

**Discover the Blue....Shores of Eastern Michigan  
Heritage Tour (M-29 / M-25)  
From Algonac/Clay to Port Austin, MI**

The Blue Water Area Heritage Tour begins on the eastern shores of Michigan in Algonac and travels M-29 and M-25 along the shorelines of Lake St. Clair, the St. Clair River and Lake Huron to the tip of Michigan's Thumb, Port Austin. Nine communities offer a collection of history to inspire any history buff. Learn the history of past generations and discover our maritime heritage, the story of ice cultivation and the history of the automobile and boat industry. You will recognize names such as the Wills St. Clair automobile and Chris Craft boats. Thomas Edison lived in Port Huron during what he called his "inspiration years". Come, experience our past and delight in our future. Many historic attractions await your arrival.

**Algonac-Clay Historical Society Museum**

1240 St. Clair River Dr.

St. Clair, MI 48079

Phone: 810-794-9015

[www.algonac-clay-history.com](http://www.algonac-clay-history.com)



The Algonac/Clay Historical Society was formed in 1991 by combining the former Algonac Boating and Historical group and the Clay Township Historical Society. Archives include Algonac's boat building heritage featuring Chris-Craft, Gar Wood and the many other local boat builders. Over 10,000 artifacts also feature local history, business, industry, schools, churches and the military.

**Algonac-Clay Log House  
Pearl Beach Waiting Station**

4710 Pointe Tremble Rd.

Algonac, MI 48001

Phone: 810-794-9015

[www.algonac-clay-history.com](http://www.algonac-clay-history.com)



The authentic 1800's log cabin is filled with historical items used by Algonac/Clay Township residents in the past. The Pearl Beach waiting station for the Detroit Urban Railway that ran from Detroit to Port Huron.

**Algonac/Clay Historical Society Maritime Museum**

1117 St. Clair River Drive

Algonac, MI 48001

Phone: 810-794-9015.

[www.algonac-clay-history.com](http://www.algonac-clay-history.com)



Algonac/Clay Township Historical Society Maritime Museum is located in the old Fifth/Third Bank Building, donated October of 2012. See a 1949 Chris Craft, antique outboard motors, Chris Craft kit boat built by the Algonac High School Shop Class, and an ice boat. Many maritime pictures, video stories and several models of boats can be viewed. The vision is to favor all local maritime history. We want to continue to educate our residents and visits about our local history.

### **Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society Museum**

**3058 S Channel Dr.**

Harsens Island, MI 48028

(810) 794-9015

[www.hiscfhs.org](http://www.hiscfhs.org)



The Museum is housed in the old fire hall in downtown San Souci on Harsens Island. The mission is to collect, protect, preserve, and share the unique historical artifacts and information that represent the people of the St. Clair River Delta

### **Community Pride and Heritage Museum**

405 South Main St.

Marine City, MI 48039

Phone: 810-765-5446

[www.marinecitymuseum.org](http://www.marinecitymuseum.org)



The museum's artifact and archival collections bring Marine City's history and heritage to life in three distinctive galleries that includes the Maritime gallery, Lifestyle gallery and Business & Commercial gallery. Highlights of the exhibits include a 4 ½ by 36 foot diorama of the Belle River in 1885, when 5 shipyards were engaged in producing some of the finest ships on the Great Lakes; complete rooms with furnishings dating back 150 years; and a blacksmith shop built on the grounds of the Museum. Open Saturdays and Sundays seasonally.

### **Marine City Self-guided Walking tour of Victorian, 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century architecture**

Marine City, MI 48039

Phone: 810-765-4501

[www.visitmarinecity.com](http://www.visitmarinecity.com)

### **Marine City Outdoor Maritime Museum –Walking tour**

Downtown Marine City

Marine City, MI 48039

Phone 810-765-4501

A Self-guided tour of Marine City's nautical and historic artifacts is on display in public areas.

### **Peche Island Rear Range Light – St. Clair River**

Located on Water Street in Marine City's Lighthouse Park

Website: [www.visitmarinecity.com](http://www.visitmarinecity.com)

Viewing only



The light was originally erected as a rear range light on Peche Island in 1908. The ranges marked the down-bound channel from Lake St. Clair to the entrance of the Detroit River.

### **Red Brick School & Museum**

696 Meisner Rd.

East China Twp., MI 48054

Phone: 810-765-8879

[www.eastchinatownship.org/red\\_brick\\_school](http://www.eastchinatownship.org/red_brick_school)



This 1872 one-room school, on its original site, has been restored in an authentic style. An adjacent room displays vintage artifacts. This building stands on land from a grant made to Andrew Westbrook before Michigan became a State. The exact age of the school is not known, however, this brick school was in use when East China Township was chartered in 1859.

### **St. Clair Historical Museum**

308 South Fourth St.

St. Clair, MI 48079

Phone: 810-329-6888

<http://www.historicstclair.com>



The museum showcases the rich history of St. Clair, including the building of Fort Sinclair in 1764 (making St. Clair the fifth English speaking settlement in Michigan). It has exhibits of the local salt industry, maritime history, schools, daily life and business. In addition to exhibits, the museum offers numerous historical programs. The St. Clair U.S. Customs House built in 1902 has been restored and is on the museum's grounds. Archives include photographs, documents, directories and genealogical records.

### **Simon Langell Boat Builder -Walking tour**

Clinton Ave.

St. Clair, MI 48079

Phone: 810-329-6888

<http://www.historicstclair.com>

Mayor Langell, a noted Great Lakes boat builder, built boats in St. Clair from the 1860s to the early 1900s. The history of Mayor Langell, his boatyard and some of the boats he built are told through a series of mosaics on Clinton Avenue. QR device needed to access historical records.

### **Marysville Historical Museum**

887 East Huron Blvd.

Marysville, MI 48040

Phone: 810-364-6613

[www.cityofmarysvillemi.com](http://www.cityofmarysvillemi.com)



The museum tells the story of Marysville's past. On display are items unique to Marysville, such as a locally built 1924 Wills Sainte Claire automobile and Gar Wood speedboat. The museum also has a collection of Great Lakes ship models and many photographs and displays.

### **Wills Sainte Claire Museum**

2408 Wills St.

Marysville, MI 48040

Phone: 810-388-5050

[www.willsautomuseum.com](http://www.willsautomuseum.com)



An antique auto museum preserves the history of C. Harold Wills and the Wills Sainte Claire Automobile. C. Harold Wills worked closely with Henry Ford and in 1921 produced the Wills Sainte Claire Automobile. On display at the museum are several Wills Sainte Claire autos, some restored and some in original condition, plus more auto artifacts.

### **St. Clair County Farm Museum**

8310 County Park Dr.

Goodells, MI 48027

Phone: 810-325-1737

[www.stclaircountyfarmmuseum.com](http://www.stclaircountyfarmmuseum.com)



The St. Clair County Farm Museum acquires preserves, demonstrates and exhibits artifacts to provide the public with an understanding and appreciation for the agricultural heritage of St. Clair County. While farming, lumbering and rural domestic life will be addressed for all periods of the county's development, the primary focus will be for the periods of 1880 to 1945.

### **Historical Village at Goodells County Park**

8345 County Park Dr.

Goodells, MI 48027

Phone: 810- 989-6960

[www.stclaircounty.org/Offices/parks/historic.aspx](http://www.stclaircounty.org/Offices/parks/historic.aspx)



All of the buildings that are in the village have been donated and moved to the park from different parts of the county. Each building has been carefully restored to its original appearance and tells a unique story, which has been documented through written history, personal accounts and photographs. The Historical Village, which includes the Murphy/ Ryan Farmhouse (1872), Lynn Township School (1885), C.C. Peck Bank (1908), the Mudge Log Cabin (1863) and Columbus Bible Church (1860) are tributes to St. Clair County's rich history.

### **Port Huron Trolley Tour**

2021 Lapeer

Port Huron, MI 48060

Phone: 810-987-7373

[www.bwbus.com](http://www.bwbus.com)



Recapture the past of public transit, and see the sites of Port Huron on an entertaining, educational one-hour tour. It includes a narrated tour of more than 40 local points of interest and historic sites and travels along the riverfront

### **Huron Lady II Tour Boat Cruise**

51 Water St.

Port Huron MI

Phone: 810-984-1500

[www.huronlady.com](http://www.huronlady.com)



The Huron Lady sightseeing tours cruise the St. Clair River and travels under the International Blue Water Bridges into Lake Huron. The tour is narrated and focuses on the history of the area, local sights and the significance of shipping on the Great Lakes.

### **Coast Guard Cutter Bramble Museum**

2336 Military

Port Huron, MI 48060

[www.uscgcb Bramble.com](http://www.uscgcb Bramble.com)



The mighty Bramble has participated in several distinguishing maritime feats across the world. Launched in October of 1943, the ship reported to Port Huron in 1975 and has become a great part of the community. Decommissioned in 2003 from the United States Coast Guard, it was purchased for the Port Huron Museum, and then sold to a private individual. The Bramble, now moored at the Seaway Terminal in Port Huron. The Bramble offers group overnights.

### **Carnegie Center Museum**

1115 6<sup>th</sup> St.

Port Huron, MI

Phone: 810-982-0891

[www.phmuseum.com](http://www.phmuseum.com)



Originally, the Port Huron Museum was the Port Huron Public Library. It was constructed and given to the City in 1904 by Pittsburgh-based steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. The museum offers a variety of exhibitions, special events, educational workshops and programs. The permanent displays invite visitors to explore the area's colorful history from the days of the Fort Gratiot to a reconstructed pilot house from a Great Lakes freighter

### **Knowlton's Ice Museum of North America**

317 Grand River Ave.

Port Huron, MI 48060

[www.knowltonsicemuseum.org](http://www.knowltonsicemuseum.org)



Enter into the past when ice was delivered to your door by horse and wagon!

Displayed, are over 3,000 items used in the cutting, harvesting, storing, selling and use of natural ice. View a rare film of ice harvesting in the early 1920s. See ice boxes, tools and an actual size ice wagon! See antique collections: mild industry, license plates, vehicles, dolls and doll buggies and much more!

### **Huron Lightship Museum**

Pine Grove Park

Port Huron, MI 48060

Phone: 810-982-0891

[www.phmuseum.org](http://www.phmuseum.org)



Lightships were like floating lighthouses anchored in areas where it was too deep, expensive or impractical to construct a lighthouse. The fog signals used over the years consisted of bells, whistles, trumpets, sirens and horns. The Huron Lightship sounded her fog horn 30 seconds and was known locally as "Old B.O." because of the familiar sound her horn made.

### **Thomas Edison Depot Museum**

510 Thomas Edison Parkway

Phone: 810-982-0891

[www.phmuseum.com](http://www.phmuseum.com)



Thomas Edison lived in Port Huron in his youth and conducted his first electrical and scientific experiments in the Railroad Depot of the historic Fort Gratiot Station of the Grand Trunk Railroad. Edison worked as a "news butcher" selling candy and newspapers on the train between Port Huron and Detroit. An authentic railcar with a recreation of Edison's mobile printing shop and chemistry laboratory are part of the display.

### **Fort Gratiot Light Station**

2802 Omar St.

Port Huron, MI 48060

Phone: 810-982-0891

[www.fortgratiotlightstation.org](http://www.fortgratiotlightstation.org)



Built in 1829, it was the first light house on Lake Huron, and is the oldest surviving lighthouse in the State of Michigan. Historical Commission designated the Fort Gratiot Light Station an official Historical Site. The Lighthouse (1829) Keepers Duplex (1874), Fog Signal building (1932), Retired Coast Guard Station (1932) and Equipment Garage (1938) were transferred to St. Clair County Parks in 2010.

### **Sanilac County Historical Museum and Village**

228 South Ridge St.

Port Sanilac, MI 48469

Phone: 810-622-9946

[www.sanilaccountymuseum.org](http://www.sanilaccountymuseum.org)



A collection of nine historic buildings located on ten acres of the original Dr. Joseph Loop estate. Wander through the beautiful gardens and the Victorian, Edwardian and vintage buildings and exhibits that are featured on the property. Permanent collections include marine shipwreck items, military memorabilia and Native American artifacts. The 1872 Loop-Harrison mansion is furnished in period. A functioning centennial schoolhouse, a turn of the century General Store and Historic Church still fulfill their original purposes and new to the grounds is Deckerville Train Depot.

### **Port Sanilac Lighthouse**

Location: Foot of Cherry St. Port Sanilac

Website: [www.portsanilac.net](http://www.portsanilac.net)

Viewing only



Established in 1886 and its guiding light still remains an active aid for navigation. The Port Sanilac Light towers over 59 feet high and is octagonal in shape. The tower is white with a red roof. The design has been called "both unique and architecturally significant in its elegance."

### **Frank Murphy Memorial Museum**

142 South Huron Ave.

Harbor Beach, MI 48441

Phone: 989-428-3418

[www.harborbeachchamber.com/frankmurphy](http://www.harborbeachchamber.com/frankmurphy)



The Murphy Museum in downtown Harbor Beach is the birthplace and law office of Frank Murphy, a former Michigan governor and U.S. Supreme Court Justice. Frank Murphy, the Harbor Beach native, represented our community well. In addition to being elected governor and Supreme Court Justice, he was also appointed Attorney General and served as Governor-General of the Philippine Islands. At the Frank Murphy Museum, you can explore the home of one of Harbor Beach's most successful citizens.

### **Grice House Museum**

864 Lakeshore Rd.

Harbor Beach, MI 48441

Phone: 989-479-3363

[www.harborbeachmi.org/grice\\_house](http://www.harborbeachmi.org/grice_house)



Step back in time at the Grice House Museum. Adjacent to the Harbor Beach Marina, the Grice House Museum offers those in the present a glimpse at life in the past. The Grice House is associated with several generations of the Grice family who were significant to the development and continued growth of Harbor Beach and reflects craftsmanship and local style significant to the architectural heritage of Michigan.

### **Harbor Beach Lighthouse**

1 Ritchie Drive, Harbor Beach, MI 48441

For tour information call 989-479-9707

Website: [www.harborbeachlighthouse.org](http://www.harborbeachlighthouse.org)



At the main entrance to the Harbor of Refuge, a lighthouse was built to guide ships to the safety of the harbor. A skeletal lighthouse was established in 1877, however it proved to be inadequate and the current lighthouse was built in 1885.

### **Pointe Aux Barques Lighthouse / Museum**

Lighthouse County Park,

Port Hope MI

Phone: 989-428-3035

<http://www.pointeauxbarqueslighthouse.org>



The original Pointe aux Barques Lighthouse was constructed of rocks and stones from the shoreline of Lake Huron in 1848. The home and separate tower were located on a three acre clearing hacked out of the dense wilderness. By 1857 the ravages of shoreline weather and a disastrous fire in the interior of the house created the need for a new structure. The new Keeper's house and attached 89 foot tower were built of the finest brick available. The light is still an active aid to navigation making Pointe aux Barques the oldest continuously operating Light on the Great Lakes. The Pointe aux Barques Keeper's house and tower have been completely restored and contain history and artifacts from a bygone era. The Museum is open to the public.

### **The History Center**

1424 Pointe Aux Barques Rd.

PO Box 450

Port Austin MI 48467

989-551-5532

[www.portaustinhistorycenter.com/](http://www.portaustinhistorycenter.com/)



Port Austin's History Center features special displays on the Port Austin Reef Lighthouse, the Grindstone and Lumbering Industries, the Storm of 1913, the Fire of 1881, and furniture and artifacts from the 1800-1900s. A Research Center includes newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, plat books, family histories, journals and collections. The Gift Shop has books; pamphlets note cards, t-shirts and photos

### **Huron City Museum/Village**

7995 Pioneer Dr.

Port Austin, MI 48467

Phone: 989-428-4123

[www.huroncitymuseums.org](http://www.huroncitymuseums.org)



A historic 1880's Village, Huron City had its start as a lumber town in 1854 with Langdon Hubbard being the town founder. His descendants are still keeping the history alive by caring for the buildings of his time. Most of the 11 buildings on 10 acres were built after the 1881 fire that wiped out Huron City. Two tours available: the Village buildings and the House of Seven Gables. Pictured is the Huron City Church in the historic village.

### **Port Austin Reef Light**

Location: Lake Huron, Port Austin, MI 48467

Website: [www.portaustinreeflighthouse.org](http://www.portaustinreeflighthouse.org)

Viewing only



The Port Austin Reef Light is situated on a shallow reef 2.5 miles north of the Port Austin Harbor. The light was first exhibited on September 15, 1878. Lighthouse keepers lived at the lighthouse until it was automated in 1953.

Enjoy your journey through the shoreline of Michigan's Thumb from Algonac to Port Austin.

Visit [www.Bluewater.org](http://www.Bluewater.org) to find

### **Lighthouse Tour**

<http://www.bluewater.org/Main/LocationInfo.aspx?LocationID=799&MasterCat=6&Name=Lighthouse%20Tour&Community=Other>

### **Foodie Tour**

<http://www.bluewater.org/Main/LocationInfo.aspx?LocationID=808&MasterCat=6&Name=Foodie%20Tour&Community=Other>