Minong, the Good Place

Not a day goes by that I don’t look to the east from Grand Portage, my eyes searching for the familiar low outline on the horizon; and wonder how soon before I am able to visit yet again.

Named Minong, or “the good place” by our Ojibway ancestors, this vast cluster of islands continues to be a part of our cultural heritage. The sinew that binds us all to Minong is a deep respect and gratitude for this remarkable environment.

With the acknowledgment in 2019 of Isle Royale as a Traditional Cultural Property of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the islands now loom much closer than the actual sixteen nautical miles from our northern shore. This designation becomes tinder for our imaginations; beckoning us to connect with the past and to craft new relationships with those who are its current keepers.

Through thousands and thousands of years it has always been hard to get to Minong. For our ancestors, land rich in resources offered the promise of copper, food, and medicine which outweighed any hardship. Today’s visitors seek other rewards.

Whether you arrive by water, air, or as did my great-grandfather, by dog sled over a frozen bridge of ice, the feeling upon landing remains much the same. Whether new acquaintance or old friend, “The Good Place” embraces you and invites you in.

Rick Anderson
Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Welcome to Isle Royale National Park

A dear friend of mine had a theory about National Park Service employees. He believed that they imprint on the place they most closely identify with—oftentimes their “first” park. Much like first love, he’d say, in terms of depth of feeling and passion. While that was certainly true for him, I have had a series of loving relationships with the amazing places where I have been privileged to live and work. Last fall I began my acquaintance with “the island” and I am excited to deepen that rapport.

As I write, it has been snowing here on the Keweenaw Peninsula for days. When not working or skiing, I am preparing for the summer season and for moving to the island. Winter nights offer plenty of time to pore over maps and routes and read stories of island life. Boats, paddles, and life jackets have been bought; our fishing poles found.

Here’s to a wonderful new relationship with Minong! Whether you are a first-time visitor or have generational ties to the island, I look forward to learning about your connections to this special place as I continue to develop my own.

Denise Swanke, Superintendent
Treasured Island

One of the privileges of being an Isle Royale ranger is greeting the familiar faces of returning visitors. The island has an intimacy that holds people close. A first visit is rarely a last.

For some, like these island devotees, Isle Royale’s landscape and waterscape soak into their identity. Share in their stories and deepen your connections to place.

Maintaining Memories

From the time before I could walk Isle Royale has been a part of my life. My father was raised there. My grandfather was raised there. My great-grandfather and great-grandmother immigrated from Norway to commercially fish on the island. During my childhood, my father worked in Duluth and every summer he would pack my mother, my sisters and myself into Picnic—our family boat. We would spend a month traveling around the island: camping and visiting friends at Crystal Cove, Edisen Fishery, Fisherman’s Home, and with family in Washington Harbor. Some of the best days of my life have been spent cruising in Picnic.

Picnic is a 24-foot open wooden boat built in 1949. In 1980 my dad stepped through the bottom of Picnic…and passed it down to me. Little did I know what a learning process owning a wood boat would be.

In past years, I have assisted the park by restoring other old boats from around the island. While working on these boats, I felt connected to those who sailed them—in treacherous rough waters and on glorious calm seas. Restoring vessels preserves these memories for others to experience.

Picnic will be ready this summer to return to the island. Once again, she’ll make her home port at Washington Island, where I’ll be working on preserving dwellings that have been part of my family’s story since 1890, plus other buildings around the harbor that are part of Isle Royale’s legacy. Once again she’ll ply the waters reliving memories and making new ones.

It has been my sincere privilege and honor to be part of the preservation of history, and I feel truly blessed and thankful for these opportunities.

Jeff Sivertson

Forging a Superior Friendship

August 30, 1982, my husband and I arrived in Grand Portage to board a charter boat bound for the park. The wilderness island is renown as a backpacking, kayaking, fishing paradise. Our goal was different, Isle Royale’s sunken treasures—shipwrecks!

That trip opened up a whole new world for us. A few years later I would board the charter boat Superior Diver, but not as a passenger. I was now her Captain. The island had reeled me in…hook, line, and sinker.

Early on, most of my time was spent on or in the water, a slightly different perspective than many. I was often looking back at the island. Taking in sheer rocky cliffs, inlets and bays, lighthouses—stunning scenery everywhere.

But, below the surface there was much to see as well. A Ford Model T aboard the steamship America, a glass jug of curdled milk in the freighter Emperor’s galley, a pocket watch among the wreckage of Glenlyon, and even a perfume bottle on the passenger steamer George M. Cox.

I vividly remember our first dive on the Congdon stern. The most amazing sight was a perfect ruffled milk glass light fixture with an intact bulb. Next to it was the shattered wall of the galley. How was that even possible?

When back on our boat, Ron and I looked at each other and both exclaimed “Wow! Did you see that?”

Yes, I have hundreds of dives on Isle Royale shipwrecks, yet I have never tired of them. As we pull up to a dive site, gear up, and head down; I feel like I am greeting an old friend who still has so much more to share with me.

Captain Jacqueline Polomski
Finding Safe Harbor

Special places can be, like no other, the anchorage one needs to weather the worst storms—storms with the power to threaten your very existence. While I’ve had the distinct fortune to study wolves and moose on Isle Royale for more than two decades, the lesson in this shared story is relevant to all.

A few years back I was diagnosed with stage-four cancer. Surviving the prognosis and the treatment, required strength and serenity marshalled from every resource available, within and without. Common advice for those in my lot includes meditating—as intensely as possible—one a place that commands strength and serenity.

For me, that place is Isle Royale’s Washington Harbor, always calmer and safer than the vast waters of Lake Superior. I conjured the rejuvenating, early morning light on wisps of fog over the water and up into the trees. Cool air in the nostrils. Eyes closed, absorb the gentleness, the serenity; it is ethereal. A raven calls.

Now, I am a cancer survivor. I was fortunate to have a special connection to a particular place before I knew how important that connection would become. The national parks enrich us in ways not easy to anticipate. All one has to do is be open to the places we experience.

Leah Vucetich

Cherish Your Connections

In an uncertain and changing world, national parks provide places of refuge and renewal. Our connections to these special places sustain and nurture us.

Though protected as a national park and a federally-designated wilderness, Isle Royale will also find refuge in you. Only with shared commitment and passion will Isle Royale Stay Wild.

Do you suffer from Island Topophilia?

Signs and Symptoms

- Spending hours poring over maps planning your next adventure
- Referring to “the island” and not specifying Isle Royale
- Hearing the white-throated sparrow’s song in your sleep
- Ability to pronounce “amygdaloid”
- Checking webcams daily
- Devoting the winter to dreaming of your park

There is no known cure for Island Topophilia...but that’s not really a bad thing, is it? Join the community of Isle Royale enthusiasts and share your own signs and symptoms at www.facebook.com/isleroyalenps.
Know Before You Go

Lake Superior and the island’s wilderness present challenges and hazards to the inexperienced or ill-prepared. Keep a conservative trip plan. Be self-sufficient. Bring more than you need in case of unexpected delays. Bring a first aid kit, a supply of any needed medications, and clothing appropriate for the time of year and planned activities.

Wilderness is not Immune to COVID-19
Face masks are required in buildings and outdoors when social distance cannot be maintained. This includes docks and campgrounds. Social distance from those not in your party.
Practice backcountry hygiene. Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer. Use soap at least 50 steps away from any water source.

Emergencies
Basic emergency services are available on the island, but contacting rangers can be difficult. Emergency response and evacuation take time, requiring you to rely on your own skills and equipment. Most private boaters have radios and may be able to contact rangers in an emergency.
Cell phone service is unreliable; do not depend on it.
To contact the park in an emergency: 440-546-9945

Play it Safe

Watch the Weather
Weather and lake conditions can deteriorate quickly and unexpectedly. Fog and waves can create dangerous conditions for boaters and paddlers.

Hypothermia can occur any time, especially near Lake Superior. Best defense: Stay warm and dry. Dress in layers and don raingear before you get wet. Shivering, apathy, and coordination loss indicate mild hypothermia. If someone shows these signs, warm and dry the person, add more layers, climb in a sleeping bag, and sip warm liquids.

Dehydration
Drink plenty of water. When dehydrated, you tire more quickly, do not think clearly, and are more prone to fall. Dehydration is a factor in most medical problems experienced in the park.
Water is scarce between campgrounds, especially along ridges. Carry a minimum two quarts of water per person; drink and refill whenever near water sources. In hot weather start hiking early and travel at a slower pace. In cold weather dehydration occurs as people do not feel thirsty and drink less.
Watch for mild signs of dehydration: thirst, fatigue, headache, and dizziness. Severe dehydration includes: nausea and reduced or no sweating.

Stay on the Path:
- Watch your step!
- Stay on the rail
- The footing is often uneven. Roots and rocks can trip the unwary hiker. When wet, trails are muddy; roots, rocks, and boardwalks are extremely slippery.
- Wheeled vehicles (except for non-motorized wheelchairs) or other mechanical transportation are not allowed outside developed areas at Rock Harbor and Windigo. This includes bicycles and portaging devices.
- Be Kind to your Feet: Wear sturdy, well-broken-in boots. Address hot spots and small blisters right away, before they become problems. Pamper your feet after hiking: Soak them in a lake and wear comfy shoes in camp.

Toxic Water Alert
Algal blooms have occurred in interior lakes. Blue-green algae can be toxic and purifying does not remove toxins from the water. Avoid drinking, swimming, and fishing if water has a cloudy blue cast or looks like “pea soup.” If algal blooms occur, advisories will be posted.

Share the Space

Show Respect. Observe, photograph, and enjoy park wildlife from a safe and respectful distance. If an animal changes its behavior, you are too close. It is illegal to feed, touch, tease, or intentionally disturb wildlife, their homes, nests, or activities.
Loons are especially susceptible to disturbance, and may abandon their shoreline nests when approached too closely. From May through July 15 (loons nesting season) visitors must stay at least 150’ away from small islands and from nests along the shore. If a loon cries out, you are too close.
Moose are large and potentially dangerous animals. Always give them wide berth. If you encounter a moose, step behind a tree and wait for the moose to move on. Throughout the spring and summer, female moose are rearing young and are very protective. Never get between a cow and her calf.
During fall rut, bull moose are often aggressive.
Wolves are rarely encountered. Respect them by keeping your distance and ending any encounters quickly. Report wolf sightings to a ranger.

Drinking Water
Potable water is only available in Rock Harbor and Windigo. Early and late season visitors should plan for no potable water anywhere on island.

Lake Superior and interior park waters should be considered non-potable.

Purify Water:
- Physical Purifier: Use one that is rated to remove viruses
- Water Filter
  - (0.4 microns or finer) + Chemical Treatment
  - Use tablets or bleach
- Water Filter
  - (0.4 microns or finer) + UV Treatment
  - Use a UV purifier
- Boil: At a rolling boil for at least one minute

Insects
Expect mosquitoes and black flies to peak in June or July. During wet summers, mosquitoes continue into August. Bring repellent, netting, or other skin barriers. Dry summers often result in an abundance of wasps. Bring an epinephrine kit if allergic to stings.

Pets
Dogs, cats, and other mammals are not allowed, including pets on boats within park boundaries, which extend 4.5 miles into Lake Superior from the outermost land areas of the park. Visitors bringing pets to the park will be required to leave immediately. Pets disturb wildlife and can transmit diseases. Special conditions apply to service dogs. Visit www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/service-dogs.htm.
Protect Your Park

Minimize your impact to protect the park’s wilderness character for use and enjoyment by all.

Help Isle Royale Stay Wild

Adventure, simple living, and solitude are important components of an Isle Royale visit. To ensure these experiences, visitors should be familiar with skills and habits that foster a Leave No Trace ethic. Visit www.lnt.org.

Leave What You Find

Removing, possessing, or disturbing park resources is prohibited. Antlers, plants, driftwood, cultural or archeological objects, rocks/minerals including those in Lake Superior must be left where found. Fishing and picking small quantities of berries/mushrooms for consumption are allowed.

Graffiti and the building of cairns (rock piles) mars the park for other visitors. Leave the park as you find it.

Quiet, Please

Most visitors come to Isle Royale to hear the sounds of nature in a wild setting. Be aware of your volume so others may enjoy peace and solitude.

Quiet Hours are between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am eastern time. If people in adjacent campsites can hear your activities, you are being too loud.

Audible use of electronic devices such as stereos, televisions, radios, cellphones, and tablets is not permitted except in the developed areas of Rock Harbor and Windigo, and in Lake Superior waters outside of designated quiet/no wake zones.

Portable Generators are prohibited in most areas of the park.

Minimize Use of Fires

Campfires are permitted at a handful of campgrounds (see page 6). A backpacking stove is highly recommended. A metal fire ring or grate is provided where campfires are allowed; never build your own ring.

Use Dead and Down Wood no bigger around than your wrist. Do not break branches or strip bark from standing trees, live or dead. Trash has no place in a backcountry fire. Do not import firewood; insects and pathogens from infected wood could devastate Isle Royale’s forests.

Be Safe With Fire: Keep your fire small and burn down to ash; be sure the fire is completely out before leaving it.

Keep the Island Clean

Practice Proper Food Storage: Keep a clean camp. To protect your food from wildlife seal it in scent-proof containers and secure. Hard-sided containers are preferred, but using doubled zip-lock bags is appropriate. Animals will steal unattended food and other items.

Trash: All trash and leftover food (including peels, cores, and nutshells) must be packed out. Trash and food scraps must not be burned, buried, or placed in outhouses. Carry a zip-lock bag for securing small pieces of trash.

Human Waste Disposal: Use outhouses. Never defecate within 100’ (at least 50 steps) of lakes, streams, or campsites. In areas without outhouses, dig a cathole 6” to 8” deep; after use, cover with soil. Urinate on durable surfaces, like rocks or bare soil, away from water sources and campsites.

Cookware Cleaning: Wash dishes at least 100’ from water sources and remaining water away from water sources and campsites.

Bathing: Get wet, then move at least 100’ away from all water sources and campsites to lather and rinse. Use soap sparingly, if necessary.

Boot Thistles are Bullies

Bull thistle is aggressively invasive, spreading along trails ever further into wilderness. The park monitors, maps, and tries to remove this and other target species that outcompete native island plants.

Park Regulations

The regulations of Isle Royale National Park are intended to protect park resources and appropriate visitor experiences. Regulations place strong emphasis on preserving wilderness character and values. Visitors are responsible for adhering to park regulations.

For detailed information on park regulations visit www.nps.gov/isro/learn/management/lawsandpolicies.htm.

No Drone Zone: Launching, landing, or operating unmanned aircraft on lands and waters of the park is prohibited.

Weapons, Traps, & Nets: The use or possession of weapons, traps, and nets is prohibited. Weapons include any implements designed to discharge a projectile or missile in the air or water and include slingshots, blowguns, and bows and arrows. Fireworks are prohibited.

Exception: Possession of firearms within the park is regulated by Michigan law. The discharge of firearms within park boundaries is prohibited.

Marijuana Prohibited: While recreational and medical marijuana are now legal in many states, marijuana remains illegal on federal lands including Isle Royale National Park.

What Can You Do?

Clean Before Arrival

• Boots, gear, and vessels must be clean and free of plants, fish, animals, dirt, and mud.

Clean During Your Trip

• After filtering Lake Superior water, change or clean your water filter before using it inland.

• Non-motorized vessels and fishing gear must be cleaned appropriately if moving inland.

Report

• Report sightings of any invasives to a ranger.

Zebra Mussels Not Welcome

Surprise!!!

3000 of my best friends are here to par-tee! These plankton platters are deeeelish!

In 2018 several thousand invasive zebra mussels were removed from Isle Royale docks. Due to park removal efforts, fewer were found in 2019. But our work to prevent the spread is ongoing.

Ah, Snap!

We’ve been plucked and captured!

Invasive Zebra Mussel

Ah, Snap! We’ve been plucked and captured!

Zebra mussels are agressive invaders that spread along trails ever further into wilderness. The park monitors, maps, and tries to remove this and other target species that outcompete native island plants. The use or possession of weapons, traps, and nets is prohibited. Weapons include any implements designed to discharge a projectile or missile in the air or water and include slingshots, blowguns, and bows and arrows. Fireworks are prohibited. Exception: Possession of firearms within the park is regulated by Michigan law. The discharge of firearms within park boundaries is prohibited.
Seaplane
Hancock, MI, to Windigo
61mi/98km
2 hours one-way

Grand Marais, MN, to Windigo
57mi/91km
30 minutes one-way

Sea Hunter III
Grand Portage, MN, to Windigo
22mi/35km
1.5 hours one-way

Voyageur II
Grand Portage, MN, to Windigo
22mi/35km
2 hours one-way

During its clockwise circumnavigation, Voyageur II provides drop-off and pick-up services at several locations. See page 11.

Minong Trail Closure
Huginnin Cove Junction to Hatchet Lake Junction
Opening June 15, 2021

Campgrounds
CR - Fires in community ring only
S - Self-contained stoves only
W - Treated water supply
F - Campfire rings or standing grills provided

Consecutive Nights Stay Limit
6/1 – Labor Day (except Rock Harbor)

Information
Depth at Dock
Normal Conditions
On-board Generator Use Allowed

Canoe Portages
Distance • Elevation Change • Comment

Malone Bay - Siskiwit Lake
0.3 mile, 0' Gradual Slope

Siskiwit Lake - Intermediate Lake
0.4 mile, 0' Gradual ups and downs

Intermediate Lake - Lake Richie
0.6 mile, 120' Hilly and wooded

Wood Lake - Lake Whittlesey
0.6 mile, 80' Rolling

Lake Whittlesey - Chippewa Harbor
0.6 mile, 140' Steep grades and rocky

Chippewa Harbor - Lake Richie
1.2 miles, 160' Hilly

Moskey Basin - Lake Richie
2.0 miles, 120' Gradual but long

Lake Richie - Lake LeSage
0.6 mile, 100' Steep grades, wet

Lake LeSage - Lake Livermore
0.4 mile, 80' Steep grades, wet

Lake Livermore - Chickenbone Lake
0.2 mile, 40' Steep but short

Chickenbone Lake - McCargoe Cove
1.2 miles, 80' Hilly

Pckerel Cove
0.1 mile, 10' Short and sweet

Lone Cove - Stockly Bay
0.1 mile, 8' Short and sweet

Five Finger Bay - Duncan Bay
0.2 mile, 8' Short and sweet

Duncan Bay - Tolin Harbor
0.8 mile, 175' Extremely steep

Tolin Harbor - Rock Harbor
0.2 mile, 40' Gradual up and down
### Rock Harbor Lodge

**Water Taxi**

Provides drop-off and pick-up services between Rock Harbor and McCargoe Cove on the north shore and Rock Harbor and Malone Bay on the south shore. See page 10.

### Rock Harbor Dock Closure

**Fall 2021: Rock Harbor Ranger III dock will be closed for expansion and repairs starting 9/11.**

### Isle Royale Queen IV

- **Copper Harbor, MI, to Rock Harbor**
  - 56mi/90km
  - 3.75 hours one-way
- **Houghton, MI, to Rock Harbor**
  - 73mi/118km
  - 6 hours one-way
- **Seaplane**
  - **Hancock, MI, to Rock Harbor**
  - 71mi/114km
  - 35-45 minutes one-way
  - **Grand Marais, MN, to Rock Harbor**
  - 90mi/145km
  - 45 minutes one-way

### Trail Mileages

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Chickenbone W</td>
<td>1.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chippewa Harbor</td>
<td>1.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daisy Farm</td>
<td>1.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doner N</td>
<td>1.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doner S</td>
<td>1.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feldmann Lake</td>
<td>1.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hatchet Lake</td>
<td>1.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Huginnin Cove</td>
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<td>Island Lake</td>
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<td>Washington Creek</td>
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### 2021 – Your Guide To Isle Royale National Park
Things to Do

Hiking
Miles of trail wind through forests and hug the shoreline, climb steeply to ridgertop views, and descend into wetlands. Ninety-nine percent of the park’s land base is designated wilderness that beckons you to explore.

Camping
Thirty-six campgrounds are scattered throughout the park. Campsites are accessible only by foot or watercraft. All campgrounds have tent sites, outhouses, and are near a water source. Many of the campgrounds located on the Lake Superior shoreline offer docks, shelters, and picnic tables. Camping Permits are required for all overnight stays at campgrounds, cross-country sites, docks, or at anchor.

Group Camping (seven or more people)
Advance reservations are required for any group or organization, including families and friends traveling together, bringing seven or more people to the island (see below).

Small-party Camping (six or fewer people)
All small-party campsites contain either tent sites or a three-sided shelter. Shelters and tent sites for individual small parties are available first come, first served. Expect crowded campsites from mid-July through mid-September. Expect to have conversations about sharing tent sites.

How to Select a Campsite During COVID-19
1. At a campground, camp at a designated tent site or occupy a shelter.
2. When all campground sites are occupied, share a tent site if social distancing can be maintained.
3. When all campground sites are occupied and there are no viable tent sites to share, use the identified overflow group campsite (if present).
4. When options 1-3 are full, camp outside of campground per cross-country camping regulations and zone map.

Shelters: Shelters may not be reserved and may not be used solely for cooking or gear storage. To minimize damage to vegetation, tents and hammocks may not be erected outside shelters; tents may be used inside shelters. Using nails, staples, tacks, and/or tape to attach items to shelters is prohibited.

Hammocks: In campgrounds, hammocks may only be used within the existing impacted area of designated tent sites and not in the surrounding trees. Hammocks may not be hung at shelter sites or inside shelters. Permissible hammock locations may not be available; plan on bringing a tent. Choose trees with care; many cannot support a hammock. Hammock use must not damage trees.


Group Camping
Want to bring seven or more people to camp in the park? Advance reservations are required for any group or organization, including families and friends traveling together, bringing seven or more people to the island.

If your group exceeds ten people, you must split into two parties, each independent and traveling on completely separate itineraries. This means that groups with small parties cannot camp in the same campground at the same time and cannot travel the same route within a half mile of each other. Organizations may not have more than twenty people camping on the island at any one time and are limited to eighty people a year.

Group leaders should carry medical information for each member including known allergies, medical conditions, and medications currently taken.

Group Camping Reservations
How to Make A Group Camping Reservation Request
1. All group camping reservations must be made in advance.
2. Check out the group camping website: www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/group-camping-introduction.htm.

Boating
Hundreds of islands and surrounding Lake Superior waters are within the boundaries of the park. Numerous docks and countless anchorages provide access for power and sailboats.


Lake Superior offers challenging and often dangerous weather: fog, high winds, waves, and thunderstorms. Combine rocky reefs and limited safe harbors with Isle Royale’s remoteness, and it pays for you, your crew, and your boat to be shipshape.

Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species: Vessel owners are legally responsible for invasive species decontamination prior to entering park waters (extending 4.5 miles into Lake Superior from the outermost land areas of the park). Learn how to decontaminate your vessel at stopagastichichshikers.org/prevention.

Day Use: Boaters visiting the park or park waters for the day are required to pay entrance fees (see page 12) and are encouraged to fill out a day permit at Windigo, Rock Harbor, or Houghton. Call (906) 482-0984.

Overnight Stays: Boaters staying overnight at anchor, at docks, or in campgrounds must obtain a permit.

Obtaining a Permit: It is recommended for boaters to permit ahead of their trip. Call (906) 482-0984.

Restricted Water Activities:
• Water skiing and personal watercraft including vessels referred to as Jet Skis, Waverunners, or Sea-dos are prohibited in all park waters.
• Vessels with motors (even if not in use) are prohibited on interior lakes and streams.

Quiet/No Wake Zones: These zones promote quality visitor experience by providing relatively tranquil, natural marine surroundings. Within the zone, vessels must not exceed 5 mph or create a wake in excess of surrounding seas. Consult www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/quiet-no-wake.htm (see pages 6 and 7).

On-Board Generators: The operation or use of permanently installed (by the boat manufacturer) on-board vessel generators is limited to specific times and locations. Visit www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/boating-guide.htm.

Fuel: Vessels carrying spare fuel in portable containers must use legally approved containers. Fuel may not be stored on docks.

Gasoline and diesel fuel are sold at Rock Harbor and Windigo when Isle Royale Resort stores are open (see page 10). Early and late season fuel may be obtained at Windigo and Mott Island if personnel are available.

 Customs
All vessels arriving from Canada (US or Canadian) must clear US Customs at the Windigo or Rock Harbor Visitor Center during regular business hours. A valid passport, US Passport card, enhanced driver's license, or Trusted Traveler Program card is required. US citizens who have made any purchases abroad, and visitors from Canada, can be cleared for Isle Royale only. For additional information visit www.cbp.gov.
**Things to Do**

**Paddling**

With numerous lakes, bays, and islands, the park provides miles of waterways for the experienced canoeist and kayaker.

**Route Considerations**: Lake Superior is well-known for its cold waters, fog, and sudden, wave-generating squalls. Small, open vessels are encouraged to use interior lake waterways instead.

**Requirements**: Every paddler must have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device. Wear it; your life may depend on it.

**Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species**

- Vessel owners are legally responsible for invasive species decontamination prior to entering park waters. Learn how to decontaminate your vessel at stopquatic hitchhikers.org/prevention.
- Before moving from Lake Superior to interior waters, wipe down your boat and gear.

**Weather**: Consult the marine forecast at visitor centers before embarking. Be prepared to adjust your schedule. A portable marine radio is recommended for overnight trips.

**Interior Lake Canoe Routes and Portages**

- Interior Lake Canoe Routes and Portages are on the northeast half of the island. Portages are marked with a letter “P” on a post (see page 6).
- Portaging Devices are not allowed in wilderness.
- Boat Rentals are available at Windigo and Rock Harbor.

**Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species**

- Use Interior Lake waterways instead.

**Fishing**

With its multitude of reefs and bays on Lake Superior and its numerous interior lakes and streams, Isle Royale provides varied opportunities for recreational fishing.

**Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species**

- Before your island trip, clean fishing gear and change line spools.
- When moving from Lake Superior to interior waters, clean gear and change line spools.

**Lake Superior Waters**

- A Michigan fishing license is required for fishing in Lake Superior, including bays and harbors, and when transporting fish from island to mainland. Youth age 17 years or younger may fish without a license.
- Transporting fish or fish parts for use as bait to the park is prohibited.
- Possession or use of bait for fishing within Lake Superior park waters is limited to fish and/or fish parts caught within park waters.

**Interior Lakes and Streams**

- Licenses are not required to fish on Isle Royale’s interior waters.
- Barbless hooks and artificial lures only in all interior lakes and streams.

**Possession Limits** are usually the same as those set by the State of Michigan. Refer to Michigan fishing regulations for possession limits and detailed license requirements for Lake Superior.

**Fishing Licenses**: Only 24-hour licenses are available on the island, and only when Isle Royale Resort stores are open (see page 10). Purchase a Michigan fishing license in advance, and download a copy of the Michigan Fishing Guide at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

**Disposal of Fish Remains**: Eliminate potential for attracting and feeding wildlife by reducing unsightly fish remains and odors. Clean fish away from docks and campgrounds. Do not throw remains into shallow water, to gulls, or to other wildlife. To dispose of remains:

- At Rock Harbor and Windigo, use the fish cleaning station.
- At other Lake Superior locations, deposit chopped remains (pieces 4” or less) into water at least 50’ in depth.
- At Interior lakes, deposit chopped remains (pieces 4” or less) into deep water via canoe or move at least 200’ (75 steps) from campground and throw chopped remains as far as possible into deep water.

**Fish Consumption Advisory**: Fish in some interior lakes show elevated mercury levels. Review safe fish consumption guidelines.

**Fishing in the Park? Take part in the 2021 Creel Survey**

A creel survey is a record of a single day’s fishing effort, providing details on what an angler caught, released, and time spent fishing. The survey will collect information on numbers and sizes of fish caught and harvested in park waters. The results will help park biologists determine angler use patterns, catch and harvest rates, and seasonal patterns.

**Three Ways to Participate:**

- Fill out a paper survey form, available at visitor centers and onboard Ranger III.
- Chat with park biologists who will be interviewing anglers at docks and interior lakes.
- Complete an online survey, available on the park website starting May 2021.

**Fishing Regulations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Minimum Size</th>
<th>Daily Possession Limit</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake Trout, Rainbow Trout, and Salmon in Lake Superior</td>
<td>All Year</td>
<td>10” except 15” for Lake Trout</td>
<td>5 in any combination, but no more than 3 Lake Trout</td>
<td>*1, *2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Trout in Siskewit Lake</td>
<td>April 16 - Oct 31</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Catch and release only</td>
<td>*2, *3, *4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coaster Brook Trout in Lake Superior</td>
<td>Last Saturday in April - Labor Day</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>No possession allowed.</td>
<td>*1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brook Trout in Streams and Hidden Lake</td>
<td>Last Saturday in April - Labor Day</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Catch and release only</td>
<td>*3, *4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainbow Trout in Streams</td>
<td>7”</td>
<td>5 fish with no more than 3 fish over 15”</td>
<td>*5, *4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Herring (Cisco) and Lake Whitefish in Interior Lakes</td>
<td>April 16 - Oct 31</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Catch and release only</td>
<td>*5, *4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Perch in Lake Superior and Interior Lakes</td>
<td>No minimum size</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Recommended Daily Limit of 10</td>
<td>*3, *4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Pike in Lake Superior and Interior Lakes</td>
<td>May 15 - Oct 31</td>
<td>Lake Superior 24” Interior no min size, 30” max</td>
<td>5 in any combination, but no more than 2 Northern Pike</td>
<td>*3, *4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walleye in Lake Superior and Interior Lakes</td>
<td>15”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Review the Michigan Fishing Guide for additional fish species, seasons, creel limits, and 2021 regulation updates and changes.

*1 Park boundaries extend 4.5 miles into Lake Superior from the outermost land areas.
*2 For additional trout/salmon fishing information, review the Michigan Fishing Guide.
*3 Artificial lure means any lure or fly manufactured in imitation of, or as a substitute for, natural bait. It is unlawful to use or possess live bait, dead or preserved bait, organic or processed food, or scented material on interior lakes and streams.
*4 Only barbless hooks may be used for fishing in park interior lakes and streams. Barbless hooks are only allowed in Lake Superior waters.

**Disposal of Fish Remains**: Eliminate potential for attracting and feeding wildlife by reducing unsightly fish remains and odors. Clean fish away from docks and campgrounds. Do not throw remains into shallow water, to gulls, or to other wildlife. To dispose of remains:

- At Rock Harbor and Windigo, use the fish cleaning station.
- At other Lake Superior locations, deposit chopped remains (pieces 4” or less) into water at least 50’ in depth.
- At Interior lakes, deposit chopped remains (pieces 4” or less) into deep water via canoe or move at least 200’ (75 steps) from campground and throw chopped remains as far as possible into deep water.

**Fish Consumption Advisory**: Fish in some interior lakes show elevated mercury levels. Review safe fish consumption guidelines.
Visitor Centers and Programs

Check local bulletin boards for updated information. Face masks required in buildings and when 6 feet of social distance cannot be maintained. Limited capacities in visitor centers.

**ROCK HARBOR**

**Rock Harbor Visitor Center**
- Information, books, maps, camping permits, dive permits, passes.
- **6/7 – 9/11:** Daily 8:00 am to 5:30 pm eastern time
- Prior to 6/7 and after 9/11: Open intermittently

**THE SANDY TOURS FROM ROCK HARBOR**
- The Sandy tours are not operating.

**WINDIGO**

**Windigo Visitor Center**
- Information, books, maps, camping permits, dive permits, passes.
- **6/7 – 9/11:** Daily 8:00 am to 5:30 pm eastern time
- Prior to 6/7 and after 9/11: Open intermittently

**HOUGHTON**

**Houghton Visitor Center**
- Information, planning, books, maps, Ranger III and group camping reservations, dive permits, boater camping permits, passes.
- **6/1 - 9/15:** Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 6:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
- **9/16 - 5/31/2022:** Monday through Friday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm; closed federal holidays

Join a Workshop

- The Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association (IRKPA) promotes the public's understanding and appreciation of Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park through education and research.
- **Isle Royale Botany**
  - June 7 - 12, 2021
  - Participants explore early season plants in the Rock Harbor Area.
- **Keweenaw Botany**
  - July 6 - 8, 2021
  - Explore the Keweenaw's shorelines, ridges, forests, and wetlands.
- **Isle Royale Night Sky Photography**
  - August 31 - September 4, 2021
  - Capture images of the night sky at this nature photography workshop.
- More Workshop Information: [www.irkpa.org/workshops](http://www.irkpa.org/workshops)

Isle Royale Resorts

**Rock Harbor**

- **Lakeside Lodge Rooms**
  - Sixty rooms available; each accommodates four and offers private bath. Open 6/8 through night of 9/10.
- **Housekeeping Cabins**
  - Twenty duplex cottages accommodate six and are furnished with kitchenettes, utensils, dishware, private bath, double bed, and one bunk bed. Open 5/28 through night of 9/10.
- **Gift Shop and Dockside Store**
- **Lighthouse Restaurant and Greenstone Grill**
  - Hearty meals, including lake trout. Everyone welcome for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Food service open 6/8 through breakfast on 9/11.
- **Marina**
  - 450 feet of dock space, accommodating boats up to 65 feet. Electrical and fresh water hook-up, sewage pump-out, gasoline and diesel fuel, motorboat, canoe, and kayak rental. Services open 5/28 through 9/10.
- **Fishing Charters**
  - Charters are fully equipped for catching lake trout and salmon. Open 6/8 through 9/10.
- **Water Taxis**

**Windigo**

- **Windigo Store and Marina**
  - Groceries, cold sandwiches, camping supplies, stove fuel, daily fishing licenses, tackle, gifts, and sundries. Marina offers gasoline, diesel, pump-out service, and motorboat, canoe and kayak rental. Showers and laundry available. Open 6/8 through 9/11.

- **Windigo Camper Cabins**
  - Two rustic cabins; each accommodates up to six and is furnished with table, chairs, full size futon, bunk beds with mattresses, electrical outlets and lighting. Each has a picnic table and propane grill. Water spigot and privy are nearby. Open 6/8 through night of 9/11.

Contact Isle Royale Resorts

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

Summer Phone: 906-337-4993
Winter Phone: 866-644-2003
Email: info@isleroyaleresorts.com
Transportation Services

From Houghton, Michigan

Ranger III
6 hours one-way to Rock Harbor, NPS owned and operated.

Schedule (eastern time)
Outbound Island Trips
Houghton to Rock Harbor 9:00 am
5/30 – 6/10...
T, F
Inbound Island Trips...
Rock Harbor to Houghton 9:00 am
5/26 – 9/11...
W, Sat
Fares
One-Way
Low Season (Before 7/6, after 8/23)
Adult...
$55.00
High Season (7/6 – 8/23)
Adult...
$70.00
All Season
Child (1 – 15)...
$35.00
Infant under 1...
Free
Boat (less than 18”1”)...
$100.00
Boat (18”1” to 20”)...
$150.00
Car/Canoe/CanoeCar (over 18ft /80lbs)...
$60.00
100 lbs. gear per passenger...
Free

Canoe/Kayak (over 18ft /80lbs)...
$40.00
Inflatable Boats...
$15.00

Reservations

Payment required for confirmed reservation. Reservations accepted on or after January 2.
Cancellations
Refunds, minus a 15% processing fee, if cancellation received 3 days prior to sailing. No refund within 3 days of sailing.
Amendities
Free parking • Orientation and sailing.

See websites for COVID-19 specifics related to each transportation provider.
Fares and schedules are subject to change.

From Copper Harbor, Michigan

Isle Royale Queen IV
3.75 hours one-way to Rock Harbor, concession operated.

Schedule (eastern time)
• Copper Harbor 8:00 am
• Rock Harbor 2:45 pm
5/3 – 6/4...
M, T, Th, F, Sat
5/6 – 8/29...
M, T, Th, F, Sat
7/31 – 8/31...
M, T, Th, F, Sat, Sun
8/1 – 8/31...
Every Day
9/2 – 9/6...
M, T, M, Th, F, Sat, Sun
9/10 –
F
Fall Schedule
Daisy Farm Only
9/13 - 10/1...
M, F
• Copper Harbor 8:00 am
• Daisy Farm 12:00 pm
Fares
One-Way
Low Season (9/14 – 9/29, 9/10 – 10/14)
Adult...
$37.50
Child (1 – 15)...
$55.00
All Season
Infant (under 1)...
Free
Cancels/Canoe/CanoeCar...
$35.00
Double Kayak...
$40.00
InflatableBoats...
$15.00
70lbs. gear per person...
Free

Reservations

Online reservations available at www.isleroyale.com. Phone reservations also taken. Full fare deposit required. Cans and kayaks require reservations.
Cancellations
Refund is 85% if received prior to 1 week of sailing. If cancelling a group of 10 or more, 2 weeks notice is required.
Miscellaneous
Parking fee • Freight, canoes, etc. carried for passengers only • Baggage limited to 70 lbs. per passenger
Contact Information
The Isle Royale Line, Inc.
Phone: (906) 289-4437
Email: isleroyalequeen@gmail.com
Website: www.isleroyale.com

From Grand Portage, Minnesota

Voyageur II
2 hours to Windigo one-way, 5 hours to Rock Harbor, concession operated.

Schedule (central time)
• Grand Portage to Windigo via Michipicoten Bay/Windigo 8:30 am (9:00 am EDT)
5/16 – 9/30...
W, Th, Sun
6/1 – 9/12...
T, Th, Sun
9/16 – 9/30...
W
Windigo Round Trip
9/18 – 9/28...
Sat, Sun
Grand Portage to Windigo...
8:00 am
Windigo to Grand Portage...
1:00 pm
(2:00 pm EDT)
Fares
One-Way
Grand Portage to Windigo
Adult...
$76.00
Child (4 – 15)...
$68.00
Child (under)...
Free

Grand Portage to any same-day stop beyond Windigo or any same-day stop beyond Windigo to Grand Portage
Adult...
$99.00
Child (4 – 15)...
$94.00

Limited travel between various same-day island stops
Adult...
$62.00 – 75.00
Child (4 – 15)...
$61.00 – 70.00
All Season
Canoe/CanoeCar...
$40.00
40 lbs. gear per passenger...
Free
Additional freight...
$40.00 up to 100 lbs.

Reservations
Payment required for confirmed reservations.
Cancellations
Refund is 85% of fare, provided cancellation is received at least 2 full weeks prior to departure.

Miscellaneous
Parking fee • Fishing poles must be in securely closed packs • Sightseeing en route

Contact Information
Grand Portage-side Royal Transportation Line, Inc.
Phone: May – Oct: (218) 600-0765
Email: reservation@isleroyaleboats.com
Website: www.isleroyaleboats.com

From Grand Portage, Minnesota

Sea Hunter III
1.5 hours one-way to Windigo, concession operated.

Schedule (central time)
• Grand Portage to Windigo via Michipicoten Bay/Windigo 8:30 am (9:00 am EDT)
6/9 – 7/10...
W, Th, F, Sat
7/14 – 8/15...
W, Th, F, Sat, Sun
8/18 – 9/4...
W, F, Sat
Windigo to Grand Portage 2:00 pm (3:00 pm EDT)
6/19 – 7/10...
W, Th, F, Sat
7/14 – 8/15...
W, Th, F, Sat, Sun
8/18 – 9/4...
W, F, Sat
Fares
One-Way
Adult...
$76.00
Child (4 – 15)...
$68.00
Child (under)...
Free
Canoe, Kayak...
$40.00
40 lbs. gear per passenger...
Free
Additional Freight...
$40.00 up to 100 lbs.

Same-Day Round Trip
Adult...
$87.00
Child (4 – 15)...
$80.00
Child (under)...
Free

Reservations
Payment required for confirmed reservations.
Cancellations
Refund is 85% of fare, provided cancellation is received at least 2 full weeks prior to departure.

Miscellaneous
Parking fee • Fishing poles must be in protective cases • Hard gear must be in securely closed packs • Sightseeing en route

Contact Information
Grand Portage-side Royal Transportation Line, Inc.
Phone: May – Oct: (218) 600-0765
Email: reservation@isleroyaleboats.com
Website: www.isleroyaleboats.com

From Grand Marais, Minnesota

Seaplane
30 minutes to Windigo each way. 45 minutes to Rock Harbor each way, concession operated, Cessna 206.

Schedule
5/23 – 9/18...
Daily
Fares (per person)
All Season
Round-trip...
$342.00
One-way...
$238.00
Inter-island...
$155.00
Infant (under 2)...
Free

From Grand Marais, Minnesota

Grand Portage / Isle Royale Seaplanes
Phone: (906) 483-4591
Email: info@isleroyaleseaplanes.com
Website: www.isleroyaleseaplanes.com

Grand Marais to Windigo
Round trip...
$300.00
One-way...
$207.00
Grand Marais to Rock Harbor
Round trip...
$394.00
One-way...
$270.00
Arrive Windigo, Depart Rock Harbor...
$347.00
Arrive Windigo, Depart Rock Harbor...
$347.00
Inter-island...
$155.00
Infant (under 2)...
Free

Reservations
Payment required for confirmed reservations.
Cancellations
Full refund of fare, provided cancellation received at least fifteen days prior to departure.

Miscellaneous
Parking fee • Flights accommodate up to six passengers • Baggage is limited to 45 lbs. per person • Flights cannot carry stow fuel, selected fuels are available upon park arrival

Contact Information
Isle Royale Seaplanes
Phone: (906) 483-4591
Email: info@isleroyaleseaplanes.com
Website: www.isleroyaleseaplanes.com

No Ranger III Grill for 2021
Bring your own food and beverage for the 6-hour voyage.
The Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association (IRKPA) is the nonprofit partner of Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park.

Become a Member
Membership gives you the satisfaction of supporting the parks you love and provides you benefits, including a 10% discount on store purchases. Over the last five years, IRKPA has given more than $100,000 to Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park. Join online or at a visitor center.

IRKPA Store Locations
- Calumet Visitor Center
- Houghton Visitor Center
- Rock Harbor Visitor Center
- Windigo Visitor Center
- www.irkpa.org/shop

Your purchases support Isle Royale National Park

**Trip Planning Package**
- Color Foot Trails and Water Routes, National Geographic map, and a scenic DVD to plan your trip……………. $34.95
- New: Isle Royale Xplorer Map. Custom, hand-drawn map includes common plants and animals, lighthouses, and viewpoints…...$29.99
- Introduce young explorers to the wonders of Isle Royale with rhyming verse, watercolor images, and photos...........$9.95

Fees & Passes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fees &amp; Passes</th>
<th>Rates &amp; Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily Entrance Fee</td>
<td>$7 per person per day to enter or remain in the park. Children 15 and younger are exempt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle Royale Season Pass</td>
<td>$60, valid from April 16 through October 31 of the year indicated. Pass covers fees for the pass holder and up to three adults traveling with the pass holder (four total).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Lands Passes</td>
<td>Access, Annual, Military, and Senior Passes are honored. Pass covers fees for the pass holder and up to three adults traveling with the pass holder (four total).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th &amp; 5th Grade Pass</td>
<td>Through August 31, 2021, entrance fees will be waived for US students in 4th &amp; 5th grade (and up to three accompanying adults). Student must present paper voucher or pass upon arrival. Go to everykidoutdoors.gov to receive a voucher.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pay Park Fees Online
Visit pay.gov (search Isle Royale). Select the Isle Royale NP Individual Daily Pass or Isle Royale NP Season Pass Fees. Select “Continue.” Upon online payment, you will receive an email receipt. Show your receipt as proof of payment upon arrival in the park.

Commercial Groups, Special Use Permits, and Filming

New application requirements for 2021
If you want to operate a business in the park, it’s likely that you will need a commercial use authorization (CUA). Any individual, corporation, or organization that generates taxable income from providing services such as guided backpacking trips or fishing charters in the park, must first obtain a CUA. New for 2021: Non-profit and educational institutions may also require a CUA. Visit www.nps.gov/isro/learn/management/commercial-use-authorizations.htm.

Commercial still photography and special events (e.g., weddings, scattering ashes) require a Special Use Permit. Visit www.nps.gov/isro/learn/management/special-use-permits.htm.