



The Thumbcoast Heritage Road-Trip is a self-guided journey through charming shoreline communities up the Thumbcoast of Michigan. Organized south to north along M29 and M25, the tour has **47 historical** places to visit at your own pace. Learn the history of past generations and discover maritime heritage, lighthouse stories, and the history of the automobile and boating industries. Visitor information is at our website, or scan the QR code for a digital map of locations.

[BLUEWATER.ORG](http://BLUEWATER.ORG)



## S O U T H E R N T H U M B C O A S T



**1 • Colony Tower**  
6503 Dyke Rd., Clay Twp.  
Built 1925, the 136-foot tower once housed a 60,000-gallon water tank. Constructed with curtain walls and steel plates to resemble a lighthouse. A beacon light was added in 2017.



**2 • Log House & D.U.R. Station**  
4710 Pointe Tremble, Clay Twp.  
Authentic 1800's log cabin, a section of the Interurban railway track, and the original Interurban waiting station which served Pearl Beach from approximately 1892 until the 1930's.



**3 • Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society Museum**  
3058 S. Channel Dr., Harsens Island  
Housed in the old fire hall in Sans Souci on the island with unique historical artifacts and information that represent the people of the St. Clair River Delta.



**4 • St. Clair Flats South Channel Lights**  
9200 S. Channel Dr., Harsens Island  
Offshore. These two lights guided ships into the freshwater delta and they're viewable on a clear day from Harsens Island or by watercraft. Built in 1859.



**5 • Algonac-Clay Maritime Museum**  
1117 St. Clair River Dr., Algonac  
Local boat building and nautical heritage featuring Chris-Craft boats, Garwood, and many other local boat builders, and exhibits.



**6 • Algonac-Clay Community Museum**  
1240 St. Clair River Dr., Algonac • 810-794-9015  
Featuring over 10,000 artifacts in local history, business, industry, schools, churches, and the military.



**7 • Lester House**  
406 S. Main, Marine City • 810-794-9015  
Captain David Lester Residence is a Greek Revival structure built in 1849 and a historical landmark open for tours.



**8 • Pride & Heritage Museum**  
405 S. Main, Marine City • 810-794-5446  
Exhibits including a 36-foot diorama of the Belle River in 1885, complete rooms with furnishings dating back 150 years, and a blacksmith shop built on the grounds.



**9 • Peché Island Rear Range Light**  
301 S. Water St., Marine City  
Built in 1908 to guide ships at the mouth of the Detroit River for 75 years before being decommissioned. The 60-foot light was rescued & moved to Downtown Marine City in 1982.



**10 • Marine City Historic City Hall**  
101 N. Main, Marine City • 810-765-8875  
The former City Hall was designed in a Richardson Romanesque style and it was completed in 1884. The building is registered on the National Register of Historic Places.



**11 • Red Brick School & Museum**  
696 Meisner Rd., East China • 810-765-8879  
The exact age of this one-room school is unknown but records found in China Township indicate there was a school on this site in 1823. Currently the building displays vintage artifacts.



**12 • St. Clair Historical Museum**  
308 S. Fourth St., St. Clair • 810-329-6888  
Interactive displays. History on Fort Sinclair, the lumbering and brick manufacturing mecca, shipbuilding, salt purification, and a restored U.S. Customs House built in 1902.

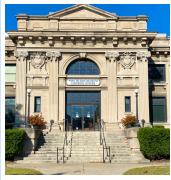


**13 • Historic St. Clair Inn**  
500 N. Riverside Ave., St. Clair • 810-289-6209  
The St. Clair Inn is a restored historic hotel that originally opened in 1926. The hotel offers in house restaurants and bars, a swimming pool and a gorgeous riverfront view.



**14 • Wills Sainte Claire Museum**  
2408 Wills St., Marysville • 810-388-5050  
Auto museum preserving the Wills Sainte Claire Automobile. On display at the museum are several Wills Sainte Claire autos, some restored and some in original condition.

Photo by the Times Herald



15 • Carnegie Center  
1115 Sixth St., Port Huron • 810-982-0891  
Originally a public library constructed in 1902 by Andrew Carnegie and now a museum. Ship model collection, an original glass mezzanine floor, and the 1850's Kammer Cabin.



16 • Museum Trolley Tours  
1115 Sixth St., Port Huron • 810-982-0891  
Seasonal. Historic narrated trolley tours including prohibition, architecture, neighborhoods, and more.



17 • Blue Water River Walk  
51 Court St., Port Huron  
Self-guided 1-mile walk along the St. Clair River. Restored ferry dock, Seven Grandfathers Teachings sculpture by a Shawnee Ojibwe artist, and a recovered capstan from the John B. Martin schooner.



18 • Huron Lady II Cruise  
102 Huron Ave., Port Huron • 810-984-1500  
Seasonal 1.5 hour narrated cruise aboard the iconic Huron Lady. Learn about the historical significance of our waterways, cruise under the Blue Water Bridges, and see Michigan's oldest lighthouse from a ship's perspective.



19 • Nasr Natural History Museum  
323 Erie St., Port Huron • 810-989-5789  
Interactive exhibits, mineral gallery, bird room, and hands-on experience center on the St. Clair County Community College campus.



20 • Blue Water Trolley  
720 McMorran Blvd., Port Huron  
810-987-7373  
Seasonal one hour fixed-route with local points of interest and history through the heart of Port Huron and along the river front for a panoramic glimpse of the Blue Water Bridges.



21 • Knowlton Children's Museum  
317 Grand River Ave., Port Huron  
Coming soon! Hands-on children's museum arriving fall 2024.



22 • Huron Lightship  
800 Prospect Place, Port Huron • 810-982-0891  
Tours aboard the ship offered seasonally. The last operating lightship on the Great Lakes and served for over 50 years when she was retired in 1970.



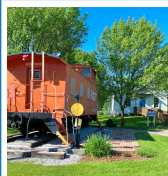
23 • Thomas Edison Depot Museum  
510 Thomas Edison Pkwy., Port Huron  
810-455-0035  
Exhibits tell Edison's story of one of the greatest inventors of our time. Hands-on displays encouraging creativity and ingenuity.



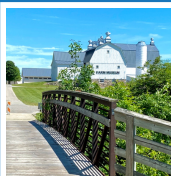
24 • Blue Water Bridges  
Thomas Edison Pkwy. at Wright St., Port Huron  
The first bridge opened in 1938, and the second in 1997, linking USA and Canada. Onsite: Blue Water Maiden, Storm of 1913 Monument, and Tuskegee Airman Monument.



25 • Fort Gratiot Light  
2802 Omar St., Port Huron • 810-216-6923  
Climb Michigan's oldest lighthouse, built in 1829, and the incredible views from the catwalk of the Blue Water Bridges and Canada. Onsite: Keeper's Dwelling and the historic Fort Gratiot Hospital.



26 • Malane Schoolhouse & Grand Trunk Caboose  
3800 Lapeer Rd., Port Huron • 810-987-6600  
Located behind the Township Hall is a renovated 1951 Grand Trunk Caboose and a 1800's Malane Schoolhouse. Free to tour from the exterior all year.



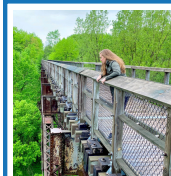
27 • St. Clair County Farm Museum  
8310 County Park Dr., Goodells • 810-325-1737  
The museum exhibits artifacts related to the agricultural heritage of St. Clair County. Farming, lumbering and rural domestic life focus is mainly during the periods of 1880 to 1945.



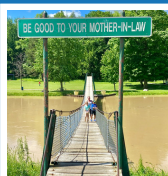
28 • Historical Village at Goodells County Park  
8345 County Park Dr., Goodells • 810-989-6960  
The village grounds consist of five historic buildings: Murphy/Ryan Farmhouse (1872), Lynn Township School (1885), C.C. Peck Bank (1908), the Mudge Log Cabin (1863) and Columbus Bible Church (1860).



## NORTHERN THUMB COAST



29 • Mill Creek Trestle  
Near 8258 Imlay City Rd., Avoca  
Trestle was built in the late 1800's and is 640-foot long on the 12-mile Wadhams to Avoca Trail, a former CSX historic rail line. Left at the trailhead, 3/4 miles one-way to the trestle.

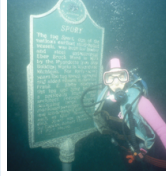


30 • Croswell Swinging Bridge  
Maple St., Crosswell  
The main span is roughly 139 feet, connecting both sides of Riverbend Park going over the Black River. The estimated build date of the original span was in 1905.





**31 • Historic Cadillac House Inn & Tavern**  
5502 Main St., Lexington  
Originally built in 1859. It has been fully restored and the Inn and restaurant are operational.



**32 • Shipwreck Sport Historical Marker**  
In Lake Huron, Lexington  
Underwater location estimated based on maps. The marker was placed on the lake bottom at the tug, Sport, shipwreck site.  
Photo by Michigan History Center, State Historic Preservation Office



**33 • Sanilac County Historic Village & Museum**  
228 S. Ridge St., Port Sanilac • 810-622-9946  
Collection of more than a dozen historic buildings onsite at the 1872 Loop- Harrison mansion. Wander through the beautiful gardens, Victorian, Edwardian, vintage buildings, and featured exhibits.



**34 • Port Sanilac Lighthouse**  
81 S. Lake St., Port Sanilac • 810-622-9946  
First lit in 1886 and still in operation as a navigation aid. Privately owned, tours offered seasonally through the Sanilac County Historic Village & Museum.



**35 • Sanilac Petroglyphs Historic State Park**  
8251 Germania Road, Cass City  
Open seasonally. The park protects and interprets Michigan's largest known collection of early Native American teachings carved in stone.



**36 • White Rock**  
4588 S. Lakeshore Rd., Harbor Beach  
Offshore 1/2 mile, viewable from the lookout at White Rock Roadside Park. Indian Tribes consider this to be a sacred rock where gifts were once left as offerings.



**37 • Harbor Beach Lighthouse**  
1 Ritchie Dr., Harbor Beach • 989-479-9707  
Built in 1885, located off-shore along the break wall, visible from the Trescott Pier. Boat tours are available in the summer months.



**38 • Frank Murphy Museum**  
146 S. Huron Ave., Harbor Beach  
989-479-6477  
Learn more about the life and times of Frank Murphy and how he helped shape Michigan, the United States, and even the Philippines.



**39 • Harbor Beach Community Theatre**  
105 N. Huron Ave., Harbor Beach  
989-479-9677  
Built in 1921, the theater has murals on the outside depicting historically significant events.



**40 • Grice House Museum & Grounds**  
864 N. Lakeshore Rd., Harbor Beach  
989-551-4327  
Seasonal tours. Mid-19th century kitchen, parlor, sewing room, and bedroom. Onsite: 1920 Adams School, North Park Pavilion with vintage farm machinery.



**41 • Port Hope Chimney & Train Depot**  
8046 Portland Ave., Port Hope • 989-670-6200  
Restored original Pere Marquette railroad station and caboose. At the end of the street, remains of a saw mill chimney constructed in 1858 and made of stone brick mason standing 80-feet tall.



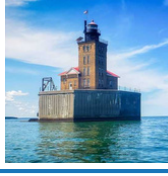
**42 • Pointe Aux Barques Lighthouse**  
7320 Lighthouse Rd., Port Hope • 586-243-1838  
Built in 1848. Ranked in the ten oldest lighthouses in Michigan, it is still operational and climbable. Seasonal tours. Onsite: original lifesaving station.



**43 • Huron City Museums**  
7995 Pioneer Rd., Port Austin  
989-551-5532  
Huron City Ghost town marker. Onsite: General Store, Rooming House, Langdon's Home, Seven Gables Church, and a log cabin are part of the tour. Open seasonally.



**44 • Port Austin History Center Museum**  
1424 Pte. Aux Barques Rd., Port Austin  
989-551-5532  
The museum, housed in a 1904 Maccabee Society building, presents the history of Port Austin, Grindstone City and Port Crescent. The grounds feature other historic buildings as well.



**45 • Port Austin Reef Light**  
119 E. Spring St., Port Austin • 989-738-7600  
Built in 1878. Located 1.5 miles offshore and is viewable from the break wall at Veterans Park. Boat tours are seasonal.



**46 • Pinnebog Ghost Town Bridge**  
Near 1884 Port Austin Rd. at Port Crescent Rd.  
An undated bridge is all that remains of this ghost town's complicated history that we now call Port Crescent State Park. Located on the Port Crescent State Park East Trail, Dune Trailhead.



**47 • Caseville Museum**  
6733 Prospect St., Caseville • 989-856-9090  
Farm display and a school circa 1900. Start your historic Caseville downtown walking tour from here.



Scan with your phone camera to see a digital map of locations!

