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WEST MICHIGAN TOURIST ASSOCIATION

WMTA.org 2021 Edition

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Lake Michigan

Lighthouse Map & Circle Tour

WMTA.org



5. Holland Harbor Lighthouse
 Year Built: 1872 Tower Height: 32'
 Tours: No Stay at the light? No
 GPS Coordinates: 42°46'21.7"N 86°12'44.7"W
 Website: BigRedLighthouse.com
Did You Know? The first lighthouse keeper was William van Rensselaer, appointed to service in 1870 at an annual salary of \$540. He served until just prior to the steam fog signal going into operation. He is said to have wanted no part of the new technology.



8. White River Light Station
 Year Built: 1875 Tower Height: 38'
 Tours: Yes Stay at the light? No
 GPS Coordinates: 43°22'29.3"N 86°25'27.5"W
 Website: SPLKA.org
Did You Know? Captain William Robinson was the very first keeper from 1875-1919, and he passed away the day before he was scheduled to depart and retire. The lighthouse is now a maritime museum with many local artifacts and interesting exhibits.




9. Little Sable Point Lighthouse
 Year Built: 1874 Tower Height: 115'
 Tours: Yes Stay at the light? No
 GPS Coordinates: 43°39'05.0"N 86°32'22.6"W
 Website: SPLKA.org
Did You Know? Little Sable Point Lighthouse still has its original third-order Fresnel lens, making it one of the few lighthouses on Lake Michigan to be able to showcase its original lens. It is the tallest light on the eastern shores of Lake Michigan.



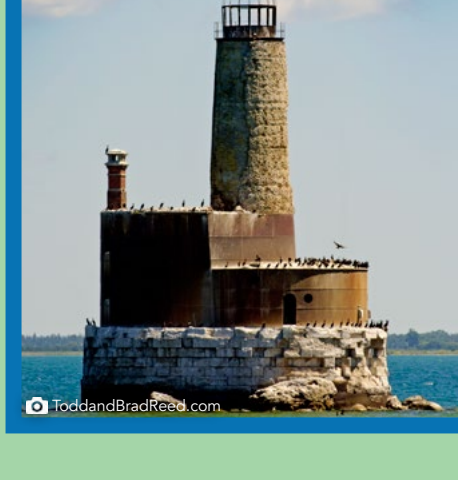
12. Big Sable Point Lighthouse
 Year Built: 1867 Tower Height: 112'
 Tours: Yes Stay at the light? Yes
 GPS Coordinates: 44°03'27.5"N 86°30'52.1"W
 Website: SPLKA.org
Did You Know? The Big Sable Tower was built of Milwaukee cream brick, which was so soft that the tower began deteriorating from the sand which blew against it. In 1900 the tower was encased in steel plates and painted its trademark black and white.



22. Mission Point Lighthouse
 Year Built: 1870 Tower Height: 36'
 Tours: Yes Stay at the light? Yes
 GPS Coordinates: 44°59'28.7"N 85°28'46.2"W
 Website: MissionPointLighthouse.com
Did You Know? Every winter the park is visited by a snowy owl. Visit the Mission Point Lighthouse website to find more details about their popular Lighthouse Keeper program, and to fill out your application (ages 18 & up only).



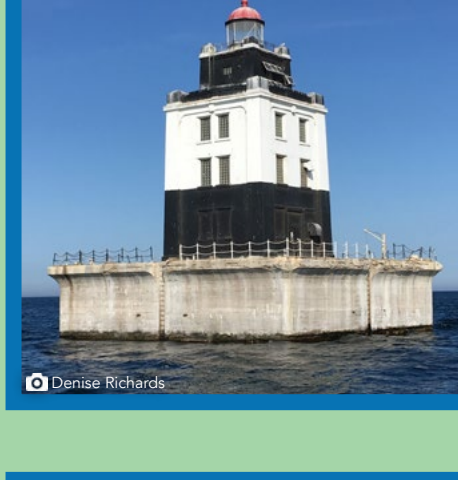
23. Charlevoix South Pier Lighthouse
 Year Built: 1948 Tower Height: 41'
 Tours: No Stay at the light? No
 GPS Coordinates: 45°19'12.8"N 85°15'53.7"W
 Website: VisitCharlevoix.com
Did You Know? The lighthouse is owned by the City of Charlevoix and maintained and preserved by the Charlevoix Historical Society, while the United States Coast Guard is responsible for the operation of the light itself.



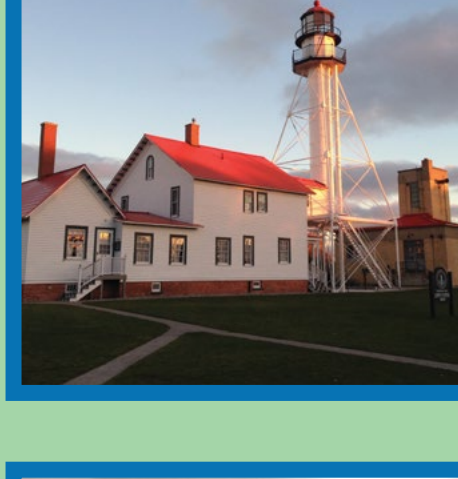
34. Waugoshance Shoal Light
 Year Built: 1851 Tower Height: 63'
 Tours: No Stay at the light? No
 GPS Coordinates: 45°47'10.2"N 85°52'26"W
Did You Know? In 1943, in the midst of World War II, the navy took control of several islands in northern Lake Michigan for training naval task forces. The lighthouse became part of a bombing and gunnery range for Naval Air Station Traverse City, and was bombed and strafed by pilots.
 Information courtesy LighthouseFriends.com



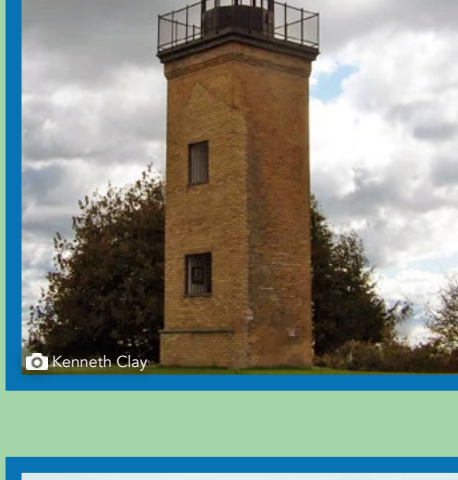
35. McGulpin Point Lighthouse
 Year Built: 1869 Tower Height: 38'
 Tours: Yes Stay at the light? Yes
 GPS Coordinates: 45°47'13.704"N 84°46'22.871"W
 Website: McGulpinPoint.org
Did You Know? Near the shore below the lighthouse sits McGulpin Rock, 5x the size of Plymouth Rock. Generations of Native Americans had used the rock to aid in navigation through the Straits of Mackinac. It was "discovered" by French explorers around 1615.



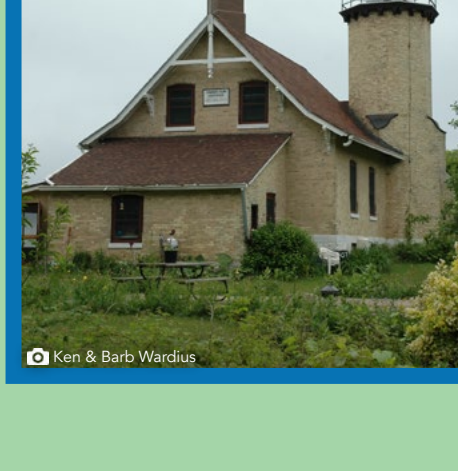
41. Poe Reef Lighthouse
 Year Built: 1929 Tower Height: 53'
 Tours: No Stay at the light? No
 GPS Coordinates: 45°41'41.2"N 84°21'43.6"W
Did You Know? The first navigational aid here was a lightship placed in 1892. A permanent lighthouse was requested in 1913, as it would be less costly to maintain and could remain all year. You can view Poe Reef from Lighthouse Point near the ruins of Cheboygan Main Light Station in Cheboygan State Park.
 Information courtesy LighthouseFriends.com



48. Whitefish Point Lighthouse
 Year Built: 1861 Tower Height: 76'
 Tours: Yes Stay at the light? Yes
 GPS Coordinates: 46°46'16.0"N 84°57'27.4"W
 Website: ShipwreckMuseum.com
Did You Know? Whitefish Point is the oldest operating lighthouse on Lake Superior.



53. Peninsula Point Lighthouse
 Year Built: 1865 Tower Height: 40'
 Tours: No Stay at the light? No
 GPS Coordinates: 45°40'5.2"N 86°58'1.3"W
Did You Know? Shaped like a funnel, the peninsula naturally deflects monarch butterflies at its tip each fall before they continue south across Lake Michigan on their annual migration. Visitors can climb the tower for views of the surrounding waters and spotting migrating birds and butterflies.
 Information courtesy LighthouseFriends.com



60. Chambers Island Lighthouse
 Year Built: 1866 Tower Height: 449'
 Tours: No Stay at the light? No
 GPS Coordinates: 45°12'27.9"N 87°12'53.3"W
Did You Know? With the nearby Channel referred to as "Strawberry Passage", the area around Chambers Island was known for its strawberries. The first lighthouse keeper here cultivated a large strawberry patch, occasionally treating visitors to pie or strawberries and cream.
 Information courtesy LighthouseFriends.com



Michigan: Lower Peninsula Lighthouses

- New Buffalo Lighthouse, New Buffalo
- St. Joseph North Pier Lighthouse, St. Joseph
- South Haven South Pierhead Light, South Haven
- Kalamazoo River Light, Saugatuck
- Holland Harbor Lighthouse, Holland
- Grand Haven Lighthouse, Grand Haven
- Muskegon South Pierhead Light, Muskegon
- White River Light Station, Whitehall
- Little Sable Point Lighthouse, Silver Lake/Mears
- Pentwater Pierhead Lights, Pentwater
- Ludington North Breakwater Light, Ludington
- Big Sable Point Lighthouse, Ludington State Park
- Manistee North Pierhead Lighthouse, Manistee
- Portage Lake North Pierhead, Onekama
- Frankfort North Breakwater Light, Frankfort
- Point Betsie Lighthouse, Frankfort
- Robert H. Manning Memorial Light, Empire
- South Manitowish Island Lighthouse, Glen Arbor Township
- North Manitowish Shoal Light Station, Leland Township
- South Fox Island Lighthouse, Northport
- Grand Traverse Lighthouse, Northport
- Mission Point Lighthouse, Traverse City
- Charlevoix South Pier Lighthouse, Charlevoix
- Beaver Island Head Light, Beaver Island
- Paradise Bay Harbor Light, Beaver Island
- Petoskey Lighthouse, Petoskey
- Grand Haven Lighthouse, Grand Haven
- Squaw Island Lighthouse, Squaw Island
- Lansing Shoal Light, Newton Township
- Skullagalee Lighthouse, Ile Aux Galets

Michigan: Straits of Mackinac Area

- Gray's Reef Lighthouse, Mackinaw City
- White Shoal Lighthouse, Mackinaw City
- St. Helena Island Lighthouse, Mackinaw City
- Waugoshance Shoal Light, Mackinaw City
- McGulpin Point Lighthouse, Mackinaw City
- Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Mackinaw City

Michigan: Upper Peninsula Lighthouses

- Point Iroquois Lighthouse, Brimley
- Whitefish Point Light Station, Paradise
- Seul Choix Point Lighthouse, Gulliver
- Manistique East Breakwater Lighthouse, Manistique
- Poverty Island Lighthouse, Poverty Island
- St. Martin Island Lighthouse, Garden
- Peninsula Point Lighthouse, Rapid River
- Eleven Foot Shoal, Escanaba
- Minneapolis Shoal Light, Escanaba
- Sand Point Lighthouse, Escanaba
- Escanaba Crib Light, Escanaba
- Cedar River Lighthouse, Escanaba
- Menominee North Pier Light, Menominee

Michigan: Wisconsin Lighthouses

- Chambers Island Lighthouse, Fish Creek
- Green Island Lighthouse, Peshtigo
- Peshtigo Reef Lighthouse, Peshtigo
- Long Tail Point Lighthouse, Suamico (Ruins)
- Grassy Island Range Lights, Green Bay
- Green Bay Harbor Entrance Lighthouse, Scott
- Sherwood Point Lighthouse, Sturgeon Bay
- Boys Bluff Lighthouse, Fish Creek
- Eagle Bluff Lighthouse, Washington
- Pottawatomie Lighthouse, Rock Island
- Plum Island Rear Range Lighthouse, Washington
- Pilot Island Lighthouse, Ellison Bay
- Canandaigua Lighthouse, Baileys Harbor
- Canandaigua Lighthouse, Baileys Harbor
- Baileys Harbor Range Lights, Baileys Harbor

Michigan: Indiana Lighthouses

- Calumet Harbor Lighthouse, South Chicago
- Indiana Harbor East Breakwater Lighthouse, East Chicago
- Old Indiana Harbor Light, East Chicago
- Buffington Harbor Breakwater Lighthouse, East Chicago
- Gary Breakwater Lighthouse, Gary
- Michigan City East Pierhead Lighthouse, Michigan City
- Old Michigan City Lighthouse, Michigan City

Illinois Lighthouses

- Waukegan Harbor Light, Waukegan
- Grosse Point Lighthouse, Evanston
- Wilson Avenue Crib Lighthouse, Chicago
- William E. Dever Crib Light, Chicago
- Chicago Harbor Lighthouse, Chicago
- Chicago Harbor Southeast Guide Wall, Chicago
- 4 Mile Crib Light, Chicago
- 68th Street Crib Lighthouse, Chicago


Circle Tour
 Vacations have been looping the lake for generations, but the official Lake Michigan Circle Tour route was not established until 1987, when the Michigan Department of Transportation teamed up with the West Michigan Tourist Association to create the route and, the following year, the official guidebook.
 Working in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Transportation, the West Michigan Tourist Association helped to make the first of the official Great Lakes Circle Tours a reality, and the first publication was released in 1988 as a 52-page guide book. The guide book was transformed into a map in 2007, and the driving route can now be found online at WMTA.org/Lake-Michigan-Lighthouse-Map-Circle-Tour.
 The official Lake Michigan Circle Tour is designated by green "Circle Tour" signs placed at 10 mile intervals. Whenever you spot a brown "Harbor Tour" sign along the route, it's your signal to take a side trip to explore one of the dozens of port communities along the Lake Michigan shore.

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 On the Cover: Point Betsie Lighthouse 16 in Frankfort is a beautiful place to catch the sunset on Lake Michigan.
 Photo courtesy of Michael Mullin.




72. Cana Island Lighthouse
 Year Built: 1869 Tower Height: 89'
 Tours: Yes Stay at the light? No
 GPS Coordinates: 45°05'17.234"N 87°02'51.515"W
 Website: DCM.org
Did You Know? Explore Door County's most iconic lighthouse which in 2019 celebrated 150 years of standing watch on the shore of Lake Michigan. Ride a horse-drawn wagon over the causeway to explore the island, including the 89-foot-tall light tower, oil storage house, and lighthouse keeper's home.




73. Old Baileys Harbor Lighthouse
 Year Built: 1853 Tower Height: 52'
 Tours: No Stay at the light? No
 GPS Coordinates: 45°32'31.1"N 87°49'31.3"W
Did You Know? Construction of Baileys Harbor Lighthouse began in 1852. With lake levels being extremely low that year, the work crew was able to transport the building materials directly to the island using horse-drawn wagons.
 Information courtesy LighthouseFriends.com



77. Kewaunee Pierhead Lighthouse
 Year Built: 1912 Tower Height: 43'
 Tours: No Stay at the light? No
 GPS Coordinates: 44°27'26.67"N 87°29'34.4"W
 Website: Kewaunee.org
Did You Know? This was originally built as a fog signal building at a time when there were two light towers housing range lights on the pier. In 1931 a lantern room was installed on top of the building and the front tower was moved to the entrance of the Chicago River.



80. Manitowoc Breakwater Lighthouse
 Year Built: 1918 Tower Height: 50'
 Tours: No Stay at the light? No
 GPS Coordinates: 44°53'33.84"N 87°38'37.49"W
Did You Know? In 2002 the fifth-order Fresnel lens was removed and placed on display at the nearby Wisconsin Maritime Museum. Learn more about the museum at WisconsinMaritime.org.



83. Port Washington North Pierhead Light
 Year Built: 1935 Tower Height: 58'
 Tours: No Stay at the light? No
 GPS Coordinates: 43°23'07.1"N 87°51'34.9"W
 Website: VisitPortWashington.com
Did You Know? The Port Washington North Pierhead Light is one of only two art deco lighthouses of this design; the other is on Lake Erie.



84. Kevich Light
 Year Built: 1981 Tower Height: 50'
 Tours: No Stay at the light? No
 GPS Coordinates: 43°19'24.6"N 87°31'24.4"W
Did You Know? In 1981, Brana Kevich and his wife Neva built a lighthouse home on a bluff overlooking Lake Michigan to fulfill a personal quest to own and live in a lighthouse. Kevich Lighthouse stands just 50' tall, but has a focal plane of 163', giving it the distinction of having the highest focal plane of any active lighthouse on the Great Lakes.
 Information courtesy LighthouseFriends.com



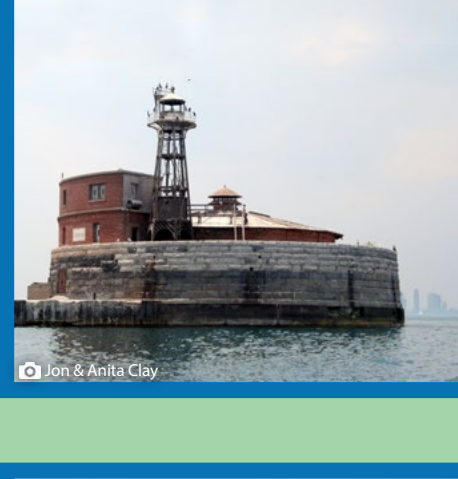
87. Wind Point Lighthouse
 Year Built: 1880 Tower Height: 108'
 Tours: By Appointment
 Stay at the light? No
 GPS Coordinates: 42°46'52.87"N 87°45'30.36"W
 Website: WindPointLighthouse.org
Did You Know? The Fog Horn Building, located on the lighthouse grounds, shows the original design with the large horns aimed towards the lake. The fog signals can be heard as far as 10 miles out into Lake Michigan.




89. Southport Lighthouse
 Year Built: 1866 Tower Height: 55'
 Tours: Yes Seasonally
 GPS Coordinates: 42°35'21.8"N 87°48'57.2"W
 Website: KenoshaHistoryCenter.org
Did You Know? The walls at the bottom of the tower are 4 1/2 feet thick. Milwaukee Cream City bricks they offer to 2 1/2 feet thick at the top, with the tower's interior staying the same diameter the whole way. There are 72 steps to reach the top of the lighthouse.



90. North Pier Lighthouse
 Year Built: 1906 Tower Height: 50'
 Tours: No Stay at the light? No
 GPS Coordinates: 42°35'21.8"N 87°48'57.2"W
Did You Know? The North Pier Lighthouse is a functioning lighthouse, but is privately owned and serves as an artist workshop known as the Kenosha Lighthouse Studio. The lighthouse is sometimes referred to as the Pierhead Lighthouse or the Red Lighthouse because of its iconic location and color.



97. 4 Mile Crib Light
 Year Built: 1891 Tower Height: 30'
 Tours: No Stay at the light? No
 GPS Coordinates: 41°52'22"N 87°42'45"W
Did You Know? This water intake crib and connecting tunnel provided 75 million gallons to the daily water supply of Chicago when it began operating in 1857. It was equipped with a state-of-the-art steam heating plant to keep the crib's well room at a constant 70 degrees even in the middle of winter.
 Information courtesy LighthouseFriends.com



103. Gary Breakwater Lighthouse
 Year Built: 1911 Tower Height: 30'
 Tours: No Stay at the light? No
 GPS Coordinates: 41°37'49.4"N 87°19'13.3"W
Did You Know? The lighthouse was removed for a period in 2017 so it could be sandblasted, repaired, and repainted. As the area surrounding the pier is industrial and private, Gary Harbor Breakwater Lighthouse is best seen from the water.
 Information courtesy LighthouseFriends.com



104. Michigan City East Pierhead Light
 Year Built: 1904 Tower Height: 49'
 Tours: No Stay at the light? No
 GPS Coordinates: 41°43'44.4"N 86°54'42.0"W
 Website: eMichiganCity.org
Did You Know? The original fifth order Fresnel lens has been replaced with a modern plastic optic; however the original is available for viewing at the museum in the Old Michigan City Lighthouse.
 Information courtesy LighthouseFriends.com

