

GLLKA 2010 Ultimate Northern Lake Huron Excursion

Monday August 23 and Tuesday August 24, 2010

For 2010, we are pleased to announce a two-day adventure during which we will view all of the US lighthouses on northern Lake Huron between the Straits of Mackinac and Alpena.

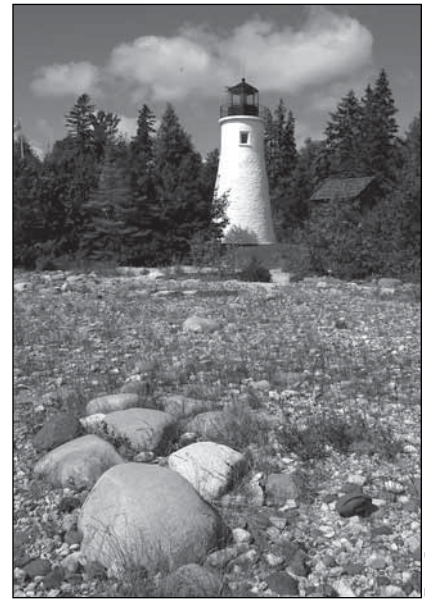
In addition to the opportunity to see the land-based lighthouses from the water as they were meant to be seen by mariners, this excursion also provides the opportunity to view some of the more elusive lighthouses in the area such as the lights on Middle and Thunder Bay Islands, as well as the lights on Spectacle, Detour and Martin Reefs.

This adventure begins bright and early on Monday August 23 as we depart the Shepler's Ferry dock in Mackinaw City and head past Old Mackinac Point lighthouse towards the Mighty Mackinac Bridge. After pausing beneath the bridge to take some dramatic photographs and learn the incredible story of this magnificent structure from our guides Dick Moehl and Terry Pepper, we will head east through the South Channel to the Cheboygan River

where we will pass the Cheboygan Crib light and make our way to see GLLKA's Cheboygan River Front Range Light, and its new black lantern which was restored in late 2009.

We then head back into the Straits to get close-up views of the crib lights on Fourteen Foot Shoal and Poe Reef before setting a southerly course for Forty Mile Point lighthouse. After obtaining the closest safe view of the lighthouse, we will cruise into Rogers City to view Port Calcite where freighters dock to load with stone from the largest limestone quarry in the world. From Rogers City, we set a course for Presque Isle to gain lake views of the 1840 rubble stone lighthouse and the magnificent "new" 113 foot tower built in 1871 to replace the former lighthouse.

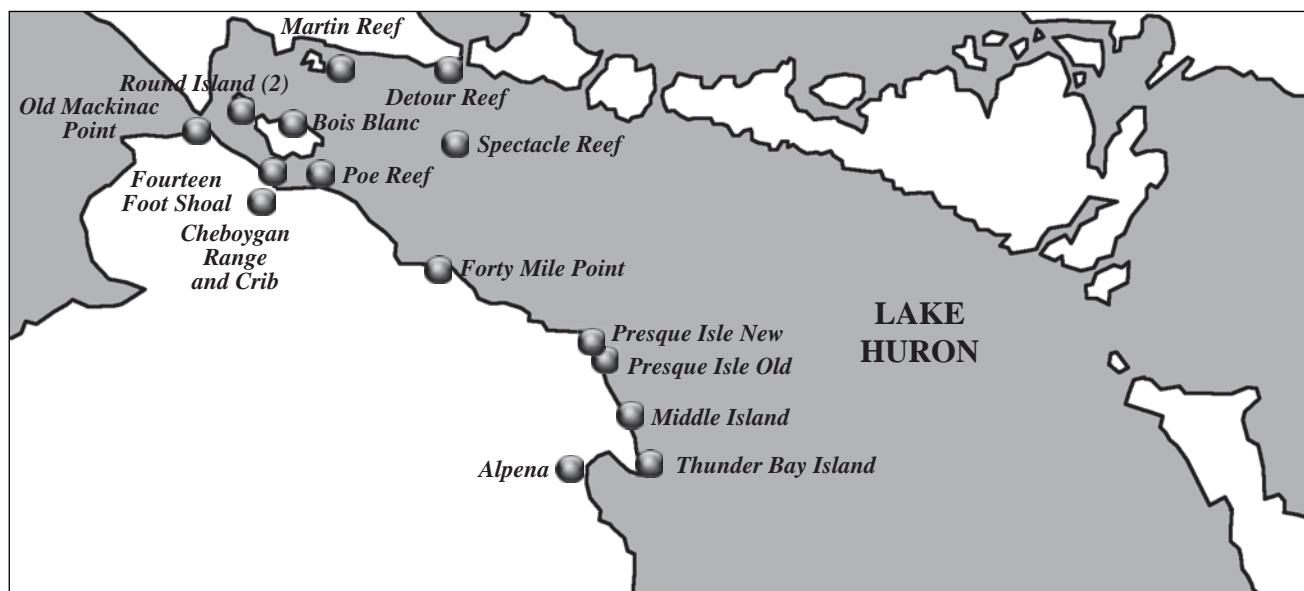
We then make our way down the coast to view the Middle Island light station. Established in 1905, this expansive station was one of the last tall tower land-based lighthouses established on the Great Lakes, and features a beautiful quadruplex dwelling. Then it's on to Thunder



Terry Pepper

The 1840 Presque Isle "Old Light"

Bay Island to view the 1832 lighthouse. Thunder Bay island is a geologically unique location, with flat limestone plates and outcrops spread in front of the lighthouse and large deposits of Petoskey stones on its southern shore, where the wrecks of a couple of vessels who did not heed the light's warning sit decaying on the shore.



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



Terry Pepper

The 1905 Middle Island light station was one of the last tall tower lighthouses to be established on the Great Lakes

After rounding the island, we head into the expanse of Thunder Bay, and the mouth of the river of the same name where we will obtain a close up view of the red Alpena “Sputnik” light before docking for the end of our first day. Vans will meet us at the dock to take us to the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, the headquarters for the Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary, where we will tour the state of the art shipwreck exhibits before a gala dinner celebration with door prizes and a number of lighthouse guests. After dinner, the vans will then take us to our rooms in the Thunder Bay Holiday Inn, where we settle down for a restful night’s sleep after a day of intense lighthouseing

After a buffet breakfast at the Holiday Inn, the vans will transport us back to the harbor where we will again board our boat and set out into the lake for the three hour trip up Lake Huron to Spectacle Reef lighthouse, recognized as one of the two best examples of monolithic stone lighthouse construction anywhere in the United States. After Spectacle Reef we head northeast to the entrance to the St. Marys River for a close-up view of the Detour Reef light, recently restored from top to bottom, and the only crib light in the country currently

offering an overnight volunteer keeper program. From here we head east, passing Martin Reef lighthouse which guards a shoal area lying beneath the surface on the freighter track between the St. Marys River and the Straits of Mackinac. Then it’s southeast to Bois Blanc Island to view the third lighthouse to mark the island since 1829. The final leg of our excursion takes us between Mackinac Island and Round Island to view the 1896 Round lighthouse

which is being restored by a group of Boy Scouts from Freeland, Michigan, and the freshly painted Round Island Passage lighthouse which replaced it in 1948. We then make the short trip across The Straits back to the Shepler’s Ferry dock, where we expect to arrive at approximately 4:00 PM.

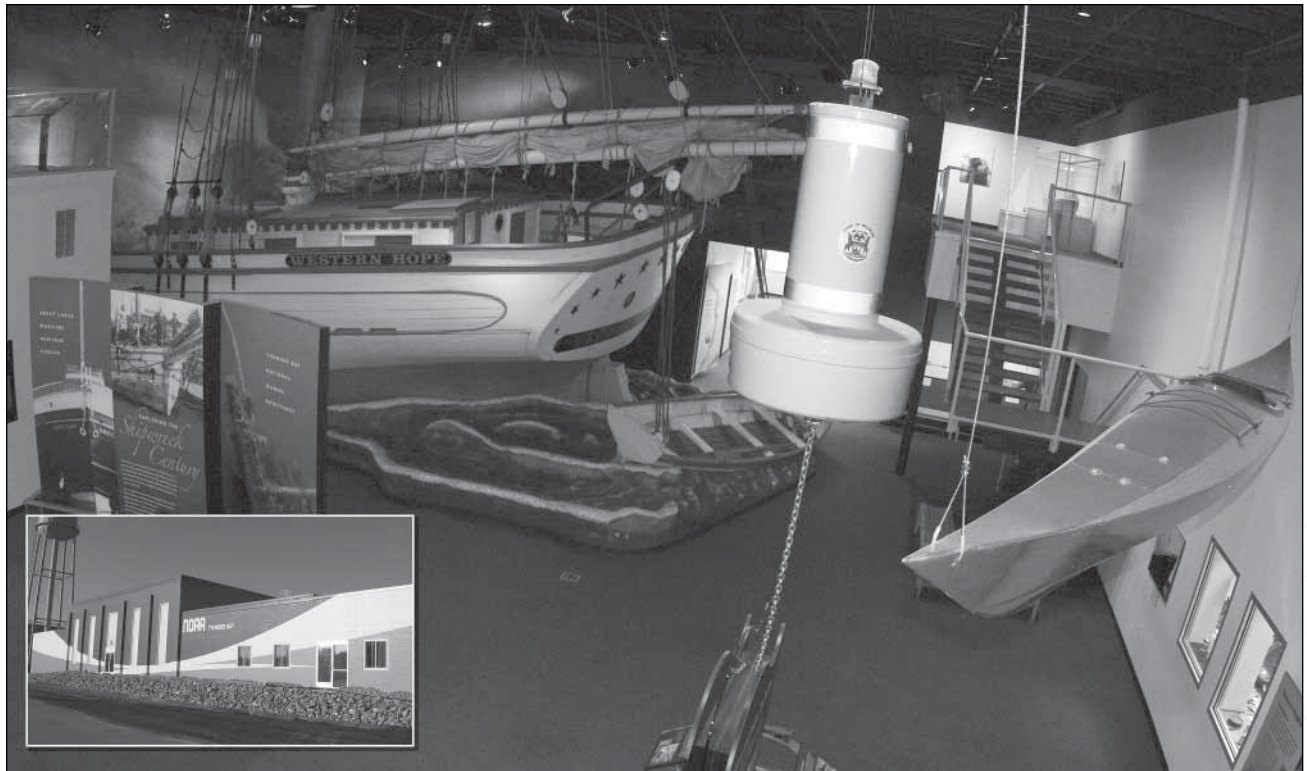
The ticket price for this wonderful excursion is \$550.00 per person on a double occupancy basis, and \$595.00



Terry Pepper

Thunder Bay Island lighthouse on one of the most unique islands on the Great Lakes

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Some of the wonderful exhibits at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center which will be hosting us for dinner Monday night

per person single occupancy. This price covers all transportation, hotel and meals from the time you step on the boat in Mackinaw City on Monday morning until you step off the boat in Mackinaw City on Tuesday afternoon. Since we will be departing from the Shepler dock at 8:00

AM Monday, you should arrive at the Sheplers dock with your luggage between 7:00 AM and 7:30 AM. Since Mackinac City can be very busy in August, and hotel rooms sometimes difficult to find on short notice, we strongly suggest that you plan on making your arrangements for a

hotel in the area for the night of Sunday August 22 immediately after making your reservation for the excursion.

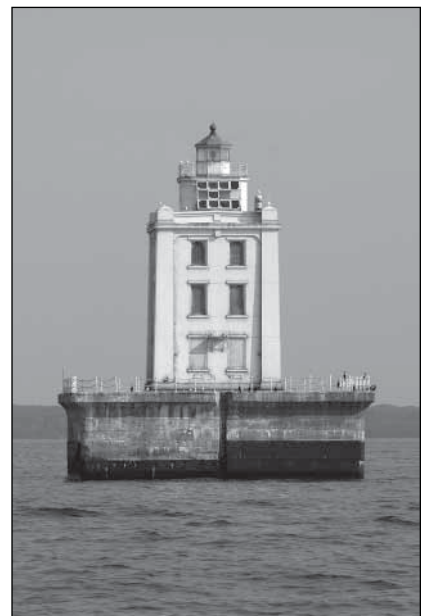
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Terry Pepper



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Spectacle Reef, Detour Reef and Martin Reef lighthouses, three difficult to see offshore lighthouses featured in this excursion

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