

# DOSSIN GREAT LAKES MUSEUM

## VISITOR GUIDE



**Dossin Great Lakes Museum**  
**100 Strand Drive**  
**Belle Isle**  
**Detroit, MI 48207**

*A Michigan Recreation  
Passport is required for  
vehicles visiting Belle Isle.*

**DETROIT  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**



**ph: 313.833.1805**  
**[detroithistorical.org](http://detroithistorical.org)**

# WELCOME TO THE DOSSIN GREAT LAKES MUSEUM!

Thank you for being our guest today. Here are a few things to keep in mind as you explore:

## MUSEUM STORE

Find an array of unique merchandise and gifts that celebrate Detroit's maritime heritage and remind you of today's visit. Located in Polk Family Hall, near the museum entrance.

## ACCESSIBILITY AND ASSISTANCE

Adult-sized wheelchairs are available for use by individuals with limited mobility. (\*Please note that the William Clay Ford Pilot House is not handicap accessible.) For those with visual disabilities, the museum offers many touchable experiences, both digital and physical, throughout our galleries.

Sensory bags are also available at the front desk for guests with sensory needs. If you need assistance or have any questions, please ask a Visitor Experience Associate.

## FIRST AID / AED

First aid assistance is available from the front desk.

## FOOD AND DRINK

You may purchase snacks in the museum store. Please refrain from eating or drinking in the exhibition galleries. Food may be eaten in DeRoy Hall or on the Waterfront Patio, weather permitting.

## RESTROOMS

You will find men's and women's restrooms in the hallway adjacent to the museum store. All bathrooms and water fountains are wheelchair accessible.

## HELP US PRESERVE AND PROTECT OUR COLLECTION OF RARE ARTIFACTS:

- Please refrain from eating or drinking in the exhibition galleries.
- Please look at artifacts, but do not touch (unless otherwise indicated).
- Photography, for personal enjoyment, is permitted.

## HELP US CREATE A QUIET AND SAFE ATMOSPHERE:

- Children should be with an adult at all times — large groups of children should be split up with at least one adult to accompany each group of ten children.
- Please do not smoke in or around the museum.
- Please take your time as you explore the museum; please do not run.
- Silence all audio and mobile devices.
- Weapons of any kind are not permitted in or around the museum.
- We reserve the right to refuse unscheduled self-guided groups larger than 30, based on daily tour capacity. Call ahead at 313.833.1801 to schedule a docent-led tour (additional fees apply).

## WHAT'S NEW?

### OUTDOOR ENHANCEMENTS

Enjoy the new additions to our museum grounds, including enhanced outdoor artifact displays, our beautiful Lost Mariners Memorial, and freshly landscaped riverwalk. Take in views of the river from our observation telescope and relax with plenty of seating near our peaceful river cove. Come back to try out the kayak launch!

Thank you to the many donors who allowed us to complete the first phase of the project in 2020. To learn more about future plans, visit [detroithistorical.org](http://detroithistorical.org).



### RICHARD AND JANE MANOOGIAN SHIP MODEL SHOWCASE

The Detroit Historical Society has a world-class collection of Great Lakes ship models, representing over 300 years of North American freshwater maritime history. The *Richard and Jane Manoogian Ship Model Showcase* is a changing exhibition space, in which the ships on display are rotated annually in order to share this significant collection. Stop in to check out what's new.



DETROIT  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



For more than 100 years, the Detroit Historical Society has encouraged historical scholarship, preservation and education. Today, the Society manages the Dossin Great Lakes Museum

and Detroit Historical Museum while caring for a collection of more than 250,000 historical artifacts.

To learn more about the centennial celebrations we have in store, visit [detroithistorical.org](http://detroithistorical.org).



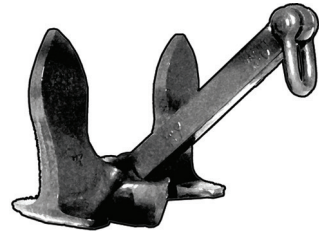
# OUTDOOR TREASURES

## EDMUND FITZGERALD ANCHOR

When a link of its anchor chain separated in 1974, the *Edmund Fitzgerald*, built at the Great Lakes Engineering Works, left her 12,290 pound starboard bow anchor at the Belle Isle Anchorage, 800 feet off Riopelle Street, east of the Renaissance Center.

Discovered by divers on May 20, 1992, the anchor was removed from the water on July 20 of that same year and brought to the Dossin Great Lakes Museum the following day.

It's now displayed in our Lost Mariners Memorial, honoring all lives lost on the inland seas. Sponsored by Karen and Drew Peslar.



## NAVAL CANNONS

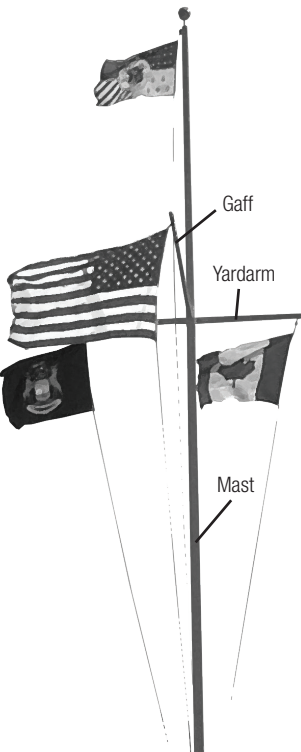
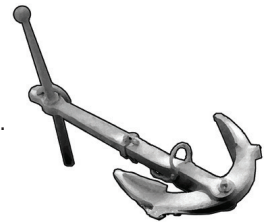
The Battle of Lake Erie in the War of 1812 secured control of the Great Lakes region for the United States. Used during that pivotal battle, these cannons were placed at Detroit's old City Hall in 1874. When the building was demolished in 1961, the cannons were brought to the museum.



## USS YANTIC ANCHOR

Built during the American Civil War, the *USS Yantic* saw service around the world before coming to Detroit as a training ship in 1897.

Donated by Koenig Coal and Supply Co.



## NAUTICAL FLAG TRADITIONS

Nautical flag traditions are different than standard flag protocols. Our flag pole reflects the gaff and yardarm spars carried on old fashioned sailing ships.

With this arrangement, the national flag – called an ensign – is flown from the gaff, which would have been at the stern, or back, of the boat.

Other flags are carried off the yardarms. At the Dossin Museum, the Canadian national flag is flown in honor of our neighbor across the river, and the Michigan flag honors our Great Lakes state.

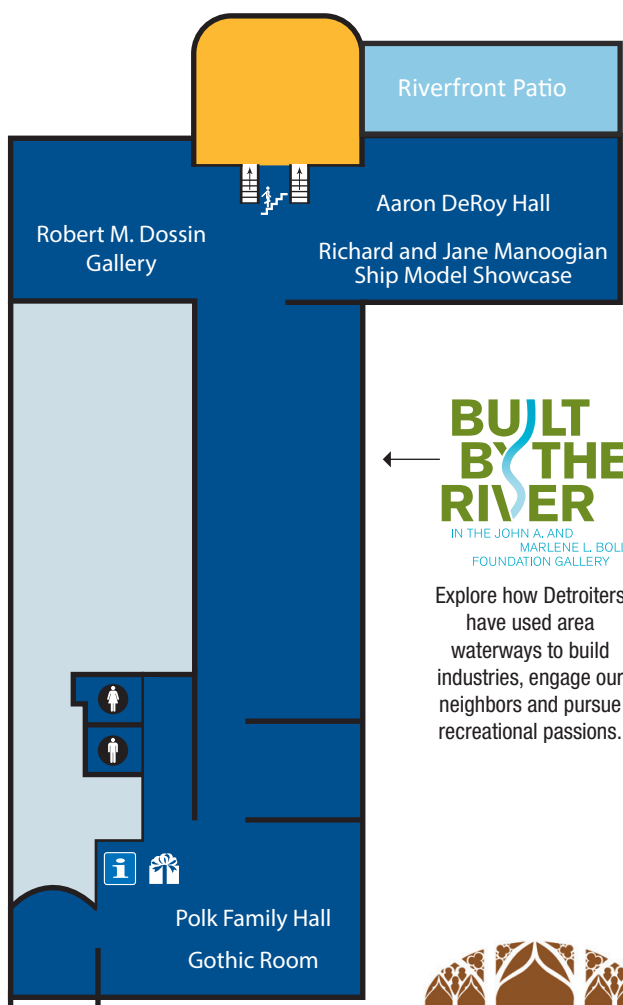
In the days of famous sea battles, the admiral's fleet pennant was hoisted to the top of the main mast, giving us the term "flag ship." Today, the top hoist often flies company or yacht club flags, called burgees. Our mast has the city flag, honoring our position as the city of Detroit's maritime museum.

Flagpole and Observation Area sponsored by the DaVille Foundation.

# MUSEUM MAP



Walk in the captain's footsteps on the bridge of a Great Lakes freighter.



Riverfront Patio

Robert M. Dossin Gallery

Aaron DeRoy Hall  
Richard and Jane Manoogian Ship Model Showcase

**OUTDOOR TREASURES**

**BUILT BY THE RIVER**  
IN THE JOHN A. AND MARLENE L. BOLL FOUNDATION GALLERY

Explore how Detroiters have used area waterways to build industries, engage our neighbors and pursue recreational passions.



Visit the first hydroplane racing boat to ever top 100 mph.

Miss Pepsi Pavilion



Polk Family Hall  
Gothic Room

Entrance



**THE GOTHIC ROOM**

British Cannon Salvaged from Detroit River

Step back in time amid the luxury of the *City of Detroit III*, a Great Lakes cruise ship.



## BRING YOUR GROUP FOR A HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE

The Detroit Historical Society provides engaging museum tours and workshops for adults and children alike. We also offer options for virtual experiences!

Call 313.833.1801 or visit [detroithistorical.org](http://detroithistorical.org) to book your tour.

## MEMBERSHIP HAS VALUE

Did you know that Detroit Historical Society members receive FREE admission to the Detroit Historical Museum and Dossin Great Lakes Museum as well as discounts on tickets to tours, programs and special events? Our membership program also includes reciprocal benefits in a network of over 200 other historical attractions through the Time Travelers program.

Interested in becoming a member? Speak with a Visitor Experience Associate today!



## VISIT THE DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Visit us in Midtown! The Detroit Historical Museum is the only museum dedicated to chronicling Detroit's unique history, located in Detroit's Cultural Center on Woodward Avenue.

Find more information and buy museum tickets at [detroithistorical.org](http://detroithistorical.org).



## VOLUNTEERING

We are always looking for dedicated volunteers to assist with tours, special events, historical research, office work and programs. If you are flexible, energetic and enthusiastic about Detroit's history, then we just might be the place for you!

Contact [volunteer@detroithistorical.org](mailto:volunteer@detroithistorical.org) or visit [detroithistorical.org](http://detroithistorical.org) for more information.

## CHECK OUT OUR WEBCAM

Visit our website to watch the river! Go to [detroithistorical.org/webcam](http://detroithistorical.org/webcam) to see passing lake and ocean freighters, motorboats, and sailboats from our cameras mounted on the roof of the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. Our Classic Webcam is presented by Strategic Staffing Solutions and allows you to control the view yourself. Or watch a live RiverCam, courtesy of Boatnerd, that streams 24 hours a day on YouTube.



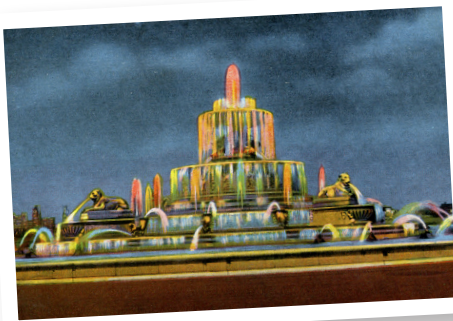
## SHOP THE MUSEUM STORE

Take home a piece of history! Offering unique Detroit maritime merchandise you can only find here.

Shop online at [detroitmuseumstore.com](http://detroitmuseumstore.com)



Scan to shop!



## HISTORIC IMAGES AVAILABLE!

Out of 250,000 objects in our collection, more than 50,000 are now available for viewing 24/7 in our digital collection! Browse fascinating photographs, maps, postcards, advertisements and other artifacts at [detroithistorical.pastperfectonline.com/search](http://detroithistorical.pastperfectonline.com/search).

To help offset the cost of ongoing digitization, we offer digital files of images in the online collection for purchase. Simply click on the “Request Image” button in the lower-left corner of an enlarged image on the Past Perfect Online site to get started.



## THANK YOU FOR VISITING!

Looking for more history? Visit [detroithistorical.org](http://detroithistorical.org) for:

- Digital collection
- Collections blog
- Events and programs
- And more!
- Oral history collection
- Detroit history video archive
- Virtual exhibits

The Detroit Historical Society is a nonprofit organization. You may support our mission to tell Detroit's stories and why they matter with a gift in any amount.



### WHY IS THE CITY FLAG AT THE TOP?

Nautical flag traditions are different than standard flag protocols. Our flagpole reflects the gaff and yardarm spars carried on old fashioned sailing ships. See page 4 for details!



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