



Boater's Guide



The Apostle Islands' protected bays, deep channels, public docks, and natural beauty offer world-class boating opportunities. Quickly changing conditions can make Lake Superior a dangerous place. Boaters must acknowledge that "the Lake is the Boss". The National Park Service (NPS) does not recommend the use of open boats under 16' long for travel between islands. Park rangers are equipped to help with most boating emergencies. Rangers and the U.S. Coast Guard can be contacted on marine channel 16. The following tips and regulations will help promote a safe, enjoyable trip.

On the Lake

Boaters must obey U. S. Coast Guard inland navigation rules. Each boat must have: an appropriate personal flotation device (PFD) for each person on board, fire extinguisher, whistle or horn, marker lights, and a manual bailing device. All children under age 13 aboard boats underway must wear an appropriate PFD except when they are below decks or in an enclosed cabin. Boats should also be equipped with: a compass, the latest edition of NOAA lake charts #14973 or #14966, anchor, ropes, weather radio, marine band radio, cell phone, Geographic Position System (GPS), radar, first aid kit, tools, spare parts and signal flares. Notify someone of your float plan.

Weather conditions can change rapidly and force boaters to alter their plans. Strong winds create immense waves and dangerous conditions. Fog can appear without warning. Pay close attention to the weather and monitor weather forecasts on marine channels 1-10.

Do not exceed your boat's carrying capacity. Do not operate a boat while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The use of personal watercraft (jetskis) is not allowed within the boundaries of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (one quarter mile from the park's islands and mainland shore).

Boaters should stay at least 100 feet away from flagged net buoys and/or floating plastic jugs marking the location of commercial fishing nets. Do not attempt to pass between the Little Manitou shoal light and Manitou Island. That area is very shallow. To protect nesting birds, boating within 500 feet of Gull and Eagle islands and the northwest shore of Otter Island is prohibited from May 15 to September 1. Do not approach within 500 feet of any active eagle nest.

Polluting park waters is prohibited. Take trash back to the mainland. Pack out what you pack in.

At the Dock



Public Docks at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore		
LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	DEPTH*
Basswood, West	Wood	4-5'
Devils, South Landing	Wood, Small Harbor	2-4'
Little Sand Bay	Wood, Harbor	3-4'
Long, LaPointe Lighthouse	Concrete/Metal	3-4'
Manitou Fish Camp	Wood	6-7'
Michigan Lighthouse	Concrete w/ Metal Pier	3-5'
Oak, West	Wood	4-5'
Otter, Southeast	Wood, U-shaped	5-6'
Outer Lighthouse	Concrete	3-5'
Raspberry Lighthouse West	Wood	5-6'
Raspberry Lighthouse East	Wood	3-4'
Rocky, East	Wood	6-7'
Sand, East Bay	Wood	2-3'
South Twin, West	Wood, L-shaped	4-6'
Stockton, Presque Isle West	Concrete, Angled	6-7'
Stockton, Presque Isle East	Concrete, L-shaped	4-7'
Stockton, Quarry Bay	Wood	5-6'
* Water depths measured at outer end of docks. Depths vary due to lake levels, shifting sediments, and storms.		

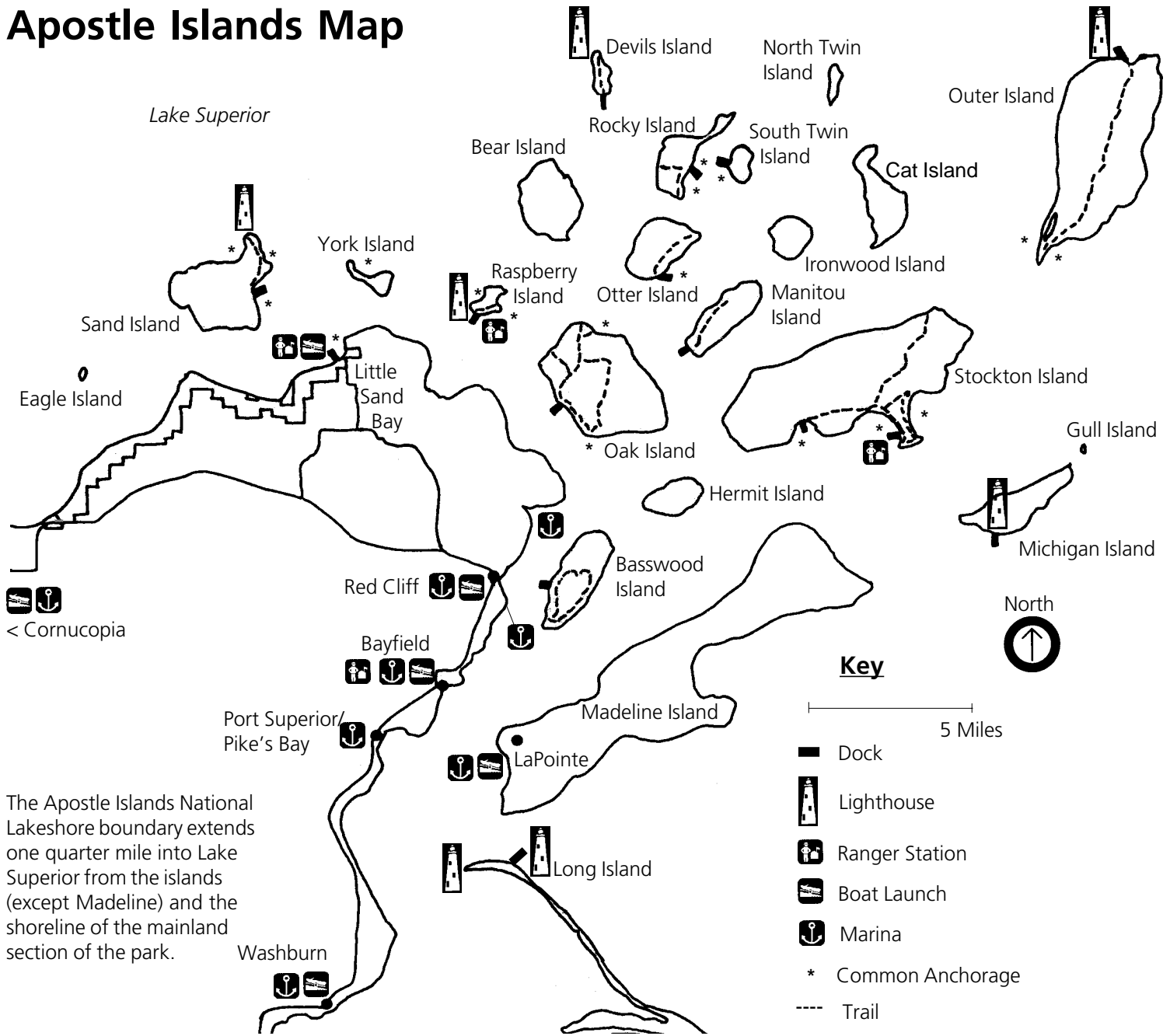
Docks provide visitors with access to many of the islands. Space is reserved at some docks for NPS vessels and excursion boats. Remaining space is available to the public on a first come, first served basis. Please allow as much space as possible for other boats to dock. Mediterranean (bow or stern to the dock) and side to side mooring of vessels may not be allowed at park docks (check posted regulations). Boats may not be left unattended for more than 24 hours at public docks.

For the safety of visitors using the docks, the use of portable stoves or grills is not allowed on docks or on vessels tied to a dock (outside of galley areas). Bears may be attracted to grills at any location. Do not leave grills and food unattended.

Swimming within 100 feet of public docks is not permitted. Visitors are asked to refrain from bathing with soap directly in the lake. Please observe quiet hours between 10 pm and 6 am (throughout the park). Be sure to check posted regulations upon arrival at any dock.

Rough weather may force boaters to extend their stay in the islands. Provisions are not available for sale in the park. Plan to bring extra food, water, and supplies in case you get weathered in.

Apostle Islands Map



The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore boundary extends one quarter mile into Lake Superior from the islands (except Madeline) and the shoreline of the mainland section of the park.

Anchors Aweigh

Mileage Chart	Bayfield	Little Sand Bay	Mainland Sea Caves	Sand Island Dock	Raspberry Island Light	Devils Island Light	Oak Island Dock	Rocky Island Dock	Stockton Island Presque Isle	Basswood Island Dock	Manitou Fish Camp	Outer Island Sandspit
Bayfield		18	26	20	14	22	10	18	16	4	12	24
Little Sand Bay	18		8	3	6	14	10	14	20	14	12	22
Mainland Sea Caves	26	8		8	14	21	18	22	28	22	20	30
Sand Island Dock	20	3	8		6	13	12	14	20	16	13	22
Raspberry Island Light	14	6	14	6		10	4	8	14	10	7	16
Devils Island Light	22	14	21	13	10		14	8	19	18	10	16
Oak Island Dock	10	10	18	12	4	14		12	12	6	8	19
Rocky Island Dock	18	14	22	14	8	8	12		14	14	7	12
Stockton Island Presque Isle	16	20	28	20	14	19	12	14		12	8	10
Basswood Island Dock	4	14	22	16	10	18	6	14	12		9	20
Manitou Fish Camp	12	12	20	13	7	10	8	7	8	9		12
Outer Island Sandspit	24	22	30	22	16	16	19	12	10	20	12	

Every year, wind and waves drive anchored vessels aground on the Apostle Islands. To protect yourself and your boat...

- ◆ Wind dictates where boats can safely land, beach, or anchor. Always try to anchor on the lee side of an island.
- ◆ All vessels at anchor are required to exhibit anchor lights from sunset to sunrise.
- ◆ Keep a crew member on anchor watch if adverse weather threatens.
- ◆ The minimum scope of your anchor line should be seven times the distance between your boat's deck and the bottom of the lake where you are anchored.
- ◆ Set the alarm on your depth-sounder to alert you if your anchor begins to drag.
- ◆ Keep anchored vessels clear of approaches to docks and harbors.
- ◆ Be wary of shoal areas and use caution whenever beaching a boat or approaching any shoreline. NPS and U.S. Coast Guard boats cannot provide towing except in emergencies.

Park Fees

To offset the increasing costs of maintaining park facilities and resources, Apostle Islands NL will likely be implementing park entrance and user fees *starting in 2007*. Check with park staff or the park's web site

in mid to late 2006 for the status of this program and to find out the most convenient way to participate. All fee revenues will remain at Apostle Islands NL to help maintain and improve park resources.

