

Ludington's Iconic NORTH BREAKWATER LIGHT



Few things are more impressive than seeing huge waves crash over a lighthouse, and locals flock to the waterfront with every storm—in every season—to watch the show from the shelter of their vehicle. In contrast, calm days present the best opportunity to visit the lighthouse up close by walking the half-mile outer breakwall to the end. The North Breakwater Light pier entrance is accessible from Stearns Park Beach. Thousands visit during the summer and it's the perfect place to watch the carferry sail into or out of port.

Built in 1871, the four-sided, white pyramidal lighthouse tower has four porthole windows on each of the three decks. The unusual shape was designed to deflect the strong waves of Lake Michigan. The Light was automated in 1972, and the Fresnel lens (now on display at the Port of Ludington Maritime Museum) was replaced in 1995 by a Tidelands Signal 300 mm acrylic optic. ⚓



The Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association is responsible for the upkeep and staffing of both the North Breakwater Light and the Big Sable Point Lighthouse within the Ludington State Park. Their goal is to preserve, promote, and educate the public to make the lighthouses accessible to all.

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Photos by Todd and Brad Reed