Welcome to the Huron Blueways!

The Huron Blueways is a 265-mile water trail stretching from the Straits of Mackinac down to Saginaw Bay. Paddling Lake Huron is a unique experience - maritime history and breathtaking views are abundant along the Huron Blueways.

The Huron Blueways paddling atlas is brought to you by the US 23 Heritage Route... a Pure Michigan Byway.

By using this pamphlet, you agree that you understand and accept the following Safety Statement:

The Huron Blueways Paddling Atlas is offered as a general guide to recreation, with information provided by the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments, state agencies, and volunteer groups. By providing this general information, including all topics or other website links, the editors do not assume any liability for the use of this information, the skill level or abilities of the reader. Editors of the Huron Blueways Paddling Atlas assume the reader understands that paddlesports pose significant risk of injury or fatality. Persons reading this information are strongly advised to seek the necessary hands-on training in basic paddlecraft handling, paddlecraft trip planning, first aid and CPR as a responsible and necessary precaution for this sport. The reader recognizes that he or she, of their own personal choice, assumes all risk of property damage, personal injury or fatality and agrees to hold Huron Blueways Paddling Atlas and its editors harmless from any liability as a result of their interpretation of the information provided in the atlas. In addition, while the editors of the Huron Blueways Paddling Atlas have made every effort possible to ensure that the information in the atlas is accurate, the editors make no warranty of the accuracy or completeness of this information. Readers are encouraged to verify details with a local, knowledgeable source prior to making any travel plans.

Cover Images:
Kayaker over Albany courtesy of Photic Zone
Stand-Up Paddleboarder courtesy of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (NOAA)
How to Use this Atlas

This booklet contains important information that will help you plan a trip to experience the wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities in addition to paddling and being safe.

For the maps, distances are given in both Miles and Kilometers.

The distances start with “0” measurement at Wilderness State Park on Lake Michigan and distance continuously increases southward in Lake Huron to Saginaw Bay.

The line representing the Huron Blueways is shown 500 feet from shore. All distances from access to access are calculated at this 500 foot line.

MAP KEY

- Public Access Site
- Lighthouse
- Shipwreck
- Non-Motorized Trail
- State Highways
- Roads
- County Line
- Lakes
- Rivers
- Cities & Villages
- State Land
- Huron National Forest

Amenities at Public Accesses:
- Hand Launch or Dedicated Kayak Launch
- Boat Launch
- Parking
- Restroom or Pit Toilet
- Picnic
- Campground

Shipwreck coordinates available at: THUNDERBAY.NOAA.GOV

Photo courtesy of Michael Beaulac
The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (and State of Michigan Underwater Preserve) was established to protect one of America’s best-preserved and nationally-significant collection of shipwrecks in an area known as “Shipwreck Alley.” The TBNMS covers a 4,300 square mile area off the coast of Presque Isle, Alpena, and Alcona Counties to the international boundary. On the maps, the names of the shipwrecks which are located within the TBNMS are displayed because the wrecks have been verified. Shipwrecks which are shown on the map outside of the TBNMS boundary are shown without names and should be considered unverified wrecks. Visit the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center in Alpena to learn more! thunderbay.noaa.gov

Some access sites may require a fee if you enter them by vehicle to launch.

For more information on camping the State and National Forests, please see the following sites:

**State Land:**
www.michigan.gov/dnr

**Huron National Forest:**
www.fs.usda.gov/activity/hmnf/recreation/camping-cabins
www.forestcamping.com
Safety Rules:
Always get up-to-date marine weather reports. Always have proper paddling safety gear. Follow manufacturer’s boat and equipment warnings and recommendations.

Safety and Rescue Courses:
For open and closed boaters who are just learning to paddle we recommend to learn how to rescue yourself and others, how to identify and avoid water hazards, dress to avoid hypothermia, learn what you can do to assist your rescuer and simple boat recovery.

Gear:
Sea Kayaks (16-19 feet) are recommended for use on the Great Lakes. Sealed bulkheads in a kayak are essential. ALWAYS wear an accredited personal floatation device (PFD). Dress appropriately, consider both air and water temperatures. We recommend always having a paddle float, handheld/portable bilge pump, paddle leash, compass, spray skirt, two signaling devices, whistle, cell phone, Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon, VHF Radio, or waterproof flashlight with you when paddling on the water trails. Bring water, maps, and sunscreen or a hat.

Barge Traffic:
Freighters and large commercial vessels travel throughout the Great Lakes. Remember that they have right-of-way and may be limited in their ability to spot or respond to the movement of smaller crafts.

Hazards:
Be on the lookout for obstructions near the shoreline, including floating debris, shallow areas, submerged stumps, logs and rocks.

Protect Yourself From Hypothermia:
Cold water kills quickly. Wearing a lifejacket can save your life! It can double your survival time in cold water. If stranded, do not try to swim. Remain still to conserve heat and assume the fetal, or Heat Escape Lessening Posture (HELP). This position only works if you wear a life jacket. If your boat capsizes, stay with the boat if it is still afloat. Get yourself as far out of the water as possible. This will help stave off the effects of hypothermia and offer a much larger target to those that may be searching for you. If stranded in groups, huddle together to preserve body heat. Dress appropriately for the water conditions.

Access and Use:
Beyond the publicly owned sites outlined on our maps, much of the shoreline is privately held. Do not risk trespassing by landing on areas not marked on-site or on the map. Some water trail stops are located on public land, which may also be used for hunting. Wear orange in season to ensure your safety.

Cell service is absent or limited in many areas along the Lake Huron shoreline. Proceed with caution!
LAKE MICHIGAN

Paddling in the straits can be difficult due to wind, waves and current.

CECIL BAY

Cecil Bay is shallow with underwater boulders. Depth of water is less than 12' for one mile around shoreline. Private homes along shoreline.