

## VIEWS AT THE LIGHT



The **DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS)** was founded in 1998 as a nonprofit 501c3 volunteer group to restore and preserve the DeTour Reef Light. The 1931 Light is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and the 2004 major restoration won for DRLPS the 2005 **Governor's Award for Historic Preservation**. The Historical Society of Michigan presented DRLPS with the 2006 **Superior Award**, in recognition of the restoration and preservation that continues to this day.

### Lighthouse Tours

Treat yourself, your family or friends to a memorable visit to the lighthouse. Departing Drummond Island, you will be able to view the island's historic shore line, before mooring at the base of the lighthouse. Once we have secured our charter boat at the mooring, visitors must don a fitted safety harness, before climbing the 20 ft. vertical ladder to the pier deck.



**Additional Tour Information** is available by e-mail:  
tours@drlps.com or phone:  
June - August 906-493-5648  
Other times of the year 616-874-9458

### Lighthouse Keeper Program



Lighthouse enthusiasts will find a rare opportunity to learn about the life of a lighthouse keeper. The DRLPS weekend keeper program offers two nights and three days on the lighthouse. Participants assist in light maintenance and guiding visitors. Accommodations are available for as many as six residents. A keeper application can be obtained from:

KEEPERS@DRLPS.com  
or call  
906-493-6609

# See the Light



## Tour the Historic Offshore DeTour Reef Light

Located in northern Lake Huron, this active aid to navigation is one mile offshore at the far eastern end of Michigan's Upper Peninsula between DeTour Village and Drummond Island. The narrated tours are limited to six persons per tour, assuring a detailed and personalized inspection of this fascinating lighthouse. View freighters and spectacular scenery as you walk in the footsteps of the past keepers of the Light on DeTour Reef.

**DeTour Reef Light  
Preservation Society**  
PO Box 307  
Drummond Island  
MI 49726  
**www.DRLPS.com**  
**tours@DRLPS.com**



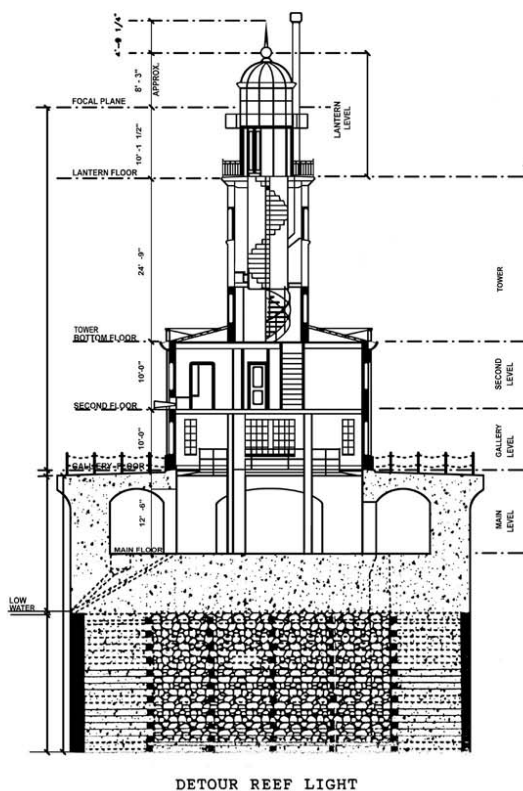
Completed and manned since 1931, the DeTour Reef Light was built to replace the aging light on DeTour Point. The light no longer uses the original Fresnel lens. The United States Coast Guard completed an extensive automation in 1974, and DRL is an active aid to navigation, guarding the entrance to the St. Mary's River and access to the locks at Sault Ste. Marie. Since being commissioned DRL has seen no groundings in the DeTour Passage, a tribute to those who designed, built and staffed her.



The basement of the lighthouse formerly housed the machinery used to purify water, generate electricity and provide compressed air. The machinery was removed when the light was automated. DRLPS has ongoing plans to use this area for exhibits, depicting the original machines. Pictured above is a scale model of the "crib". The crib was built to contain the stone and concrete that was to form the foundation of the lighthouse. This foundation rises to about 40 ft. above the reef, where the water now stands at a depth of about 24 ft.



Visitors to the lighthouse enjoy the view from the watch room deck, after climbing the 32 cast iron spiral stairs, leading from the tower room. The iron stairway was recovered from the 1861 DeTour Point Light. DRLPS is pleased to offer access to this part of the lighthouse...something not always offered elsewhere in the Great Lakes. The watch room retains the original oak paneling and ventilation shuttles of the fueled lantern. A short ladder leads from the watch room to the modern lantern, which replaces the old Fresnel lens of 1908. The Fresnel lens is on display in the DeTour Passage Historical Museum, located at the ferry docks on the DeTour side of the river.



U.S. Coast Guard 1930 drawing of the DeTour Reef Lighthouse



## Tour Reservations

Tours are scheduled on Saturdays for 8:00, 10:00, Noon and 2:00. The same times are available for a limited number of Sunday tours. Dates are available mid-June through August. Visitors to the lighthouse must be able to climb and descend the 20ft. vertical ladder to the pier deck of the lighthouse. For safety reasons, you must be at least 50" tall and weigh less than 300lbs. 50% of tour costs are tax deductible as allowed by law.

### Reservation Procedure:

1. Go to [www.DRLPS.com](http://www.DRLPS.com) to review dates, times, cost and the reservation form.
2. E-mail [tours@drpls.com](mailto:tours@drpls.com) or phone 906-493-5648 June through August 616-874-9458 at other times of the year. Phone contact is preferred, to assure best service.
3. Select your date and time, complete the reservation form and mail it with your payment to:  
DRLPS Lighthouse Tours  
P.O. Box 307  
Drummond Island, MI 49726
4. Keep a copy of the reservation form.
5. Reservations will be held for 14 days pending payment.

## MEMBERSHIPS: \$30 BASIC FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Send check or credit card charge to:

**DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society**  
P.O. Box 307, Drummond Island, MI 49726

[membership@drpls.com](mailto:membership@drpls.com)

[www.DRLPS.com](http://www.DRLPS.com)

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