

The Blue Water Area

Port Huron

Michigan



On the
Water's
Edge

Welcome

Spending time in Port Huron, Michigan brings an appreciation, new or renewed, for all things nautical. Since the first people fished the waters and transported goods along the St. Clair River, Black River and Lake Huron, the community has evolved around its water.

Today, the community provides opportunities for business, recreation and culture. Port Huron, a small city atmosphere with big amenities, invites you to come, join and share the quality of life that has long been enjoyed.

Although our waters are breathtakingly beautiful under the sun, moon or even amid a mist, Port Huron is home to a collection of maritime attractions that exemplify how the waterway shapes our way of life.

Thank you for allowing us to escort you along a voyage as you use this navigational chart to become part of our maritime heritage.

Enjoy your tour of the Maritime Capital of the Great Lakes!



Port Huron — Midway on the Seaway

The Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway connects America's heartland with ports around the world. Port Huron is part of this international network that aids commerce by shipping goods into and out of the U.S.

Become captain for a day

Sail through our
maritime attractions

As you take our maritime tour, you'll travel inside and out, on foot and by trolley, through historic corridors and aboard our ships. Feel free to take the tour in one day or throughout several days. Allow yourself to become fully involved in our maritime heritage.



1. Let's begin the journey at the southern most stop of our maritime tour: **Highlander Sea** is Port Huron's flagship ambassador. The 1924 gaff-rigged topsail schooner has a long navigational history. Originally built in Essex, Massachusetts, the ship has served as a Boston Harbor pilot ship, sailed international waters and undergone a refit to prepare her to train young seafarers.

Highlander Sea may now be chartered for day and overnight sails, booked for dockside receptions and is often used as an educational setting for students.

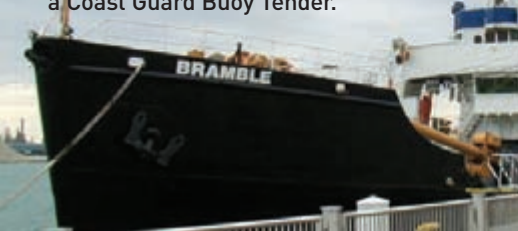


2. The Port Huron Seaway Terminal "**Bean Dock,**" formerly the Port Huron Terminal Company, was renovated in 2003 to include a new mooring facility for cruise boats and working ships. Railings along the pier may be removed in sections to allow ship access the length of the dock. This is where you'll board the Highlander Sea and Bramble Museum for tours and sailing excursions.



3. Although no longer part of the U. S. Coast Guard fleet, the **Bramble** lives on. Commissioned in 1944, the cutter participated in the first test of an atomic bomb's effect on surface ships. She was one of a three ship task force that traveled 4,500 miles of partially charted waters in 1957, becoming one of the first U.S. ships to circumnavigate the North American Continent. After spending 59 years in search and rescue, icebreaking and maintaining aids to navigation, the **Bramble** was decommissioned in 2003 at her home port in Port Huron. She remains dockside and welcomes visitors to taste life aboard a Coast Guard Buoy Tender.

4. Back on the waterfront, a maritime diamond shines—**Vantage Point.** As part of the ongoing Desmond Landing revitalization, Vantage Point is a boat watchers home away from home. Clustered near a collection of maritime flags are the World Headquarters of Boatnerd. com and the Great Lakes Maritime Center. The center's wall of windows provides a weather-proof setting to watch freighters pass. Visitors can also track ships around the Great Lakes. Free wireless Internet access and maritime-related videos could turn this stop into an afternoon of discovery.



5. Traveling along the one-mile stretch of Desmond Landing, where more maritime attractions are planned, the tour stops at the mouth of Black River, where the **Huron Lady II** departs for two- and three-hour, special-day and evening cruises. The narrated journey flows easily past some the area's most notable attractions.



6. Further inland, across Military Street, the **Port Huron Museum-Carnegie Center** illustrates Port Huron's history inside and out. The building was constructed and given to the city in 1904 by steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. The museum began occupying the building in 1967, rescuing it from demolition. The two-story center is now home to more than 15,000 objects and archival items relating to the history and culture of the Blue Water Area.

7. Enjoy the many **freshwater boardwalks** that overlook the St. Clair River and provide an excellent view of passing freighters and ice flows. The boardwalks begin in front of Vantage Point and extend northward to the Blue Water Bridges. The area provides an excellent place to stretch your legs lakeside.



SOURCE: RICH KELLY



8. The next stop is **McMorran Place**, a sports and entertainment venue that hosts an array of cultural events. The complex consists of the Arena, Pavilion and Theatre and draws crowds for hockey, figure skating, professional indoor football, expositions and live performances by the International Symphony Orchestra, Nutcracker Ballet Theatre Company, various celebrities and professional stage productions. Climb the 188 step McMorran Tower, weather permitting, to an observation deck that provides a 360-degree panoramic view of downtown. 10 am to 3:30 pm, M-F, admission free.

9. The next maritime discovery is **Pine Grove Park**, with its 1,500 feet of St. Clair River frontage. The gazebo provides a shady place to gather for picnics, weddings, reunions, softball games and boat watching. The freshwater boardwalk extends through the park, providing a perfect place to continue an afternoon stroll or fishing.



10. Nearby, the **Huron Lightship Museum** is a testament to how navigational aids are crucial components to sailing the Great Lakes. The 1920 ship served as a floating lighthouse for 50 years, guiding mariners with light and sound into the narrow dredged channel of lower Lake Huron leading to the St. Clair River. The ship, a National Historic Landmark, has been stationed at Pine Grove Park since 1972 as a tribute of her vigilance and in memory of a bygone era.



11. Farther north along the boardwalk, the **Thomas Edison Depot Museum** preserves memorabilia of the young inventor who grew up on the shore of Lake Huron. As a boy, Thomas Edison worked in the depot, where visitors learn through interactive displays, live science presentations, a theatre experience and examining a recreation of Edison's mobile printing shop and chemistry laboratory.



12. Just outside the museum, the expanses of the **Blue Water Bridges** create a sense of awe. Two bridges span the St. Clair River, the first opening in 1938 and the second opening in 1997. The sections run parallel and span more than 6,100 feet to connect Port Huron with Sarnia, Ontario. In addition, they provide ample space for ships to pass underneath — accommodating ships heading from Lake Huron to the St. Clair River. The bridges remain a key component to the area's business success.

13. Just north of the Blue Water Bridges, onlookers behold U.S. and Canadian flags fluttering in the wind. **International Flag Plaza** is a tribute to all the emergency personnel who respond to 9-1-1 calls in the United States and Canada. The plaza has been created solely by donations. Inscribed bricks show the names of fellow responders and citizens who have helped create the patio, which marks the end of the freshwater walkway.



14. A long-time partner to the Huron Lightship is the **Fort Gratiot Lighthouse**, which began guarding the junction of Lake Huron and the St. Clair River in 1829. As the oldest operating lighthouse in Michigan, the green light can be seen for 17 miles. The two-story keepers' quarters continue to house representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard. The lighthouse is open for seasonal tours and visitors with close-toed shoes may climb the tower to gaze across Lake Huron and south at the Blue Water Bridges.

15. Adjacent to the lighthouse is **Lighthouse Park**, stretching 900 feet along Lake Huron. The beach's clear waters invite swimming while picnic areas provide the perfect space for a casual gathering.

16. The northernmost stop on the tour is **Lakeside Park**, with 1,050 feet of sandy beach as well as playground equipment, grills, volleyball, grassy areas and trees for shade. The park is located north of the Holland Avenue and Gratiot intersection.



Whether you traveled our 16-stop waterfront tour in a day, over a weekend or have toured sites as you've visited Port Huron here and there, you've become an honorary Port Huron maritime heritage expert. We trust you're feeling enriched as you become part of blending history with today's ongoing zeal for all things nautical.

SOURCE: RICH KELLY

Boat Watching Just as some inland residents were raised as stargazers, Port Huron's people of the past and present are boat watchers. They're a part of the dynamic maritime heritage, appreciating the passage of commercial freighters, filled with cargo enroute to one of the Great Lakes' many ports of call. Ongoing respect and interest is drawing top-quality facilities to town, such as the World Headquarters for Boatnerd.com and the Great Lakes Maritime Center. From within the maritime center, boat watchers may sit in climate-controlled comfort as freighters pass, while sipping coffee or reading maritime literature.



Blue Water Trolley

For a guided, riding tour around Port Huron, board the Blue Water Trolley. For 10 cents each (5 cents for seniors and disabled), passengers will enjoy a one hour tour around the city. The trolley makes 13 stops for passengers to come and go. Its route travels the entire length of the Port Huron's waterfront throughout the summer. (810) 987-7373

Amtrak Blue Water Service

Amtrak connects Port Huron with Chicago daily. Windy-city residents can board the train in Chicago at 3 p.m. and arrive in Port Huron at 11:03 p.m. The return train departs Port Huron daily at 5:15 a.m. and arrives in Chicago at 11:14 a.m. For more information or to buy tickets, call (800) 872-7245 or go to www.amtrak.com. Tickets are also available at the Blue Water Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, (800) 852-4242. The train station in Port Huron is located at 2223 16th Street.

150 Years Strong In 2007, Port Huron celebrated its 150th birthday. The sesquicentennial year prompted production of a DVD containing historic stories of the community's people and the publishing of a historic book that can be purchased in several downtown locations.



Annual Events

January

North American Silver Stick
Hockey Tournament

February

Edith Scheonrock
Figure Skating Competition

March

Celticfest

May

Feast of the Ste. Claire

June

Gar Wood Classic Boat Race
Be a Tourist in Your Own Town
Marine Flea Market
Fireworks

July

Antique & Classic Auto
Parade & Show
Rotary International Day Parade
Port Huron to Mackinac Yacht Race

August

Blue Water Area Antique &
Yard Sale Trail
Coast Guard Appreciation Weekend

September

Antique & Classic Boat Show
Hobbyfest
Port Huron Historic Home Tour

October

Happy Apple Days
Ghost Ship Bramble

November/December

Festival of Trees
Magical Night of Lights
Merry MainStreet
First Night Celebration
December 31

For additional event
information and hotel
accommodations contact
the Blue Water Area
Convention and Visitors
Bureau at (800) 852-4242,
(810) 987-8687,
www.bluewater.org or
bluewater@bluewater.org.



Gaining Notoriety

Port Huron is being noted for its outstanding features. The community has gained Cool City designation for its innovation in turning an aging building into an art incubator. Port Huron has also been named an All-America City twice (1955 and 2005) for its collaboration with local partners for progress.

Navigating through our sites



Points of Interest

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Highlander Sea | 9 Pine Grove Park |
| 2 Seaway Terminal "Bean Dock" | 10 Huron Lightship Museum |
| 3 U.S. Coast Guard Bramble | 11 Edison Depot Museum |
| 4 Vantage Point | 12 Blue Water Bridges |
| 5 Huron Lady II | 13 International Flag Plaza |
| 6 Port Huron Museum Carnegie Center | 14 Fort Gratiot Lighthouse |
| 7 Freshwater Boardwalk | 15 Lighthouse Park/Beach |
| 8 McMorrان Place | 16 Lakeside Park/Beach |

Stop by the Blue Water Area Convention and Visitors Bureau for more information on the Blue Water Area and attractions.
 520 Thomas Edison Parkway • Port Huron, MI 48060
 (800) 852-4242 • (810) 987-8687 • www.bluewater.org

Expressway	Boardwalk
Primary Road	Information
State Route	Points of Interest
Recreation & Parks	Marina
Historic Neighborhoods	Golf Courses
Downtown	Trolley Stops

Lake Huron



SPONSORS

Acheson Ventures
(810) 966-0900
www.achesonventures.com

Amtrak
(800) USA-RAIL
www.amtrak.com

Blue Water Area Convention
and Visitors Bureau
(800) 852-4242, (810) 987-8687
www.bluewater.org

Blue Water Area Transit
(810) 987-7373
www.bwbus.com

City of Port Huron
With funds from the
Edgar W. Kiefer Trust
(810) 984-9725
www.porthuron.org

Downtown Development
Authority
(810) 984-9742

Economic Development Alliance
of St. Clair County
(877) 982-9511
www.edaofstclaircounty.com

Greater Port Huron Area
Chamber of Commerce
(810) 985-7101, (800) 361-0526
www.bluewaterchamber.com

McMorran Place
(810) 985-6166
www.mcmorran.com

Port Huron Museums
(810) 982-0891
www.phmuseum.org

