

Stunning open water cruising, welcoming towns and great marinas welcome boaters all season long.

The towns and ports along the Lake Huron shoreline are collectively referred to as Ontario's West Coast. Stand on the shore of any one of the beautiful and sprawling beaches, look due west, and you may believe that the water simply goes on forever. There is no far shore; the water meets the horizon and that's it. It's really one of the unique attractions of this second largest Great Lake, with a surface area spanning 23,010 square miles, approximately the size of the state of West Virginia, and a 6,157 kilometre long shoreline. For boaters, that adds up to an invitation to go exploring.

What you'll find when you visit is a series of welcoming communities sprinkled through an otherwise barren coastline on the west side of the Bruce Peninsula.

Beginning at the north end of Lake Huron, the town of Tobermory is home to the Fathom Five National Marine Park famous for fresh water scuba diving. The town itself is situated around two natural harbours - "Big Tub" and "Little Tub" – and boasts a full complement of amenities for the visiting boater. Be sure to gas up and check the weather before heading south as there are no full-service marinas until you reach Sauble

Beach some 60 kilometres to the south, or Port Elgin for larger boats.

You'll cruise in the shadow of the huge limestone cliffs, and pass both rocky and sandy beaches, amidst the archipelago of rocky island and shoals

known as the Fishing Islands. This area offers some of the best sightseeing topography and perhaps the best bass fishing in North America. The islands are mostly privately owned, but many bays are boating friendly as long as you watch your chart – stop for a picnic and a dip in the warm shallow blue water – and respect private property. Isolated government operated lighthouses and gas pumps at fishing lodges from Stokes Bay to Cape Hurd are available in emergencies.

Sauble Beach offers eco-rated marinas and another unique town famous for having one of the top beaches in Canada. Stores for reprovisioning or restaurants to enjoy a meal on-shore are only a short walk away.

Cruising further south, you'll arrive at the amalgamated communities of Port Elgin, Southampton and Saugeen Township. If you visit Port Elgin during the tourist season, the community operates a miniature steam train that can take you on a two kilometre ride from the waterfront to the town site. The local marina offers countless slips as well as several services including laundry, transient docking, ice/water, gas/diesel and shore power.

This area is also a terrific fishing district as Saugeen Shores is known for its Chinook, Coho and Pink Salmon, Trout, Walleye, and Whitefish. The Chantry Chinook Classic fishing derby is run by the Lake Huron Fishing Club volunteers, who also operate the Chinook salmon hatchery in Port Elgin.

Just south of Port Elgin, you'll cruise past Macgregor Point and Inverhuron Provincial Parks and on to Kincardine. Acclaimed for stunning sunsets that

attract photographers and painters all summer long, the town also offers three beaches, a vibrant downtown, plus many things to see including a wooden lighthouse built in 1881, plus the Flea and Market in Victoria Park. The marina lies inside the protected harbour well distinguished by the two large breakwaters that extend well out into Lake Huron.

Goderich is just a short day's cruise south past Point Farms Provincial Park and the Goderich Municipal airport. Known as the "prettiest

town in Canada" after winning many "Communities in Bloom" awards, Goderich offers two marinas (only

one of which offers transient docking) and

a great historical jail and museum, excellent restaurants and be sure to ask a local about how to see two sunsets in one day: one down on the large sandy beach, and if you are quick enough to get to the top of the bluff's, another from the top.

Reaching the southern part of Lake Huron, boaters will love the village of Bayfield with its seven marine facilities within town limits and there are more slips (about 450) than there are

people it seems. The downtown district is just a short walk from the waterfront. In addition to the quaint hotels and inns, Bayfield

is known for its first-class shopping with its numerous boutiques, shops, and galleries. If it's dining you're after, there are several restaurants in close proximity. Bayfield is also known for its spectacular summer theatre scene with the acclaimed Stratford Festival and Blyth Festival. Anglers, too, will find excitement. At almost every drop of the line, a relentless fight is almost



The Lake Huron playground is surrounded by welcoming communities and each host a summer full of exciting opportunities, events and festivals. Visit their websites for the most up to date information:

BAYFIELD -

www.villageofbayfield.com

GODERICH - www.goderich.ca

GRAND BEND -

www.grandbendtourism.com

KINCARDINE -

www.kincardine.net

ONTARIO'S SOUTHWEST -

www.ontariossouthwest.ca

PORT ELGIN -

www.saugeenshores.ca

SARNIA - www.city.sarnia.on.ca

SAUBLE BEACH -

www.saublebeach.com

TOBERMORY -

www.tobermory.org

TOURISM SARNIA-LAMBTON -

www.ontbluecoast.com

guaranteed by Chinook salmon, bass, pike, or catfish. Remember to schedule into your travel plans some time for further exploring, go off Huron's beaten' path and check out the numerous rivers that can be accessed by either canoe or kayak.

Continue south to Grand Bend, situated just northwest of London, Ontario. "The sun surf fun capital of Ontario" is a boater-friendly destination that boasts modern marinas that can accommodate even the largest power or sailboat, while campgrounds, resorts, motels and bed and breakfasts are never too far away. In addition to the endless activities and festivals, local volleyball tournaments and several plays are also held throughout the summer. Check out the nearby Huron Country Playhouse as well for a new on-water dining experience. For nature lovers, Grand Bend is abundant with wildlife and it's common to spot rare, exotic birds, free roaming deer and even world famous butterflies, all inhabiting the sand dunes of the Pinery Provincial Park. On Sunday evenings enjoy beach-front concerts while the sun sets over a fabulous beach, one of only 26 beaches to earn the prestigious Blue Flag designation for meeting strict water quality, safety and environmental criteria.

The west shore of Lake Huron becomes more visible as you cruise south past the former Ipperwash Provincial Park and on to the city of Sarnia. The city offers numerous marine facilities and also plays host each summer to the native "AAMJIWNAANG" PowWow, a rib festival, a Greek festival, a hobby show and a summer kidsfest.

Starting a journey on Lake Huron in your trailerable boat from any of these communities is a great way to begin to explore the area, while cruising boaters will want to spend the winter exploring the charts and planning an adventure to this incredible waterfront playground. ~ *Brad Roberts*

Lake Huron Michigan St.Clair Port Huron 40 Point Edward Lake Huron Wallaceburg Canada Sarnia 78 Port Franks Ontario 402 Grand Bend 21/ Goderich Bayfield Kincardine 21 3 / 401 Clinton 86 Port Elgin Wingham 23 Sauble Beach CLEAN MARINE ✓ Mitchell London **TrakMaps** 3 / This map not to be used for navigation. Nautical Charts Protect Lives, Property and the Marine Environment. 23 Basemap data source: @ Natural Resources Canada. All rights reserved.

Abbreviations Lake Huron

FUEL	FOOD		DOCKAGE													W 9 1
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Sarah Neely 519-565-2632 43 34 81 42																
www.bayfieldrivercottages.ca/ info@bayfieldrivercottages.ca										Ĵ	RBGLSV	7	25		ů	
2 Harbour Lights Marina Box 38, 27 Charthouse Hill Bayfield NOM 1G0																
Julia Salton 519-565-5150 43 34.17 81 42.55																
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51 Southwest Marine Services P.O. Box 1499, Hwy. 21 North Grand Bend NOM 1TO																
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33 Port Elgin Harbour 600 Tomlinson Drive, Box 820 Port Elgin NOH 2CO																
Mark McElroy 519-832-6535 44 25.18 81 23.59																
www.saugeenshores.ca harbour@saugeenshores.ca								Ĵ	GD	ĵ	RSV	11	274	ů	ů	
SAUBLE BEACH									-							
40 Sauble River Marina & Lodge Resort 18 Marina Avenue Sauble Beach NOH 2G0																
Ken Reinhart 519-422-1762 44.6634 81.272																
www.saublerivermarina.com saublebeachmarina@gmail.com							ĵ	ĵ		ĵ	RGSV	3	14		Ĵ	