

GLLKA 2010 Lake Erie Excursion

Thursday, September 9 through Saturday, September 11

For 2010, we again return to the friendly confines of Lake Erie with excursion coordinator Fran Jehrio. This time to obtain close-up views of all the difficult to see pierhead and breakwater lighthouses between Port Clinton and Erie, Pennsylvania, along with the opportunity to tour the interiors of two lighthouses which have been formerly closed to the public.

Our starting point for the night of Wednesday September 8th will be The Island House Hotel in Port Clinton, a National Historic Landmark hotel, which has blocked-off all of their rooms for our group. Note that since our guests will be arriving at different times on Wednesday evening, your ticket price does include the hotel cost for the night but does not include dinner, which you may obtain yourself at any of the area restaurants.

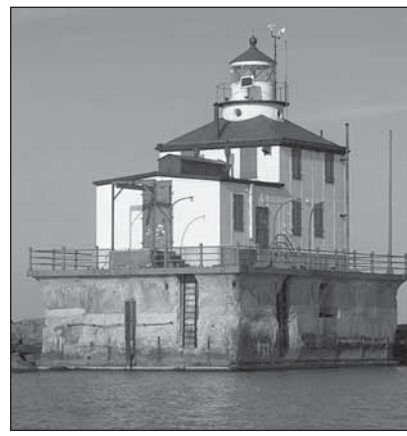
After breakfast in the Island House at 7:00 AM, we will board a motor coach at 8:00 AM for the short drive to the Cedar Point Amusement Park. After passing quickly through the park gates, we will drive through the park to view the 1839 Cedar Point Lighthouse. After a complete exterior restoration, this lighthouse now serves as the focal point for the Park's "Lighthouse Point" cottage area. We then step back on the motor coach for the ride to Ashtabula,



The restored 1839 Cedar Point lighthouse

where we will split into smaller groups for a water shuttle ride out to tour the Ashtabula lighthouse, where the Ashtabula Lighthouse Restoration and Preservation Society recently installed a portable dock to facilitate a safe approach and climb to the lighthouse deck. While each group is touring the lighthouse, the remainder will alternate between lunch and tours of the Ashtabula Maritime Museum, where we will see the original 4th Order Fresnel Lens from the lighthouse.

We then head for Erie, Pennsylvania, where we will view the Presque Isle, Presque Isle North Pierhead and Erie Land lights before heading to the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, which is a spectacular, 3-year old, state-of-the-art nature and history education center,



We will tour the Ashtabula Lighthouse

where we will view the spectacular movie "Mysteries of the Great Lakes" on the centers' 4-story high, 45 foot wide movie screen. After the tour, the Center will host our group for a first class dinner, after which we will board the motor coach for the ride back to our rooms in the Island House Hotel in Port Clinton

After breakfast at the Island House on Friday morning, we will take the short walk with our luggage for one night to the Jet Express IV, the newest vessel in the Jet Express fleet. After leaving Port Clinton, we will pass the Sandusky Harbor light as we head for the tip of the Marblehead peninsula where we will gain a view of the 1822 Marblehead lighthouse, the oldest lighthouse in continuous operation on all the Great Lakes. We then head east and turn into Huron Harbor for a close-up view of the Art Deco Huron Harbor lighthouse.

Continuing east, we pass between the Lorain East and West Breakwater lights as we make our way to dock in the harbor. Here we will disembark and split into groups to board the Port of Lorain water shuttle for the short trip out to tour the interior of "The Jewel of The Port" as the Lorain West Breakwater light is locally known. As was the case in Ashtabula the day before, while one



For additional information, or to make a reservation, call, the GLLKA Office at 231-436-5580



Lorain Port Authority

Lorain West Breakwater lighthouse, the second light we will tour on this excursion

group is touring the Lorain lighthouse, the other groups will eat lunch on the Jet Express at the dock.

After everybody has toured the Breakwater light, we leave the harbor and set a course for Cleveland, where we will turn by the 1911 Cleveland West Pierhead light, the tower of which is one of a set of triplets, the others being found at the Detroit River and Harbor Beach lighthouses. After obtaining a view of the Cleveland waterfront, we will dock in the harbor and head for dinner and our hotel rooms at the Marriott Residence Inn in downtown Cleveland.



Terry Pepper

The Jet Express will get us close for a great view of the Fairport Harbor Pierhead light

After breakfast at the hotel on Saturday morning, we head back out into the lake, passing the 1911 Cleveland Harbor East Pierhead light which was recently purchased by New York City-based Artisan Restoration Group and the “sewer pipe” D9 Cleveland East Entrance light. Then it’s on to Fairport Harbor for a close-up water view of the 1925 Fairport Harbor West Pierhead lighthouse, another of Lake Erie’s lighthouses which have sold into private ownership over the past couple of years, this one purchased by a local businessman. From the harbor we will see the 1825 Fairport Harbor lighthouse tower atop the hill. Almost demolished after the establishment of the West Pierhead light, local citizens banded together to save the venerable structure which now serves as an excellent maritime museum.

We then head to Conneaut to obtain a close-up view of the 1935 Conneaut West Breakwater light. One of the last lighthouses built on the Great Lakes by the Lighthouse Service before the Coast Guard took over responsibility for the nation’s aids to navigation in 1939; this lighthouse is a virtual twin of the Huron Harbor light we saw the prior day. Our last stop for this excursion will be a close-up view of the 1905 Ashtabula lighthouse which was moved to its current location on the extended breakwater in 1915.



General Services Administration

Cleveland Harbor East Breakwater Light. One of Lake Erie’s privately owned lights

We then turn west for a forty mile per hour trip back to Port Clinton during which time we will have the opportunity to watch entertaining and informative Great Lakes videos on the Jet Express IV’s built-in large screen monitors. Upon arrival in Port Clinton, we will take the short walk with our luggage back to The Island House Hotel, where after freshening-up, we will reconvene for our gala farewell banquet. This event will include guest speakers and surprises along with door prizes featuring the work of local artists to bring closure to this amazing Lake Erie Excursion.

The ticket price for this excursion is \$1,095.00 per person double occupancy, and \$1,315.00 per person single occupancy. This price includes all hotel rooms, meals, transportation and gratuities from Wednesday night through Saturday night, with the exception of dinner on Wednesday night and breakfast on Sunday morning. Enrollment is limited to 85 people, so make your reservations early to be sure to get a seat!

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