Kelleys Island Trail

The Kelleys Island State Park and Nature Preserve is located on the south shore of Lake Erie. It offers visitors a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, fishing, and wildlife watching. The park is accessible via a ferry from Put-in-Bay, Ohio. The park is known for its sandy beaches and glacial grooves. The park is also home to various native American tribes.

South Bass Island Trail

South Bass Island is the largest of the three Bass Islands and is known for its Victorian-style homes and a rich history of grape growing. The island is accessible via a ferry from Port Clinton, Ohio. The island offers visitors a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, biking, and kayaking. The island is also home to the International Peace Memorial, dedicated to the memory of Lake Erie shipping disasters.

Middle Bass Island Trail

Middle Bass Island is located in the center of Lake Erie and is known for its cliffs, woodlands, and endangered plants and animals. The island is accessible via a ferry from Catawba Island, Ohio. The island offers visitors a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, birding, and kayaking. The island is also home to the Massie Cliffside Park, which is a 1.5-acre park with a panoramic view of the lake.

North Bass Island Trail

North Bass Island is located on the north shore of Lake Erie and is known for its natural coastal wetlands and undeveloped shoreline. The island is accessible via a ferry from Port Clinton, Ohio. The island offers visitors a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, birding, and kayaking. The island is also home to the Fox's Marsh Wildlife Area, which is one of few wetland areas for wildlife along the lake.

Additional Information

Lake Erie is the shallowest of the Great Lakes, with only 191 feet at its deepest point near Tobermory, Ontario. The lake is home to a variety of fish species, including walleye, yellow perch, and lake trout. The lake is also home to a variety of birds, including seagulls, eagles, and ospreys.

The Lake Erie Islands Trail guide and signage for the Lake Erie Islands Water Trails project is funded by a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Management. The guide is designed to provide visitors with information about the islands and their natural and historical features. The guide is available in both print and digital formats.
**Paddling the Islands**

Lake Erie Islands are a haven for paddlers, offering a unique blend of nature and adventure. Whether you're a seasoned kayaker or a beginner, these islands provide a memorable experience. Here's how to enjoy it:

- **Plan ahead**: Research the islands and find the best spots for your skill level. Check weather and water conditions before heading out.
- **Safety gear**: Always wear a life jacket. A paddle float, spray skirt, and a visual distress signal are also recommended.
- **Local knowledge**: Paddlers are often knowledgeable about the best spots and hidden treasures. Ask for advice.
- **Respect nature**: Leave no trace. Enjoy the experience and keep the islands for all to enjoy.

**Staying Safe**

**SAFETY & RESPONSIBILITY**

- **Respect the environment**: Avoid disturbing wildlife, and follow all guidelines provided by the state parks.
- **Observe signs**: Signs can be your best guide to safe and enjoyable paddling.
- **Stay within limits**: Do not try activities beyond your ability.

**Protecting the Lake**

- **Prevent invasions**: Stay aware of invasive species and take precautions to avoid introducing them to new areas.
- **Clean boating**: Remove all non-native aquatic species before leaving the water.
- **Report observations**: Share your observations with the appropriate authorities to help in monitoring invasions.

**Around the Islands**

- **Fox's Marsh Wildlife Area**: A rich and diverse ecosystem with a variety of bird species.
- **Gibraltar Island**: Home to the rare monarch butterfly, a highlight for nature lovers.
- **North Bass Island**: Known for its underwater archipelago of islets and rock formations.
- **Middle Bass Island**: A protected area with a significant number of rare plant species.

**Weather**

- **Lake Erie**
  - **Wind**: Strong winds can make paddling challenging. Always check wind forecasts.
  - **Waves**: High waves can make the water unsafe. Be prepared with proper clothing and equipment.

**Mainland Trail**

- **Put-in-Bay Ferry Port**: An accessible point for paddlers to start their journey.
- **East Harbor State Park**: Offers a variety of water activities, including kayaking and canoeing.
- **Kelleys Island**: A popular destination with a rich history and diverse wildlife.

**Marblehead**

- **Lifesaving Station**: A historic site that offers a glimpse into the past of Lake Erie's rescue efforts.
- **Lake Erie Islands National Wildlife Refuge**: Protects and enhances the natural resources of the Lake Erie basin.

**Lake Erie Islands Water Trails**

- **Catawba Island**: A trail with marked points for a challenging paddling experience.
- **Gibraltar Island**: A trail that leads to the island's unique rock formations.
- **North Bass Island**: A trail that runs along the island's coast, offering a view of the Lake Erie shoreline.

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

- **Ohio Department of Natural Resources**: The authority behind the management of these beautiful landscapes.
- **Ohio Department of Natural Resources Website**: Visit the official website for more information and resources.

**Acknowledgments**

- **Thank you** to all the stakeholders who contribute to the preservation and enjoyment of these natural resources.