A Shared Wilderness

Perched high along the Greenstone Ridge, I’m mesmerized by the big lake view. The world feels far away. I only stopped for a quick water break, but I’ve been here for hours—basking in sun and solitude. A raven swoops across the cliff face kraa-ing madly, urging me to move along.

Invigorated, I head down the trail. Though I’ve hiked this route many times, it’s ever reinventing itself. New-built beaver dams flood the forest and the trail; old dams give way, ponds vanish.

I hear McCargoe long before I see it. When I arrive, the place is buzzing. The campground is busy; resurging interest in the outdoors and national parks has brought visitors to Isle Royale in unprecedented numbers. All the sites are full, and cheerful strangers offer to share. Fresh off the ferry, they are so clean, and I’m suddenly aware of my muddy, bedraggled, swamp-scented self.

I inelegantly cannonball off the dock, joining several dozen revelers splashing in the warm(ish) water. Boats of all sizes are rafted off the dock. Everyone is enjoying the day, the place, each other. It seems I have descended into a community, although the map puts my location at the heart of wilderness.

Evening draws in. The whirl of the day has calmed, and everyone converges at the community fire ring. We exchange experiences, talking quietly of past trips and trips yet to come—of how the island has changed, and of how it has changed us. A moose wanders into the cove as the sun is setting. We are hushed. And together in this shared wilderness, we find ourselves renewed.

Valerie Martin

Welcome to Isle Royale National Park

The past year drew many visitors, both first timers and returnees, to sacred landscapes in search of refuge—to places like Isle Royale.

In 2021, this renewed engagement in national parks brought a record number of visitors to Isle Royale National Park: 20,109. This number, while small compared to the staggering millions of Great Smokey Mountains and Grand Canyon National Parks, represents the highest density of backcountry and wilderness use in the National Park Service. Campgrounds and docks were bustling, often bursting beyond capacities.

What does this mean for your journey to Isle Royale? While we have made some changes to alleviate crowding where possible, you should expect full ferries and campgrounds. Be understanding and courteous when you must share a campsite or dock.

Park staff is engaged in a strategic planning process to address the park’s changing needs. With this robust effort, we are positioning park staff and priorities to best serve and honor you and Minong in the years to come. Enjoy your park, and remember to #PlanLikeAParkRanger!

Denice Swanke, Superintendent
Renewal and Rebirth: Isle Royale’s Wolves

In 2017, the chance of hearing a wolf howl or spying tracks on the trail was slim. Two closely related wolves were all that remained of Isle Royale’s famed population.

Three years ago, the introduction of new wolves began. Now with 19 wolves translocated, the formation of at least two packs, and litters of island pups practicing their howling once again; we have witnessed the rebirth of a population.

Though challenged by the pandemic, the NPS and its collaborators have been keeping tabs on the wolves by using GPS collars and remote cameras, collecting scat for genetic analysis, and through visitor observations.

For 2021, preliminary data from remote cameras indicated at least 17 wolves in two packs, each with an unknown number of pups, plus a number of individual wolves. Genetic evidence and additional analysis of remote camera data will further home in on 2021’s numbers.

As predators, these new wolves seem similar to their predecessors. They have no problems killing moose and seem to be especially adept at killing beaver in the summer.

But in other ways the new wolves are different. Some have been proficient swimmers, frequenting offshore islands. Could this be to avoid interactions with other wolves? To seek prey? Is it a behavior they acquired prior to translocation? The answer is unclear, but the frequency of offshore island use has been surprising.

The new wolves are bigger. A Great Lakes wolf’s average weight is 50-70 and 60-80 pounds for an adult female and male, respectively. In spring 2021, an adult male weighing 94 pounds, and his offspring, two males and one female, weighing 85, 74 and 64 pounds were captured. Definitely above average!

A concerning change is the wolves’ reluctance to yield the trail to hikers. In the past wolves would slip on and off the trail without ever being noticed. Sightings were rare. The past two summers have seen increasing numbers of visitor wolf observations. We need to respect each other’s space and give each other plenty of it (see page 5 for guidance).

As the park and its collaborators continue to monitor this fledgling population, I’m sure, like their predecessors, these new wolves will have many things to teach us about adapting to change.

Mark Romanski
Biologist / Natural Resource Program Manager

All wolf images were taken by remote wildlife cameras and are from a collaboration between the National Park Service and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry.
From the Ashes

In late August of 2021, I stood on the Mott Dock, looking east down the Rock Harbor Channel, anxiously watching the horizon. Just a day prior, wildland firefighters were monitoring a small, smoldering fire near the Duncan Bay Portage Trail. Now fire raged up and over the Greenstone Ridge, with plumes of smoke visible from space.

By the end of October, the Horne Fire had burned over 300 acres of boreal forest on the northeast end of the island. Monument Rock, previously shrouded by dense vegetation, has reclaimed its position as an icon of the ridge and is now visible from Hidden Lake. Prior to the fire, moss-covered boulders and lichen extending from spruce and fir branches lined the trail to Lookout Louise. Now the trail is marked by burned snags, naked boulders, and a charred understory. This stark landscape inspires wonderings of what is to come.

How severe was the fire? Will the juniper bushes that lined the Greenstone Ridge trail return? Will the island’s abundant moose population eat every shrub or sapling that emerge from the burn? How can park managers prevent invasive species from colonizing the burn?

In spring, I will be a regular visitor to this trail, searching for sprouting seeds and watching to see how the island answers these, and many more, questions.

Lynette Potvin, Ecologist

Ningiwekiimin: We are returning to our land

Last summer, the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa raised their nation’s flag on a new pole beside the US flag at Windigo. Band Members and National Park Service staff celebrated together as they watched the flag unfurl against a brilliant blue sky. Flying the flag in the park honors the Grand Portage Band’s historic and lasting relationship with the island, known to the regional Anishinaabe as “Minong”, The Good Place. In 2019, Minong was listed on the National Register as a Traditional Cultural Property of the Grand Portage Band, which means the island is nationally recognized as being associated with the cultural practices, traditions, beliefs, and lifeways of a living community.

But it hasn’t always been this way. The relationship between Grand Portagers and Minong has been complicated by federal government intervention. In 1842 the Treaty of La Pointe and subsequent Isle Royale Compact effectively ended the Grand Portage Band’s claim to the Minong archipelago. Although treaty rights were retained, the transaction was far from balanced.

Even so, Band members continued to enjoy the island’s many bounties. This use is captured through land surveys, historic mining, commercial fishing, and oral history. Through the years, Band members have never lost sight of the island, which is plainly visible from Grand Portage.

Renewed connections between the Grand Portage Band and the National Park Service invite celebration. Indeed, last year’s flag raising ceremony is significant. But in many ways, the event simply acknowledges the strong ties to Minong the Grand Portage community has always known.

Anna Deschampe
Interpretation Program Manager, Grand Portage NM
Seth DePasqual
Cultural Resource Manager, Isle Royale NP

Renew Your Connection

In an uncertain and changing world, national parks provide places of refuge and renewal. Our connections to these special places sustain and nurture us. Through collective care we can help Isle Royale Stay Wild.
Your Safety is Your Responsibility

Lake Superior and the island’s wilderness present challenges and hazards to the inexperienced or ill-prepared.

In 2021, park rangers responded to a record number of medical and rescue incidents.

Play It Safe

Plan Ahead
Make a Conservative Trip Plan. Plan your adventure with the least experienced person in mind.
Be First Aid Ready. A first aid kit is a must. Be trained, experienced, and equipped to deal with common injuries.
Plan for Problems. What will you do if someone gets injured or lost? How will you self-rescue?
Prep Your Gear. Bring supplies needed to handle delays and weather. Test your gear prior to your adventure. Wear sturdy, well-broken-in boots with ankle support for hiking.

Assess Risk
Watch the Weather. Conditions deteriorate quickly and unexpectedly.
Huddle Up. Start each day discussing expected conditions and potential safety issues.
Care for Your Companions. Monitor health and energy levels of party members.
Be Flexible. When issues arise, evaluate. Should you keep going, take a break, or change your trip plan?

Travel Smart
Stick Together. Divide gear to lighten the load of a slower or injured hiker. Don’t leave slower party members in the dust.
Rest Often. Enjoy frequent short breaks: drink water, munch snacks, relax and rejuvenate. Travel during cooler times of the day.
Stay Hydrated. Drink upon waking, along your route, and at your destination. Water is life.

Know Before You Go

Wilderness is not Immune to COVID-19
Face masks may be required in buildings and outdoors when social distance cannot be maintained.
Practice backcountry hygiene. Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds or use sanitizer. Use soap at least 50 steps away from water.

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: 440-546-5945

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 waters should be considered non-potable.

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

Toxic Water Alert
Algal blooms have occurred in interior lakes and can be toxic. 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.

Respond to Your Symptoms

Dehydration is a factor in most medical problems. You tire quickly, do not think clearly, and are more prone to falling. Water is scarce between campgrounds, especially along ridges. Carry a minimum two quarts of water per person; drink and refill whenever near water sources. Watch for mild signs of dehydration: thirst, fatigue, headache, and dizziness.

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

When Things Go Wrong
- Take a breath
- Assess the situation
- Make a plan

Self-Rescue = Best Rescue. Self-reliance is the only immediate option in an emergency. Park response is limited and even if you are able to contact rangers, help could be hours or days away. Are there others nearby who can assist or go for help?
If you are not equipped to deal with your emergency:
- Call on marine radio, or
- Use a satellite phone, or
- Activate an emergency device with texting capability

Cellphone service is unreliable. Any device may fail in adverse weather.

When Things Go Wrong

- Take a breath
- Assess the situation
- Make a plan

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- Activate an emergency device with texting capability

Cellphone service is unreliable. Any device may fail in adverse weather.
Minimize your impact to protect the park’s wilderness character for use and enjoyment by all.

**Help Isle Royale Stay Wild**

Adventure and simple living are important components of an Isle Royale visit. To ensure these experiences, you should be familiar with skills and habits that foster a Leave No Trace ethic. Visit [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org).

**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 on Lake Superior waters outside of designated quiet/no wake zones.

**Portable Generators** are prohibited in most areas of the park.

**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 nuts/shells) must be packed out. Do not burn, bury, or place 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 campsites. Even biodegradable soap takes a long time to degrade. Use a strainer to remove food bits and pack them out with your trash. Disperse 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.

**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.

**Moose** are large and potentially dangerous animals. Always give them a wide berth because they may kick in any direction or charge. 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.

**Loons** may abandon their nests when approached too closely. From May through mid-July (loon nesting season) you must stay at least 150’ away from small islands and from shoreline nests. If a loon cries out, you are too close.

**Mosquitoes & Black Flies** peak in June or July. In wet summers, mosquitoes continue into August. Bring repellent, netting, or other skin barriers.

**Wasps:** Dry summers often result in an abundance of wasps. Bring an epinephrine kit if allergic to stings.

**Wolves**

*If you see a wolf:* Do not approach. If the wolf comes closer, encourage it to leave by clapping and yelping.

*If a wolf does not leave:* Maintain eye contact and slowly back away until you are out of sight, continuing to clap and yell. Do not run or turn your back to the wolf.

*If you cannot safely leave:* Make yourself big. Aggressively use hiking poles or branches to discourage the wolf from approaching.

*If a wolf attacks:* Wolf attacks are extremely rare and unlikely to happen. But if it does, fight using any means necessary.

*Report all wolf sightings to park staff.*

**Leaves 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 are allowed.

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

**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.

**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](http://www.nps.gov/isro/learn/management/lawsandpolicies.htm).

**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.

**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.

**例外:** Possession of firearms within the park is regulated by Michigan law. The discharge of firearms within the park 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.

**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/planeyourvisit/service-dogs.htm](http://www.nps.gov/isro/planeyourvisit/service-dogs.htm).
**Voyageur II**
Grand Portage, MN, to Windigo
22mi/35km
2 hours one-way

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

**Seaplane**
Hancock, MI, to Windigo
61mi/98km
35-45 minutes one-way

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

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### Campgrounds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground</th>
<th>Elevation Change</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malone Bay</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.3 mile</td>
<td>40° Gradual Slope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siskiwit Lake</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.4 mile</td>
<td>40° Gradual ups and downs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Lake</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.6 mile</td>
<td>120° Hilly and wooded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Whittlesey</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.6 mile</td>
<td>80° Rolling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake LeSage</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.6 mile</td>
<td>180° Steep grades and rocky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickenbone Lake</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.2 mile</td>
<td>40° Steep but short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCargoe Cove</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.2 miles</td>
<td>180° Steep grades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five Finger Bay</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.2 mile</td>
<td>40° Steep and rocky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Mile</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.1 mile</td>
<td>10° Short and sweet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lane Cove</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.1 mile</td>
<td>8° Short and sweet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Harbor</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.2 mile</td>
<td>8° Short and sweet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toggin Harbor</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.8 mile</td>
<td>175° Extremely steep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Creek (Windigo)</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.2 mile</td>
<td>40° Gradual up and down</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Canoe Portages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Portage</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Elevation Change</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malone Bay - Siskiwit Lake</td>
<td>0.3 mile</td>
<td></td>
<td>40° Gradual Slope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siskiwit Lake - Intermediate Lake</td>
<td>0.4 mile</td>
<td></td>
<td>40° Gradual ups and downs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Lake - Lake Richie</td>
<td>0.6 mile</td>
<td></td>
<td>120° Hilly and wooded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Lake - Lake Whittlesey</td>
<td>0.6 mile</td>
<td></td>
<td>80° Rolling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Whittlesey - Chippewa Harbor</td>
<td>0.6 mile</td>
<td></td>
<td>180° Steep grades and rocky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chippewa Harbor - Lake Richie</td>
<td>1.2 miles</td>
<td></td>
<td>180° Steep grades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Richie - Lake LeSage</td>
<td>0.6 mile</td>
<td></td>
<td>180° Steep grades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake LeSage - Lake Livermore</td>
<td>0.4 mile</td>
<td></td>
<td>80° Steep grades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Livermore - Chickenbone Lake</td>
<td>0.2 mile</td>
<td></td>
<td>40° Steep and rocky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickenbone Lake - McCargoe Cove</td>
<td>1.2 miles</td>
<td></td>
<td>80° Hilly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickerel Cove</td>
<td>0.1 mile</td>
<td></td>
<td>10° Short and sweet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockly Bay</td>
<td>0.1 mile</td>
<td></td>
<td>8° Short and sweet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five Finger Bay - Duncan Bay</td>
<td>0.2 mile</td>
<td></td>
<td>8° Short and sweet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duncan Bay - Toggin Harbor</td>
<td>0.8 mile</td>
<td></td>
<td>175° Extremely steep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toggin Harbor - Rock Harbor</td>
<td>0.2 mile</td>
<td></td>
<td>40° Gradual up and down</td>
</tr>
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*Your Guide To Isle Royale National Park – 2022*
Trail Mileages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chickenbone E</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickenbone W</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>19.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chippewa</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>19.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daisy Farm</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desor N</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desor S</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feldtmann Lake</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hatchet Lake</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huginnin Cove</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Island Mine</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Richie</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Todd</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malone Bay</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCargoe Cove</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moskey Basin</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Harbor</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siskiwit Bay</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Mile</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todd Harbor</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Creek</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ranger III
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

Isle Royale Queen IV
Copper Harbor, MI, to Rock Harbor
56mi/90km
3.7 hours one-way

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.
Things to Do

Hiking
Miles of trail wind through forests and hug the shoreline, climb steeply to ridgetop 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
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
All small-party campgrounds contain either tent sites or a three-sided shelter. Shelters and 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 sites.

How to Select a Campsite:
1. At a campground, camp at a designated tent site or occupy a shelter.
2. When all sites are occupied, use the identified overflow group campsite (if present).
3. When all sites are occupied, ask to share a tent site.
4. When all sites are occupied and there are no viable tent sites to share, ask to pitch your tent or hammock outside a shelter.
5. When options 1-4 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. Tents may be used inside shelters. Using nails, staples, tacks, and/or tape to attach items is prohibited.

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

Cross-Country Camping

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 separate itineraries. This means 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 need a Commercial Use Authorization (see page 12). 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 taken.

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 park boundaries. Numerous docks and anchorages provide access for power and sailboats.

How to Make A Boating Reservation:
1. All boaters must have a permit for each night spent at the park. Call (906) 482-0984.
2. Check out the boating website: www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/boating-guide.htm.

Staples:

GPD:
Visit www.cbp.gov for additional information.

Fuel:

Customs:
Due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns, Canada and U.S. border restrictions and crossing requirements remain in flux. All visitors intending to arrive at Isle Royale from Canada should contact Grand Portage Customs and Border Patrol at (218) 475-2244 shortly before their intended trip for updates on current requirements. For additional information visit www.cbp.gov.
**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
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.

### 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 and program schedules.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROCK HARBOR</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rock Harbor Visitor Center</td>
<td>Information, books, maps, camping permits, dive permits, passes, ranger program schedules</td>
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**THE SANDY TOURS FROM ROCK HARBOR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The trails on tours are rocky and uneven with some steep climbs and descents; trails may be slippery. Be prepared for cold temperatures and rain. Tours operate 6/7 through 9/9. Obtain tickets at the lodge office. Rates available at the lodge and visitor center. Water Bus service available with some tours. Contact Rock Harbor Lodge.</td>
<td>9:00 am to 12:30 pm (Water Bus)</td>
<td>9:00 am to 12:30 pm (Water Bus)</td>
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**Isle Royale Resorts**

**Rock Harbor**

**Lakeside Lodge Rooms**

Sixty rooms available; each accommodates four and offers private bath. Open 6/7 through night of 9/9.

**Housekeeping Cabins**

Twenty duplex cottages accommodate six and are furnished with kitchenettes, utensils, dishwasher, private bath, double bed, and one bunk bed. Open 5/27 through night of 9/9.

**Gift Shop and Dockside Store**

Handcrafted gifts, apparel, postcards, souvenirs, daily fishing licenses, and tackle. Store offers camping, hiking, and boating supplies, groceries, freeze-dried foods, fishing tackle, stove fuel, showers, laundry, and sundries. Gift Shop open 6/7 through 9/9; Dockside Store open 5/27 through 9/9.

**Lighthouse Restaurant and Greenstone Grill**

Hearty meals, including lake trout. Everyone welcome for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Food service open 6/7 through lunch on 9/10.

**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 5/27 through 9/9.

**Fishing Charters**

Charters are fully equipped for catching lake trout and salmon. Open 6/7 through 9/9.

**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 6/7 through 9/10.

**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 6/7 through night of 9/10.

**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

**ISLE ROYALE & KEWEENAW WORKSHOPS**

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. During the summer months, IRKPA hosts multi-day workshops focused on local botany and night sky photography. More Workshop Information: [www.irkpa.org/workshops](http://www.irkpa.org/workshops)
Transportation Services

Ranger III

6 hours one-way to Rock Harbor, NP operated and scheduled.

Schedule (eastern time)

Outbound Island Trips

Houghton to Rock Harbor 9:00 am 5/31 – 9/13, T, F, Sat

Except Windigo Trip Days

Houghton to Windigo 9:00 am 6/7, 7/12, 8/2

Inbound Island Trips

Rock Harbor to Houghton 9:00 am 6/1 – 9/14, W, Sat

Except Windigo Trip Days

Windigo to Houghton 9:00 am 6/6, 7/18, 8/3

Fares One-Way

Adult: $10.00
Child (1-15): $5.00
Infant (under 1): Free

Booking:

Online reservations available at www.reservations.isle Royale.com. Phone reservations also taken. Full fare deposit required. cancellations are accepted on or just before the date of sailing.

Reservations

Payment required for confirmed reservation. Reservation accepted on or before the date of sailing.

Cancellations

Refunds, minus a 15% processing fee, if cancellation received 3 days prior to sailing. No refund within 3 days of sailing.

Amenities

Free parking • Orientation and permits issued onboard • Programs

Contact Information

www.isle Royale.com
(906) 483-2084
info@isleroyale.com

No Ranger III Grill for 2022

Bring your own food and beverage for the 6-hour voyage.

Isle Royale Queen IV

3.75 hours one-way to Rock Harbor, concession operated.

Fares

One-Way

Adult: $66.00 – 80.00
Child (4-15): $72.00
Child (under 4): Free

Reservations

Online reservations available at www.isle Royale.com. Phone reservations also taken. Full fare deposit required. Refund is 85% if received prior to 2 weeks before sailing. No refund within 2 weeks of sailing. If canceling a group of 10 or more, one month notice is required.

Miscellaneous

Parking fee is $4.00, cash, etc., carried for passengers only • Baggage limit 10 lbs. per person

Contact Information

The Isle Royale Line, Inc.
www.isle Royale.com
(906) 269-4437
isleroyalequeen@gmail.com

Voyageur II

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

Schedule (central time)

Grand Portage to Rock Harbor via Windigo McCargo Cove Belle Isle 7:30 am (8:30 am EDT) F, Sat, Sun 6/14 – 9/18

Grand Portage to Windigo 2:00 pm (3:00 pm EDT) W, Sat 6/14 – 9/18

Fares

One-Way

Adult: $81.00
Child (4 – 15): $72.00
Child (under 4): Free

Reservations

Online reservations available at www.isleroyalseaplanes.com. Phone reservations also taken. Full fare deposit required. Refund is 85% of fare, provided cancellation is received at least 2 weeks prior to departure.

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 carried for passengers only • Baggage limit 10 lbs. per person

Contact Information

Grand Portage Seaplane Transportation Line, Inc.
www.isleroyalseaplanes.com
(218) 660-0765 (May – Oct)
reservations@isleroyalseaplanes.com

See websites for COVID-19 specifics related to each transportation provider.

Fares and schedules are subject to change.

Transportation Services

Fees you pay to visit Isle Royale remain in the park and are primarily used for trail and dock maintenance.

Projects Completed in 2021

Rehabilitated 7 miles of Huginnin Cove Trail including brushing, erosion control, and boardwalk repair.
Support Our Parks
Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association
Visit www.irkpa.org or call 906-483-8877

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

Color Foot Trails and Water Routes, National Geographic map, and a scenic DVD to plan your trip .......... $34.95
Full color book identifies Isle Royale’s common plants. Photo index of flowers, leaves, and fruits; includes common and scientific names ... $29.95
Reduced size 12” x 36” waterproof USGS topographic Isle Royale map features trail mileage and campground details ... $11.95


Fees & Rates
Daily Entrance Fee $7 per person per day to enter or remain in the park. Children 15 and younger are exempt.
Isle Royale Season Pass $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).
Federal Lands Passes 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).
4th Grade Pass Through August 31, 2022, entrance fees will be waived for US students in 4th grade (and up to three accompanying adults). Student must present paper voucher or pass upon arrival. Go to everyleafoutdoors.gov to receive a voucher.

Commercial Groups, Special Use & Filming
If you want to operate a business in the park, it's likely 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. Non-profit and educational institutions may also require a CUA.

Commercial still photography and special events (e.g., weddings, scattering ashes) require a Special Use Permit. Filming projects may require permission from the superintendent.

For more information visit https://www.nps.gov/isro/getinvolved/dobusinesswithus.htm

Pay Park Fees Online