

# Lighthouse Tour #4

August 21-22

Lighthouse Tour #4 Ludington to Empire MI

Traveling East to West meet at Uncle John's Cider Mill > > >



Gas up > >



Lunch at Doherty Hotel, Clare > > > > >



On to Ludington > Manistee > > > > > > > > >

Frankfurt Pierhead Light > > >



Point Betsie Lighthouse



August 23 > on to Mackinaw City, Mi



# Lighthouse Tour #4

## MI-SACC Lighthouse Tour & Corvettes at the Crossroads, August 21-24, 2025

### Participants:

- Mike & Linda Certo, 1959
- John & Cindy Dillon, 1962
- Tom & Suzanne Gamache, 1954
- Steve & Mary Jane Gould, 1960
- Bill Huffman, 2005
- Paul & Cheryl Lemieux, 1959
- Mike & Christine McLain, 1962
- Bill Penzer, 1962
- John & Kandy Ronayne, 2008
- Lynne & Tom Jozwiak, 1991 & restored Norton motorcycle (daughter & son-in-law of the Gamaches)

We started out on Thursday, August 21 and met at Uncle John's Cider Mill in St. John's, Michigan. From there, we caravanned to have lunch at the Doherty Hotel in Clare, Michigan. Steve and Mary Jane drove in from Manistee to meet us there for lunch. As they had prepared this year's route to visit lighthouses on the northwest side of Michigan, they led the way to Stearns Park in Ludington after lunch. There we walked around at the park and some in our group walked the  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile on the breakwater to get up close to the **Ludington North Pierhead Light**. This is a three-story pyramid-shaped tower at the edge of the pier in Ludington Harbor. The white steel-sided tower rests off-center on a large, black concrete base that angles sharply toward the side of the pier. A small stairway allows you to walk around one side of the structure.

Departing Ludington, we made our way to Manistee where Tom Jozwiak had made arrangements for us to visit the historic Manistee Fire Station, which is the oldest continuously operating fire station in the world, holding a Guinness World Record for the title since its opening in 1888. The Romanesque Revival-style building has not been altered since its construction and has been fully staffed 24/7 since it first opened. We backed our Corvettes onto the firehouse driveway for pictures and to look around the beautiful building. The station's ambulance was out on a run, but the two firetrucks were in their bays and the fireman on duty spent time talking with us about our cars and of course, the fire station. Then, on to the hotel in Manistee where we spent the night and had dinner with a beautiful view of the sunset. The **Manistee North Pierhead Light** was not far from the hotel. Two piers extend into Lake Michigan from the mouth of the Manistee River, at Manistee. Set at the end of the north pier is a 39-foot-tall, white, conical steel tower, whose light still shines out over the nearby environs of Lake Michigan. A restored catwalk, which stretches from shore about 300 yards to the side of the structure, provided past keepers with easier access during rough weather and icy storms.

On Friday morning, we had a beautiful drive toward Elberta. Our first stop was to view the **Frankfurt North Breakwater Light** from atop a hillside parking area. This lighthouse is a two-story-high, square, white steel-sided tower. This station has never been manned, but a door halfway up the landward side of the light suggests that a catwalk once led out from shore. Our next stop was to spend some time at the **Point Betsie Lighthouse**, where you could tour the lighthouse and check out the fog signal building and the gift shop. For mariners, Point Betsie is a very important light because it marks the spot where ships begin to turn toward or from the Manitou Passage. Built in 1858, it wasn't fully automated until 1983, making it the last manned lighthouse on mainland Michigan. Today, motors turn the original gearworks, and the facility no longer houses Coast Guard families. After departing this area, we headed to Empire City Park to enjoy a box lunch on the beach picnic tables. Upon departing, we headed to Mackinaw City.

Saturday was the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Corvette Crossroads car show at the Straits State Harbor Dock parking lot. It was a breezy day with the sun popping in and out of the clouds all day. Congratulations to those winning awards from our group:

Tom Gamache, 1954 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place C1 Stock

Jim Dillon, 1962 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place C1 Modified

Steve Gould, 1960 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place C1 Stock

Mike Certo, 1959 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place C1 Modified

A big thank you to Steve and Mary Jane Gould for all their work to make a fun MI-SACC weekend trip enjoyed by all!

By Cheryl Lemieux



# Lighthouse Tour #4

Parking at Doherty Hotel



Ludington Pierhead—Beach



Frankfurt Lake View



Frankfurt Lake View





# Corvette Crossroads 2025





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# Corvette Crossroads 2025





# Corvette Crossroads 2025



Jim Dillon 1962 Corvette 1st Place > C1 modified



Mike Certo 1959 Corvette 2nd Place > C1 modified





# Corvette Crossroads 2025



Tom Gamache 1954 Corvette 1st Place > C1 STOCK



Steve Gould 1960 Corvette 2nd Place > C1 STOCK







# Corvette Crossroads 2025 Mackinac City Dinner Saturday August 24

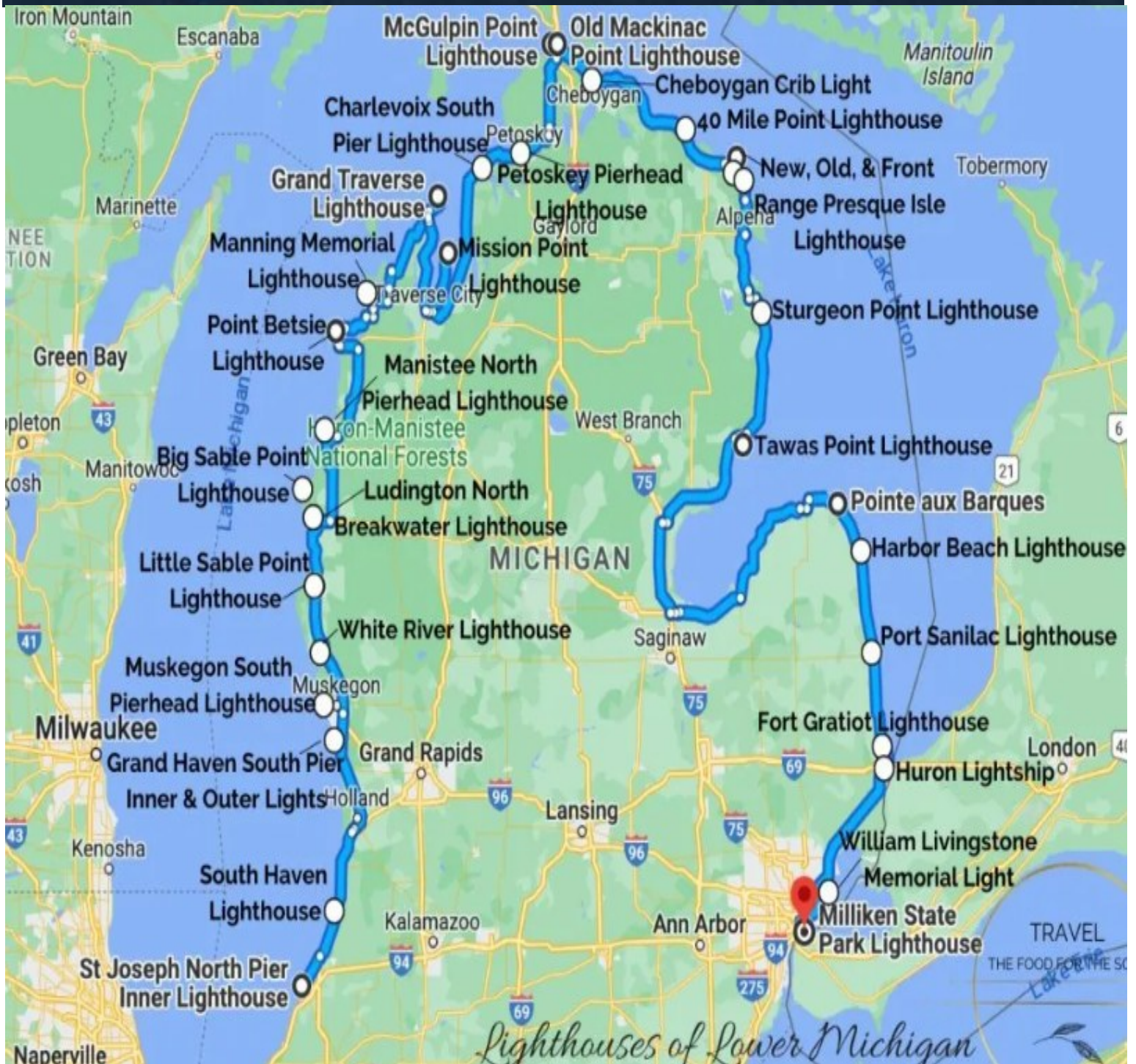






# Michigan

## Lighthouse Tour







The **Ludington Light** is a 57-foot (17 m) tall steel-plated lighthouse in Ludington, Michigan, which lies along the eastern shores of Lake Michigan, at the end of the breakwater on the Pere Marquette Harbor. Given its location on the northern breakwater where the Pere Marquette River meets Lake Michigan, it is sometimes known as the Ludington North Breakwater Light. Underlying the building itself is a prow-like structure, which is designed to break waves.

The station was established in 1871. This light was first lit in 1924, and it is presently operational. It was automated in 1972. The light is structurally integrated into the steel and reinforced concrete pier upon which it is built. It has a square pyramidal form, and is white with a black lantern. The original lens was a Fourth Order Fresnel lens. On October 17, 1995 the Fresnel lens was removed from the lantern. It was replaced by a 12-inch (300 mm) Tideland Signal ML-300 acrylic optic. The original lens was loaned to Historic White Pine Village where it is displayed as part of their maritime history exhibit. After the opening of the Port of Ludington Maritime Museum, the lens was relocated to their lighthouse history exhibit.



### **Manistee North Pierhead Lighthouse**

The name "Manistee" is an Ojibwe word, and though its derivation is uncertain, it likely comes from ministigweyaa, meaning a "river with islands at its mouth."

As early as 1851, representatives from Michigan started petitioning Congress for a lighthouse and harbor improvements at the mouth of Manistee River. Congress appropriated \$5,000 for a lighthouse on June 20, 1860, but this amount reverted to the treasury, and it wasn't until July 28, 1866 that \$10,000 was allocated for building the lighthouse, provided that a careful survey was first made and the character of the required structure determined.

Before the federal government started work in 1867 on parallel cribwork piers that would extend into Lake Michigan for about 960 feet, local enterprise had built crude slab piers at the river's entrance that provided a channel with a depth of seven feet. A site for the lighthouse on the north side of the river was purchased in 1868, and work on the structure began the following year. Although the frame dwelling with an integrated tower was not entirely completed, Keeper Octavius W. Barney displayed its light at the opening of the 1870 navigation season. After discovering that an addition made to the rear







# Michigan

## Lighthouse Tour

### Frankfort North Breakwater Light



A visit to the charming city of Frankfort in Benzie County wouldn't be complete without a trip to the Frankfort North Breakwater Light. The current light was constructed in 1912 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. Standing 44 feet tall, the light is placed on top of a 25-foot-tall square steel base. The cast iron lantern room, which is surrounded by a gallery, originally contained a fifth order Fresnel lens that was upgraded to a fourth order Fresnel lens. Located on the west side of downtown Frankfort, you can walk the breakwater out to the lighthouse, and fish off the pier.

### POINT BETSIE LOGHHOUSE



feet tall, but with the height of the dune it towers 52 feet above the water line. Point Betsie was the last lighthouse on the Great Lakes to be manually serviced and was fully automated in 1983. The light could originally be spotted as far away as 27.5 miles with the Fourth Order Fresnel Lens it came equipped with. Upon automation the Fresnel Lens was replaced with a Vega VRB-25

system, which has a range of 15-22 miles. Today Point Betsie stands in quiet testimony to the many keepers who maintained the light while their wives maintained the household, tended gardens, and watched their children playfully explore the dunes. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and manned for 106 years, Point Betsie offers a fascinating visit to history buffs and those who just want to relax. Sporting the same paint scheme the lighthouse had in the 1940s, it has been preserved and is cared for by "The Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse". If visiting Frankfort, or Sleeping Bear Dunes in Benzie County, make sure to visit this historic lighthouse. Wander the grounds, explore the accompanying fog station, stroll the beach, or have a family picnic.