Lighthouses of Lake Superior
2 Day Trip Itinerary

Two days is barely enough time to begin to explore everything M123 has to offer, but this maritime based trip itinerary helps you discover three of Lake Superior’s very special lighthouses. Learn firsthand how it feels to climb to the top of each of their towers and take in the vast majesty and power of Lake Superior.

Day 1: Crisp Point Lighthouse and Whitefish Point Light Station

The Byway is rich in maritime history. Discover our remarkable lighthouses and learn the story of their keepers. Delve into the courageous lives of Great Lakes captains and crewmen at the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum.

Crisp Point Lighthouse

Take the road less traveled and discover an unforgettable part of Michigan’s Maritime history, Crisp Point Lighthouse. As one of Michigan’s most secluded Lighthouses GPS won’t get you there. You will want to follow the signs along the heavily forested road to bring you to the stunning shores of Lake Superior.

Spend an hour or two combing the beaches and contemplating the silence of one of the region’s most remote mainland lighthouse. Climb sixty two steps and find yourself at the top of the Lighthouse, offering a rare view of Lake Superior’s expansive offerings. Life at Crisp Point is nearly as solitary and remote today as it was when it began operation in 1876.

Journey about 1.5 hours from Paradise via M-123, County Road 500 and County Road 412 to visit the remote Crisp Point Lighthouse. Most of this drive will be on unpaved roads with no services, but it’s worth the trip.
WHITEFISH POINT LIGHT STATION

Both man and nature have traditionally looked to Whitefish Point for guidance. Ships seek its beacon of safety amidst Superior’s fury. Whitefish Point has the oldest operating lighthouse on Lake Superior. Climb to the top for a bird’s eye view of pasting freighters.

When the road brings you to Whitefish Point and you’ll immediately be captivated by the diverse offerings of the historic Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum. Artifacts, photographs, ancient buildings and vessels, interpretive panels, and haunting tales come together to tell the rich story of “Michigan’s Shipwreck Coast.”

Step into the museum’s theater, where the story of the famous Edmund Fitzgerald is retold in extraordinary detail. Walk the grounds and imagine what life might have been like both those out on the big Lake and those awaiting their return. Stories unfold by the minute here at Whitefish Point.

DAY 2: POINT IROQUOIS LIGHTHOUSE

Cruise down this beautiful scenic stretch of highway, and enjoy the miles forests, hills, and winding lakeshore. Starting South of Paradise and continuing South of Sault St. Marie, the 33 mile Curley Lewis Memorial Highway is the perfect scenic route for anyone wanting to experience one of Michigan’s most beautiful Great Lakes scenic drives.

POINT IROQUOIS LIGHTHOUSE

The Curley Lewis will bring you to the low stone wall that surrounds the ground of Point Iroquois Lighthouse. Situated at the eastern end of Lake Superior at the transition between Whitefish Bay and the St. Mary’s River the Lighthouse is the perfect place for freighter viewing.

The museum artifacts, photos, and display tell the stories of the lightkeepers and their families. Learn about the fourth order Fresnel lens that could project a light for sixteen miles. Climb the 72 stairs to the top of the tower for the best view.

Escape to the shores of Superior for a relaxing day of agate hunting.
DON’T MISS: MISSION HILL OVERLOOK

Just a short drive from Point Iroquois is a turn off for the Mission Hill/Spectacle Lake Overlook. The road is narrow and steep as you travel the wooded dunes to the top, but well worth the trip. You’ll find commanding views of Lake Superior and the Canadian highlands beyond. Take time to explore nearby hiking trails!