



DOSSIN MUSEUM'S GOTHIC ROOM— Hand carved Corinthian columns flow into lacy golden oak arches suspended below a blue and gilt ceiling. This was the showplace of the giant sidewheeler "City of Detroit."

It contains aquariums and video presentations as well as exhibits. It also displays the only major artifacts from the shipwreck of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*, its two lifeboats.

You can dock at Mariner's Park Marina, adjacent to the Valley Camp. From atop the Tower of History nearby, enjoy a view of the 500 Sault locks and Michigan's oldest city.

Back to the south at Port Huron, you can tour the lightship *Huron*. Now a National Historic Landmark, she is being restored at Pine Grove Park and will become a permanent exhibit of the Museum of Arts and History. For 36 years this lightship guarded the Corseca Shoals in Lake Huron north of the Blue Water bridge. She was retired in 1971. Self-guided tours are available to the public.

The Museum of Arts and History at the corner of Wall and 6th Streets features ship models, photos and artifacts from Great Lakes ships and gleaming boats. In a recently-constructed pilot house, visitors can ring bells, bellow orders into the speaking tube, spin the great ship's wheel, and generally play at being a seafarer. They made the pilot room hands-on so children of all ages can have a good time without getting wet.

Across the state, at South Haven on Lake Michigan, the Michigan Maritime Museum occupies a large interpretive center overlooking the Black River Tanning Plant. Its most recent find is a wooden dugout canoe discovered by two fishermen last summer in a small inland lake in Allegan County. Scientific dating shows the native American vessel was built in the 1700s.

With models, photographs and artifacts, it demonstrates how we went from canoes to great ships, were built and used on the Great Lakes. It displays underwater archaeology, native American traditions, fishing, trapping, U.S. Lifesaving and Coast Guard Services, small boatbuilding and recreational boating.

The museum received a National Preservation Honors Award for its archaeological study of the *Roxbury*, a 19th century scow schooner that went

down nearby in Lake Michigan. Its 1,000-volume Maritime Canon, Great Lakes Research Library specializes in the anthropology of maritime man.

Also worth a visit is the USS *Silversides*, America's most famous surviving World War II submarine, welcoming visitors at Muskegon. Replicas of the Great Lakes schooners *Madeleine* and the *Malabar* are moving museums in Traverse City. The Marquette Maritime Museum explores maritime history in its area of Lake Superior. At Presque Isle, the Old Lighthouse and Museum focuses on 19th century lighthouse service and sealing life.

The former passenger steamer SS *Keweenaw* invites visitors to tour its 150-foot length as it rests permanently at a dock in Douglass. A steam tug and sailing fishing boat are also on hand at the site.

In Lansing, the Michigan Historical Museum offers occasional temporary exhibits on Great Lakes subjects such as Indian arts and fates, diving into the photographic collection that includes a massive American fleet of ships.

At the Great Lakes Maritime Museum in Duluth, Minnesota, visitors can see the remains of the Edmund Fitzgerald, which sank in 1975, plus the SS *McNICHOLS*, a water carrier that sank in 1912. The museum is located on the shores of Lake Superior, the largest of the Great Lakes. The lake is the deepest in North America, and the second deepest in the world.

The reason Michigan is the "Great Lakes State" is because our waterways have influenced every facet of the state's history.

HOW TO REACH MICHIGAN
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