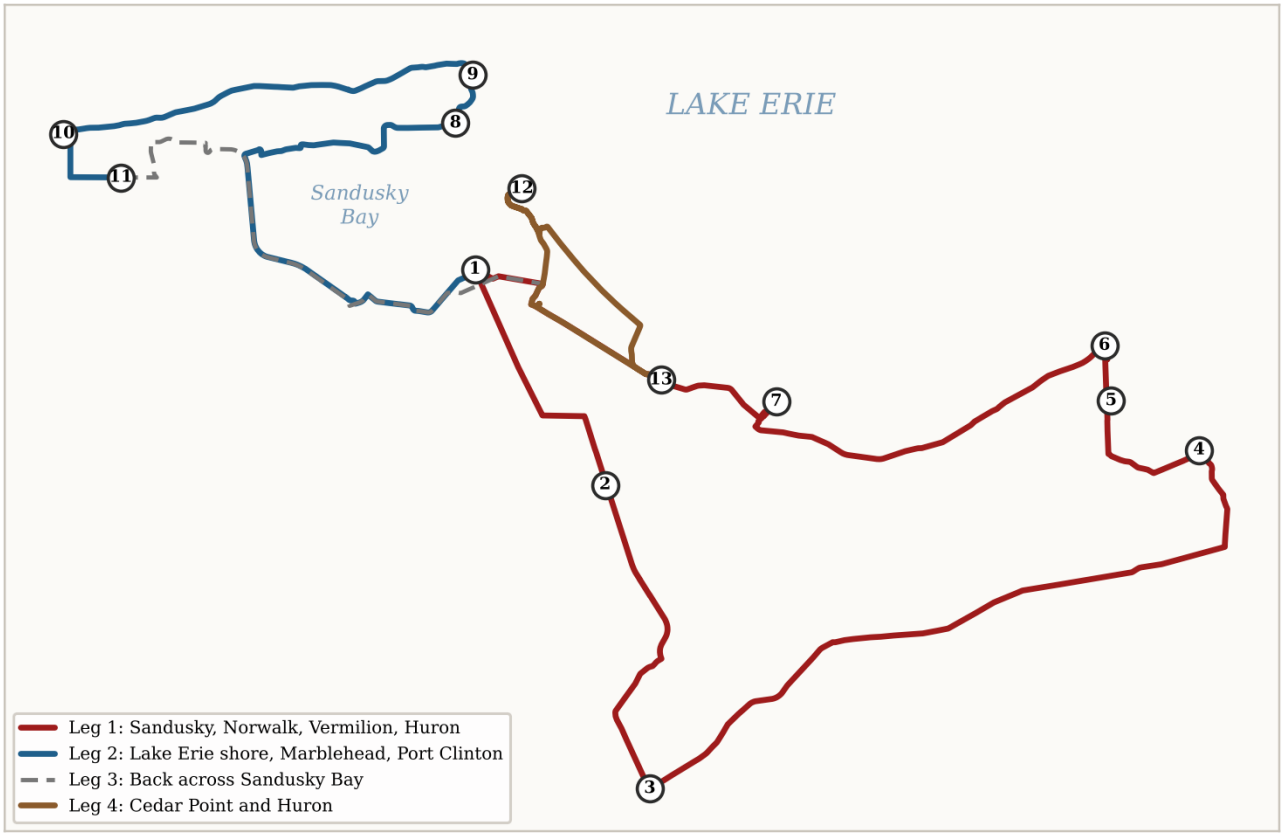
OHIO BIKE WEEK 2026
SCENIC RIDE

THE LAKE ERIE LOOP

A Gray Beard Biker Ride
Sandusky, Norwalk, Vermilion, Marblehead, Port Clinton and Cedar Point
Ohio Bike Week 2026

One big day around Ohio Bike Week country. South through Thomas Edison's hometown and the Firelands farm country, east to a river gorge and a Tuscan-style winery, back along the Lake Erie shore past two lighthouses, across Sandusky Bay to the oldest working lighthouse on the American side of the Great Lakes, and home to Cedar Point. It started with the suggested rides on Rally Point's website, stitched and expanded into one loop.

START	DISTANCE	RIDING TIME	FINISH
Downtown Sandusky	**About 142 miles**	**About 4 to 4.5 hours, plus stops**	**Cedar Point peninsula**



Numbers match the stops in this guide. Not to scale for navigation; use the GPX file.

The Day at a Glance

#	Stop	Mile	Notes
1	Downtown Sandusky	0	Start. Fill your tank.
2	Rockin' Ranch Saloon / Rally Point	8	Ohio Bike Week venue on US-250
	Milan, Edison's birthplace	13	Ride-through
3	Norwalk	18	Fuel in town
4	Mill Hollow, Vermilion River Reservation	40	Park, river cliffs, 1845 house
5	Paper Moon Vineyards	45	Winery
6	Main Street Beach, Vermilion	46	Lighthouse, restrooms
7	Huron Harbor Lighthouse	59	View from the pier
	Back through downtown Sandusky	70	Ride-through
8	Bay Point Resort & Marina	87	Tip of the peninsula
9	Marblehead Lighthouse	89	State park
10	Port Clinton	101	Fuel in town
11	E Lockwood Rd: the steel ship	104	Private beyond this point
12	Cedar Point peninsula	125	Hotel Breakers, Cedar Point Shores
13	Jordan's Country Diner, Huron	134	Closes 1:30 PM (Sun 2 PM), closed Mon
	Finish: Cedar Point peninsula	142	Via the Chaussee

Mileage is measured along the planned line and is approximate. Your GPS will differ a little.

Know Before You Go

- **Fuel:** No fuel stop is built in, so plan your own. Norwalk (mile 18), Vermilion (mile 46) and Port Clinton (mile 101) are the natural places to top off. Start with a full tank.
- **Food:** Jordan's Country Diner is a breakfast-and-lunch place (7 AM to 1:30 PM, Sundays to 2 PM, closed Mondays). In this order you reach it late in the day, so plan lunch elsewhere, or ride Leg 4 first if you want to eat there.
- **Pace:** Two-lane farm roads, lakeside towns and a few short stretches of SR-2 and US-6. Rally week means more bikes, more traffic and slow tourist traffic in the lake towns.
- **Fees:** The stops on this ride are free to look around. Cedar Point's parking areas and Cedar Point Shores are ticketed in season.

PRIVATE PROPERTY AT STOP 11

The steel ship in Sandusky Bay sits on a private campground at the end of a gravel lane off E Lockwood Rd. The owners have posted it as private, and it can only be seen properly from the water. Turn around on E Lockwood Rd. Do not ride down the lane.

OHIO BIKE WEEK ROADS

Downtown Sandusky, Milan Rd (US-250) and the Cedar Point Causeway get heavy rally and tourist traffic. Give yourself extra room, watch for bikes pulling out of the rally venues, and expect slow going through Lakeside and Marblehead on summer afternoons.

RIDE NOTES

The GPX file follows the same roads as the route on our map. GPS apps calculate differently, so if your screen disagrees with this guide, the stops are what matter. Ride your own ride.

LEG 1 | Sandusky, Norwalk, Vermilion and Huron (about 70 miles)

1. Start: Downtown Sandusky

Mile 0 | Stop

Sandusky grew up on the south shore of Sandusky Bay starting in 1818 and was incorporated in 1824. The name is generally traced to a Wyandot word for water, or cold water. Before the Civil War it was an Underground Railroad stop: people escaping slavery crossed Lake Erie from here to freedom in Canada.

During Ohio Bike Week, downtown is the heart of the rally, with the Barrel House Saloon and the Jackson Street Pier stage. The pier is also where the ferries leave for Kelleys Island and Put-in-Bay.

The shot: The bikes lined up downtown before you roll, with the bay in the background.

Good to know: Fill up before you leave. Head south on Columbus Ave.

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2. Rockin' Ranch Saloon / Rally Point at the Ranch

Mile 8 | Stop

8315 Milan Rd (US-250). Most of the year it's the Rockin' Ranch Saloon, a bar, grill and event venue. During Ohio Bike Week it becomes **Rally Point at the Ranch**, one of the rally's hubs, with bands, vendors and bikes everywhere.

Rally Point's website also posts suggested rides for the week. They were the starting point for this route, which we stitched together and expanded into one big loop.

The shot: The bikes in the lot with the saloon behind them.

Good to know: Normal hours are Tuesday to Saturday from 11 AM. Rally-week hours can differ.

Milan: Thomas Edison's Birthplace

Mile 13 | Ride-through

US-250 runs right through Milan. Thomas Edison was born here on February 11, 1847, in a small brick house on the hill, and lived here until he was 7. The house is now a museum.

In Edison's time, Milan was a boom town. The Milan Canal opened to lake traffic on July 4, 1839, and for more than 15 years it made this little village one of the busiest grain ports on the Great Lakes. Railroads killed the canal trade in the 1850s, and a flood took out the feeder dam in 1868.

Good to know: The birthplace museum is just off the town square if you want a detour.

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3. Norwalk

Mile 18 | Stop

You're in the heart of the **Firelands**. During the Revolutionary War, British raids burned several Connecticut towns, including Norwalk, Connecticut, in 1779. Connecticut later set aside this corner of its Western Reserve as compensation for the burned-out families. That's why so many towns here carry New England names.

Platt Benedict built the first permanent house in 1817, and Norwalk became the Huron County seat in 1818. It's nicknamed "The Maple City." One odd claim to fame: the norovirus was first identified from an outbreak here, and it was originally called the Norwalk virus.

The shot: Rolling footage down Whittlesey Ave and East Main Street's tree-lined blocks.

Good to know: A good fuel and coffee stop. From here it's mostly farm country until Vermilion.

Berlinville and Henrietta: Firelands Farm Country

Mile 25 | Ride-through

SR-61 joins SR-113, the **Edison Highway**, at the Berlinville crossroads, and you ride east for about a dozen miles of flat-to-rolling farmland and tree-lined road. Berlin Township was first named Eldredge Township, after a land speculator. When the settlers who bought farms from him soured on him, they changed the name.

At Henrietta you turn north. Henrietta Township has no town of its own, and it's the only Henrietta Township in Ohio.

Good to know: Farm equipment and gravel at field entrances. Keep your eyes up.

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4. Vermilion River Reservation: Mill Hollow

Mile 40 | Stop

Lorain County Metro Parks, 51211 N Ridge Rd. Mill Hollow opened in 1960 as the **first Lorain County Metro Park**. The Vermilion River has carved shale cliffs here that are millions of years old, and with no industry along its banks, the river is still full of wildlife and steelhead.

Benjamin Bacon settled here in 1817 and became one of Lorain County's first commissioners. In 1845 he built the house that's now the **Benjamin Bacon Museum**, with money from his share of a saw and grist mill on the river. Frederick Bacon bought the mills in 1879. They were sold and dismantled in 1901.

The shot: The shale cliffs along the river and the 1845 Bacon house.

Good to know: The park is open 8 AM to sunset. The museum keeps limited hours; call (440) 967-7310 to check.

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5. Paper Moon Vineyards

Mile 45 | Stop

2008 State Rd, Vermilion. A 50-acre estate with a Tuscan-inspired tasting room, a covered patio with tables made from oak barrels, and wines that include reds grown on the estate's own vines.

It's the latest chapter for the Cawrse family, who ran Eastside Dairy and later the Clovervale Foods company in Lorain County for decades before opening the winery.

The shot: The bikes in front of the Tuscan-style building.

Good to know: Check their hours before you go. (440) 967-2500, papermoonvineyards.com.

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6. Main Street Beach, Vermilion

Mile 46 | Stop

479 Main St. Vermilion was incorporated in 1837, and its harbor district was once called the "Village of Lake Captains" for all the captains who built homes here.

The lighthouse on the beach is a replica with a real story. Congress built Vermilion's first light in 1847. The 1877 iron tower that replaced it was cast in Buffalo from recycled Civil War-era cannons. It started to lean, so it was removed in 1929, shipped back east, and reinstalled in 1935 as the East Charity Shoal Light on the St. Lawrence. Local fundraising built this 34-foot replica in 1991, and it was dedicated in 1992.

The shot: The bike parked with the lighthouse and the lake behind it.

Good to know: Public restrooms at the beach.

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7. Huron Harbor Lighthouse

Mile 59 | Stop

Ride north on Main Street in Huron to the waterfront. The first light here went up in 1835 on the west pier. It was wooden, and a storm destroyed it in 1854. Today's steel tower, in Art Deco style, was put in service on April 8, 1936. It was automated in 1972 and still flashes red over the harbor entrance.

The shot: The tower from the end of the pier.

Good to know: The tower is closed, and the Army Corps of Engineers has closed the seawall path out to it since 2021. You get a good view from the end of the pier. Head west on US-6 (Cleveland Rd W) when you leave.

Back Through Sandusky

Mile 70 | Ride-through

US-6 carries you west past Jordan's Country Diner and Castaway Bay (you'll see both again on Leg 4), then back into downtown Sandusky to start Leg 2.

LEG 2 | The Lake Erie Shore (about 35 miles)

Crossing Sandusky Bay: the Edison Bridge

Ride-through

SR-2 takes you across Sandusky Bay on the Thomas A. Edison Memorial Bridge, about 2,050 feet long, finished in 1965 and named for the Milan native you passed this morning. It replaced the Bay Bridge, a 1929 lift bridge.

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8. Bay Point Resort & Marina

Mile 87 | Stop

E Bayshore Rd follows the bay shore out to Bay Point, at the very tip of the Marblehead Peninsula. Look across the mouth of the bay: Cedar Point is right there. The marina was dug out in the 1980s, and the resort has a seasonal campground.

Out in the bay is **Johnson's Island**, where the Union held Confederate officers as prisoners of war during the Civil War.

The shot: Cedar Point's coasters across the water.

Good to know: It's a private resort and marina, so treat it as a quick look-around stop.

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9. Marblehead Lighthouse State Park

Mile 89 | Stop

Finished in 1821 and first lit in 1822, Marblehead is the **oldest lighthouse in continuous operation on the American side of the Great Lakes**. The tower is 50 feet of native limestone. Its first keeper was Benajah Wolcott, a Revolutionary War veteran. When he died in 1832, his wife, Rachel, took over the light.

Ohio's Department of Natural Resources has owned the grounds since 1998, and the Coast Guard still runs the beacon. The peninsula itself is limestone country: Marblehead stone went into the Stannard Rock Light on Lake Superior in the 1870s.

The shot: The white tower with the rocky shoreline and the lake behind it.

Good to know: Tower tours run in summer, and the old keeper's house is a small museum when tours are open.

SR-163: Lakeside and East Harbor

Ride-through

From Marblehead, SR-163 runs west along the lake through Lakeside, home of the Lakeside Chautauqua, and past East Harbor State Park on the way to Port Clinton.

Good to know: Slow, busy lake-town traffic in summer.

10. Port Clinton

Mile 101 | Stop

Founded in 1828 at the mouth of the Portage River and named for DeWitt Clinton, the New York governor behind the Erie Canal. Port Clinton calls itself the **Walleye Capital of the World** and drops a giant walleye downtown every New Year's Eve. The Jet Express to Put-in-Bay leaves from here, and Camp Perry, home of the National Matches for marksmanship, is just up the shore.

Good to know: Top off your tank here. From Perry St, head south on Fulton St to E Lockwood Rd.

11. E Lockwood Rd: The Steel Ship in Sandusky Bay

Mile 104 | Stop

A steel ship sits in the marsh along the south shore of Sandusky Bay, a few miles from Port Clinton. It shows up on maps as a landmark, but it sits on a private campground at the end of a gravel lane. We couldn't verify the ship's history, so if you know it, tell us in the comments.

Good to know: PRIVATE PROPERTY. Don't ride down the lane. Turn around on E Lockwood Rd. The ship can only really be seen from the water.

LEGS 3 AND 4 | Cedar Point and Huron (about 38 miles)

Back Across the Bay

Ride-through

E Lockwood Rd, Plasterbed Rd and State Rd lead back to SR-2 east, across the Edison Bridge a second time, and into Sandusky on US-6. Then take the Causeway (Cedar Point Dr) out onto the peninsula.

12. Cedar Point Peninsula: Hotel Breakers and Cedar Point Shores

Mile 125 | Stop

Cedar Point is America's second-oldest amusement park. At the end of the Causeway stands **Hotel Breakers**, which opened on June 12, 1905, with 600 rooms, most of them facing Lake Erie. General manager George Boeckling modeled it after French chateaux he'd seen in his travels, and in the 1910s and 1920s Metropolitan Opera singers gave impromptu performances from the rotunda balconies.

Next door is **Cedar Point Shores** waterpark. Its Breakwater Bay wave pool opened in 1997 and got its current name in 2017.

The shot: The bikes with the coasters behind you.

Good to know: Expect park traffic and paid parking areas in season. Cedar Point Shores requires a ticket.

Castaway Bay

Mile 130 | Ride-through

At the foot of the Causeway on US-6. This indoor waterpark resort opened on November 5, 2004, in the building that was the Radisson Harbour Inn, which opened in 1989.

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13. Jordan's Country Diner, Huron

Mile 134 | Stop

3119 Cleveland Rd W, Huron. A family-style country diner with farm decor and big portions. It's the kind of place locals send you to.

The shot: A plate of home fries.

Good to know: Open 7 AM to 1:30 PM (Sundays to 2 PM), closed Mondays. You'll be here late in the day on this route, so it's a ride-by unless you ride Leg 4 in the morning.

Finish: Cedar Point Rd Back to the Peninsula

Mile 142 | Stop

Cedar Point Rd, known locally as the Chaussee, runs about five miles up the narrow peninsula with the bay on one side and the lake just beyond the trees on the other. It's the back way into Cedar Point, and the ride ends where it began this leg, on the peninsula.

The shot: Rolling footage on the Chaussee with the coasters rising ahead of you.

Good to know: In season, expect park traffic and parking booths at the Cedar Point end.

Turn-by-Turn

LEG 1

1. From downtown Sandusky (E Market St), ride **south on Columbus Ave** about 4 miles.
2. Turn **left on E Bogart Rd**, then **right (south) on Milan Rd (US-250)**.
3. **Stop 2:** Rockin' Ranch Saloon / Rally Point, 8315 Milan Rd.
4. Continue **south on US-250** through Milan.
5. In Milan, turn **right on Shaw Mill Rd**, which becomes **Whittlesey Ave** into Norwalk.
6. **Stop 3:** Norwalk. Turn **left (east) on E Main St (SR-61)**.
7. Follow **SR-61** northeast to Berlinville, then continue **east on SR-113 (Edison Hwy, then Telegraph Rd)** about 11 miles.
8. At Henrietta, turn **left (north) on Vermilion Rd**, which becomes **N Ridge Rd**.
9. **Stop 4:** Mill Hollow, Vermilion River Reservation, 51211 N Ridge Rd.
10. Continue on N Ridge Rd, turn **right on Trinter Rd**, then **right (north) on State Rd (SR-60)**.
11. **Stop 5:** Paper Moon Vineyards, 2008 State Rd.
12. Continue **north on SR-60** into Vermilion. Turn **right on South St**, then **left on Main St** to the lake.
13. **Stop 6:** Main Street Beach, 479 Main St.
14. Turn **west on Liberty Ave (US-6)**, which becomes **Cleveland Rd E**. Follow US-6 about 10 miles to Huron.
15. In Huron, turn **right on Main St** to the waterfront. **Stop 7:** Huron Harbor Lighthouse, viewed from the pier.
16. Back on Main St, turn **right (west) on Cleveland Rd W (US-6)** toward Sandusky.
17. At the Cedar Point Causeway roundabout, follow **Cedar Point Dr** briefly, then turn **left on 1st St**, which leads via **Monroe St** back downtown.

LEG 2

18. From downtown, go **west on W Washington St**, which becomes **Tiffin Ave (US-6)**. Stay on US-6 (Venice Rd, then Fremont Ave) and take **SR-2 west**.
19. Cross Sandusky Bay on SR-2. Exit at **SR-269 (Danbury)**, go straight through the roundabout on **S Danbury Rd**, and pick up **E Bayshore Rd** heading east along the bay.
20. Follow **E Bayshore Rd (becomes SR-163)** east. **Stop 8:** Bay Point Resort & Marina.
21. Continue on **SR-163 (E Main St)** into Marblehead and turn **right on Lighthouse Rd**. **Stop 9:** Marblehead Lighthouse State Park.
22. Ride **west on SR-163** (Main St, E Harbor Rd, E Perry St) through Lakeside and past East Harbor State Park, about 12 miles to Port Clinton.
23. **Stop 10:** Port Clinton. Turn **left (south) on Fulton St**, which becomes **S Fulton St**, then **left (east) on E Lockwood Rd**.
24. **Stop 11:** E Lockwood Rd at the lane to the steel ship. **Private property: do not ride down the lane.**

LEGS 3 AND 4

25. Continue on **E Lockwood Rd**, turn **left (north) on S Plasterbed Rd**, then **right on E State Rd** through the roundabouts to **SR-2 east**.
26. Cross Sandusky Bay on SR-2. Exit to **US-6 (Fremont Ave)**, turn **right on Venice Rd (US-6)**, then **right on W Monroe St**, which becomes **1st St**.
27. Turn **left on Cedar Point Dr** and ride the Causeway onto the peninsula to **Perimeter Rd**. **Stop 12:** Cedar Point peninsula.
28. Ride back down the Causeway. At the roundabout (Castaway Bay), go **east on Cleveland Rd W (US-6)** about 4 miles.
29. **Stop 13:** Jordan's Country Diner, 3119 Cleveland Rd W, Huron.
30. Head back **west on Cleveland Rd W** under a mile and turn **right on Cedar Point Rd** (the Chaussee). Follow it about 5.5 miles up the peninsula to **Perimeter Rd**. **Ride ends.**

Scan for the route map and GPX file.
The GPX works with Kurviger, Garmin and other GPS apps, and it follows the same roads as this guide.

graybeardbiker.com/rides

Hours and access are current as of October 2026 and can change, especially during the rally. Riders are responsible for their own fuel, food, fees and riding decisions.

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