

## Student Tour Suggestions (ages 10 and up)

Bring your students to the Erie region and give them a taste of Erie Pennsylvania's rich maritime history, diverse heritage, thriving agriculture, outdoor recreation and so much more! Educational student tours and field trips are available year-round and can be arranged by contacting the individual attraction directly.

### Day One

Tour the **Erie Maritime Museum** and learn of Erie's extensive maritime history and its role during the War of 1812 and the Battle of Lake Erie. Exhibits highlight multiple maritime and nautical themes from the early 1800s to present day including the **U.S. Brig Niagara**, Pennsylvania's official Great Lakes Ambassador and the **Lettie G. Howard**, a wooden Fredonia style schooner. Visitors can test their skills at tying knots, loading a cannon, and raising/ lowering the mid mizzen mast and special sail setting demonstrations. Your group can also learn the story behind the phrase "Don't Give up the Ship" which originated from Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry during the Battle of Lake Erie.

Delve into Erie's storied past and pick up clues as to what Erie would have been like from formation, through the War of 1812, to modern day at the **Hagen History Center**. Other notable exhibits include Frank Lloyd Wright's San Francisco Office and "The Story of Us" exhibit that provides a greater understanding of Erie County's immigration and history.

**Lunch** – After exploring Erie's history, spend lunch at **U Pick 6 Public House**. Public House is a staple of Erie's west side and can accommodate larger groups with their multiple private rooms. They specialize in wood-fired delights such as pizzas, flatbreads and stromboli.

Stretch your legs after lunch with a trip to **Asbury Woods**, where educational programming and tours make learning about nature fun! Explore their 205-acres of trails, forests, wetlands, Walnut Creek, Brown's Farm Barn and the Andrew J. Conner Nature Center. The Nature Center is one of the premier award-winning environmental education centers in northwest Pennsylvania. Their nature-based programs and special events include topics such as watersheds, beekeeping, honey and maple syrup production, renewable and non-renewable resources and more.

Travel south outside the City through Erie's beautiful countryside as you head towards picturesque **Port Farms**, a family-owned working farm. Students will learn about this unique outdoor learning farm through a program that touches upon several Pennsylvania academic standards including mathematics, language arts and science.

**Dinner** – Wind down your education-filled day with a great meal at **The Colony Pub and Grille**, located in The Shops at the Colony Plaza. The Colony has private banquet space for your student group with buffet style dining available on request as well as regular menu item selections.

### Day Two

Start your day exploring the **Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC)**, the educational gateway to Presque Isle. TREC offers environmental studies, nature field trips and classroom labs combined with outdoor adventures on Lake Erie and Presque Isle beaches, lagoons and trails. Ride the elevator up the 75-foot observation tower for expansive views of Presque Isle and Lake Erie, shop for souvenirs at Presque Isle Gallery and Gifts or watch the 15-minute orientation film that depicts the story behind the formation of Presque Isle.

**Lunch** Treat your student group to a fun lunch experience at **Sara's Diner**. This 50's style diner is located at the entrance to Presque Isle State Park and is a popular spot for before or after visiting the beach. Sara's menu is

known for its Erie-made Smith's foot-long hot dogs, orange/vanilla twist cones, milkshakes and burgers. Sara's Diner is open seasonally from April 1 to mid-fall. Open year-round, the **Food Court** inside the **Millcreek Mall** houses numerous restaurants offering a wide range of options from loaded burgers and fries to healthy salads and smoothies. The Mall is also a great way for your group to enjoy some down time, and explore the Mall's many shops and kiosks.

The **Lady Kate** is docked at the Perry Monument on Presque Isle. The Lady Kate is a flat, one-level bench-style seat vessel that offers day and sunset tours departing regularly from Presque Isle State Park. Get a unique view of Erie's three lighthouses (**The North Pier Light, Presque Isle Lighthouse and the Erie Land Lighthouse**), Gull Point nature preserve at Presque Isle, Erie's skyline and many other note-worthy sites. The Lady Kate is available for groups May through October (weather permitting).

**Presque Isle State Park** is a 3,200 acre year-round outdoor recreational and educational adventure waiting to be discovered! Educational stops can include the historic Presque Isle Lighthouse, Perry's Monument and Misery Bay to learn the historical significance of Presque Isle's role in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812. Shining a light on Erie's extensive maritime history is the **Presque Isle Lighthouse** at Presque Isle State Park. Built in 1873, the lighthouse offers visitors the chance to climb its tower and take in panoramic views of Lake Erie and Presque Isle State Park, all while learning its history and function. Public tours of the lighthouse are available throughout the summer.