouse can best be seen from a lakefront park just east of the bridge. Special cruises to the lighthouse may be offered by the Lorain Port Authority.

Contact Information:

Lorain Port Authority, (440) 204-2265 or www.lorainportauthority.com/lighthouse

13 Vermilion Lighthouse

Location:

Located at the mouth of the Vermilion River in front of the Inland Seas Maritime Museum at 480 Main Street (See listing #14 below.)

History:

Known as the "Town of Sea Captains," Vermilion was without a welcoming beacon for 63 years. This replica of the 1847 Vermilion Lighthouse was built in 1992. The lighthouse has a red beacon and a 16-foot-tall octagonal cast iron tower. The original lighthouse was moved to Lake Ontario and is now known as the East Charity Shoal Lighthouse. The Vermilion Lighthouse beckoned many sailors and ship captains home. Stroll the streets of this quaint nautical town, and you can see the influence these captains had on the architecture and ornamentation of the homes.

Visitor Information:

The lighthouse is on the front lawn of the Inland Seas Maritime Museum.

Contact:

Great Lakes Historical Society, (800) 893-1485 or www.inlandseas.org

14 Inland Seas Maritime Museum

Location:

480 Main St., Vermilion. From Route 2, take route 60 north. At intersection with Route 6 (Liberty Avenue), go straight to the lake.

Information:

This museum highlights Great Lakes maritime heritage and includes two original Fresnel lenses. Other exhibits include those featuring shipwrecks and shipping. An interactive display allows visitors to explore Great Lakes shipwrecks. The CANOPUS pilothouse overlooks Lake Erie from the back deck of this museum that also houses the Great Lakes Historical Society archives. The museum exhibits three different Orders of Fresnel Lenses, including a Second Order which is rare on the Great Lakes. A Fourth Order Lens is operational and set to the original timing from Two Harbors, Minn.

Visitor Information:

The museum is open Monday thru Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$5 for students 6-15 and seniors 65 and older. Family admission is \$14.

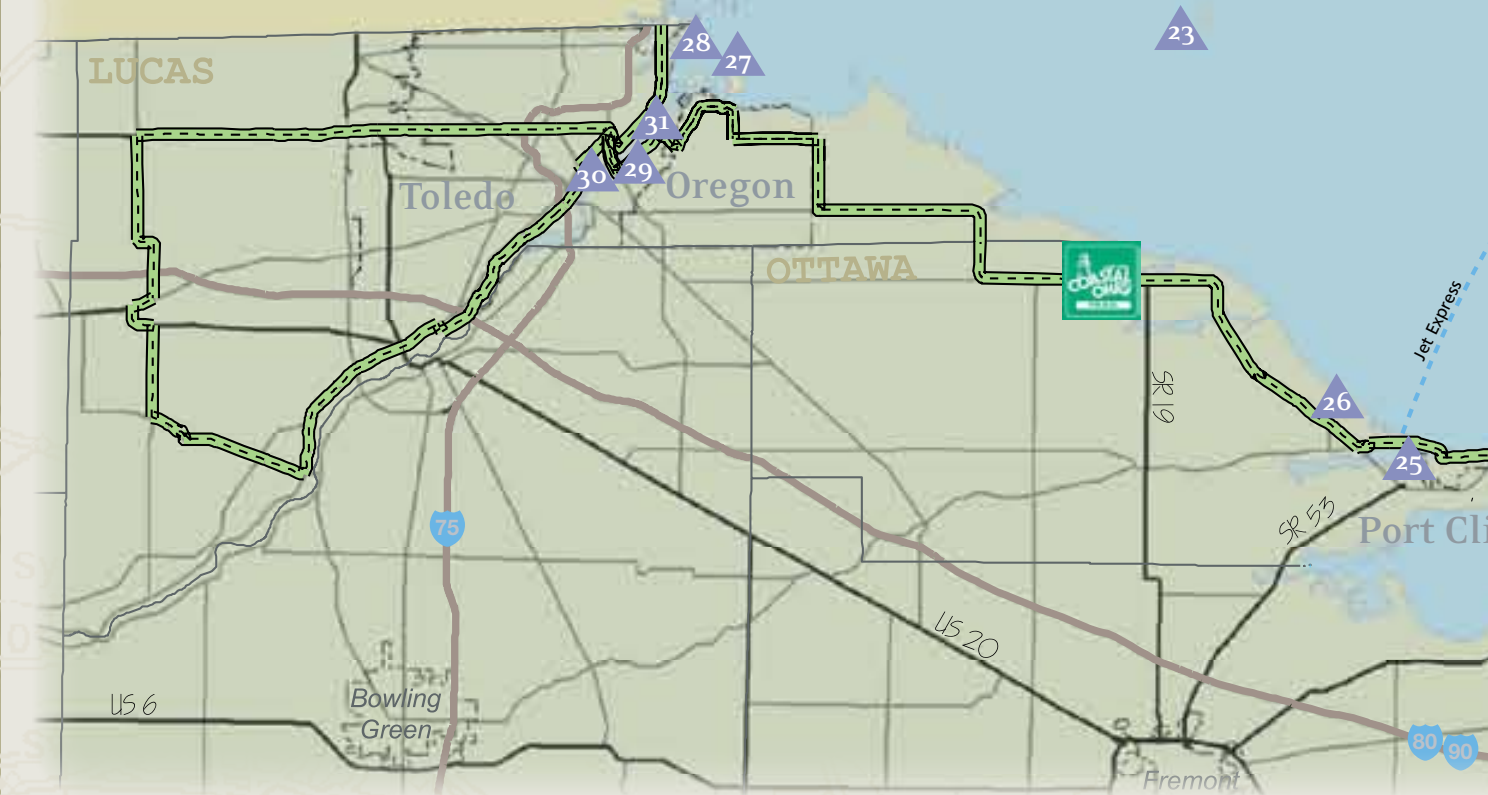
Contact:

Great Lakes Historical Society, (800) 893-1485 or www.inlandseas.org



W.G.Mather

WESTERN OHIO COAST



15 Huron Harbor Lighthouse

Location:

Located along the mile-long pier at the mouth of the Huron River in downtown Huron. From Route 2, take Route 13 Huron Exit. Turn north and drive approximately two miles to the intersection of Route 6. Turn left on Route 6 and right on Williams Street. Follow Williams Street a half-mile to Wall Street and turn right. Travel about a block to Main Street and turn left. At the end of Main Street, park on the left and follow the breakwater and paths along the pier.

History:

The modern white steel light marks the entrance to the Huron Harbor. Its 72-foot-tall tower was built in 1936 on a pier that extends from the shore. F.P. Dillon and W.G. Will built two similar lighthouses the same year. Huron's "sister" lighthouse stands in Conneaut. The light was formerly operated by remote control from a brick station on shore, and it had a lantern at the top. It was automated in 1972. The lighthouse is still operational and is managed by the U.S. Coast Guard.



Dan Feicht

Visitor Information:

The lighthouse is not open for tours; however, you can walk the mile-long pier to its base.

Contact Information:

City of Huron, (419) 433-8487 or www.huronparks.org

16 Cedar Point Lighthouse

Location:

Located on the Cedar Point peninsula at the entrance to Sandusky Bay. From Route 2 or Ohio Turnpike, take Route 250 North and follow signs to Cedar Point Amusement Park.

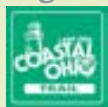
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



The first lighthouse at this site along Sandusky Bay was built in 1839. The picturesque 38-foot Cedar Point Lighthouse standing today was built in 1862. The light, which was used for navigation until 1909, is located atop the lighthouse keeper's 6-room limestone home at the tip of the Cedar Point peninsula. The home, which is not open to the public, was restored in 2001 when Cedar Point introduced the cottages and cabins of Lighthouse Point. This campground resort features the lighthouse in its logo.



Dan Feicht

Legend



-  Ferry Lines
-  Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail
-  Interstate Highways
-  Federal and State Routes



Visitor Information:

The lighthouse is not open for tours; however, you may visit the lighthouse by paying for parking at Cedar Point and driving around to Lighthouse Point. Cost is approximately \$9 for regular-sized vehicles.

Contact:

Cedar Point, (419) 627-2350 or www.cedarpoint.com

17 Maritime Museum of Sandusky

Location:

125 Meigs St., Sandusky. From Route 2 or Ohio Turnpike, take Route 250 North. At intersection with Route 6, continue straight on Sycamore Line and veer left on Meigs Street.

Information:

This museum includes artifacts and exhibits from early shipbuilding days and the evolution of ferryboats, which once serviced the islands and Cedar Point amusement park. It also has a large collection of memorabilia from the Lyman Boat Works.



Jeff Greenburg

Visitor Information:

Memorial Day weekend thru Labor Day, the museum is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday thru Saturday, and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. Labor Day weekend thru May, the museum is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children under 12 and seniors. Family admission is \$6.

Contact:

Maritime Museum of Sandusky, (419) 624-0274 or www.sanduskymaritime.org

18 Wolcott Keeper's House

Location:

9999 E. Bayshore Rd., Marblehead. From Route 2, take Route 269 Marblehead Exit. Take Route 269 to Route 135 (East Bayshore Road).

History:

Benajah Wolcott began keeping watch over the Marblehead Lighthouse in 1822. Along with appropriations for constructing the lighthouse, the federal government offered provisions to build a house for the keeper and his family. Wolcott served as keeper till his death in 1832. His wife, Rachel, became the first female lighthouse keeper on the Great Lakes.

Visitor Information:

The home is open Monday thru Friday, June thru August, 1 to 5 p.m. It is also open second Saturday of the month, May thru October, and other times by appointment or for special events.

Contact:

Keeper's House, (419) 798-9339 or www.thekeepershouse.org

19 Marblehead Lighthouse State Park

Location:

From Route 2, take Route 269 Exit (Marblehead). Take Route 269 right to Route 135 (E. Bayshore Road). Lighthouse is located at tip of peninsula. To reach the lighthouse through the Village of Marblehead, take Route 269 Exit to the left and turn right on Route 163.

History:

Overlooking Sandusky Bay and operating since 1822, the Marblehead Lighthouse is the oldest continuously operating lighthouse on the Great Lakes. Visit the Keeper's House next door for displays related to lighthouse history and a Fresnel lens added to the lighthouse in 1905.

Visitor Information:

Although the state park is open year round, the lighthouse and adjacent museum are open for tours Monday thru Friday from the end of May to early September. Hours for touring the lighthouse are 1 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. The lighthouse is also open the second Saturday of the month, May thru October.

Contact Information:

East Harbor State Park, (419) 734-4424 or www.dnr.state.oh.us/parks/parks/marblehead.htm



No credit

20 South Bass Island Lighthouse

Location:

Located on South Bass Island in the Western Basin of Lake Erie. Take either the JET EXPRESS from Port Clinton (Route 163) or downtown Sandusky (Jackson Street off Route 6), or take Miller Boat Line from Catawba (Route 53).



Ohio Sea Grant

History:

Spacious by most lighthouse standards, this brick lighthouse contained two and half stories of living space with an attached 60-foot tower. Its 4th Order Fresnel lens was first lit in 1897. The lighthouse was automated in 1962. Today, it's owned by The Ohio State University and used as living quarters for its nearby Stone Laboratory on Gibraltar Island. A NOAA satellite station was added to the property in 1983.

Visitor Information:

You can view the lighthouse by taking Langram Road past Miller Boat Line dock till it dead ends. Tours of the lighthouse are offered by the Ohio State University Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to noon, from mid-June to mid-August. Open houses are also scheduled throughout the summer.

Contact Information:

The Ohio State University/Ohio Sea Grant, (419) 285-2341 or www.ohioseagrant.osu.edu

21 Lake Erie Islands Historical Society Museum

Location:

The museum is located in downtown Put-in-Bay on South Bass Island behind the Put-in-Bay Brewing Company and town hall. See ferryboat directions listing for Discovery Site #20.

Information:

Explore the heritage of the Lake Erie Islands, from the evolution of shipping and pleasure craft to stories of early island wineries and resort hotels. Artifacts include those related to winter ice fishing, winemaking, ice sailing, lighthouses, the Inter-Lake Yachting Association and more.

Visitor Information:

Open daily May, June and September, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Open daily July thru August, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Open weekends in October, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$2 for those 12 and older. Senior admission is \$1.50. Family admission is \$5.

Contact Information:

Lake Erie Islands Historical Society Museum, (419) 285-2804 or www.leihs.org

22 Perry's Victory & International Peace Memorial

Location:

The memorial is located on the east side of the Village of Put-in-Bay. See ferryboat directions in listing for Discovery Site #20.

History:

The United States gained military control over Lake Erie following the Battle of Lake Erie on Sept. 10, 1813. Led by Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, American naval forces defeated and captured a fleet of British warships, enabling the U.S. to block British supplies to Detroit, and allowing General William Henry Harrison to successfully defeat British and Indian forces at the Thames River the next month.

Visitor Information:

Open at 10 a.m. daily late-April to mid-October. Open October to late-April by appointment. Closing times vary from 5 to 7 p.m. pending on time of year. Admission is \$3 for those 16 and older.

Contact Information:

National Park Service, (419) 285-2184 or www.nps.gov/pevi



No credit

23 West Sister Island Lighthouse

Location:

Located on West Sister Island in the Western Basin of Lake Erie. Not accessible to visitors.

History:

Marking the west end of the South Passage through the Bass Islands, this 1848 lighthouse is owned by the U.S. Coast Guard; however, most of the island is now a protected National Wildlife Refuge as an important breeding and nesting area with the largest heron and egret rookery on the U.S. Great Lakes. The 55-foot limestone lighthouse was originally topped with a 4th Order Fresnel lens.

Visitor Information:

This lighthouse can only be viewed by private boat. Visits to the island are prohibited.

Contact Information:

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, (419) 898-0014 or www.fws.gov/midwest/ottawa/wsister.html

24 Green Island Lighthouse

Location:

Located on Green Island in the Western Basin of Lake Erie. Not accessible to visitors.

History:

Once the main supply of strontium in the United States, tiny Green Island is now a state wildlife area and off-limits to visitors without prior written permission from the Chief of the ODNR Division of Wildlife. The first lighthouse, built in 1854, burned on New Year's Eve in 1864. A two-story limestone replacement was built in 1865 and operated till 1939 when the U.S. Coast Guard replaced it with an automated light on top of a tower. The lighthouse has since been gutted by fire.

Visitor Information:

Visits to the island are prohibited and strictly enforced.

25 Ottawa County Historical Society Museum

Location:

126 W. Third St., Port Clinton. Take Route 2 to Route 163 west and turn left on Madison Street. Turn right on Third Street.

Information:

Explore the heritage of the Lake Erie Islands area, from the evolution of shipping and pleasure craft to stories of early orchards and fishing.

Visitor Information:

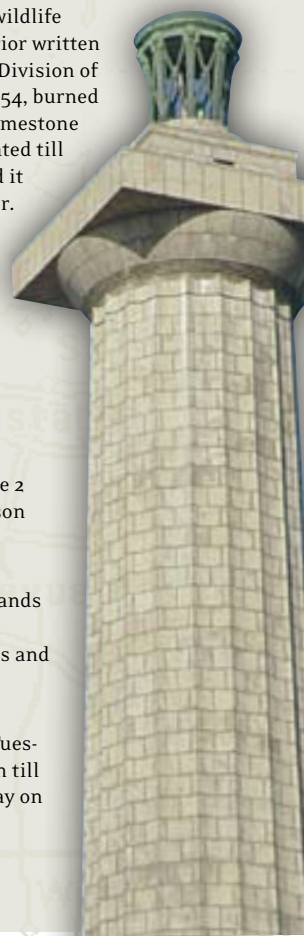
Open Memorial Day thru Labor Day on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from noon till 3 p.m. Open Labor Day thru Memorial Day on Wednesday, noon to 3 p.m.

Contact Information:

Heritage Society, (419) 732-2237



G.D. LaCourse



26 Port Clinton Lighthouse

Location:

Located at Brands Marina, 451 W. Lakeshore Dr. in Port Clinton. From westbound Route 2, take the first Route 163 Port Clinton Exit and head toward Port Clinton. Follow Route 163 over the drawbridge and Brands Marina is on the left. From eastbound Route 2, take the first Route 163 Port Clinton Exit (Lakeshore Drive). Brands Marina will be on the right as you get ready to cross the drawbridge. Follow posted signs regarding speed, please.

History:

This small wooden lighthouse guarded the west breakwater of the Portage River entrance between 1874 and 1964. This beacon had a single kerosene lamp visible for six miles.

Visitor Information:

The lighthouse is located on private property owned by Brands Marina. Marina owners welcome visitors, but request speeds of 5 mph or less on your way through the marina to visit the lighthouse.

Contact Information:

Ottawa County Visitors Bureau, (800) 441-1271 or Brands Marina, www.brandsmarina.com/lighthouse.htm



OH Lake Erie Commission

27 Toledo Harbor Lighthouse

Location:

This lighthouse can only be seen by boat, or you can view it from afar the shores of Maumee Bay State Park. Visit the state park where you can find a replica in the gift shop. Take Route 2 to North Curtice Road (Route 202), east of Toledo. Turn north to Maumee Bay State Park.

History:

This operating 69-foot Romanesque structure has guarded Toledo's harbor since 1904 on a crib about eight miles from the mouth of the Maumee River. The three-story light was commissioned after the Army Corps of Engineers dredged a deep channel linking the western end of Lake Erie through Maumee Bay to the Maumee River and the thriving Toledo port. Efforts to restore the lighthouse and to provide access are underway.

Visitor Information:

Can only be seen by boat or from the shoreline at Maumee Bay State Park on fairly clear days. Cruises offered with M/V SANDPIPER in Toledo, www.sandpiperboat.com or (419) 537-1212

Contact Information:

Toledo Harbor Lighthouse Preservation Society, (419) 691-3788 or www.toledoharborlighthouse.org



OH Lake Erie Commission

28 Turtle Island Lighthouse

Location:

Located northeast of the mouth of the Maumee River. Island and lighthouse are privately owned and not open to the public.

History:

Built in 1831, this lighthouse was abandoned when the Toledo Harbor Lighthouse began operating in 1904. The Ohio-Michigan boundary runs through the middle of the island. The lighthouse is not operational.



Rod Watson

Visitor Information:

This lighthouse and island are privately owned and not open to the public. Ruins can be viewed from boat only. Lighthouse can be seen from a distance during the Harbor Lights Cruise offered by M/V SANDPIPER in Toledo, www.sandpiperboat.com or (419) 537-1212.

Contact Information:

www.islandturtle.com

29 SS WILLIS B. BOYER Museum Ship

Location:

Take Route 280 north to Front Street south and turn right on Main/Cherry Street. Located at International Park.

History:

Built as the largest and most advanced freighter on the Great Lakes, the SS WILLIS B. BOYER made its maiden voyage shipping coal from Toledo to Sheboygan, Wisc. in 1911. This 617-foot freighter is open for tours.

Visitor Information:

May thru October, the ship is open Monday thru Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. No tickets sold past 4 p.m. Open other times by appointment. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5.50 for seniors and \$4 for those under 16.

Contact Information:

S.S. WILLIS B. BOYER Museum Ship, (419) 936-3070

30 31 Manhattan Range Lights

Location:

Front Range Light is located at Lighthouse Café, 2605 Broadway St., Toledo. Rear Light is located at H. Hanson, 2824 N. Summit Street.

History:

Built as a pair, these range lights guarded the mouth of the Maumee River when constructed in 1918 and stood 80 feet.

Visitor Information:

Front Range Light is at public restaurant. Rear Light is located on private property. Front Range Light can also be seen during Upriver Cruises aboard M/V SANDPIPER in Toledo, www.sandpiperboat.com or (419) 537-1212



Rod Watson

Follow the 293-mile Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail, part of the America's Byways® collection of national scenic byways in the United States. Directions within each brochure listing are provided from closest major routes.



Get more information about these lighthouses, as well as more than 300 historical sites and natural areas, by visiting the web site for the Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail at www.coastalohio.com. You'll also find a calendar of events for each site, including the dates of our lighthouse festivals and special tours.

Hours, prices, and days of operation are subject to change. Please call ahead to confirm information before you visit.

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The following visitors bureaus along Lake Erie can assist you. Convention & Visitors Bureau of Greater Toledo, (800) 243-4667. Ottawa County Visitors Bureau, (800) 441-1271. Sandusky/Erie County Visitors & Convention Bureau, (800) 255-ERIE. Lorain County Visitors Bureau, (800) 334-1673. Convention & Visitors Bureau of Greater Cleveland, (800) 321-1001. Lake County Visitors Bureau, (800) 368-LAKE. Ashtabula County Convention & Visitors Bureau, (800) 337-6746.



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