

# Take a step back in time....along Heritage Route 23

## 1. Standish Historical Depot & Welcome Center

Located at the gateway to the US 23 Heritage Route, this restored MI Central R.R. Depot, built in 1889, is a Heritage Route "Welcome Center." Displays contain railroad artifacts and depot memorabilia. Outside are two vintage British rail coaches open for viewing. Begin your Sunrise Coast trip by stopping in at the Standish Depot! Located at the corner of US 23 and M-61 in Standish. Open daily. [standishdepot.org](http://standishdepot.org)

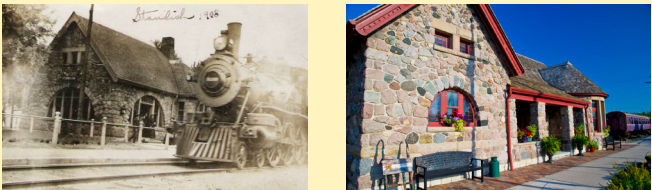


Photo courtesy of Standish Depot

Photo courtesy of MDOT

## 2. Ye Olde Courthouse and Masonic Hall

Currently on the National Register of Historic Places, the building was built in 1890 and served as Arenac County's first courthouse. When the county seat was moved to Standish, it became the local Masonic Lodge. Visitors can see Arenac's first jail as well as an 1890's era barber shop. Old Masonic, city, and township records make it an excellent source of genealogical information. Location: On US 23 in City of Omer.

## 3. Arenac County Historical Society Museum

Inside this 1883 church are re-creations of a rural school room, bedroom, parlor, apothecary shop, a country store and vintage apparel. The 2-story museum also features railroading and commercial fishing exhibits. Location: 304 E. Michigan Avenue, Au Gres. Heading north on US 23 in Au Gres, turn right onto East Michigan Avenue.

## 4. Gravelly Shoal Lighthouse

Gravelly Shoal Light is an automated lighthouse that is an active aid to navigation on the shallow shoals extending southeast from Point Lookout on the western side of Saginaw Bay. The light is situated about 2.7 miles offshore and was built to help guide boats through the deeper water between the southeast end of Gravelly Shoal and Charity Island. Architecturally this is considered to be Art Deco style. GPS Coordinates: 44.01833, -83.53722

## 5. Charity Island Lighthouse

Built in 1856-57, Charity Island Lighthouse was originally equipped with a white, Fourth Order Fresnel lens. In 1900, the light was fully automated and an acetylene lens replaced the 4th order lens. It was deactivated in 1939 and replaced by the Gravelly Shoal light about five miles away. Tours of the island, including the privately-owned, rebuilt lighthouse-keeper's house, are available from Charity Island Excursions. [charityisland.net](http://charityisland.net)

## 6. Tawas Point Light - Tawas Point State Park

The Tawas Point Lighthouse serves as the sole representative of a true Victorian-era style station on the Great Lakes. In 1852, construction started, and the lighthouse was commissioned in 1853. After the lighthouse was built, many problems were encountered. Shifting sands caused the point to be extended by nearly a mile. Moreover, the structure was failing, and a ship disaster in the 1870's led to the decision to construct a new lighthouse in 1875. In 1876, construction was completed. At night, the keeper's house and tower are illuminated with exterior lights. Location: From US 23 (heading north) in East Tawas, turn right onto Tawas Beach Rd and drive to the end of Tawas Point. [michigandr.com/ParksandTrails](http://michigandr.com/ParksandTrails)



Photo courtesy of MDOT

## 7. Iosco County Historical Museum

The museum is located in a house built in 1903 by James D. Howles, first president of the Detroit & Mackinaw Railroad. The museum includes exhibits dedicated to the lumbering days, railroads, Native Americans, the fishing industry, military, ccc camps, law enforcement, Au Sable dams and hydropower, fire prevention, domestic living, Victorian parlor, historical archives (including over 5,000 old glass negatives), old class pictures, transportation, communication, local industry and agricultural exhibits. Location: 405 West Bay Street (US 23) in East Tawas.

## 8. Five Channels Dam

Consumers Power Company (now Consumers Energy) built Five Channels Dam in 1911 and 1912. It was the second of six hydroelectric plants to be built on the lower Au Sable River by the Foote brothers of Jackson (founders of Consumers Power). During construction, the company sought to provide a healthy environment for workers and their families by building a forty-five-acre camp complete with a central water supply and sewage system, icehouse, school, washroom, store and boardinghouse. Workers received land on which to build a house. Housing ranged from log or clapboard to tarpaper shacks and tents. Camp buildings were moved to the next site (Loud Dam) or razed as the plant neared completion in late 1912. Location: From US 23 in Oscoda, go west onto the River Road National Scenic Byway. Travel to the end of River Rd and turn right onto M-65. Turn left onto Carter Rd to the dam.

## 9. Lumberman's Monument Historic Site

This huge bronze memorial to Michigan's lumbering era sits on a high bluff overlooking the sparkling waters of the Au Sable River. Erected in 1932, interpretive signs and exhibits tell the story of moving logs from forests to the mills. Children enjoy climbing the log jam and using the crowscaw sows. Hike the 260 steps down to the edge of the river to board the Wagoner, a replica of the floating cook shacks that followed the river log-drives. Location: Intersection of River Road and Monument Road.

## 10. Cooke Hydroelectric Dam

Cooke Hydroelectric Dam was the first of six dams constructed on the Au Sable River. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1996. It operates much as it did during its first year of operation in 1912, and the overall appearance of the plant is relatively unchanged. Location: From US 23 in Oscoda, go west onto the River Road National Scenic Byway. Turn right onto Cooke Dam Road.

## 11. AuSable-Oscoda Historical Museum

Museum exhibits include Native American artifacts, commercial fishing, shipping, shipwrecks, logging, Paul Bunyan legend, railroads, lighthouses, the AuSable River and its dams, the fire of 1911, Wurtsmith Air Force Base, and more! Location: 114 E. River Rd. From US 23 in Oscoda, turn left onto River Road National Scenic Byway.

## 12. Wurtsmith Air Museum

Wurtsmith Air Museum was established in 1994 for the purpose of preserving the history of Wurtsmith Air Force Base and aviation in northeast Michigan. The museum contains artifacts and memorabilia relating to the military along with static displays of a UH-1H (Huey) Helicopter, a T-33 Jet Trainer, an L-19, a T27, and several other civilian aircraft. There is a "Wurtsmith Room" where pictures and collectibles from WAFB are displayed. Location: From US 23 (heading north) in Oscoda, turn left onto F-41. From F-41, turn left onto Arrow St then immediately right onto Perimeter Rd, then turn left onto East Van Etan St.

[wurtsmithairmuseum.net](http://wurtsmithairmuseum.net)

## 13. Craftmakers Cabin

The cabin was built as a WPA project in 1936 to house the new Resort Bureau Headquarters and Information Bureau. It is now a unique shop of original art and handcrafted items made in the local area. Also local maple syrup and honey are for sale. Location: Southwest corner of US-23 and M-72 in Harrisville.

## 14. Harrisville Depot

Built in 1901 for the Detroit and Mackinac Railway Company, this cut stone depot was a busy place any day of the week with the bustling lumber business in and around Harrisville. Daily trains arrived or departed to destinations such as Detroit or Cheboygan. As the lumber business diminished and automobile use increased, rail travel became less and less common. The last passenger train left the station on March 31, 1951. Mail and freight service continued through the early 1960's, after which the building was used for occasional storage by the railroad. This depot is one of the few remaining in northern Michigan. The depot is not open for public access inside, but is available for outside photos. Location: From US 23 (heading north in Harrisville), turn right onto Main St, then turn left onto Lake St, and then left onto Dock St. See [alconahistoricalsociety.com](http://alconahistoricalsociety.com) for information on the Lincoln Depot.

## 15. Sturgeon Point Lighthouse

Sturgeon Point juts into Lake Huron, and the waves off the point conceal a long, shallow reef which extends for almost a full mile beyond the visible confines of the land. In 1870, the Sturgeon Point Lighthouse become operational to mark the hazard of Sturgeon Point and continues to be an operational lighthouse today. The lighthouse was electrified and automated in 1939 and the last personnel left in 1941. The keeper's house is now a maritime museum. The keeper's house and the tower are both open to the public. Location: Heading north on US 23 from Harrisville, turn right onto Lake Shore Dr, then right on Point Rd. [alconahistoricalsociety.com](http://alconahistoricalsociety.com)

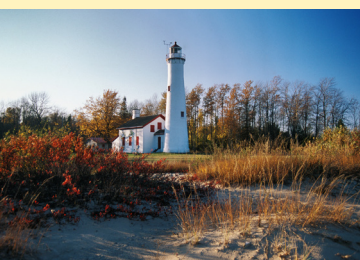


Photo courtesy of MDOT

## 16. Old Bailey School

Built in 1907 of Norway pine, the Bailey School is one of the few remaining one-room, log schoolhouses still standing in Michigan. The school bell still rings from atop the roof to summon students of history and simpler times. It was built at the site of C.A. Johnson Logging Camp west of Mikado for the children of the logging crews. It bears the name of a lumberman who was part of the crew that built the school and who supervised moving it in 1913 to a site on F-30 where it served the community until 1941. Partially restored in 1973, the structure was disassembled, moved and restored in 1998 to its current Sturgeon Point site. It is furnished with items used during its time including a recitation bench, desks, drinking pail and dipper, and coal stove. Old Bailey School is adjacent to the Sturgeon Point Lighthouse. [alconahistoricalsociety.com](http://alconahistoricalsociety.com)

## 17. Alcona County Historic Sites

Besides those already mentioned previously in this guide (Sturgeon Point Light, Harrisville Depot), Alcona County is rich in other historic sites, so there are plenty of stops to make here! Rather than choose just one, we encourage you to visit [www.heritage23.org](http://www.heritage23.org) - click on the Harrisville Area and click on the "Historic Trail" icon. Six self-guided tour brochures are available for download including the Harrisville Heritage Route Trail (historic walking tour through town) and five self-guided bike routes which take you past historic structures in the rural parts of the county. They include (1) The Black River Route, (2) The Greenbush Route, (3) The Old Stone Church Route, (4) The Springport Route, and (5) The Sturgeon Point Route. Driving tour maps available through the Alcona Historical Society. [alconahistoricalsociety.com](http://alconahistoricalsociety.com)

## 18. Alcona County Quilt Trail

The Alcona County Quilt Trail consists of large painted wooden quilt blocks which are mounted on barns or other structures or site of interest within the county. Designs are chosen to represent the history of the site or the people who live there. Visit the website to follow the trail to 28 historic sites in Alcona County. [AlconaQuiltTrail.com](http://AlconaQuiltTrail.com)

## 19. Paul Bunyan

Babe was white at the time he was built in 1937/38 on the hill across from the Lookout Inn. The legend was that a white cow on a hill signified good luck. In 1950, new owners bought the hill and Babe was painted blue. Paul was built in 1953. In 2006, Paul and Babe were moved to their present location and were restored in 2007. A popular photo spot, Paul and Babe can be found at the corner of US 23 and Nicholson Hill Rd in Ossineke.

## 20. Dinosaur Gardens Prehistoric Zoo

While not a "traditional" historic site, this dinosaur park was built from 1935 to 1970. The park itself is situated on 20 acres of mature forest, with a trail leading you back in time when the earth was ruled by dinosaurs! Stroll next to life-size replicas of dinosaurs as well as prehistoric people and Ice Age animals. Some exhibits even provide a birds eye view with steps and an entrance into the replicas. Over 26 exhibits along the trail! This is a property that has been featured in Life Magazine, multiple newspapers, on television, and in Hollywood travelogues. You will thoroughly enjoy a stroll with the life size dinosaurs. Location: On US 23 in Ossineke. [dinosaurgardensllc.com](http://dinosaurgardensllc.com)

## 21. Alpena City Hall and Cannon

Bay City architects Clark and Munger designed the Bedford Limestone building in the Georgian Revival style. City Hall represents the work of several Alpena craftsmen. It has a gabled central block with hipped roof pavilions to the front and rear. The roof is covered with red tile and the eavesline is articulated with icanthus leaf ornaments, a two-story pediment portico with an iconic colonnade and a semi-circular arched entry arcade framing the principal building entrance facing First Avenue, while a smaller portico accents the Park Place entrance. Recessed semi-circular arched panels house the double sash windows on the upper story. A porthole window highlights the pediment gable ends and main portico pediment. [alpena.mi.us](http://alpena.mi.us)

### City Hall Cannon

The Cannon displayed on the front lawn of City Hall is from the battleship Maine which was destroyed by explosion in the harbor of Havana, Cuba on February 15, 1898. This event precipitated the Spanish-American war. Alpena is the only city in the U.S. that can boast a cannon from the battleship Maine. This silent memorial to honor the loss of one of America's greatest warships still sits today in front of City Hall on the corner of Water Street and First Avenue. Location: In the City of Alpena, take US 23 north then turn right onto 1st Ave.

## 22. Little Red Lighthouse

Located at the mouth of the Thunder Bay River, the 80-foot skeletal tower has been called "Sputnik" (resembles the Russian space satellite) and "Little Red" by locals, it is said this oft dismissed light is "Long on duty, short on beauty." Believed to be the only lighthouse of this type in the U.S., the station was built of wood in 1877, rebuilt of wood in 1888 and finally constructed of steel in 1914. An automated active aid to navigation, the Alpena Light originally housed a Fourth Order Fresnel lens. Location: From US 23 heading north in Alpena, turn right at Prentiss Street (next to Bay View Park). Head out onto the breakwall to view Little Red.



Photo courtesy of MDOT

[thunderbay.noaa.gov](http://thunderbay.noaa.gov)

## 24. Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Explore the exhibits at Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary's visitor center, the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center. Experience the maritime history, shipwrecks, and archaeology of the Great Lakes, and much more. Walk the deck of a life-sized schooner battling the Great Lakes storm and then dive in and explore a shipwreck—without getting wet! The sanctuary is dedicated to protecting the Great Lakes and their rich history. In this 4,300 square-mile marine protected area the cold, fresh water of Lake Huron preserves a nationally significant collection of nearly 200 historic shipwrecks.

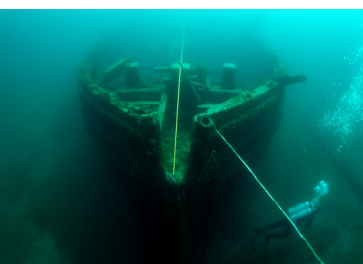


Photo courtesy of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

## 25. Alpena Shipwreck Tours

Explore the shipwrecks of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary on the 65-foot glass-bottomed Lady Michigan! Two large viewing wells on the main deck give passengers a front row view of shipwrecks on the bottom of Lake Huron. Departing from the port of Alpena, the Lady Michigan will take you on a comfortable adventure into the heart of Lake Huron's Shipwreck Alley. A memorable experience for passengers of all ages! Daily tours begin in June and continue through the color season. Tickets can be purchased online, by calling 888-469-4696, or at the Sanctuary Gift Store. The Lady Michigan docks just behind the Maritime Heritage Center in the Thunder Bay River. Group and private charters are welcome. Location: 500 W. Fletcher St.

## 26. Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan

The Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan offers educational experiences in art, history and science. Visitors will be delighted by the Museum's eight-acre campus with a historic village, full-dome planetarium, Foucault pendulum, Devonian fossil pit - where visitors can keep all the fossil they find, rotating art galleries featuring both local, regional and nationally renowned artists, wildlife exhibits featuring native and non-native specimens, and thousands of artifacts from early man! An exhibit on regional resources and the flourishing industries that contributed to the development of Northeast Michigan is also featured. Location: 491 Johnson Street, 989-356-2202. From US 23 north in Alpena, turn right onto Johnson St. [bessermuseum.org](http://bessermuseum.org)

## 27. Thunder Bay Island Lighthouse

Located six miles offshore, Thunder Bay Island Lighthouse is one of the oldest light stations on Lake Huron. Thunder Bay Island is the outermost in a group of islands connected to the north point of Thunder Bay by a shallow bank of numerous rocks, most of which are submerged. The light tower was first constructed in 1832 and was built to warn mariners of the dangerous reefs extending from the island. Squatters were attracted to the federally-owned island and by 1845, a large fishing community thrived there. 160 people lived on the island with 31 fishing boats harvesting 12,000 barrels of fish each year. Faced with government action to remove them from the island, the trespassers picked up their belongings and relocated to nearby Sugar Island, where they stayed for years. Thunder Bay Island Light is currently not accessible to the public, however the light can be viewed from the water. GPS Coordinates: 45.03734, -83.19435

## 28. Middle Island Lighthouse

A U.S. Life-Saving Service Station was established on Middle Island in the 1880s. Middle Island is named for its location about halfway between the North Point of Thunder Bay and Presque Isle. The Middle Island Lighthouse was built in 1905. The 71-foot tower is made of brick and is painted white with an orange band in the middle. The light continues to be in operation. GPS Coordinates: 45.19251, -83.3272

## 29. Old Presque Isle Lighthouse

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Old Presque Isle Lighthouse is one of the oldest surviving lighthouses on the Great Lakes. Built in 1840 by Jeremiah Moors of Detroit, the harbor light operated until 1871 when the keeper transferred to a new, taller, coastal lighthouse a mile to the north. The Old Presque Isle Lighthouse park is a complex composed of two main structures - a keepers dwelling and a light tower. Visitors can climb the hand-hewn stone steps for a panoramic view of the Lake Huron shoreline and Presque Isle Harbor. Nearby is the one-story side-gabled brick keeper's dwelling which serves as a hands-on museum. Visitors can ring the bell from the Lansing City Hall clock tower.



Photo courtesy of Kyle Taylor



Photo courtesy of Presque Isle Township Museum Society.

Tipping the scales at an impressive 3,425 pounds, this bronze behemoth is much bigger than the Liberty Bell, which weighed 2,080 pounds when cast. This lighthouse is locally known as the "Ghost Light" because, even though the light itself has been removed, locals report that, on some nights, it can still be seen! Location: On US 23 north from Alpena, at the north end of Grand Lake, turn right onto County Rd 638, then left onto Grand Lake Rd.

## 30. New Presque Isle Lighthouse

Presque Isle Light Station is a complex of three historic buildings including a lighthouse tower and two keeper's residences. Located on the Lake Huron shoreline near Presque Isle Harbor, the "New Presque Isle Light" is the tallest lighthouse tower accessible by the public on the Great Lakes. Built in 1870, it replaced the 1840 harbor light. The light station complex is part of a 99-acre township park that includes a playground, picnic area, pavilion and nature trails. A gift shop is located in the original keeper's quarters connected to the tower. Visitors, for a nominal fee, may climb the 130 steps to the top of the tower for a spectacular view. An unattached 1905 keeper's dwelling has been painstakingly restored. It is now a museum that provides visitors with an opportunity to learn about local history, as well as how keepers and their families lived. Location: Heading north on US 23 from Alpena, at the north end of Grand Lake, turn right onto County Rd 638, then left onto Grand Lake Rd.



Photo courtesy of MDOT

## 31. Rogers City Fossil Park

The Rogers City area has fossils dating back to the Devonian Period, over 359 million years ago. This area was once a shallow inland tropical sea with the flora and fauna of the ancient coral reef. The fossil park is located along the scenic shores of Lake Huron. Location: Just south of Rogers City (heading north on US 23), turn right onto Business Route 23, then turn right onto Park Dr, and then left on Calcite Rd.

## 32. Great Lakes Lore Maritime Museum

The Great Lakes Lore Maritime Museum specializes in memories, not just artifacts. The generations of men and women who risked life itself to sail these waters are remembered here as are their uniforms, personal possessions, navigational and other maritime tools. Step into four centuries of fascinating Great Lakes history. Location: 367 N. 3rd St (Business Route 23) [gllm.com](http://gllm.com)

## 33. Presque Isle County Historical Museum

The world's largest limestone quarry, ships of the Bradley fleet, Native Americans, frontier pioneers, lumberjacks, lumber barons, the Bertram Sisters' Millinery Shoppe, and a 1900s school room are just a few of the exhibits that document the rich history of the area. Free admission. Location: 176 W Michigan Ave in Rogers City. [thebradleyhouse.org](http://thebradleyhouse.org)

## 34. 40 Mile Point Lighthouse Park and Glawe School

40 Mile Point Lighthouse was completed in 1896. The tower houses a working 1872 Henri-LaPauze 4th Order Fresnell lens installed in 1919 with a characteristic of three seconds on and three seconds off. The gift shop is a wood framed building that was built to house the work crew during construction of the lighthouse and later served as a barn for the keeper's horses. Various keepers from the Lighthouse Service and the Coast Guard lived and tended the lighthouse from 1897 to 1968. The lighthouse site is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Michigan Historical Marker (local site number 2186). Visitors may climb the lighthouse tower, tour the museum and gift shop, step aboard the restored steamer Calcite pilothouse, tour the Glawe School (a one-room schoolhouse built in 1885) and visit the Joseph S. Fay shipwreck on the beach (depending on the water height, about 130 feet of the side is on the beach). Divers can visit the bottom of the shipwreck about 100 yards off the beach. There is FREE admission to all the structures in the park! 989-734-4907. Location: Entrance is 100 yards north of the Lighthouse Park sign on US 23 about 7 miles north of Rogers City. Bike from Rogers City to the lighthouse on the Huron Sunrise Trail! 40milepointlighthouse.org



Photo courtesy of NEMCOG

## 35. Ocqueoc Falls

The largest falls in the lower peninsula! Ocqueoc (interpreted as "crooked river or water") has two falls - the upper and lower approximately 300' apart. Ocqueoc River is one of the few rivers in Michigan that runs from south to north. Rustic camping available at the Ocqueoc Falls State Forest Campground. Hike, ski or mountain bike the 6-mile Bicentennial Pathway, fish, or enjoy the wildlife in this beautiful park. The name Ocqueoc means "sacred" in the language of the Anishinabe, Native Americans who were the first people to live on this land. The area around Ocqueoc was used as a sacred meeting place. Location: Heading north on US 23 in Rogers City, turn left onto M-68 to Ocqueoc Falls Hwy.



Photo courtesy of Lake Huron Discovery Tour

## 36. Cheboygan History Center

Located at Huron and Court Streets in Cheboygan, the complex consists of four buildings which house artifacts and historic exhibits of the past. The grounds also display the Memorial Rose Garden and beautiful perennial garden. The museum also features a Settler's Log Cabin originally located on Burt Lake in a local Indian Village, the Cheboygan County Sheriff Residence constructed in 1882 with attached jail cells, the New Jail addition built in 1912-14, and Spies Heritage Hall, dedicated in 1997, providing additional exhibit space. Location: From US 23 north in Cheboygan, turn left onto Main St, then right onto Court St and left onto Huron Street. [cheboyganhistorycenter.org](http://cheboyganhistorycenter.org)

## 37. Cheboygan Opera House

The Opera House, originally constructed in 1877, was restored in 1984. This acoustically superb theater has become a focal point for entertainment in the Straits Area. Call 231-627-5432 for concert schedules, tickets, and information. (Box Office 231-627-5841). [theoperahouse.org](http://theoperahouse.org). Location: 403 N. Huron Street. From US 23 heading north, turn left onto N. Huron St. [theoperahouse.org](http://theoperahouse.org)

## 38. Cheboygan Lighthouses

The **Cheboygan Crib Light** is a light that marks the west pierhead of the mouth of the Cheboygan River into Lake Huron. From downtown Cheboygan, take Water Street East to First Street. Turn left on First Street to Huron Street. Head East on Huron Street to Gordon Turner Park, and walk the beach to the lighthouse and pier. **Cheboygan River Front Range Light**, is accessed from US 23 north, turn right onto Water Street. **Fourteen Foot Shoal Light** was named to note that the lake was only 14 feet deep at this point, which is a hazard to navigation, ships, and mariners. This light can be viewed from a boat. **Poe Reef** lies just eight feet beneath the water's surface between Bois Blanc Island and the lower Peninsula mainland, and as such has long represented a significant hazard to vessels making their way through the Straits between Lakes Michigan and Huron. The lighthouse is best viewed from by boat. However, fair views are available from Lighthouse Point near the ruins of the Cheboygan Main Light Station in Cheboygan State Park. The lighthouse is owned by the Coast Guard and the tower is closed. Resembling a pair of eyeglasses in shape, the rocks of **Spectacle Reef** lie just seven feet below the surface of Lake Huron at a point eleven miles east of the Mackinac Straits. The light is best viewed from a boat. It is owned by the Coast Guard and the tower is closed.

GPS Coordinates for lights in the lake - Fourteen Foot Shoal Light: 45.6798; -84.4347  
Poe Reef Light: 45.6949; -84.362 Spectacle Reef Light: 45.7732; -84.1367

## 39. Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park

The site of the first industrial settlement in the Straits area! Hear the rush of water powering a reconstructed sawmill as you experience a sawmill demonstration. Participate in the sawpit method of lumber production. Immerse yourself in nature trails and interactive exhibits. Climb a 50-foot tower. Experience the adrenaline of the park naturalist-guided Adventure Tour, which includes the Eagles Flight Zip Line, Forest Canopy Bridge, and Nature Trail Climbing Wall. Location: Less than 5 minutes south of Mackinaw City on US 23. [mackinawparks.com](http://mackinawparks.com)



Photo courtesy of MDOT

## 40. Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum

"An American Hero Story." The "Queen of the Great Lakes", built as part of the war effort during WWII, the Mackinaw (WAGB83) was the most powerful and capable icebreaker in the world and is still the standard by which icebreakers are measured. For 62 years, she served the Great Lakes shipping industry. She was decommissioned June 10, 2006. Daily tours are available May - October. 231-436-9825. Location: 131 S Huron Ave. [themackinaw.org](http://themackinaw.org)

## 41. Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse

(From MackinacParks.com) With maritime traffic in the Straits of Mackinac steadily increasing, Congress authorized the construction of a light station at Old Mackinac Point in 1889. The new station was to replace an existing light at McGulpin Point, two miles to the west, which was not visible to vessels sailing on Lake Huron. A fog signal went into operation at Old Mackinac Point in 1890, and the lighthouse itself was completed and lit for the first time in 1892. A storage barn and oil house completed the station. Old Mackinac Point's flashing red light, shining atop a stately stone tower and castle-like keepers' quarters, was visible for 16 miles, guiding sailors through the sometimes treacherous waters of the Straits of Mackinac. For 65 years the keepers of Old Mackinac Point stood watch every night to monitor the station's equipment. The Old Mackinac Point light station was decommissioned in 1957, replaced by navigational aids mounted on the newly-constructed Mackinac Bridge. Today visitors can climb the tower, take in the spectacular view, interact with hands-on exhibits. Location: 526 North Huron Ave. Heading north on US 23, follow Huron Ave to the light. [mackinacparks.com](http://mackinacparks.com)



Photo courtesy of MDOT

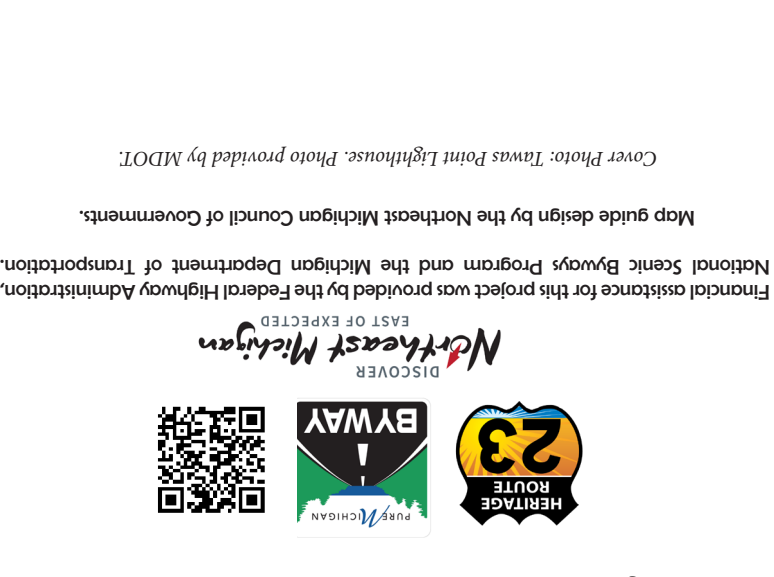
## 42. Colonial Michilimackinac

Michilimackinac, now one of the longest on-going archeological projects of its kind, was founded in 1715 as a French fur-trading village and military outpost. It was here where fur traders and Indians rendezvoused. French and British officers organized war parties and explorers began their journeys into the vast western unknown. It was later occupied by the British who abandoned it in 1780 to establish a new fort on Mackinac Island. Open early May - mid October. Location: 102 Straits Ave. Colonial Michilimackinac is located just south of the Mackinac Bridge. [mackinacparks.com](http://mackinacparks.com)



Photo courtesy of MDOT

## 2020

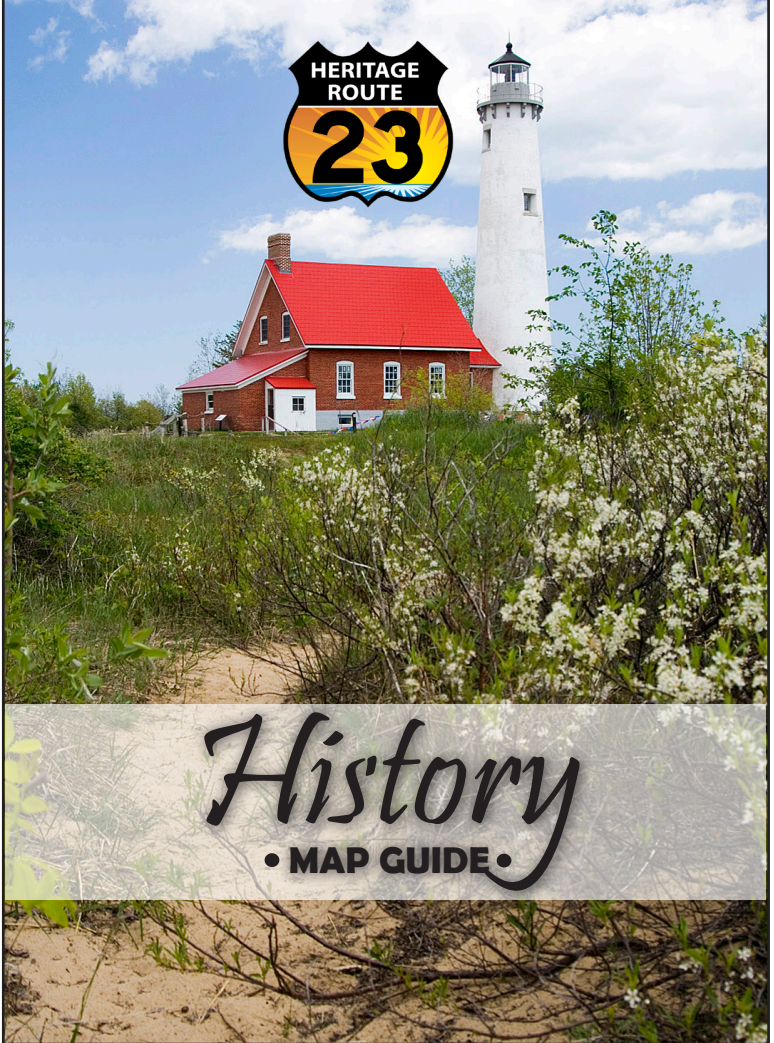


Map guide design by the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments. National Scenic Byways Program and the Michigan Department of Transportation. Financial assistance for this project was provided by the Federal Highway Administration. Use the QR code to visit our YouTube Channel to watch our mini-documentaries including "Shipwreck Alley," "The Spirit of Ocqueoc," and "Historic Mill Creek!" youtube.

History Documentaries  
www.heritage23.org

National Forest. So, plan your trip today and, remember, there's more to see on 23! cost...connecting to the US 23 Heritage Route. Also, the River Road National Scenic Byway, and many other hidden treasures. And the adventures aren't just on the golf, dining, parks, trails, museums, shipwrecks, small towns, art, culture, attractions, Lower Peninsula. The northern Lake Huron shoreline boasts water, forests, wetlands, extensive and significant recreational, ecological, historical and cultural sites in Michigan's City, the US 23 Heritage Route, an official Pure Michigan Byway, offers some of the most Beginning in Standish and winding 202 miles up the Lake Huron coastline to Mackinaw

7% US 23 Heritage Route



## 43. Mackinaw Heritage Village

Heritage Village recreates the period between 1880-1917. The 141-acre site features historic buildings including a one-room School House, a 1900 Pestilence House, Heritage Chapel, a restored log home, a sawmill, a Native American plank house, hiking trails, and Nature Center. Visit the village any day and take advantage of the Audio Tour. Location: From US 23 in Mackinaw City, follow Huron St to Central Ave (left) through downtown. Head west to 1425 W. Central Ave. [mackinawhistory.org](http://mackinawhistory.org)





### Defiance

GPS Location: N45° 14.058' W83° 16.707'

Depth: 185 Feet

Wooden Two-Masted Schooner

Wreck Length: 115 Feet    Beam: 26 Feet

Gross Tonnage: 253    Cargo: Corn, Wheat

Built: 1848 by Capt. Roby at Perryburg, Ohio

Wrecked: October 20, 1854

At just after 1 o'clock in the morning the two-masted schooner Defiance was run into by the J.J. Audubon off Presque Isle. Both vessels were fatally injured and sank within a few miles of one another. Defiance is remarkably preserved with mast upright and little damage to the hull.

*Defiance photo courtesy of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary*

Explore Shipwreck Alley! Visit [thunderbay.noaa.gov](http://thunderbay.noaa.gov)

K

46

Mackinac Island

45

Mackinac Bridge

44

McGulpin Point Lighthouse

43

Mackinaw Heritage Village

42

Colonial Michilimackinac

41

Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse

40

Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum

39

Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park

0

1 MI

US 23

US 75

Ferry service to Mackinac Island available in Mackinaw City & St. Ignace

Mackinaw City

Dinosaur Gardens in Ossineke (#20)

K

J

I

H

G

F

E

D

C

B

A

US 23

US 75

Reference Guide for Inset Maps

I

34

40-Mile Point Lighthouse & Glawe School

33

Presque Isle County Historical Museum

32

Great Lakes Lore

31

Rogers City Fossil Park

35

Ocqueoc Falls

0

4 MI

US 23

Rogers City

J

38

Poe Reef Light

38

Fourteen Foot Shoal Light

37

Cheboygan Opera House

36

Cheboygan History Center

38

Cheboygan Crib Light

38

Cheboygan River Front Range Light

0

2 MI

US 23

Cheboygan

H

30

New Presque Isle Lighthouse

29

Old Presque Isle Lighthouse

35

Ocqueoc Falls

0

2 MI

US 23

Presque Isle

G

28

Alpena Area Islands

28

Middle Island Light

27

Thunder Bay Island Light

0

2 MI

Alpena

F

26

Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan

25

Alpena Shipwreck Tours

24

Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center

23

Old Town Alpena

22

Little Red Lighthouse

21

Alpena City Hall & Cannon

0

1 MI

US 23

Alpena

C

10

Cook Hydroelectric Dam

9

Lumberman's Monument

8

Five Channels Dam

12

Wurtsmith Air Museum

11

AuSable-Oscoda Historical Museum

0

4 MI

Oscoda-AuSable

D

18

Alcona County Quilt Trail stops are found throughout the county. See [AlconaQuiltTrail.com](http://AlconaQuiltTrail.com) for details.

17

See [heritage23.org](http://heritage23.org) for self-guided bike tours and [alconahistoricalsociety.com](http://alconahistoricalsociety.com) for self-guided driving tours of historic sites in Alcona County!

16

Old Bailey School

15

Sturgeon Point Lighthouse

14

Harrisville Depot

13

Craftmakers Cabin

0

1 MI

US 23

Harrisville

E

20

Dinosaur Gardens

19

Paul Bunyan

0

2 MI

Ossineke

B

7

Iosco County Historical Museum

6

Tawas Point Light

0

4 MI

Tawas Area

A

2

Ye Olde Courthouse & Masonic Hall

3

Arenac County Historical Society Museum

4

Gravelly Shoal Lighthouse

5

Charity Island

1

Turner

2

Twining

3

Au Gres

4

Standish

5

Sterling

0

4 MI

Standish-Omer-Au Gres

## History on Heritage Route 23!

This map highlights great historic (and pre-historic!) sites to visit along the US 23 Heritage Route.

1-46

Refers to the numbered sites described in detail on the reverse side of this guide.

US 23 Heritage Route

I-75

More site information can also be accessed online at...

heritage23.org

Mackinac Bridge photo courtesy of MDOT