

OUR MARITIME HERITAGE

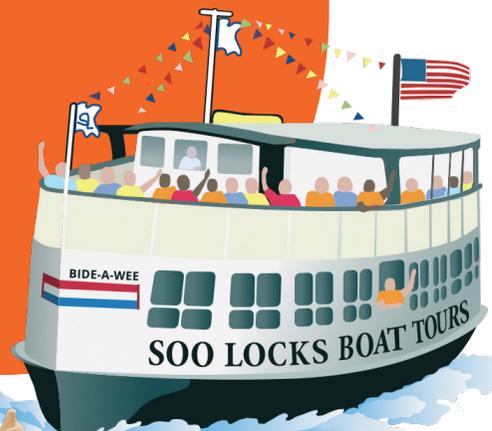
In 1934, Captain Milo Beechgood Welch turned a bold vision into reality by launching the first Soo Locks sightseeing boat tours in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. A seasoned tugboat captain with a passion for the Great Lakes, Captain Welch believed that everyone deserved the chance to experience the marvel of the world's largest locking system: from the water itself.

Against all odds, and with unwavering determination, Milo and his wife sold their home to purchase the first tour vessel, the Bide-A-Wee. From humble beginnings, the company grew steadily, navigating wartime shut-downs, expanding its fleet, and forging partnerships that shaped the region's tourism industry.

Over the decades, the Welch family continued the tradition, introducing larger vessels like the steel-hulled Bide-A-Wee III, Holiday, and Hiawatha, each carrying thousands of guests through the historic Soo Locks. Today, the Original Soo Locks Boat Tours remains a proud legacy, offering unforgettable Great Lakes Maritime Adventures to travelers from around the world.

In 2022, the company entered a new chapter under the ownership of Interlake Maritime Services, ensuring the continuation of its mission while embracing innovation and growth for future generations.

For 90 years and counting, we've been committed to sharing the exciting historical wonders of the Soo Locks with every passenger who steps aboard.



GET IN TOUCH WITH US.



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AN INTERLAKE MARITIME SERVICES COMPANY

Start Your U.P Adventure in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan with the Original Soo Locks Boat Tours.

The Soo Locks are a hidden gem, rich in history and an engineering marvel. Conveniently located 58 minutes from the Mighty Mackinac Bridge, with numerous local attractions nearby. Enjoy a fully narrated 2-hour tour, locking up and down 21-feet in the US and Canadian Locks. Take in exciting up-close views, freighters, and awe-inspiring landmarks.



OPEN THE GATES TO AN AMAZING MARITIME ADVENTURE



TOURS

Classic Tours

Dinner Cruises

Rock Around the Locks

Boat Nerd Themed Cruise

**July 1st and July 4th
Fireworks Cruise**

SCAN QR CODE
FOR OUR SCHEDULE
OR GIVE US A CALL



EVENTS

Little Sailors Day

Saturday Theme Cruises

OUR FACILITY

Free Dog Kennels

Picnic Area

Handicap Accessible

Harvest Host Camping

Climate Controlled Boats

All Boats Have Snack Bars and Restrooms

Discounts for Military and First Responders

Free Ample Parking for All Vehicles

- PRIVATE CHARTERS AVAILABLE
- GROUP TOURS
- SCHOOL GROUP CALL FOR MORE DETAILS



LITTLE SHIP. LOTS OF FUN.