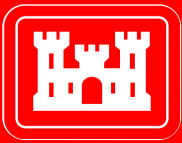


Our Amazing Great Lakes

Did you know?

- ◆ Four of the Great Lakes are in both the United States and Canada (Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario). Only Lake Michigan is entirely within the United States.
- ◆ The Great Lakes contain one fifth of the world's fresh surface water – that is about six quadrillion gallons of water!
- ◆ The Great Lakes contain 250 species of fish.
- ◆ The Great Lakes basin is home to 25 million people in the United States and 8.5 million in Canada.
- ◆ The connected waterways of the Great Lakes are America's largest inland water transportation unit. They allow shipping to reach the Atlantic Ocean via the St. Lawrence River, and to reach the Gulf of Mexico via the Illinois Waterway, from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River.
- ◆ If all the water in the Great Lakes was spread evenly across the United States, the entire country would be covered in over 9.5 feet of water.





Lake Ontario

- ◆ Lake Ontario is the fifth largest of the Great Lakes and ranks as the 17th largest lake in the world.
- ◆ Lake Ontario has the smallest surface area of the Great Lakes (7,340 square miles).



- ◆ The oldest lighthouse on the U.S. side of the Great Lakes is along Lake Ontario's shore at Fort Niagara. It was completed in 1818.

Lake Erie

- ◆ Lake Erie is the fourth largest of the Great Lakes and ranks as the 13th largest lake in the world.
- ◆ Lake Erie is the shallowest and warmest of the Great Lakes.
- ◆ Winds have been known to produce large, short-term differences between water levels at the eastern and western ends of Lake Erie. The record differential is known to be more than 16 feet.

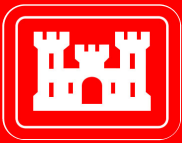


Lake Michigan



- ◆ Lake Michigan is the third largest of the Great Lakes and ranks as the fifth largest lake in the world.
- ◆ Lake Michigan's finger-like formation impacts water flow. Water entering the lake circulates slowly and on average remains there for 99 years before leaving the basin through the Straits of Mackinac.





Lake Huron

- ◆ Lake Huron is the second largest of the Great Lakes and ranks as the fourth largest lake in the world.
- ◆ There are more than 30,000 islands in Lake Huron, including the world's largest freshwater island, Manitoulin Island.
- ◆ Including island shorelines, Lake Huron has the longest shoreline at 3,827 miles of any of the Great Lakes.



Lake Superior

- ◆ Lake Superior is the largest of the Great Lakes and ranks as the largest lake by surface area in the world. (Lake Baikal in Russia is the largest in volume).
- ◆ Lake Superior contains 10 percent of the earth's fresh water.
- ◆ Waves in Lake Superior have been known to reach more than 20 feet in height.
- ◆ Lake Superior does not move by tides, but by weather. A combination of winds and high air pressure produces a tidal-like rise and fall called a seiche (saysh).



A few fast facts:

Lake	Superior	Michigan	Huron	Erie	Ontario
Deepest Point	1,333 Feet	923 Feet	750 Feet	210 Feet	802 Feet
Average Depth	489 Feet	279 Feet	195 Feet	62 Feet	283 Feet
Length	350 Miles	307 Miles	206 Miles	241 Miles	193 Miles
Breadth	160 Miles	118 Miles	183 Miles	57 Miles	53 Miles
Shoreline Including Islands	2,730 Miles	1,640 Miles	3,830 Miles	871 Miles	712 Miles
Surface Area	31,700 Sq. Miles	22,300 Sq. Miles	23,000 Sq. Miles	9,910 Sq. Miles	7,340 Sq. Miles
Population	673,000	12 Million	3 Million	12.4 Million	5.6 Million
Retention Time	173 Years	62 Years	21 Years	2.7 Years	6 Years
Outlet	St. Marys River	Straits of Mackinac	St. Clair & Detroit Rivers	Niagara River	St. Lawrence River

Source: <https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/education/ourlakes/lakes.html>

You can learn more about the Soo Locks, the Great Lakes and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at www.lre.usace.army.mil or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Detroit District