

18 Lighthouses Still Manned

Michigan waters and 3,000 miles of freshwater shoreline, longest in the world, are watched over by 75 lighthouses, according to Automobile Club of Michigan. They warn sailors of danger with their lights, while attracting tourists with their beauty.

Fifty lighthouses are on shore or close enough offshore to be seen by the motorist. Thirty of these are in the Lower Peninsula.

SOME LIGHTHOUSES can be approached only by winding, dirt roads, and sometimes the surrounding area is restricted. Some have been decommissioned and are now owned by the state or private individuals. Some still in service can be visited. Others are not open to the public. A few are museums. But all can be viewed, at least from a distance, and photographed.

Eighteen of the 29 lighthouses still manned on the entire Great Lakes are in Michigan. The rest are automated, and probably the time is not far off when all stations will be automatically controlled.

Each lighthouse is unique, with its own signal pattern recognized instantly by mariners.

The first lighthouse in Michigan was Port Gratiot, just north of Port Huron's Blue Water Bridge. The present tower, of brick, was built in 1861. The tower is 86 feet high and displays a flashing green light visible for 17 miles.

LOCATED ABOUT two miles off the tip of the Thumb, where Lake Huron and Saginaw Bay converge, is Port Austin Reef Lighthouse which warns of a dangerous reef. It may be seen on clear days. There also is an abandoned lighthouse at the northwest corner of Big Chantry Island, about 12 miles off Caseville, also visible on good days.

Just north of Alpena is the Old Presque Isle Lighthouse, dating from 1838. Privately owned, it is now a museum and open to the public. A few miles north is a more recent Presque Isle Lighthouse, still in use. Built in 1871, its circular, metal staircase to the top may be climbed by visitors who obtain permission from Coast Guard personnel in the attached house.

The Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, built in 1892, lost out when the Mackinac Bridge was completed. The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1957 and turned over to the state. It is now a museum, part of the Fort Michilimackinac complex.

TWO MILES WEST is the McGulpin Point Lighthouse, predecessor to the Mackinac Point Lighthouse, privately owned.

On the western shoreline is the Mission Point Lighthouse, about 15 miles north of Traverse City. Now a public park, it is situated on the 45th parallel, equidistant between the equator and the north pole.

Among Michigan's tallest lighthouses are Big and Little Sable, south of the Lake Michigan town of Pentwater. Oddly, Little Sable is the taller and also claims the distinction of being the last kerosene-powered light on the Great Lakes, being electrified in 1954.

Big Sable was commissioned in 1867, seven years before its nearby companion, Point Betsey Light, north of Frankfort on M-22, was built in 1888, and shipwrecks visible in the waters nearby testify to its need. It is a favorite subject with artists and photographers.

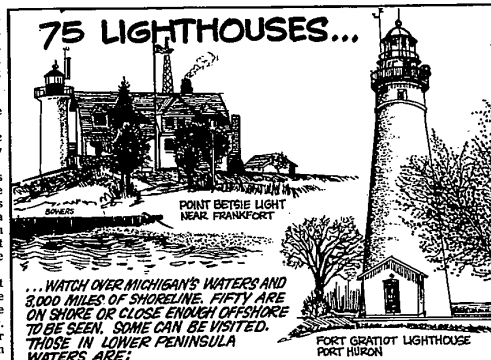
You'll need a boat to see three of Michigan's most spectacular lighthouses.

They are Stannard Rock, lying 23 miles southeast of Manitou Island in Lake Superior, farther from shore than any other American lighthouse; Spectacle Reef lighthouse, 10 1/2 miles from Bois Blanc Island in Lake Huron, the best specimen of monolithic stone masonry in the U.S.; and Rock of Ages Light, about three miles off the west end of Isle Royale in Lake Superior, the most powerful on the entire Great Lakes.

LIGHTHOUSES in the Upper Peninsula include Mackinac Island Light; Point Iroquois Light at Bay Mills; Marquette Light; Big Bay Point Light, a short distance northwest of Marquette; Nemadji Pierhead Light; and Manistig Light.

The immediate Detroit area has two lighthouses, both on Belle Isle.

The Belle Isle Light, at the southeastern tip of the island, was the only Belle Isle Light for navigation between 1882 and 1930 when the Livingstone



75 LIGHTHOUSES...
WATCH OVER MICHIGAN'S WATERS AND 3,000 MILES OF SHORELINE. FIFTY ARE ON SHORE OR CLOSE ENOUGH OFFSHORE TO BE SEEN. SOME CAN BE VISITED. THOSE IN LOWER PENINSULA WATERS ARE:

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"Don't let Indian summer catch you napping," says Doug Jones, Michigan State University extension horticulturist. Winter is on its way, and you must protect your roses against low and fluctuating temperatures.

To prepare bush roses for winter, follow these steps: After the first killing frost, pile soil at least six inches high around the base. (Dig soil from another part of the garden so you do not injure the roots of the rose plants.) Draw the canes together and place a waterproof paper cylinder or a special rose cylinder over each bush. Cut the plant tops off even with the top of the cylinder.

Fill the cylinder with dry vermiculite, perlite, ground-up corn cobs, soil, or other similar material.

Cover the top of the cylinder with polyethylene film and anchor it securely.

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