

# *Shores & Islands Ohio*

Group-Friendly Attractions Guide

39 hand-picked destinations along Ohio's beautiful Lake Erie shoreline —  
perfect for groups, reunions, youth events & school trips.

**39**  
Attractions

**5**  
Categories

**Lake Erie**  
Shoreline

**Groups**  
Welcome

## Welcome to Shores & Islands Ohio

Ohio's Lake Erie shoreline offers an extraordinary variety of group-friendly experiences — from thrilling amusement parks and island ferry adventures to peaceful nature preserves and fascinating historical museums. Whether you're planning a youth rally, family reunion, school trip, or corporate outing, this guide highlights 39 top destinations perfectly suited for groups of all sizes.

All listings include group rates or group-friendly amenities. Contact each attraction directly to discuss availability and group packages.

Category	What to Expect	#
<b>Nature &amp; Wildlife</b>	Wildlife parks, nature preserves, gardens & caves	<b>11</b>
<b>Thrills &amp; Fun</b>	Amusement parks, water parks, arcades & adventure	<b>13</b>
<b>Water &amp; Islands</b>	Ferry services, cruises, kayaking & lighthouses	<b>6</b>
<b>History &amp; Culture</b>	Museums, historic sites & presidential libraries	<b>7</b>
<b>Attractions</b>	Unique destinations & experiences	<b>2</b>

## Nature & Wildlife (11 attractions)

### African Safari Wildlife Park

This free-range animal park has been delighting families for over 50 years. Feed giraffe, zebras, bison, deer and other amazing animals from the comfort of your vehicle. One Cup of animal food per car is included with admission. Stroll through the Walk-Thru Safari to see more exotic wildlife and take in educational programs. See website for days and hours of operation.

**Port Clinton, OH** | 419-732-3606 | [africansafariwildlifepark.com](http://africansafariwildlifepark.com)

### Cedar Point Amusement Park

Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio, known around the world as America's Roller Coast®, has an amazing history dating back to 1870. What began as a simple bathing beach, beer garden and dance floor has become a massive, multi-day resort destination on the Lake Erie shoreline. The park is home to 67 rides, including 19 exhilarating roller coasters like Top Thrill 2®, Millennium Force® and Steel Vengeance®, spectacular live shows and events, a multitude of dining and culinary experiences, five distinct ...

**Sandusky, OH** | 419-627-2350 | [sixflags.com/cedarpoint/groups](http://sixflags.com/cedarpoint/groups)

### Glacial Grooves Geological Preserve

A National Natural Landmark, Glacial Grooves Geological Preserve on the north side of Kelleys Island are the largest easily accessible such grooves in the world. From a walkway, footbridge, and stairs you can look down on the immense grooves, which are 400 ft. long, 35 ft. wide, and up to 10 ft. deep, suggesting the tremendous power of the ice that formed them. Glacial Grooves Geological Preserve contains marine fossils that are 350 to 400 million years old. They were scoured into solid limeston...

**Kelleys Island, OH** | 419-746-2546 | [ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-p...](http://ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-p...)

### Kalahari Resorts & Conventions Water Park

Plan a getaway you'll never forget at the Midwest's Largest Indoor Waterpark and experience the time of your life with everything under one roof. Indoor surfing and body boarding 365 days a year in 84 degree temperatures. Pamper yourself at Spa Kalahari or dine at one of many locations including B-Lux Grill and Bar, Sortino's Italian Kitchen, Pizza Pub at Café Mirage, Great Karoo Marketplace Restaurant, and in the summer months, ZanziBar. For shopping and fun, there's Zakanaka Kids; the Big Game...

**Sandusky, OH** | 419-433-7200 | [kalahariresorts.com/ohio](http://kalahariresorts.com/ohio)

### Lagoon Deer Park

The Lagoon Deer Park is a walk-thru petting zoo with over 200 animals, gift shop, and stocked fishing ponds. More than 75 babies are born each year. Celebrating 67 years! Open May 1-Memorial Day, daily 10 am-5 pm; Memorial Day-Labor Day, daily 10 am-8 pm; Sept-Oct, daily 10 am-5 pm.

**Sandusky, OH** | 419-684-5701 | [lagoondeerparkohio.com](http://lagoondeerparkohio.com)

### Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center

The Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center features a beautiful indoor turtle pond, live animals including snakes, turtles, frogs and an observation beehive, a birdwatching window, geology display, three stunning murals, and a large taxidermy collection of North American fish, birds, and mammals. Walk the grounds to enjoy a pond with a waterfall, nature trail, butterfly gardens, and birdwatching from the covered back porch. Join them every Tuesday from 1-3 pm during the summer for Wild Tue...

**Put-in-Bay, OH** | 419-285-3037 | [lakeerieislandswildlife.com](http://lakeerieislandswildlife.com)

### Perry's Cave Family Fun Center

Perry's Cave Family Fun Center is your one stop for all day family fun! Enjoy Perry's Cave, The Butterfly House at Put-in-Bay, The War of 18-Holes Miniature Golf, The Rock Climbing Wall, Fort aMAZE'n Giant Maze, Gemstone Mining, and two unique gift shops. Dan Dee's Snack Shack and a picnic pavilion make it convenient to stay all day. Open mid-May through mid-Oct, daily.

**Put-in-Bay, OH** | 419-285-2283 | [perryscave.com](http://perryscave.com)

### Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums

When the Civil War broke out, attorney Rutherford B. Hayes declared he would rather die fighting to hold the United States together and end slavery, than stay safe at home. At age thirty-nine, Hayes was a devoted husband and father, yet he immediately enlisted in the Union Army. Skills honed in the courtroom and on the battlefield led him into national politics. Hayes served in Congress, then as governor of Ohio. In 1877 he became the 19th president of the United States after one of the most...

**Fremont, OH** | 419-332-2081 | [rbhayes.org](http://rbhayes.org)

### Schedel Arboretum & Gardens

Schedel Arboretum and Gardens is a 17-acre hidden treasure with unparalleled beauty and tranquility. Features include a Japanese garden, a kitchen garden with many varieties of ornamental hot peppers, a world class bonsai collection, water gardens, perennial gardens, and dozens of flower gardens featuring nearly 10,000 annuals. SA&G; is now the permanent home of the Blair Museum of Lithophanes on display in the manor house. Enjoy the tranquility the gardens have to offer. Guests are invited to pu...

**Elmore, OH** | 419-862-3182 | [schedel-gardens.org](http://schedel-gardens.org)

### Seneca Caverns

Curious about what lies beneath your feet? Explore Seneca Caverns, a hidden natural wonder in Ohio. Guided Tours: Learn about the cave's history and formations from experienced guides during one-hour guided tours. Scenic Exploration: Walk and climb through natural stone-hidden passageways. Crystal-Clear Waters: See the Ole Mist'ry River flowing through the caverns. Ancient Formations: Marvel at the Soda Straw stalactites and fossils Gemstone Panning: Try your luck at finding hidden treasures. Un...

**Bellevue, OH** | 419-483-6711 | [senecacavernsohio.com](http://senecacavernsohio.com)

### The Toledo Zoo

Enjoy making memories as you and your family explore indoor and outdoor exhibits that feature more than 16,000 individual animals representing over 680 species! Find adventure for the whole family between the Aquarium, ProMedica Museum of Natural History, and interactive Nancy L. and Martin Davidson Barnyard. Open year-round.

**Toledo, OH** | 419-385-5721 | [toledo zoo.org](http://toledo zoo.org)

## Thrills & Fun (13 attractions)

### Cedar Point Shores Waterpark

Cool off from the summer heat at Cedar Point Shores Waterpark. Featuring 18-acres of splish-splashin' family fun including Lakeslide Landing, where pint-sized slides, geysers, and fountains are fun to play around in. And the mythical Lake Erie monster, Lemmy, is ready to play at Lemmy's Lagoon. Test your courage on the four capsule drop slide, Point Plummet, fill up on yummy treats at Beaches & Cream, lounge in redesigned cabanas, and so much more! Open Memorial Day-Labor Day.

**Sandusky, OH** | 419-627-2350 | [sixflags.com/cedarpoint/cedar-point-shores](http://sixflags.com/cedarpoint/cedar-point-shores)

### Common Ground - The Cindy Nord Center for Renewal

Experience an exciting family-friendly adventure on Common Ground's 2.5-hour zipline tour! Fly, tree-by-tree, through the beautiful Vermilion River Valley in nearby Oberlin, OH. Enjoy the incredible views and seven zips, 13 platforms, three aerial bridges, two spiral staircases, a unique "floating" staircase, and final rappel at the end. Advance reservations required. Open Apr-mid Nov. Children must be 10 yrs. of age or order. Children 15 yrs. and younger must be accompanied by an adult. The wei...

**Oberlin, OH** | 440-707-2044 | [cgcanopy.org](http://cgcanopy.org)

### Fast Eddie's Sports Park

Fast Eddie's provides a beautifully landscaped Lighthouse Links Miniature Golf Course, fast go-karts, water squirting bumper boats, air-conditioned arcade, sift for gemstones and fossils, birthday party/group outing pavilion, gift shop, and ice cream. Clean, colorful, family-friendly atmosphere. A-la-carte tickets or "Play All Day" pass available. Next door to Fast Eddie's Sports Park Bar & Kitchen. Open May 1-Nov 1.

**Port Clinton, OH** | 419-734-7070 | [fasteddiescatawba.com](http://fasteddiescatawba.com)

### Ghostly Manor Thrill Center

This multi-attraction, family entertainment center was featured on The Travel Channel's "Best Places I've Ever Been," and Forbes Top 10 haunted attractions, and USA TODAY's Top 20 Haunted Houses. Open every day of the week at noon, experience the scariest haunted house; Ohio's fastest virtual motion theater; a one-of-a-kind interactive 3D, black light miniature golf journey; a skating rink; or for those 12 yrs. or younger, bounce houses, and an indoor playground. Ghostly Manor Thrill Center is i...

**Sandusky, OH** | 419-626-4467 | [ghostlymanor.com](http://ghostlymanor.com)

### Goofy Golf

Three Go-Kart Tracks – Feel the adrenaline rush as you speed through twists and turns on the thrilling go-kart tracks. Challenge your friends and family to a race and see who will be crowned the Goofy Golf Go-Kart Champion! 36 Holes of Mini Golf – Put your putting skills to the test on TWO beautifully-designed 18-hole mini golf courses. Navigate through obstacles, water features, and sand traps as you try to score a hole-in-one. Fun for all ages, the mini golf course is the perfect way to spend...

**Sandusky, OH** | 419-625-9935 | [goofy-golf.com](http://goofy-golf.com)

### Great Wolf Lodge

Excitement abounds when you encounter Wiley Wolf and friends in this North Woods-themed, indoor water park resort designed to bring joy to families! Activities and attractions include a 24-hour arcade, Build-A-Bear™, MagiQuest adventure, Ten Paw Bowling Alley and Oliver's Sluice Mining. Seasonal rotation of kids' activities all day long with a nightly dance party!

**Sandusky, OH** | 419-609-6000 | [greatwolf.com/sandusky](http://greatwolf.com/sandusky)

### Jet Express

Jet Express is a high-speed passenger ferry from Port Clinton and Sandusky, OH providing service to downtown Put-in-Bay, Kelleys Island, and Cedar Point. Comfortable, stylish passenger cabins and open-air sundecks. Exclusive late-night service. Narrated tour, family-friendly child rates, and group tour rates. Excursion adventures and charter service available. Please call or visit the website for more information. Accessible. Open May-Oct; weather permitting.

**Port Clinton, OH** | [jet-express.com](http://jet-express.com)

### Marblehead Lighthouse State Park

The grounds surrounding the lighthouse offer picnic areas and views of Lake Erie, Sandusky Bay, Kelleys Island, South Bass Island and Cedar Point. Tours are offered Memorial Day-Labor Day, see website for details. Grounds are open year-round.

**Marblehead, OH** | 419-734-4424 | [ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-p...](http://ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-p...)

### Miller Ferries

Miller Ferry operates the only passenger/vehicle ferries to the Lake Erie Islands of Put-in-Bay (South Bass Island) and Middle Bass Island, OH. All ferries depart from the tip of Catawba (end of SR 53). They offer five free parking areas, group discounts, free passage for pets, convenient motorcycle and bicycle transportation, and ADA accessibility. Miller Ferry to Put-in-Bay is a picturesque, relaxing ride lasting less than 20 minutes. They offer the lowest fares (Put-in-Bay one way adult: \$9, ...

**Port Clinton, OH** | 800-500-2421 | [millerferry.com](http://millerferry.com)

### Romp's Putter Port

Fun for everyone at Romp's Putter Port Mini Golf. Call ahead to receive a group rate which includes tokens to be used at Romp's Dairy Dock for a sweet treat after the game.

Vermilion, OH | 440-967-4341 | [romps.com/PutterPort.html](http://romps.com/PutterPort.html)

### Tilt Studio

Tilt Studio, inside the Sandusky Mall, offers nonstop fun for all ages! Tilt Studio is an action-packed family fun center with attractions like black light laser tag, Break Dance amusement ride, black light mini golf, mini bowling, and over 150+ arcade and video games, pinball, and virtual reality!

Sandusky, OH | 419-541-2131 | [tiltstudio.com/sandusky](http://tiltstudio.com/sandusky)

### Twin Star Entertainment

In addition to the fun, Tilt Studio has party rooms for birthdays, group gatherings, special events, and corporate events. Their flexible event spaces accommodate small and large gatherings. Whether you are looking to host a team-building event, youth or adult group gathering, non-profit fundraiser, special event, or birthday party, Tilt Studio can accommodate your event with packages designed to fit your budget.

Sandusky, OH | 419-626-2413 | [twinstarcenters.com](http://twinstarcenters.com)

### West River Paddle Sports

Voted #1 in paddle board, kayak, and canoe rentals in northern Ohio by Sandusky Register's Reader's Choice Awards. ACA-certified staff offers hourly, daily, and overnight rentals, lessons, and excursions. Enjoy Lake Erie and the Vermilion Water Trail. With a good foundation of boat control and safety guidelines, you'll maximize your time sightseeing along Vermilion's shale bluffs and parks. See West River Paddle Sports website for hours.

Vermilion, OH | 440-967-5292 | [westriverkayak.com](http://westriverkayak.com)

## Water & Islands (6 attractions)

### Goodtime Lake Erie Island Cruises

Originally built as a fishing boat and used in ocean service, the Goodtime I now serves as a vibrant cruise ship offering a variety of experiences on Lake Erie from Lake Erie cruises, sunset tours, and island hopping adventures. They also offer private rentals, perfect for company parties, family reunions, and big gatherings.

Sandusky, OH | 419-625-9692 | [goodtimeboat.com](http://goodtimeboat.com)

### Kelleys Island Ferry Boat Line

The Kelleys Island Ferry Boat Line is the only passenger/vehicle ferry service between Kelleys Island and Marblehead. During peak season, ferries run every half-hour and offer late night service. There is a parking fee at the Marblehead dock. Ferry services runs year-round, daily; weather-permitting.

Marblehead, OH | 419-798-9763 | [kelleysislandferry.com](http://kelleysislandferry.com)

### Liberty Aviation Museum

Liberty Aviation Museum showcases operational, historical aircraft and vehicles including Georgie's Gal, (a WWII B-25 Mitchell Bomber), a U.S. Navy WWII TBM Avenger, WWII PT-boat, and more. Witness the restoration of a 1929 Ford Tri-Motor and dine in the 1950s-era themed Tin Goose Diner. Museum is open year-round.

Port Clinton, OH | 419-732-0234 | [libertyaviationmuseum.org](http://libertyaviationmuseum.org)

### Maritime Museum of Sandusky

Dive into the rich maritime history of the Sandusky Bay area at the Maritime Museum of Sandusky. Through interactive exhibits and educational programs, the whole family can have a boatload of fun learning about ice harvesting, shipwrecks, boat building, wetlands, Sandusky's Underground Railroad history, passenger boats, and more. Special events throughout the year. Accessible. Open Jan-May, Fri-Sun 10 am-4 pm; Jun-Aug, Tues-Sun 10 am-4 pm; Sept-Dec, Fri-Sun 10 am-4 pm.

**Sandusky, OH** | 419-624-0274 | [sanduskymaritime.org](http://sanduskymaritime.org)

### Vermilion Lighthouse

The Vermilion Lighthouse is a replica of the original lighthouse that was later moved to Lake Ontario. Known as the "Town of Sea Captains," Vermilion was without a lighthouse for 63 yrs. The lighthouse is located next to Main Street Beach. Visitors can walk up to, but not enter the lighthouse. The lighthouse is situated next to Main Street Beach.

**Vermilion, OH** | 440-204-2400 | [www.cityofvermilionohio.gov/2025-Main-Menu-...](http://www.cityofvermilionohio.gov/2025-Main-Menu-...)

### Wolcott Keeper's House

The oldest-surviving home in Ottawa County offers visitors the chance to experience the history of lighthouse keepers. The 1822 home was the residence of the first three keepers of the Marblehead Lighthouse, the oldest continually-operating lighthouse on the Great Lakes. Visit the website for tour dates and event information.

**Marblehead, OH** | [ottawacountyhistory.org](http://ottawacountyhistory.org)

## History & Culture (7 attractions)

### Edison Birthplace

Visit the early boyhood home of Thomas Edison in Milan, Ohio. The Edison Birthplace museum features a collection of rare early inventions, documents, and family mementos, as well as a new exhibit that highlights the prevailing impact of Edison's innovation on the home, society, science, and globalization. Guided tours are offered Feb-Dec, Call for hours or check website. Appointments can be made by phone.

**Milan, OH** | 419-499-2135 | [tomedison.org](http://tomedison.org)

### Firelands Historical Society Complex

The Firelands Historical Society Complex includes Ohio's oldest museum along with a genealogy/research center. Over 200 years of Firelands History can be found within this complex. New this year, three Revolutionary War model ships that have previously been displayed at the Smithsonian. The Native American exhibit boasts some of the highest quality pieces in Ohio including the earliest evidence of humans in the state and the giant ground sloth they hunted. Exhibits include a one-of-a-kind gun co...

**Norwalk, OH** | 419-668-6038 | [firelandsmuseum.com](http://firelandsmuseum.com)

### Follett House Museum of Sandusky Library

Learn Sandusky's history from before the War of 1812, including lifestyle and local industry, Johnson's Island artifacts, and more. View Sandusky from the widow's walk. Free Admission. Tours by appointment.

**Sandusky, OH** | 419-625-3834 | [sanduskylib.org](http://sanduskylib.org)

### Historic Lyme Village

Experience the past as you tour the 16 buildings of this 19th-century village. Tours of Historic Lyme Village include an 1880s Victorian mansion, an 1836 farm home, log homes, barns, a one-room school, a general store, and more. The museum gift shop is located in the visitors center. Located four miles south of Ohio Turnpike (I-80/90) exit 110. Open June-Aug, Wed-Sat 11 am-5 pm.

**Bellevue, OH** | 419-483-4949 | [lymevillage.org](http://lymevillage.org)

### Lake Erie Islands Historical Museum

The Lake Erie Islands Historical Museum has exhibits on island history, the wine making industry, Put-in-Bay's Victorian hotels, the ice industry, the island road races, the Ford Tri-Motor "Tin Goose" airplane, and a collection of historic souvenirs. The Battle of Lake Erie, fought during the War of 1812 on September 10, 1813, took place about 10 miles from Put-in-Bay. The War of 1812 was considered by many to be America's second Revolutionary War.

[Put-in-Bay, OH](#) | 419-285-2804 | [leihs.org](http://leihs.org)

### Merry-Go-Round Museum

Enjoy the sights and sounds of yesterday at The Merry-Go-Round Museum! Take a carousel ride on our 1939 historic carousel, hear the happiest music on earth, and see over 200 carousel figures ranging in dates from 1865-1935. Also featuring a gift shop. Accessible.

[Sandusky, OH](#) | 419-626-6111 | [merrygoroundmuseum.org](http://merrygoroundmuseum.org)

### Milan Museum

Explore The Milan Museum, where history, art, and innovation come alive! Wander galleries showcasing milestones in progress, Roman-to-modern glass, early American folk art, and global decorative arts. Stroll historic buildings and beautiful grounds, and don't miss their amazing gift shop for unique treasures. Enjoy seasonal programs and special events for all ages.

[Milan, OH](#) | 419-499-2968 | [milanhistory.org](http://milanhistory.org)

## Attractions (2 attractions)

### Island Transportation/Put-in-Bay Tour Train

Island Transportation offers a number of different packages for your next Put-in-Bay adventure involving numerous attractions, transportation and lunch options. Contact us today for further details or reservations.

[Put-in-Bay, OH](#) | 419-285-4855 \*102 | [perryscave.com/groups-and-tours](http://perryscave.com/groups-and-tours)

### Lakeside Chautauqua

For 150 years, Lakeside Chautauqua has welcomed families to the Lake Erie shore to nurture mind, body, and spirit. Lakeside is a historic community in northwest Ohio that strives to enrich the quality of life for all people through programing focused on the four Chautauqua pillars: arts, education, recreation, and religion. From Memorial Day-Labor Day, Lakeside is a gated community with admission fees, although a variety of complimentary passes are available for shopping, dining, and worship opp...

[Lakeside, OH](#) | 419-798-4461 | [lakesideohio.com](http://lakesideohio.com)