

Hi, my name is Alyssa Zimmer and I will be your flat naturalist for your self guided walk around Perry Monument. I am an Educator here at Presque Isle State Park Complex. I am glad you can join me for a walk today and I hope you learn something new!



Flat Naturalist — Perry Monument



#DiscoverPIFlatNaturalist

Where to start...

Park in the parking lot at Perry Monument. Once you exit your vehicle, your first stop will be the Lady Kate.

Start here, and continue on the path towards Perry Monument. Look for the ★ to mark some of the stops around Perry Monument.



Stop #1 Lady Kate



- The Lady Kate is a diesel powered 65-foot boat that can accommodate up to 64 passengers for each ride.
- Departing from Misery Bay, the Lady Kate takes you on a 14 mile, 90 minute tour that ventures out onto the open waters of Lake Erie and Presque Isle Bay.
- Tours run late May through early October.
- The tour includes Erie's historic lighthouses, the Presque Isle State Park beaches and shoreline, and Erie's skyline along Presque Isle Bay.

CURRENT RIDE TIMES:

June 10th – Sept. 5th
SIGHT SEEING TOUR

7 Days a Week
11:00, 1:00, 3:00 & 5:00

SUNSET CRUISE

7 Days a Week
Departs one hour before
sunset

Continue on the sidewalk towards the monument.

Look for the first  .



Stop #2 Gouty Oak Gall

Notice all of the woody growths on the branches of these oak trees. These are called Oak Galls created by a few species of wasp.

The insect has a complex three year life cycle that includes egg laying and invasion of the leaves and twigs. The leaf damage is minimal, but the twig damage results in the large golf ball sized galls that can kill the twig and branches. Early infection stages include only a few twig galls in the tree. As more and more lifecycles of wasps re-infect the leaves and twigs, areas of the tree can be completely covered with gall formations. Wasps do not tend to travel far from the host tree. Infestation usually occurs on one tree and slowly spreads to adjacent trees.

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Continue on the sidewalk until you
find the next ★ .

Stop #3 Misery Bay & Canada Geese



Canada Geese

Often incorrectly called Canadian Geese, Canada Geese can be seen at Presque Isle nearly year round. They tend to congregate on Perry Monument. Watch out for these birds as they can sometimes be aggressive and territorial.

NEVER FEED THE WILDLIFE. Feeding wild animals impacts the natural food web. Feeding any type of wild life creates dependency on humans and disrupts the ecosystem as a whole.

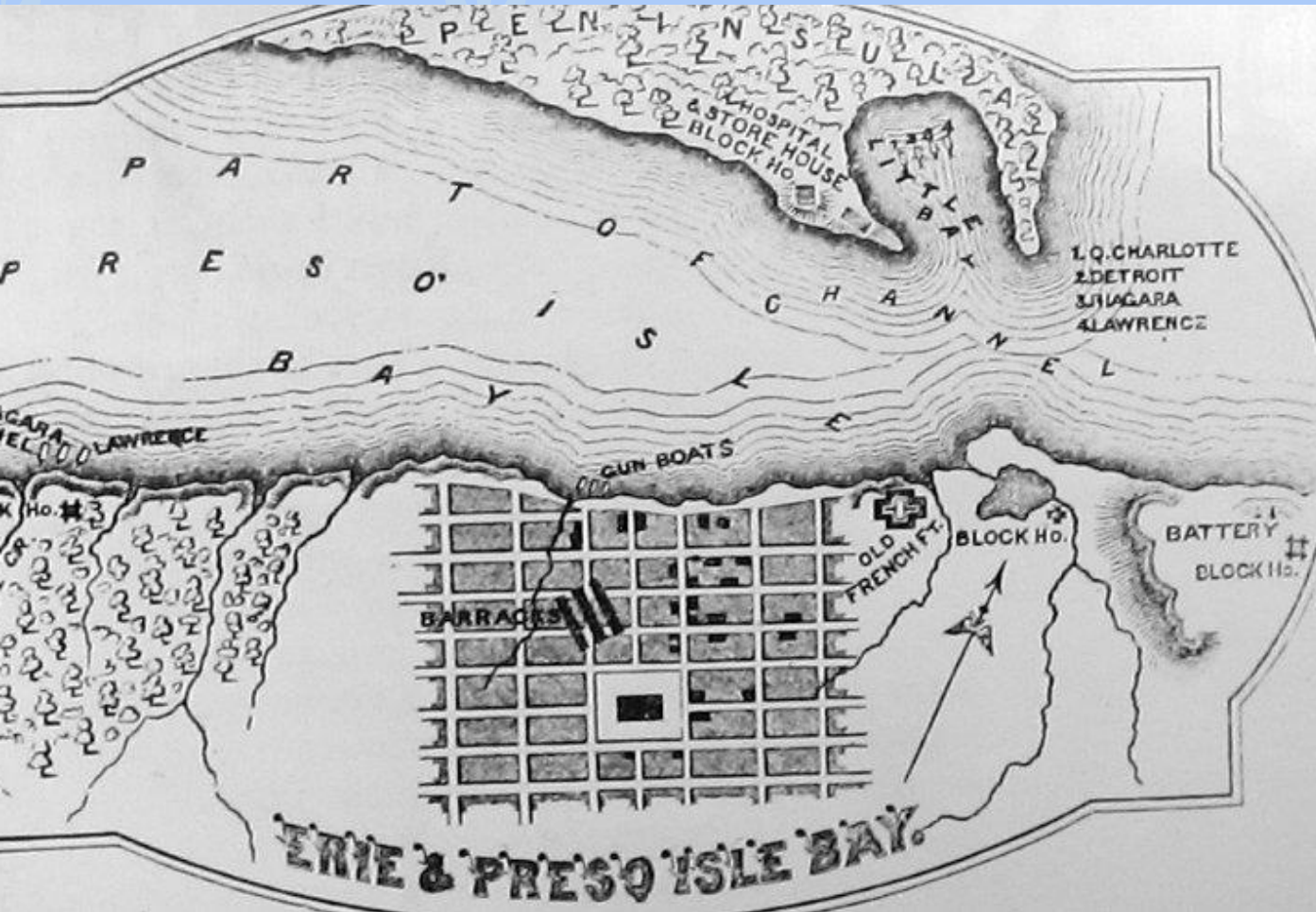


Misery Bay



- During the Battle of Lake Erie in the war of 1812, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry and his men defeated the British at Put-in-Bay, near Sandusky, Ohio. Perry's first flagship, the Lawrence, was heavily damaged during the battle, requiring him to transfer his flag to the brig Niagara. He then re-engaged and defeated the British fleet using the Niagara as his flagship.
- After the battle, Perry and his men returned to Little Bay (now Misery Bay) to repair their fleet and seek medical treatment for the wounded. They stayed in the protection of the bay because of threats of another British uprising.
- During the winters of 1812-1814, many of Perry's crew suffered from poor living conditions and the harsh winters. As legend has it, many of the crew died and their bodies were buried in the adjacent pond known as Graveyard Pond. In remembrance of their hardships during those winters, Little Bay was renamed Misery Bay by the surviving sailors.

Misery Bay



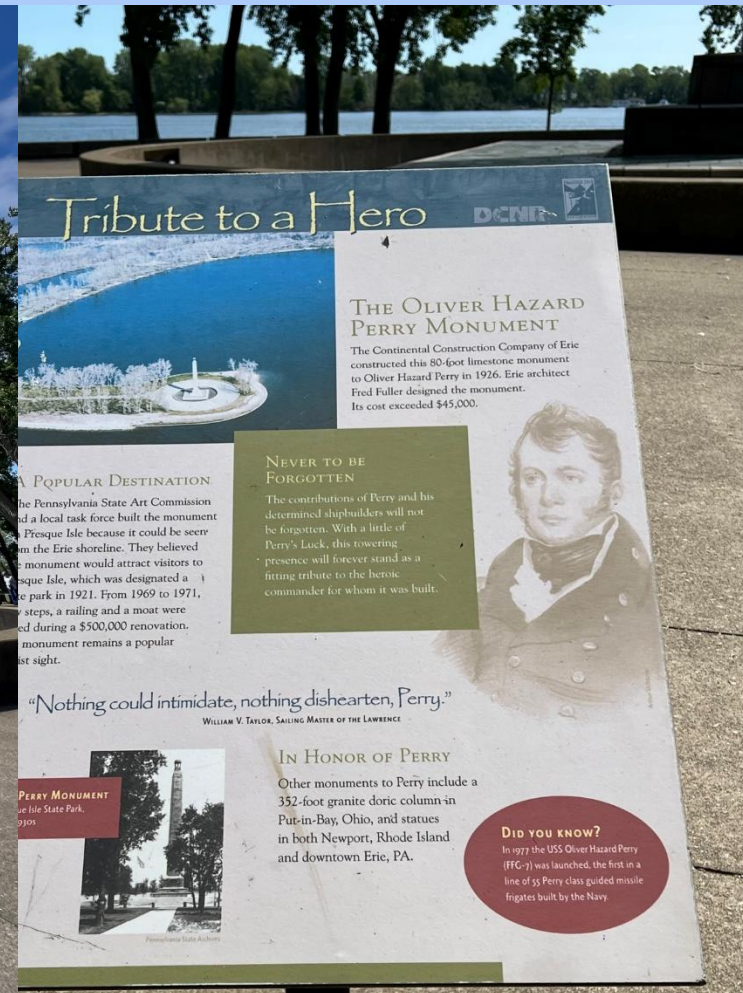
- The hull of the Lawrence, then eventually the Niagara, was sunk in Misery Bay to preserve and protect them from the weather. The Lawrence was raised during 1875, but was destroyed by fire in Philadelphia during the Centennial Exhibition of 1876. The Niagara was raised during 1912 and rebuilt for the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie in 1913. A replica of the Niagara sails from its dock at the Erie Maritime Museum.
- The Perry Monument on Crystal Point (where you are now) was built in 1926 to commemorate this significant battle during the War of 1812 and the valor of the sailors in Perry's Command.

Misery Bay



- Check out this old post card showing the houseboats that once resided in Misery Bay.
- In the 1950s, the U.S. Coast Guard dug a channel from Misery Bay into Horseshoe Pond. At the time, there were between 29 and 36 houseboats on Misery Bay. It was shortly after that that the commonwealth mandated that all must move into Horseshoe Pond. When the boats moved, only 24 decided to move into the pond. The rest decided not to relocate. There was a size limit on the houseboats within the pond. It was a maximum limit of 40 feet by 60 feet.

Continue on around the monument. Read the educational signs as you go.
Stop and take a selfie with the monument and post it to Facebook or Twitter
with #DiscoverPIFlatNaturalist



..Continue on until you are on the south side of Perry
Monument overlooking Presque Isle Bay
Look for the last ★ next to a bench with a good view.



Flat Alyssa is nearby this view.



Thank you!

- Thank you for taking a Flat Naturalist walk with me today! Make sure you take a picture with Flat Alyssa to post to Facebook or Twitter with the hashtag **#DiscoverPIFlatNaturalist**
- Enjoy the rest of your day! Be sure to check out the other Flat Naturalist hikes available around Presque Isle.