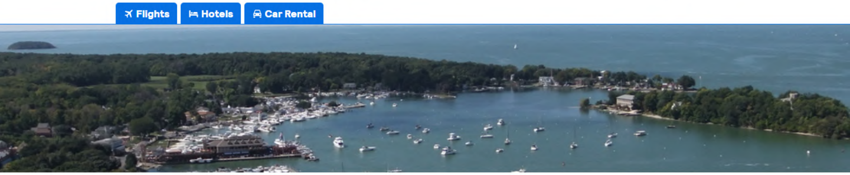


List view
Map view

Dan Morey
Pennsylvania, USA

Writer, traveler, bon vivant.

https://www.skyscanner.com/...

Dan Morey's guides

Print this guide

A Weekend at Put-in-Bay

Families
History
Nightlife

Put-in-Bay, a village on South Bass Island in Lake Erie, has less than 150 permanent residents. In winter, their mail and groceries have to be flown over from mainland Ohio. Come summer, it's a different story. Visitors from all over the Great Lakes pour in on ferries from Port Clinton and Sandusky to fill the island's hotels, cottages, and abundant bars. Tourism is nothing new to Put-in-Bay, which was home to one of the country's largest and most luxurious hotels (the Victory) at the turn of the last century. Today, people come to party, relax, and soak up PIB's fascinating history. This guide covers the best things to see and do on a weekend in the "Key West of Lake Erie."

Dan Morey Skyscanner

Perry's Victory & International Peace Memorial

93 Delaware Ave, Put-In-Bay, OH 43456

This memorial commemorates the Battle of Lake Erie (1813), and honors the men who died there. Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry led the American fleet to victory over the British in the waters off South Bass Island and helped hasten the end of the War of 1812. A long-lasting peace developed between Britain, Canada and the United States, which the monument also honors. At 352 feet it is the tallest Doric column in the world. Views from the top are amazing, but there can be long lines for the elevator on weekends.

See more

ROUND HOUSE BAR
Round House Bar
Put in Bay, Ohio

Dan Morey Skyscanner

Round House Bar

228 Delaware Ave, Put-In-Bay, OH 43456

The Round House is a Put-in-Bay landmark. It opened in 1873 as the Columbia restaurant. Sometime around 1888 it became the Round House. In 2013 an American flag was painted across the front to celebrate the bar's 140th anniversary. A red, white and blue parachute covers the ceiling inside, continuing the patriotic theme. Come here for the buckets of beer and stay for the always entertaining Mike "Mad Dog" Adams, who's been performing at the Round House for nearly 40 years.

See more

SOUTH BASS ISLAND STATE PARK CAMPGROUND

Dan Morey Skyscanner

South Bass Island State Park Campground

1523 Catawba Ave, Put-In-Bay, OH 43456, USA

The campground at South Bass Island State Park is the cheapest way to stay at Put-in-Bay, where rates at hotels and resorts can be quite high. We camp in tents in the non-electric tent-only section, but they do have electric and full hookup sites, as well as cabins available. To get back and forth from the park to town you can rent a golf cart or bicycle, but the walk isn't really too bad. Share cabs are another option. Very nice to stay right on the lake with your own fire pit, public showers, and hiking trails.

See more

The Boathouse Bar and Grill
Put in Bay, Ohio

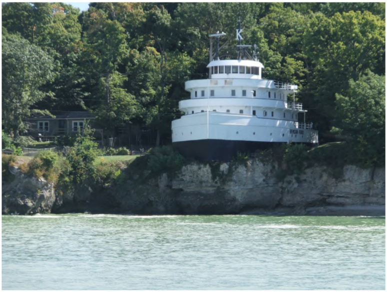
Dan Morey Skyscanner

The Boathouse Bar and Grill

218 Hartford Ave, Put in Bay, OH 43456

Not the cheapest place to eat on the island, but the food is good and the portions are large. Menu features the usual Lake Erie fare (Perch, Walleye) plus burgers, wraps, salads, flatbread pizzas and soups. What I like most are the New Orleans inspired eats like creole oysters, gumbo and the awesome selection of po'boy sandwiches, including my favorite, blackened walleye. Great Lakes meets Louisiana. Used to always come here to see Pat Dailey play, but he took a break in '16 and might not be back. Plenty of other entertainment, though.

See more



Dan Morey Skyscanner

Benson Ford Shiphouse

Ashburn Ave, Put-In-Bay, OH 43456, USA

The Benson Ford Shiphouse is an iconic landmark on the South Bass Island coast. The ship was built in 1924 for the Ford Motor Company and its walnut paneled quarters were designed for Henry Ford's personal use. It spent decades hauling iron ore on the Great Lakes. In 1986 the forward superstructure was removed prior to scrapping and shipped to Put-in-Bay where it was transformed into a private residence. The unique home has been featured on MTV Extreme Cribs, the Travel Channel and elsewhere. You can get a great view of the Benson Ford from the Jet Express ferry.

See more

Dan Morey Skyscanner

Perry's Longboat

93 Delaware Ave, Put-In-Bay, OH 43456, USA

After the British disabled Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's flagship, the USS Lawrence, during the Battle of Lake Erie (1813), he hopped into a longboat with the flag and was rowed to the USS Niagara. From the deck of the Niagara he led the Americans to a stunning victory in a pivotal battle of the War of 1812. A replica of the historic longboat that carried Perry to victory is on display outside the visitor center of the Perry Monument. It's free to view, as is the Battle of Lake Erie museum inside the center.

See more

DEPENDABLE
CHAMPION
SPARK PLUGS
66

Dan Morey Skyscanner

Antique Car Museum

979 Catawba Ave., Put-in-Bay, OH 43456, United States

This museum at the Perry's Cave Family Fun Center is dedicated to the memory of Charles "Skip" Duggan. Skip started the antique car parade that circles the island on Sunday afternoons. You can see old traffic and advertising signs, memorabilia, gas pumps, bicycles, golf carts, scooters, tractors, and a number of rare vintage autos, including a 1930 Willys Whippet Touring Car. The highlight for me is the 1924 Model T snowmobile, made by Ford for the U.S. Postal Service to deliver mail in Minnesota. The museum is free and open 7 days a week in season.

See more

FROSTY PIZZA
FROSTY BAR
OPEN
PIZZA SUBS

Dan Morey Skyscanner

Frosty Bar Incorporated

252 Delaware Ave, Put in Bay, OH 43456

Frosty's is a Put-in-Bay institution. They've been around for 60 years and still serve their draft beers in cold, frosty mugs. The floor is still littered with peanut shells, too. One side of Frosty's is the bar (pool, video games, sports on TV), the other is a pizza shop with subs and salads and a pancake breakfast in the morning. Out back is The Backyard, an outdoor venue with live music, tropical drinks and nachos. Haven't been to PIB until you've hit Frosty's.

See more

Dan Morey Skyscanner

War of 18 Holes Miniature Golf

979 Catawba Ave, Put-In-Bay, OH 43456, United States

This well-maintained miniature golf course has a War of 1812 historical theme. Kids can have fun putting and learning about Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry and the Battle of Lake Erie (which occurred off the coast of Put-in-Bay) at the same time. The Grounds are shady and full of flowers; it's especially nice when the azaleas are in bloom. Adults pay 8 bucks for a round, children ages 6 to 12, $4.50, and kids 5 and under free. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. in season.

See more

BEER BARREL SALOON
TIPPERS
RESTA

Dan Morey Skyscanner

Tippers Seafood & Steak House

324 Delaware Ave, Put in Bay, OH 43456

This fine dining restaurant and lounge is named for Tipper Niese, whose family owns a lot of Put-in-Bay real estate, including the adjacent Beer Barrel Saloon. Tipper's is known for its buffets (seafood, prime rib, breakfast) and for being a good place to escape the younger, college-age crowd. One lady I met in the lounge referred to it as "the local wrinkle bar." As such, the entertainment tends to be a bit more sophisticated than elsewhere in Put-in-Bay. Try to catch pianist Kenny Kidd for a more relaxed (for Kenny anyway) late night set.

See more

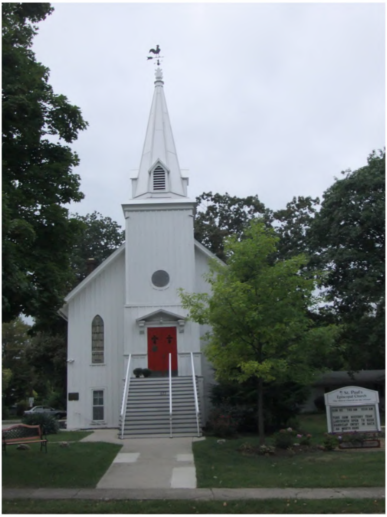
Dan Morey Skyscanner

Beer Barrel Restaurant

324 Delaware Ave, Put in Bay, OH 43456

The Beer Barrel Saloon made the Guinness Book of World Records for its 405 foot, 10 inch long bar. They need it too, because this place can get really crowded when a band is playing. The Barrel has 56 beer taps, 160 stools, and space to seat 1200 people. They have an outside patio bar as well. The food here is basic (pretzels, burgers, hot dogs), but the entertainment is always lively. I like to go in on a hot summer afternoon to cool off and watch pianist Kenny Kidd and his band tear up the stage.

See more



Dan Morey Skyscanner

St Paul's Episcopal Church

623 Catawba Ave, Put-In-Bay, OH 43456, USA

Joseph DeRivera sold the land for this quaint wooden church (the first at Put-in-Bay) to philanthropist Jay Cooke for ten dollars in 1864. Cooke, who helped construct many churches in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio, made a large financial contribution, while the congregation raised funds. Together they built the church in under 6 months, finishing the project in 1865. It's now one of the oldest churches in continuous use in the state of Ohio. Historical tours are offered Tuesday mornings at nine o'clock during the summer.

See more

BayShore Resort
put in bay, ohio

Jaxsin Skyscanner

BayShore Resort

328 Toledo Ave., PO Box 597, Put in Bay, OH 43456

Nice resort with a great view of Lake Erie and the Perry Monument. You can easily walk to downtown bars and attractions, and if you want to head further afield the hotel offers on-site golf cart rentals. There are two pools and a 30 person hot tub. For drinks and lunch, a poolside tiki bar is available, and more substantial eats can be had at the Waterfront Restaurant and Lounge, which also features live entertainment. Suites with kitchenettes, sleeping 6, are available. There is a two-night minimum stay on weekends during the high season.

See more

Dan Morey Skyscanner

Joseph DeRivera Tomb

Crown Hill Cemetery, Put-In-Bay, OH 43456, USA

Joseph DeRivera was a Spanish merchant who operated a successful import business in New York City. In 1854 he purchased a number of Lake Erie islands (South Bass, Middle Bass, Sugar, Gibraltar, Ballast and Starve) for $44,000. He built mills and began to sell parcels of land. The park in downtown Put-in-Bay was sold to the South Bass Board of Education for one dollar, and still bears the name DeRivera Park. Stop buy his tomb in Crown Hill Cemetery to pay your respects to the man who helped make Put-in-Bay what it is today.

See more

Dan Morey Skyscanner

Crown Hill Cemetery

Crown Hill Cemetery, Put-In-Bay, OH 43456, USA

Of the two cemeteries on South Bass Island (Crown Hill and Maple Leaf), Crown Hill is the oldest and contains the tombs of many of the island's earliest settlers, as well as the bodies of unknown sailors who washed up on shore over the decades. It's located close to South Bass Island State Park, so if you're camping there it's definitely worth checking out. History Buffs might even want to take a golf cart from town to have a look. Very peaceful destination.

See more

Dan Morey Skyscanner

East Point

East Point, Put-In-Bay Township, OH 43456, USA

East Point is separated by an isthmus from the larger, more developed part of South Bass Island. It contains a residential area with private houses and rental cottages. There's also 8.8 acres of untouched land owned by the Put-in-Bay Township Park District. This park, known as the Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve, is home to a thriving population of Lake Erie water snakes (non-venomous), as well as thousands of migratory birds. Fishing and kayaking are permitted, and there is a short hiking trail from the parking area.

See more

Stone Beach

Dan Morey Skyscanner

Stone Beach

1523 Catawba Ave, Put-In-Bay, OH 43456, United States

Put-in-Bay doesn't have many public beaches. The biggest and best is Stone Beach, which, as the name indicates, is sans sand. Of course, so are the beaches of Nice. Instead of complaining, just pretend you're on the French Riviera! Stone Beach activities include Jet Ski and boat rentals, fishing, a playground for the kiddies and picnic facilities. It's a bit of a hike to get out here if you're staying in town, so you might want to consider renting a golf cart.

See more

Dan Morey Skyscanner

Hotel Victory Ruins

1523 Catawba Avenue Put-In-Bay, Put in Bay, Ohio, USA

The Hotel Victory (built 1892) on Lake Erie's South Bass Island was one of the largest hotels in the country before it burned to the ground in 1919. The fire started at the top of the hotel, in a cupola, and spread downward. Some unscrupulous opportunists looted the Victory and its guestrooms as it was being evacuated. Today you can still see the old swimming pool and other ruins at South Bass Island State Park. Look for the large stone pedestal where the famous "Winged Victory" statue once stood.

See more

LanceWoodworth flickr

Jet Express

239 Bayview Ave, Put-In-Bay, OH 43456, USA

There are a few advantages to using a Jet Express catamaran ferry instead of the Miller Line to get to and from Put-in-Bay: It's faster, the last trip back to the mainland leaves later (you can party longer), and it docks right in the center of the action at PIB harbor instead of way out at the Lime Kiln Dock. There are some disadvantages as well: it's more expensive, and you can't take your car. If you're staying on PIB and want to do a quick day trip to neighboring Kelleys Island, the Jet Express is great.

See more

Dan Morey Skyscanner

Lime Kiln Dock

2190 Langram Rd, Put-In-Bay, OH 43456, USA

If you want to take a vehicle to Put-in-Bay you'll arrive and depart via the Miller Ferry Line at this dock. Disembarking is usually smooth, as the Miller Line has been doing this since the 1940s. After you're off the boat, drive out Langram Road, past the airport, and into town. If you try to depart the island at peak times (like Sunday morning) be prepared to wait in a long line at the dock for your place on a ferry. Be sure to check out the old stone lime kiln that gives the dock its name.

See more

CHICKEN PATIO
Wine Basted Chicken
HOUSE
The World Famous CHICKEN PATIO
ORDER HERE

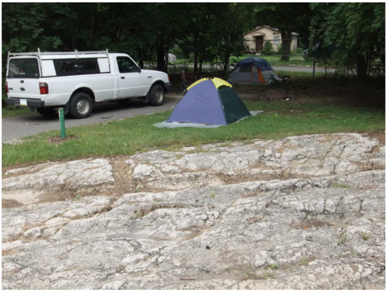
Jad Atoui Skyscanner

The Chicken Patio

60 Delaware Avenue, Put in Bay, OH 43456

The Chicken Patio is a big, open-air charcoal barbecue beside the famous Round House Bar. You can smell the wine-basted chicken grilling (and see the smoke!) for blocks. The Patio has been run by the same family for over 50 years and they make their sauce fresh from scratch every morning. I always enjoy sitting on the patio with a beer and the "Winner Winner Chicken Dinner," which includes fresh shucked corn on the cob, potato salad and a roll. A Put-in-Bay classic.

See more



Dan Morey Skyscanner

South Bass Island State Park

1523 Catawba Ave, Put-In-Bay, OH 43456

Glacial grooves are created when glaciers move across land dragging rocks and debris over softer limestone, gouging pathways in the bedrock. The most famous example of this phenomenon is found on neighboring Kelley Island, but there are some smaller examples in South Bass Island State Park. You can find them in the group camping area. Very cool to see something ground out by a glacier that formed the Great Lakes some 14,000 years ago, and a nice stop on a hike through the park.

See more

Dan Morey Skyscanner

DeRivera Park

Put-in-Bay, Ohio

Joseph DeRivera, the original owner of South Bass Island, sold the land for this 5.4 acre public waterfront park in downtown Put-in-Bay for one dollar in 1866. It contains a gazebo, a cannonball memorial marking where 3 officers from the Battle of Lake Erie were buried, and a stone fountain full of coins that people donate to the local EMS. It's a nice shady place to relax, have a picnic, or exercise dogs. In fact, puppies get a free treat in the dock office.

See more

The Boardwalk

341 Bayview Avenue, Put in Bay, OH 43456

The Boardwalk is a massive multi-story drinking/dining/entertainment complex on a pier (built 1985) at the Put-in-Bay harbor. It's possible to dock your boat here, or just walk in from land. Everybody raves about the lobster bisque, but I'd recommend something from Lake Erie, like yellow perch. Music on the main deck is diverse, from Reggae to Country to Top 40, and is featured every weekend (June to September). For shoppers, there's the Lobster Trap with lots of PIB souvenirs and tourist apparel.

See more

Dan Morey Skyscanner

Mojito Bay Tiki Bar

Catawba Ave, Put in Bay, OH

The only bar in Put-in-Bay, and probably Ohio, with a grass roof. The sand floor, brightly-colored parrot lounge chairs, and swing seats dangling from ropes put Mojito Bay firmly in Jimmy Buffett/tiki bar territory. Mojitos are obviously the specialty here (25 flavors, including cucumber, at last count), but there are plenty of beers to choose from too. Great place to kick back with a Corona or LandShark. They have live music (acoustic guitar usually) pretty much every day of the season.

See more

Dan Morey Skyscanner

Perry's Cave

979 Catawba Avenue, Put-in-Bay, OH 43456

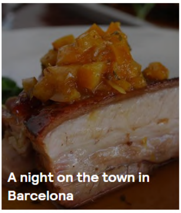
This limestone cave, an Ohio Natural Landmark, was discovered by Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry in 1813. At 208 feet, it isn't a terribly long cave, but there are calcium carbonate stalagmites, stalactites and pearls to see, as well as an underground lake. You sign up for a tour at the gift shop and the enthusiastic guides take small groups down 50 feet and through the cool (50 degree) cave in around 20 minutes. You'll hear stories about the old Victory Hotel, which used to draw drinking water from the subterranean lake.

See more

Last updated at Dec 21, 2017

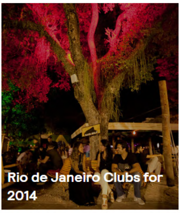
More Family Travelers guides

view all



A night on the town in Barcelona

curated by
Julie Sheridan



Rio de Janeiro Clubs for 2014

curated by
cristiano nogueira

Spring Break Alternatives for the Cool, Cultured, and Adventurous

curated by
Trip Editorial Team

Explore

- Cities +
- Weekend Getaways
- Daily Flight Deals
- Airports
- Countries +
- Airlines
- Flights from the US
- Hotels Deals in Popular Cities
- Car rental
- Plan your trip +
- App

Partners

- Work with us
- Advertise with us
- Travel Insight
- Affiliates
- Travel APIs

Company

- About us
- Why Skyscanner?
- Media
- Our people
- Sustainable
- Brand story
- Company Details
- Jobs
- Travel features & news
- Cookie policy
- Privacy policy
- Terms of service

Help

- Help
- Privacy settings
- Security

International Sites

- Cheap flights
- 中国 - 机票
- Россия - авиабилеты
- Australia - Cheap flights
- India - Flight tickets
- USA - flights
- Brasil - passagens aéreas
- 日本 - 航空券
- Canada - flights
- México - vuelos

© Skyscanner Ltd 2002-2019