

cruising with marinalife

Lake Erie

There are many who claim that Lake Erie has the best boating east of the Mississippi. The Lake Erie Shores and Islands boast more than 150 miles of freshwater coastline and some of the greatest attractions around. The area is home to an abundance of transient dockage and terrific cruising destinations in close proximity including the Erie Islands, the Detroit River, Lake St. Clair, Toledo, Sandusky, and more. The second part of our continuing series on the Great Lakes region features information about a few of Lake Erie's hotspots. Enjoy!

Cleveland

Founded in 1796, thirty years later Cleveland profited greatly from the opening of the Ohio Canal between the Ohio River and Lake Erie. During the city's heyday, which began with the Civil War and lasted until the 1920s, its vast iron and coal supplies made it one of the most important steel and shipbuilding centers in the world. John D. Rockefeller made his billions here, as did the many others whose restored old mansions line "Millionaires' Row."

Today, the great industrial port of Cleveland boasts a sensitive restoration of the Lake Erie/Cuyahoga River waterfront, a vibrant arts scene with incredible theatre, a world-renowned orchestra, opera, art museums, independent film and more. Clevelandites love their sports teams including the Indians (baseball), Browns (football) and Cavaliers (basketball). Cleveland is also home to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and a multitude of live music venues.

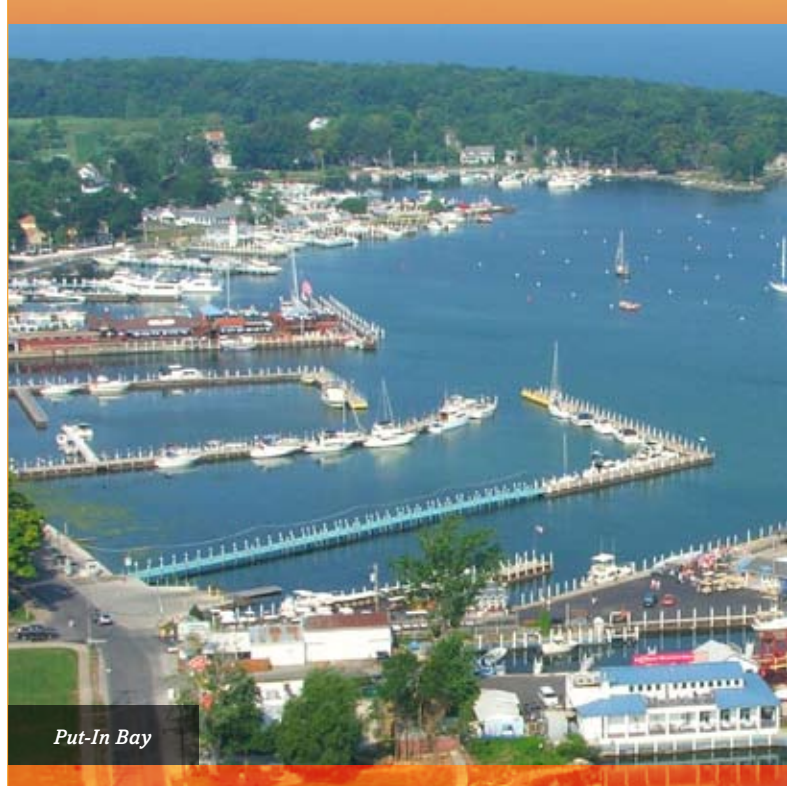
Cleveland celebrates its rich ethnic heritage with family picnics, neighborhood festivals, gallery exhibits and pride parades. This diversity creates a culinary scene offering everything from pierogi and walleys to gourmet four-diamond dining.

Where to Dock: *Whiskey Island Marina*

Whiskey Island is located directly on Lake Erie, which means no waiting and no bridges, but is conveniently located only 5 minutes from downtown Cleveland. Protected by two break walls and offering spectacular Lake Erie and downtown skyline views, the marina is a great place to watch the 4th of July fireworks and the Air Show. Whiskey Island offers up to 90 foot of in-water dockage. All docks are floating and are equipped with running water and electricity. (2800 Whiskey Island, tel: 216.631.1800)

Sandusky/Cedar Point

The large coal-shipping port of Sandusky, fifty miles west of Cleveland on US-2, is one of the most visited of the lakeshore



Put-In Bay

towns, thanks to Cedar Point Amusement Park, five miles southeast of town. No roller coaster fan should miss the opportunity to enjoy the best amusement park in the world! Cedar Point is the largest ride park in the nation and boasts no less than thirteen roller coasters. The park is on a peninsula, so in addition to the thrills, you get beautiful views of the lake from the top of the rides. The neighboring Soak City water park provides a good way to cool off, with eighteen acres of water slides and a wave pool. The parks are both opened daily from May to October.

Where to Dock: *Cedar Point Marina*

Cedar Point Marina is paradise for boaters who long for first-class amenities and the convenience of being within walking distance of the sights and sounds of the Cedar Point Amusement Park. The Cedar Point Marina accommodates boats up to 125 feet in length in 742 slips (642 permanent and 100



*Rollercoaster at Cedar Point Amusement Park
(Photo provided by Cedar Point Amusement Park/Resort)*



Boating on Lake Erie

guest docks). (1 Cedar Point Road, tel: 419.627.2334)

Port Clinton

As one of the hidden treasures of the north coast of Lake Erie, Port Clinton is a quaint community, and home to great walleye and perch fishing, sandy beaches and a historic downtown.

Where to dock: *Coastal Marine*

As the designated city transient dock facility, Coastal Marine will do everything possible to make sure your stay here is memorable. Their convenient location puts you within walking-distance of many great attractions: City Beach, Fishing Tournaments, the Henry Stensen Mural & Friendship Park, Historic Courthouse Hotels, Motels, Restaurants and Bars, Port Clinton Main Street Shopping, Portage River Draw-bridge Jefferson Street Pier, Jet Express to Put-in-Bay, Lake Erie Fishing, Ottawa County Historic Museum OCTA Shuttle transportation, and the Waterworks Park. Coastal Maine II also features a full-service marina and boatyard for maintenance or repair. (537 W Lakeshore Drive, tel: 419.732.2165)

Put-in-Bay, Ohio

Located on South Bass Island, Put-In-Bay offers adventure around every corner. The island played a significant role in the War of 1812 as the location of the squadron of U.S. naval commander Oliver Hazard Perry, who sailed from the port on September 10, 1813 to engage a British squadron just north of the island in the Battle of Lake Erie. Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial at Put-in-Bay is the third tallest national monument in the United States.

Once you have docked on South Bass Island, you can rent a golf cart, bicycle or scooter to explore the entire island and enjoy educational and historical sites, natural areas, winer-

ies, shopping, and dining. You can also take advantage of the ferry service which connects Put-in-Bay with Catawba Island, Kelleys Island, Port Clinton, and Sandusky.

Where to Dock: *The Crew's Nest*

The Crew's Nest offers its members an array of activities for those of all ages. Located safely in the west end of the harbor in downtown Put-in-Bay, the club is just close enough to be convenient and just far enough to be relaxing and laid back. The clubhouse offers two restaurants, a lounge, and outside patio bar featuring nightly entertainment. Members also have use of a bathhouse, a junior Olympic swimming pool, lap pool, basketball court, volleyball court, tennis courts, and fitness center. The marina will take advanced reservations for dockage Sunday-Thursday (Friday & Saturday dockage is on a first come first serve basis). (729 Bayview Avenue, tel: 419.285.3625) [m](#)



Cleveland Waterfront