

Which Lake Erie lighthouses can you climb?

As of 2026-10, 10 Lake Erie lighthouses have offered public tower climbs. Almost all are seasonal and run by volunteers or small nonprofits, so check each operator before you go. This list never shows hours or prices.

Lighthouse	Shore	Operator	What has been offered	Last verified
Port Clinton Lighthouse	Ohio	Port Clinton Lighthouse Conservancy	Seasonal tours of the restored tower have been offered by the Port Clinton Lighthouse Conservancy.	2026-10
South Bass Island Lighthouse	Ohio	Ohio State University Stone Laboratory / Ohio Sea Grant	Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory and Ohio Sea Grant have offered seasonal tours that include climbing to the top of the tower.	2026-10
Marblehead Lighthouse	Ohio	Marblehead Lighthouse Historical Society (museum and tower tours)	Tower tours have been offered seasonally by the Marblehead Lighthouse Historical Society in the state park.	2026-10
Lorain Lighthouse	Ohio	Lorain Lighthouse Foundation	The Lorain Lighthouse Foundation has offered guided seasonal tours, reached by boat.	2026-10
Fairport Harbor Lighthouse	Ohio	Fairport Harbor Historical Society	The Fairport Harbor Historical Society has opened the museum and tower (a 69-step spiral staircase to an observation platform) seasonally, with group tours by appointment.	2026-10
Presque Isle Lighthouse	Pennsylvania	Lake Erie Lights of Pennsylvania (long-term lease)	Lake Erie Lights of Pennsylvania has offered guided tours and tower climbs seasonally.	2026-10
Erie Land Lighthouse	Pennsylvania	Lake Erie Lights of Pennsylvania	Lake Erie Lights of Pennsylvania has opened the tower for climbs seasonally.	2026-10
Barcelona Lighthouse	New York	Town of Westfield (under licence from New York State Parks)	New York State Parks has opened the tower for climbs seasonally, subject to weather, staffing and restoration work; the climb is steep and ends on a ladder.	2026-10
Dunkirk Lighthouse (Point Gratiot)	New York	Dunkirk Lighthouse and Veterans Park Museum; the U.S. Coast Guard maintains the light	The volunteer-run Dunkirk Lighthouse and Veterans Park Museum has offered guided tours that include the climb to the top, seasonally.	2026-10
Buffalo Main Lighthouse	New York	Buffalo Lighthouse Association	The volunteer Buffalo Lighthouse Association has opened the site seasonally and opens the tower for climbs when volunteers are available.	2026-10

Access details last verified 2026-10. Hours, tours and ownership change. Check the operator before you go. Pier and breakwater lights can be dangerous in wind and waves; obey posted closures and never enter private or Coast Guard property.

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Sources: each lighthouse has a page at lakeerie.info/lighthouses that names its operator and the sources for every detail.