



come CLOSER

to Scuba Diving!



Dive the Great Lakes Seaway Trail and you'll enjoy some of the Northeast's finest freshwater diving sites, with a full complement of wreck, shoal, drift, deep, and historical diving. For over three centuries Lakes Erie and Ontario and the Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers have been major shipping thoroughfares. Today, the waters along the Seaway Trail are the final resting place of hundreds of ships, dating back to the late 1700's.



Among the many excellent dive sites along the Great Lakes Seaway Trail, four model scuba diving sites have been established. Each is accessible from some point along the Great Lakes Seaway Trail. A Great Lakes Seaway Trail Storyteller Sign is located on shore near each site.

NOT-TO-BE-MISSED!

Wreck of the St. Peter – Pultneyville

One of Lake Ontario's most impressive shipwrecks, the St. Peter is located east of Putneyville, NY. This 135-foot, three mast schooner rests upright and intact in 117 feet of water.

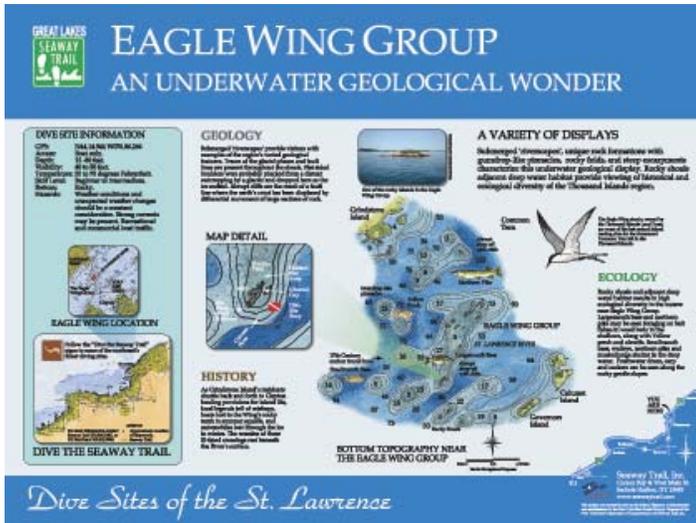
In the early daylight hours of October 27, 1898, the St. Peter succumbed to a violent, early winter blizzard. Bound for Toledo, OH, she had left Oswego, NY the previous morning carrying a full load of coal. On the evening of the 26th, the schooner was approaching the safety of the Welland Canal when the storm struck her with 70-mile per hour winds. Unable to reach the canal, the captain ordered the St. Peter to turn back east and run before the wind. The captain, his wife, and the St. Peter's crew desperately fought for their lives during 12 long hours of darkness, 20-foot high seas, gale-force winds, and freezing sleet. Their battle was in vain. Only the captain survived the ordeal, rescued by a boat from the local Lifesaving Service.

The St. Peter was rediscovered in 1971. An archaeological expedition retrieved many artifacts, most of which can be seen at the Wayne County Historical Society in Lyons, NY. The nearby Sodus Bay Lighthouse Marine Museum has wonderful interpretive displays about the region's maritime history. Also, a splendid booklet about the St. Peter, "It Was a Dark and Stormy Night," by Richard J. Kilday, III, is available through the Rochester Museum and Science Center. The booklet tells the story of the calamity in vivid detail, using newspaper and first-person accounts. The archaeology team's work is also summarized.

Wreck of the Islander - Alexandria Bay

This sidewheel steamer, originally named the James H. Kelley, was built in Rochester, NY in 1871 by D. W. Springstead. She was renamed the John Thorn in 1879, and renamed again to Islander in 1887 when she became the property of the Thousand Islands Steamboat Company. The vessel measured 125 ft. x 20 ft. x 7 ft. and weighed 118 gross tons. The Islander served as a mail carrier and gave river tours. The ship burned on Sept. 16, 1909 at her dock at Alexandria Bay. The wreck of the Islander is located just offshore, east of the hospital, at the foot Market Street in downtown Alexandria Bay.

The wreck of the Islander is located at the foot of Market Street in Alexandria Bay. The Village has provided a parking area, gazebo, and ramp to the water to provide a comfortable diving experience. A local dive shop has a satellite shop across the street complete with an air compressor.



The Eagle Wing Group Clayton

The Eagle Wings dive site provides all divers with the opportunity to explore geological, historical and ecological diversity of the Thousand Islands region. Unique rock formations grow from gumdrop-like pinnacles and tower over the rocky folds complementing the lunar backdrop. Steep escarpments on both the southern and northern perimeter serve as travel hubs for deep water life as well as fish residing in the meadow-like shallows.

Rocky shoals and adjacent deep water habitat are the foundation for the ecological diversity found amidst the Eagle Wing Group. Shallow water predators such as the largemouth bass and northern pike may be seen foraging on bait fishes around the islands. Extensive weed beds of milfoil and other aquatic plants provide optimum cover for such wildlife. Due to the region's extreme depths, deep water fish such as smallmouth bass, walleye, northern pike and muskellunge are frequent visitors to the site.

Divers can also enjoy the picturesque clustering of Yellow perch and alewife. Approachable freshwater drum, carp and suckers fall under the benthic variety and are often observed amidst the rocky gentle slopes.

Submerged 'riverscapes' provide visitors with textbook examples of the region's varied geological features. Traces of the glacial phases and fault lines marbling the vicinity are apparent throughout the Wings. For example, the large planar boulders are perhaps the remnants of a debris field left behind as a glacier receded. An abrupt escarpment on the Eagle Wing's southern perimeter is very likely a fault line illustrating the effects of intermittent seismic activity.

From the earliest settlements on Grindstone Island's shores, the Wings have found themselves silent observers of the island community. Throughout the year Grindstone residents shuttle back and forth to Clayton hauling provisions for island life. Local legends tell of boats lost to the Wings' granite teeth in summer squalls, and automobiles lost through the ice in winter. Discover for yourself what remains of these ill-fated crossings resting beneath the River's surface.

This small grouping of islands provides rare sanctuary for the New York State threatened species, the common tern. In fact, the Eagle Wing shoals, owned by the Thousand Islands Land Trust, are some of the last natural island nesting sites left in the Thousand Islands. The terns, which look like small, sleek gulls that dive into the water to feed, are extremely sensitive to human disturbance. Please help protect this rare nesting population by keeping all surface activities a minimum of 100 yards from shore. Please use the mooring buoy provided at the site, and never beach or anchor close to the shoals themselves.

SeawayTrail.com/scuba-diving

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