
Memories Made on the Water

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Whether it's a group of buddies looking to land the big one, a family building traditions, or kids getting their first taste of angling excitement, Lake Erie offers the kind of adventure that keeps folks coming back.

As someone who didn't grow up walleye fishing every summer, I had always dreamed of learning how. A few years ago, I turned that dream into a multigenerational road trip with my dad, husband, and teenagers. We packed our gear and headed to Port Clinton for an unforgettable day on the water with Blue Sky Charters and Capt. Peg.

To make the most of our time, I knew we needed a captain who could not only find the fish but also connect with all ages. Booking a private charter was the first step. What we got was more than just a boat and guide; we got an experience that brought our family together in a way I never expected.

Preparation began days before launch, licenses were purchased, layers packed, snacks loaded, and anti-nausea meds distributed just in case. The kids were skeptical at first ("How early do we have to get up?!"), But as we pulled into the marina at 5:30 AM, a quiet excitement settled in.

From the first "Welcome aboard!" to the last cast call, our captain and first mate made every moment count. The kids learned how to bait hooks, cast lines, and feel for bites. There were a few almost-hooks-to-the-face (occupational hazard!), but with patience and humor, the team created an atmosphere of fun and learning.

Now, let's be honest, fishing isn't always fast paced. Some days, the bites are slow. But this crew knew how to stay positive and adapt. The captain had a sixth sense about where the fish were hiding, and before long, we were hauling in beautiful Lake Erie walleye. Our family even turned it into a contest: the biggest fish wins \$15 and a giant scoop of Toft's ice cream.

I held the lead most of the day, until our teen son made "just one more cast" as we were packing up. Of course, that's when the rod bent hard, and the battle was on. He landed the biggest fish of the day, his smile as big as the lake itself.

Back at the dock, the fish were cleaned, bagged, and ready for the cooler. But the real takeaway wasn't what we caught; it was the time spent together.

Watching my kids put down their phones, listening to my dad swap stories, and sharing laughs under the morning sun made the early wake-up and tackle tangle worth it.

To every captain out there, know this: you're not just guiding boats, you're shaping memories that families and fishing visitors will talk about for years.

Keep doing what you do.

You're helping us build the kind of days we'll never forget.

Best,

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