

## **Lighthouses are star attraction of Sault Ste. Marie boat cruise**

### *Soo Locks Boat Tours offer maritime excursion featuring lighthouses*

(SAULT STE. MARIE, MI) A 17<sup>th</sup>-century sailor could imagine nothing more futile than visiting a lighthouse by land. Its purpose, he might say, is inextricably linked to the sea, which is why it must be experienced by water. The [Soo Locks Boat Tours](#) transport passengers back in time during the company's weekly St. Mary's River [Lighthouse Cruise](#). Only from that perspective can one imagine the life-and-death importance of beacons warning of rocky shoals and dangerous coastlines.

Aboard a U.S. Coast Guard –inspected ship, passengers explore a number of navigational markers and lighthouses, some of which are accessible only by boat. Although their powerful lights were dimmed by satellite-assisted navigation and other technology, these structures have unique architecture and historic importance that has not been forgotten.

[Point Iroquois Light](#), built in 1871, provides a picture-perfect setting at the tour's western-most point, where Lake Superior beckons. This landmark is on the National Register of Historic Places and its original lens, which could project light for 16 miles, was conveyed to the Smithsonian in the early 1960s. With its 65-foot tower and attached lightkeeper's quarters, Point Iroquois is one of the Great Lakes' most beautiful lights.

Then there is Gros Cap Reefs Lighthouse, accessible only by boat and with a completely different look and feel than any other on the tour. Built in 1953, the light is operated by the Canadian Coast Guard and includes a helipad, radio beacon, light and fog signal.

Range lights, call-in stations, and other significant navigational points are integral to this fully-narrated tour. Passing ships on the water and an array of unique landmarks are also featured on this relaxing,, four-and-a-half-hour tour, including passage through the famous Soo Locks.

While the tour focuses on sights of historic importance, the conveniences of the ship are purely modern, including continental breakfast, comfortable seating (both open-air and enclosed) and a snack bar. The knowledgeable and friendly crew deliver a memorable maritime adventure.

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