

Plan Your Event in Erie, PA Today!



**Erie Sports Commission**

A DIVISION OF VISITERIE

208 East Bayfront Parkway, Suite 201

Erie, PA 16507

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ErieSportsCommission.com



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**ERIE GETS SPORTS!**

**The Erie Sports Commission** is committed to promoting the Erie region as a prime destination for sports and recreation. The major goals of the ESC are to attract, create, support and host sporting and recreational events that have a positive economic impact on the region, and assist in maximizing the potential of all regional sports facilities and venues.



With state-of-the-art facilities, varied cultural and entertainment opportunities, and easy access by land or air, **Erie, PA** is the perfect destination for your sports event!

**BEN HUGGLER,**  
EVENT SERVICES DIRECTOR

**CHRIS ROSATO JR.,**  
EVENTS AND MARKETING MANAGER

## YOUR NEXT GREAT SPORTING EVENT IS ON OUR GREAT LAKE!

The mission of the Erie Sports Commission is simple: to bring your event to Erie, Pennsylvania and help make it great. We work year-round to drive tourism to Erie through sporting events, and have a number of programs in place to help you host your event in Erie, including grant money, site visits, and promotional support. Consider our city location on the shores of beautiful Lake Erie, along with our stellar sports venues, easy access, and partnership with an award-winning sports commission, and you'll see what operators of many types of sporting events know to be true:

*Erie is the perfect destination for your event.*

Mark Jeanneret, STS  
Executive Director  
Erie Sports Commission



2014, 2016 & 2023  
National Sports Commission of the Year



MARK JEANNERET, STS | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





## Erie Insurance Arena // UPMC Park

From ice hockey to basketball, cheerleading to wrestling, Erie Insurance Arena is diverse in the sporting events it hosts. The arena is home to the Erie Otters of the Ontario Hockey League and seats nearly 7,000 fans. The adjacent UPMC Park was recently renovated with a new field surface, LED scoreboard and auxiliary scoreboard, new entrance and upper-level stadium club, and renovated luxury suites. The stadium is home to the Erie SeaWolves, the AA affiliate of the Detroit Tigers.

- Eight team locker rooms and seating for 6,700 for ice hockey and 6,900 for basketball
- Previously hosted Keystone State Wrestling Championships, NCAA Women's Frozen Four, NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Championships, College Hockey Inc. Ice Breaker Tournament
- UPMC Park features seating for 6,000 and 11 Party Deck Boxes

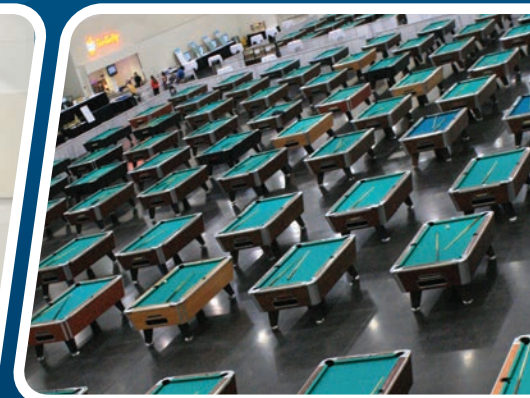


## Bayfront Convention Center // 1 Sassafras Pier Erie, PA 16507

Built on Erie's waterfront, the Bayfront Convention Center features two primary event spaces and spectacular floor-to-ceiling views of Presque Isle Bay.

The facility has 470 free parking spaces, on-site catering services, and is connected to two hotels – the 200-room Sheraton Erie Bayfront and 192-room Courtyard Erie Bayfront – forming what is known as Bayfront Landing.

- The Great Hall offers 28,800 square feet of column-free multi-use space with a ceiling height of 23 feet
- Grand Ballroom features 13,500 square feet
- Hosts large-scale gymnastics meets, billiards competitions, cheerleading, powerlifting and fitness competitions
- 15 meeting rooms with 14,000 square feet of space





## Presque Isle State Park

A 3,200-acre forested peninsula on Lake Erie, Presque Isle boasts seven miles of sandy beaches, and diverse space for events of many types. Its flat terrain is perfect for running and cycling events, and Lake Erie is consistently named one of the top bass lakes in the country. Presque Isle regularly hosts beach sporting events of many kinds, including volleyball, soccer, and ultimate Frisbee. The park forms and protects Presque Isle Bay, offering a unique atmosphere for competitive fishing events.

- Four boat launch areas
- 25 miles of recreational trails (11 for hiking, 14 paved multi-purpose)
- Eight permanent beach volleyball courts, with space to create additional courts
- 4 million visitors per year
- Flat, natural half marathon course
- Has hosted the B.A.S.S. Nation Northeast Regional Championship, The Bass Federation Mid-Atlantic Divisional and Fishers of Men National Tournament Trail



## Presque Isle Bay, Lake Erie

Formed by Presque Isle State Park, Presque Isle Bay is protected from Lake Erie, making it a perfect spot for fishing and sports that require calm, open water. Erie's Bayfront is a popular section of downtown for its dining, hotel and entertainment options. Lake Erie, the warmest and most biologically productive of the Great Lakes, is often regarded as one of the top bass fishing locations in the country.

- Presque Isle Bay is 5.8 square miles (4.6 miles long, 1.8 miles wide) and averages 20 feet deep
- Lake Erie is known for small and largemouth bass fishing, walleye, steelhead and perch
- Ranked No. 3 on Bassmaster's Best Bass Lakes of the Decade (Sept. 2020)





**Lake Erie Speedway // 10700 Delmas Drive North East, PA 16428**

With a 3/8-mile asphalt, oval speedway and 120 acres of land surrounding, Lake Erie Speedway can host events of many kinds. The \$12 million motor sports and event venue features a premium sound system, Musco lights, and a main grandstand seating capacity for 6,000.

Its location in the quaint town of North East is accessible directly on Interstate 86 and Interstate 90, and close to Lake Erie Wine Country, the largest grape-growing region east of the Rocky Mountains.

- More than 1,000 parking spaces
- Hosts motor sports racing and special events such as Formula Drift, Sky Lantern Fest, Insane Inflatable 5K and Race of Champions 250
- Facility is only 25 minutes from Erie on Interstate 86
- More than 400 hotel rooms within 10 miles



**Erie Sports Center // ERIEBANK Sports Park // Oliver Road Erie, PA 16509**

The Erie Sports Center boasts a newly-installed FIFA-accredited turf inside a four-season dome, 10 outdoor grass fields and four basketball/volleyball courts. The facility regularly hosts soccer, lacrosse, football, basketball, volleyball, wrestling and martial arts.

On the same property, the recently-renovated ERIEBANK Sports Park now features two NHL-size ice rinks, eight locker rooms and a brand new fitness center. The facilities are in Erie's shopping and entertainment district, conveniently located along Interstate 90.

- Fun park featuring mini golf, go-karts, batting cages and a beer garden
- FIFA-accredited turf field (200' wide by 309' long) inside a four-season dome
- 94,000 square foot field house with four courts, two ice pads, eight locker rooms and fitness center
- More than 1,500 hotel rooms within three miles
- More than 300 parking spaces on site





**Hagerty Family Events Center // 501 W 12th Street Erie, PA 16501**

This multi-functional facility is located in Downtown Erie, and has the ability to host a multitude of events, including football, swimming, basketball, volleyball and lacrosse. A concourse area offers banquet-style seating for 100-plus guests, on-site catering, and live streaming capability. The facility features 350 on-site parking spaces, in addition to many nearby parking opportunities.

- Artificial turf field lined for football, lacrosse and soccer with seating for 2,000 spectators
- Gymnasium is 14,550 square feet with seating for 1,600 spectators, space for two full-sized courts
- Double-deep eight-lane, 25-yard competition pool with one-meter diving board; separate three-lane 25-yard double shallow warm up pool
- Seating for 400 in aquatics center
- Six locker rooms



**Downtown Erie // Perry Square**

From fun runs to festivals, Downtown Erie can accommodate events of many sizes. Perry Square is central to downtown Erie and features a stage with sound capabilities built in. The area has hosted The Color Run, the Great Race, Lake Erie Cyclefest, and is a regular host of concerts and festivals. Local shopping and dining options line the streets, offering fare to suit a variety of tastes, all within short walking distance.

- Built-in power available in Perry Square
- Nearly 6,500 parking spaces downtown in public garages, lots and street parking with many other private lots available
- More than 2,500 hotel rooms within 5 miles of Perry Square
- City services staff and downtown authorities with positive reputation for supporting events





*Erie is home to four universities that represent 88 varsity men's and women's teams across NCAA Division I, II and III.*

*Each campus is home to various facilities set up to host tournaments and competitions at all levels.*



### **PennWest University – Edinboro**

Located 20 miles south of Erie in quaint Edinboro, Pa., PennWest University – Edinboro is home to Sox-Harrison Stadium: a lit, turfed stadium with seating for 6,000 in two grandstands. The facility also includes two press boxes, locker rooms, a training room, and complete track facilities. McComb Fieldhouse can seat 3,500 for basketball, volleyball and wrestling.



### **Gannon University**

Situated in the heart of downtown Erie, Gannon's Highmark Events Center can seat 2,500 and is a regular host of basketball, volleyball and wrestling. The facility has hosted the National Collegiate Acrobatics and Tumbling Association National Championships and National Club Basketball Association Men's and Women's National Championships in recent years. The nearby Recreation and Wellness Center opened in 2014 and includes a 52,000-square-foot turf field, three-court gymnasium, fitness center and more.



### **Mercyhurst University**

A major campaign to upgrade all of Mercyhurst's competition facilities was completed in 2019. The Mercyhurst Ice Center features improved seating, locker rooms and cooling systems. The William J. Vorsheck Athletic Complex now houses three turf fields: a brand-new lighted field for softball/soccer, a baseball/soccer field and Saxon Stadium, which seats 2,300 spectators for football, lacrosse and field hockey. The Mercyhurst Athletic Center features a brand-new basketball court, seating for 1,100 and two new video scoreboards.



**PennState**  
Behrend

### **Penn State Erie, the Behrend College**

The Junker Center is a 72,800-square-foot multipurpose facility with capability to host basketball, volleyball, swimming, wrestling and more. It houses three courts with gymnasium seating for 1,600, an eight-lane, 25-yard pool with seating for 600, a weight room, eight locker rooms and offices. A lighted, turfed soccer and lacrosse facility, six lighted tennis courts, baseball/softball complex and eight-lane track & field facility are also located on campus. A \$28.2-million renovation to Erie Hall added a three-court gymnasium, improved training rooms and support space for the college's NCAA programs.

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## ENTERTAINMENT & ATTRACTIONS

**PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS & CASINO** features more than 1,500 slot machines, a sports book, more than 30 table games and a state-of-the-art thoroughbred racetrack.

**SPLASH LAGOON INDOOR WATER PARK RESORT** is the largest indoor water park in the eastern United States and offers visitors over an acre of indoor water fun year-round.

**WALDAMEER PARK AND WATER WORLD** is open Memorial Day to Labor Day and offers a variety of rides, slides and attractions for the entire family set against beautifully landscaped grounds and picnic groves.

**\*Shopping: No sales tax on clothing or shoes!**

## ERIE SPORTS SCENE

With three professional sports teams and four universities calling the Erie region home, the sports scene in Erie is thriving.

- Erie Commodores (National Premier Soccer League)
- Erie Otters (Ontario Hockey League)
- Erie SeaWolves (AA affiliate of the Detroit Tigers)

## ACCOMMODATIONS & ACCESSIBILITY

With more than 4,500 sleeping rooms to accommodate groups of many sizes, Erie's lodging scene is varied and far-reaching. From locally owned B&B's and lodges to nationally recognized hotel chains, Erie has the ability to host intimate groups of 25 to larger groups of 500.

Erie is Pennsylvania's fifth-largest city, centrally located between Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Buffalo/Southern Ontario. Erie is within 500 miles of more than half of the U.S. population and is accessible by automobile, boat, plane, train or bus. Erie International Airport is only 10 minutes from downtown and offers direct daily flights to Charlotte with connections to numerous destinations across the country.



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