

Three Days on Lake Erie's South Shore Exploring the Historic Perry's Victory Monument and Fort Meigs

Put-In-Bay, OH

Even from Ohio's Lake Erie's southern mainland, there is no way to miss Put-in-Bay Island. Perry's Victory & International Peace Memorial rises prominently into the sky, again announcing the victory over the English warships that 28-year-old Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry won in the War of 1812. But there is more to explore among this grouping of islands and the cities along the shore.

Correctly, this is South Bass Island, better known as Put-in-Bay, one of a hundred islands in the archipelago. This is a party island, accessible by ferry with bars strewn along its streets. Looking closer you soon discover rental bicycles, golf carts, mopeds and antique cars. Tours lead past historic homes to vineyards, caves, golf courses, trails, fishing, and miles of rocky shores with pockets of sand beaches. South Bass Island State Park offers camping and water rides.

On the mainland at Sandusky, the 364-acre Cedar Point Amusement Park offers a thrill a minute. The signature ride is the 420-foot tall roller-coaster, taller than the depth of Lake Erie and one of 17 in the park.

About halfway down the Erie coast on US-80 to Perrysburg, stop at Schedel Arboretum and Gardens, in Elmore. Here, nearly 20,000 annuals from grandma's favorites to rare species blossom in a series of gardens.

Perrysburg, OH

Perrysburg, named for Commodore Perry, is home to Fort Meigs, the largest reconstructed wooden-walled fort in the country. The reconstructed fort and museum sit along the scenic Maumee River.

Downtown boasts a collection of quaint, historical buildings. A bronze statue of Commodore Perry stands along the Maumee at the foot of Louisiana Street. Thursday nights boasts a thriving Farmer's Market downtown, from May through October. The Levis Commons Town Center is a unique outdoor life center featuring shops, restaurants, movie theaters, and a comedy club.

Don't miss the cityscapes and night life of downtown Toledo. The Toledo Mud Hens AAA baseball team plays in downtown Toledo at Fifth Third Field.

Just outside of Perrysburg, take a scenic drive along the scenic Maumee River to The Canal Experience at Providence Metropark. Board a 1870s mule-drawn canal boat for a ride through original 1830s canal locks on a resorted portion of the Miami and Erie Canal.

If you go:

Put-In-Bay, OH, is three miles offshore from the Catawba Peninsula and Highway US-2, one of two dozen islands in Bass Island Archipelago.

Accessible by Miller Ferry and Jet Express.

Visitor information: Put-In-Bay Chamber of Commerce.

Lodging: Put-In-Bay – English Pines Bed & Breakfast, original settler's home from mid-1800s; Put-In-Bay Resort.

Dining: Put-In-Bay – Any place that serves Lake Erie fish.

Attractions: Heineman's Winery and Crystal Cave; Sandusky, Cedar Point Amusement Park; Merry-Go-Round Museum.

Perrysburg, OH, named for Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry is located about 40 miles east of Put-In-Bay, home of reconstructed Fort Meigs, suburb of Toledo. For more information, visit [Historic Perrysburg](#); [Visit Perrysburg](#); and [Do Toledo](#).

Lodging: Maumee Bay Resort – lodge, cottages, camping, pools, golf, restaurant, etc; Perrysburg's Holiday Inn French Quarter; Hilton Garden Inn Perrysburg.

Dining: Stella's Restaurant; Poco Piatti.

Attractions: Toledo Zoo; Toledo Mud Hens Baseball.

By Dixie Franklin