Brisk Winds

The Great Lakes consist of five lakes – Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario – and are the world's largest group of freshwater lakes. Due to the large surface area of the lakes and the prevalence of strong storms in the fall and winter that produce large waves, the Great Lakes are some of the best places in the world for lake surfing. Lake surfing differs from ocean surfing in several ways, including the reduced bouyancy of the board in fresh water, rougher water conditions due to the closeness of the storms that produce the waves, shorter frequency between the waves, and the absence of sharks.



Serene Waters

Outdoor recreation is a way of life for the Great Lakes region. With four distinct seasons, many types of activites are available, including snowmobiling, skiing and ice fishing in the winter and fishing, boating, and swimming in the summer. The eight states that border the Great Lakes have almost 4 million registered recreational boats – almost one third of the total registered in the United States.



Waves of Fury

The Great Lakes are sometimes refered to as "inland seas" because of their immense size. In some areas, no land is visible. Storms and reefs are a constant threat. Since the 1800s, between 6,000 and 10,000 ships have sunk or been stranded. During one weekend alone in 1913, 248 sailors lost ther lives when 12 ships sank and 31 more were stranded on rocks and beaches. The storm that wreaked this havoc was dubbed the "Great Lakes Storm of 1913" and became the worst Great Lakes storm on record.







