

Lake St. Clair AND Detroit River Area



Busy waterways and bustling events combine for exciting summers for boaters in this region.

You want both exciting boating and an untouched wilderness just a short cruise away from each other? Where else can you and your crew share some of the busiest water in Canada with boats and ships of all sizes, and still escape to a nature reserve whenever the feeling grabs you? Welcome to the 80 mile waterway from Lake Huron to Lake Erie that holds many boating seasons worth of things to see and do.

There's a lot of boat traffic for sure. The stretch sees more commercial vessels passing through each year than the Suez and Panama Canals combined! Another 8,000 vessels cross the water carrying goods between Canada and the U.S. As for pleasure craft, there are slips and docks for 12,000 boats along the Detroit River alone. The waterway cuts between two large cities, yet in Lake St Clair, boaters will find quiet bays that appear as untouched and wild as nature can make them.

Heading downstream from Lake Huron, the Blue Water Bridge is the first major landmark. It's a paired bridge that connects Port Huron, Michigan and Point Edward/Sarnia, Ontario, opened in 1938 and 1997.

The town of Sarnia has put a real focus on the water and the boaters on it. More than fifty waterfront events keep things hopping all season long – music, dance, theater and more... and most of them are free. Centennial Park is one of several waterfront parks and is home to many festivals including the Celebration of Lights. The city also hosts

the Sarnia Highland Games, which include the North American Haggis Hurling Championship.

You'll find a wide choice of places for waterfront dining and there are regular cruise boats that travel up and down the river. The city also hosts offshore powerboat races. And for the intrepid who like to fish, the annual Sarnia Salmon Derby that is one of the oldest and largest fishing derbies in the province, while the Point Edward Walleye Derby is another favourite each August. Fishing can be exceptional from one end of this stretch of water to the other, as the many derbies and fishing events attest. Along with the salmon, you will find large populations of bass, muskellunge, pickerel and panfish.

Once you pass the large petrochemical complexes south of the city, you move into a quieter, more rural stretch of water, with Ontario to your port side and the United States to your starboard. (Remember you'll need your passport if you cross into US water or plan to go ashore for lunch.)

The hamlets along the river often have French or Spanish names as the explorers of this region were French but they were employed by Spain. The first village you'll come to on the Canadian side, Corunna (Spanish for "crown"), was in the running to be Canada's capital, but it was considered too close to the United States when memories of the War of 1812 were still fresh.

Community museums in Mooretown and Sombra tell very local stories from original settlers and highlight interesting residents. One of them is Chris Hadfield, who flew Space Shuttle missions in 1995 and 2001, and the local airport in Sarnia is named after him. Sombra is Spanish for "shady place" and the turn-of-the-century homes in this community have been converted into boutiques. Watch for the small ferry that connects Sombra with Marine City, Michigan.

A little further downstream, you'll pass Port Lambton, and at the south end of the Detroit River, the delta is all Walpole Island Indian Reserve land that eventually opens up into Lake St Clair. The smallest of the great lakes is almost round, with marinas and dockage all along the southern and eastern shores. Watch for National Wildlife Areas posted by the Canadian Wildlife Service along the shore. This lake is the most important staging region for waterfowl south of James Bay. Thousands of migrating ducks, geese and swans stop here in the spring and fall.

Common and rare marsh birds also call this habitat home and there are several walking trails for bird watching. The wildlife service has set some areas aside, where boats, hunters and birders are not permitted.

Several communities along the Canadian side welcome boaters. The lighthouse at the mouth of the Thames River and Lighthouse Cove is one of the oldest working lighthouses on the Great Lakes. The Thames River is one of the designated Canadian Heritage Rivers and flows through the Carolinian forest and is navigable all the way upstream to Chatham, making for a great side trip.

The town of Lakeshore has a large deep-water marina and a short walk to downtown where you will find the services and necessities you need. The nearby park and playground gives kids a chance to get rid of some of their excess energy that has been bottled up on board.

Along the south shore, Tecumseh is just east of the entrance to the Detroit River. The annual Corn Festival pays homage to one of the primary crops in the large farming community that surrounds the lake.

Moving slightly further west along the Detroit River to the City of Windsor, boaters are provided with two marinas. Caesars Windsor casino is a major draw which sits across from the riverfront, home to a calming and soothing oasis amid the bright lights. Flowers and greenery, lawns and the

sound of birds line the shore. Boats from both sides of the river take part in regattas, power boat races and other waterfront activities, such as the International Tug Boat Race and Dragon Boat Festival each summer.

The town of LaSalle is just downstream, and is named after the explorer who gave the lake its name. In 1679, LaSalle was becalmed on the lake when he realized that it was the day of the Feast of Ste Claire. So he christened the lake and the river in her name. LaSalle is a thriving community that neighbours Windsor. There are several shore side parks and festivals including the huge Strawberry Festival in May. The town provides excellent shopping, groceries and other necessities, restaurants and entertainment.

Amherstburg, one of the oldest towns in Ontario, is the last settlement before you reach Lake Erie. United Empire Loyalists settled here in 1796 after the British evacuation of Detroit. The town celebrates its history mostly around the War of 1812. Fort Malden National Historic Site is key to commemorating a period when the destiny of Canada was determined by military action. The Amherstburg Freedom Museum recognizes the importance of the Underground Railroad that began in the 1820s and the compassion and solidarity it took to make this network for freedom seekers possible.

On the stretch of river from Amherstburg to Belle River on Lake St Clair, there are nearly twenty marinas on the Canadian side. They have room for roughly 2,000 boats and plenty of room for transient boaters to come ashore and stretch their legs.

Whether you enjoy strolling along the waterfront, or choose to be dazzled by the flashing slot machines, one of the most southerly points of Canada has much to offer boaters. A vibrant history is celebrated every summer season through annual events and exceptional museums, fishing and cycling, concerts and plays, festivals, and bird watching and butterflies. Or you can choose to just sit by the water, soaking up the sun.



Come explore and participate in the history of this remarkable area. Visit these communities' websites for dates and directions as you plan your visit.

AMHERSTBURG - www.amherstburg.ca

CHATHAM - www.chatham-kent.ca

LAKESHORE - www.lakeshore.ca

ONTARIO'S SOUTHWEST - www.ontariosouthwest.ca

PORT OF WINDSOR - www.portwindsor.com

SARNIA - www.city.sarnia.on.ca

SOMBRA - www.kent.net/sombra

TOURISM SARNIA-LAMBTON - www.ontbluecoast.com

**TOURISM WINDSOR ESSEX
PELEE ISLAND** - www.visitwindsorsex.com

WINDSOR - www.citywindsor.ca

Lake St. Clair and Detroit River Area



This map not to be used for navigation.
Nautical Charts Protect Lives, Property and the Marine Environment



Basemap data source:
© Natural Resources Canada. All rights reserved.

Abbreviations

Lake St. Clair & Detroit River

FUEL			FOOD			DOCKAGE			CLEAN MARINE	SALES	REPAIRS	RENTALS	TRANSIENT	FUEL	LAUNCH RAMP	FOOD	DRAFT	DOCKAGE	PUMPOUT	SHORE POWER	LIFT BY TONS
G - Gas	D - Diesel	P - Propane	R - Restaurant	S - Snack Bar	V - Variety	L - Liquor Store	G - Grocery	I - Ice													
AMHERSTBURG																					
54 Amherstburg Yacht Club 240 Front Road North Amherstburg N9V 2Z6 Mackie Jones 519-919-2646 42 07.16 83 06.72 info@amherstburgyachtclub.ca																					
CHATHAM																					
58 Howell's Marine 825 Richmond Street Chatham N7M 5J5 Tammy Howell 519-360-9202 www.howellsmarine.com tammy@howellsmarine.com																					
6 Maple City Marine Limited 680 Grand Avenue East Chatham N7L 1X6 Robert Rule 519-354-3640 www.maplecitymarine.com rob@maplecitymarine.com																					
LA SALLE																					
13 Holiday Harbour Marina Inc. 2406 Front Road La Salle N9J 2C4 Judy Luckino 519-734-6679 42 13.15 83 06.24 www.holidayharbourmarina.com judy@holidayharbourmarina.com																					
17 Westport Marina (La Salle) Ltd. 970 Front Road La Salle N9J 1Z9 Marlene Tann 519-734-6260 42 14.340 83 06.203 www.westportmarina.ca westportmarina@cogeco.net																					
31 St. Clair Marine 2650 Front Road La Salle N9J 2N1 Paul Dezell 519-734-1602 42 2086653 N 83 0968886 W www.stclairmarine.ca info@stclairmarine.ca																					
LAKESHORE																					
4 Belle River Marina 100 Lake Road Belle River NOR 1A0 Terry Fink 519-728-2245 42 18.12 82 42.52 www.townoflakeshore.on.ca/parks_and_rec/marinas tfink@lakeshore.ca																					
38 Deerbrook Marina Inc. 1023 County Road 2 Belle River NOR 1S0 Allan LaMarre 519-728-0846 42 17.45 82 37.29 www.gomuskie.com jtlamarre@yahoo.com																					
36 Puce River Harbour 930 Old Tecumseh Road Belle River NOR 1A0 Robert Troup 519-979-8764 42 18 43 82 46 54 www.pucrivermarina.com rtroupp@trouppgroup.com																					
56 Action Marine Service Inc. 7565 Tecumseh Road, P.O. Box 361 Stoney Point NOR 1N0 Sue Vadovic 519-798-5770 www.actionmarineservice.com snsaction@aol.com																					

