



Your Guide to Isle Royale National Park

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Following in the Footsteps of History

CAN YOU IMAGINE HIKING through the backcountry of Isle Royale with only a compass to guide you? No trails or GPS units; only a vast wilderness that you must navigate through? Once upon a time there were no signs or trails that directed people to their destination, but today backcountry navigation is less primitive than it was in the past. There are 165 miles of marked trails that take you from Windigo to Rock Harbor, Malone Bay to McCargoe Cove, and everywhere else in between. It may seem that these trails are as young as Isle Royale National Park is, but in actuality, they have much older origins.

The island was born one billion years ago; after a series of volcanic activity, fault movement, and glaciations, its topography matured into what we recognize today. This scene of steep ridges and wet valleys is what people experienced when they visited here 4,500 years ago. Prehistoric peoples explored places like McCargoe Cove, where they mined for copper in pits that are still present today. They likely used expedient traveling routes, such as the Indian Portage Trail that links McCargoe Cove to Chippewa Harbor. Four millennia later, the Ojibwe began using these same routes and ridges to access resources, like sugar

maple sap that was used to make maple syrup. In the 1800s copper mining ventures boomed on the island. Most were not successful, but they left their mark on the landscape in many forms, including roads

and trails. Many of these old byways have since been converted into hiking routes, like the Island Mine Trail. However, when Isle Royale National Park was authorized in 1931, there was debate as to whether or not hiking trails should even be present on the island.

It was decided that as an eastern national park, Isle Royale's unique quality was its pristine wilderness. But this presented a challenge to the National Park Service because they wanted to develop the island for recreational pursuits and protect its wilderness integrity at the same time. Some development had to take place, like docks and campgrounds, so visitors could come at all. To complete these tasks, the Civilian Conservation Corps was enlisted during the late 1930s. These young men completed these projects, as well as constructing an informal network of trails that they used during their tenure. When the park officially opened in 1940, early visitors and park staff used and expanded this network into what we know today.

Human use of the island has changed much over the past 4,500 years, from Isle Royale being a place to harvest resources and make a living, to a vacation destination in modern times. Despite these changes in people and their purpose for being here, all had a desire and need to explore this wilderness island by creating trails. This tradition of exploration is continued by visitors like you today. As you head into the backcountry this trip, remember that every trail has stories waiting to be discovered, and most importantly, one waiting to be written by you.

Katie Keller  
Park Ranger

## WELCOME TO ISLE ROYALE

Trip planning is one of the great joys of adventuring. Surrounded by maps and guidebooks, we plot our course. We consult the charts and calculate that Isle Royale is fifty miles long; in our world, less than an hour's drive by car. At its widest, the island is just nine miles across, perhaps the same distance as a trip to the grocery store. In the world of global travel, Isle Royale seems a small place.

But once we reach the archipelago, our understanding of distance and time is altered. We wake, not to an alarm clock, but with the sunrise. Watches forgotten, we wander. We scan the treetops for glimpses of the songbirds that serenade us. We kneel low to examine tiny mosses that resemble exquisite miniature ferns. We prick our ears at each rustle of the bushes, hoping to spot a moose. We stop to watch waves pound against the rocky shore. Half the day goes by; we have traveled less than a mile.

All visitors to Isle Royale are explorers. Whether we travel by water or land, new discoveries await, around the next curve of the shoreline, or the next bend in the trail. So often, we plan trips by calculating the shortest or the quickest routes. But a trip on Isle Royale is not measured merely by miles traveled. As you plan, make time for being still, and letting the island come to you.

I invite you to take your own trip to Isle Royale this summer, to join a long legacy of exploration, and to make your own intimate connections to your national park.

Enjoy the journey!

Phyllis Green  
Superintendent



Printing of  
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Isle Royale and  
Keweenaw Parks  
Association



### 4 Interpretive Activities

Educational programs and guided tours about the natural and cultural history of the park.

### 5-8 Wilderness Use

Pull-out map with information on Leave No Trace, hiking, camping, fishing, canoeing, kayaking and boating.

### 11 Transport & Fees

Ferry schedules and daily fees.

### 12 Publications

Books and maps provided through the Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association.



# Contacts

## Isle Royale National Park

800 E. Lakeshore Drive  
Houghton, MI 49931-1869

**Phone:** 906-482-0984

**Fax:** 906-482-8753

**Website:** [www.nps.gov/isro](http://www.nps.gov/isro)

### E-mail for General Information:

[ISRO\\_ParkInfo@nps.gov](mailto:ISRO_ParkInfo@nps.gov)

### Emergency use only:

800-433-1986

## Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association

### (Books, Maps, DVDs and Posters)

800 East Lakeshore Drive  
Houghton, MI 49931-1869

**Phone:** 800-678-6925; 906-482-3627

### Website:

[www.irkpa.org](http://www.irkpa.org)

### E-mail:

[irkpa@irkpa.org](mailto:irkpa@irkpa.org)

## Rock Harbor Lodge

### Summer

P. O. Box 605  
Houghton, MI 49931-0605

**Phone:** 906-337-4993

### Winter

Rock Harbor Lodge, P. O. Box 27,  
Mammoth Cave, KY 42259-0027

Toll-Free Reservations: 866-644-2003

Phone: 270-758-2001

### Website:

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

### E-mail:

[isleroyaleresort@starband.net](mailto:isleroyaleresort@starband.net)

## Weather Forecasts

### for Isle Royale

#### Michigan

[www.crh.noaa.gov/mqt](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mqt)

#### Minnesota

[www.crh.noaa.gov/dlh](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dlh)

## Weather Radio Forecasts

- 162.400 MHz from Houghton, Michigan.
- 162.475 MHz from Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada.

## Keweenaw Convention and Visitors Bureau

**Phone:** 800-338-7982

### Website:

[www.keweenaw.info](http://www.keweenaw.info)

**E-mail:** [info@keweenaw.info](mailto:info@keweenaw.info)

## Minnesota's Grand Marais Visitor Information Center

**Phone:** 888-922-5000

### Website:

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

**E-mail:** [info@grandmarais.com](mailto:info@grandmarais.com)

## Michigan Department of Natural Resources

### Fishing License Purchase

### Website:

[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

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# Did You Know?

There are many ways to explore Isle Royale National Park: by foot or paddle, under motor or sail. 850 square miles of land and water beckon. As you prepare for your own expedition, take this quick quiz to test your park geography I.Q.

- 1) Isle Royale's ridge and valley topography means that much of the interior of the island is saturated with wetlands: swamps, bogs, lakes and streams. What percent of the park's 165 miles of hiking trails have boardwalks or bridges to help negotiate this water-logged terrain?
- 2) 75% of Isle Royale National Park is actually underwater, including 400,000 acres of Lake Superior. If you went to explore the deepest point of this water park, how far below the surface would you be?
- 3) Ishpiming is an Ojibwe word meaning "in the sky", or "in heaven." How far above sea level are you when you stand on Ishpeming Point? Can you get any higher on Isle Royale?
- 4) Isle Royale's geology creates a spectacular and diverse coastline: tall wave-battered cliffs, calm protected bays and inlets, red sand beaches and rocky shores. If you traveled the entire shoreline of the park, how far would your journey be?

## ANSWERS

- 1) 3% which totals 5.3 miles...although it feels like much more when you are actually out on the trails.
- 2) According to NOAA charts, you'd be 827 feet underwater – about a 70 story elevator ride beneath the waves!
- 3) At 1377 feet it is the second highest point. If you hiked 5 miles to the southwest you would reach Mount Desor and be 17 feet higher.
- 4) 337 miles. Although that does include circumnavigating not only the main island, but also all of the 400 or so smaller islets of the archipelago.



The National Park Service  
cares for special places saved by  
the American people so that all may  
Experience Our Heritage



# Rock Harbor Lodge and Windigo Store

## Lodge Rooms

Sixty rooms are available; each accommodates four and offers private bath. Opens 6/4, Closes 9/7.

## Housekeeping Rooms

Twenty duplex cottages accommodate six and are furnished with utensils, dishware, private bath, double bed and two bunk beds. Opens 5/24, Closes 9/7.

## Gift Shop and Dockside Store

Gift Shop offers handcrafted gifts, apparel, photo supplies, postcards, souvenirs, daily fishing licenses, and tackle. The store offers groceries, freeze-dried foods, fishing tackle, stove fuel, camping, hiking, and boating accessories, showers, laundry facilities, and sundries. Gift Shop Opens 6/4, Closes 9/7; Dockside Store Opens 5/24, Closes 9/7.

## Lighthouse Restaurant and Greenstone Grill

Hearty meals, including fresh Lake Trout. Visitors welcome for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Food service Opens 6/4, Closes 9/7.

## Marina and Water Taxi

Offers 450 feet of dock space in Rock Harbor, accommodating boats up to 65 feet. Electrical, fresh water hook-up, sewage pump-out, gasoline, and diesel fuel, motorboat, canoe, and kayak rental available. Water taxi service drops off or picks up visitors, canoes, or kayaks at many island docks. Services Open 5/24, Close 9/7.

## Fishing Charters and Sightseeing

Charters are fully equipped. For details on sightseeing trips refer to page 4. Opens 6/4, Closes 9/7.

## Windigo Store and Marina

Offers groceries, cold sandwiches, camping supplies, stove fuel, daily fishing licenses and tackle, gifts and photo supplies. The marina offers gasoline, pump-out service, and motorboat, canoe and kayak rental. Shower and laundry facilities available. Services Open 6/4, Close 9/9.

## Windigo Cabins

Two rustic cabins; each accommodates up to six and is furnished with table, chairs, full size futon, 2 bunk beds with mattresses, electrical outlets and lighting and have picnic table and propane grill. Water spigot and privy are nearby.

The cost for utilities on Isle Royale is much higher than on the mainland. A utility surcharge will be added to the cost of some goods and services.



# Listening for Echoes: Mapping the Unseen Depths of Lake Superior

Sitting on the shoreline of Lake Superior, it's easy just to focus on the surface of the world's largest freshwater lake. Is it a calm glassy day? Is it a blustery day that scares even the most seasoned mariner? But there is so much more to discover beneath the waves: a variety of ecological habitats and, unfortunately, many shipwrecks both known and unknown. Like the rest of the park, Isle Royale's waters do not disappoint.

Since 2010, the National Park Service (NPS) has been undertaking an effort to map the bottom of Lake Superior within its park boundary, four and a half miles from shore. I work as a hydrographic surveyor, which means that I make underwater maps similar to the topographic maps used by many hikers. These bathymetric maps show the shape and depth of the lake floor. Our team uses a twenty-eight-foot vessel equipped with a multibeam sonar system. This sonar system works similarly to the way bats "see" their surroundings. It sends out short bursts of sound that travel through the water to the lake

floor. Then the sound bounces off the bottom, and the system listens for the echo. Using the speed of sound in water and the time it takes for the echo to return to the sonar, we can calculate water depth. Accordingly, our trusty survey boat is called *Echo*.

At Isle Royale, we have mapped twenty-six fish habitat locations. This information will be used by NPS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service researchers to better understand the fishery resources within and surrounding the park. Also, long swaths off of the main island and a large area south of Passage Island have been surveyed.

We have mapped several of the known shipwrecks within the park, including *America* and *Kamloops*. Mapping submerged

cultural resources will help expand park historical knowledge from land to water, by giving accurate

measurements and, perhaps, finding additional debris or sunken objects nearby. In addition to mapping

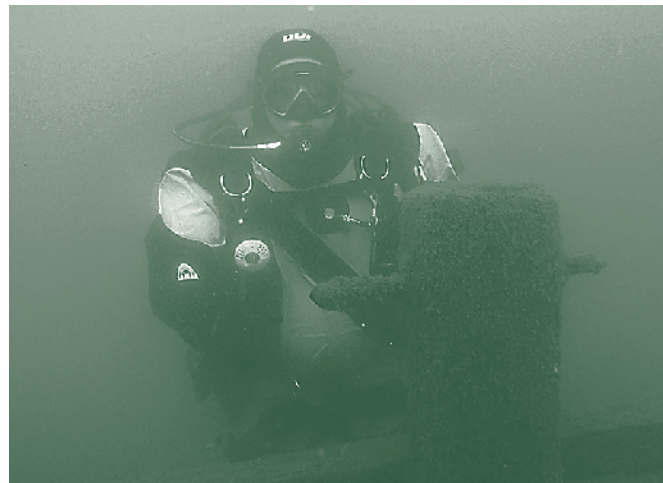
known wrecks, we have stumbled upon a few unknown wrecks. Last summer, a large rectangular object was seen in the sonar data on the west side of the island. This information was shared with park divers who were able to investigate and identify the object as a large sunken barge. It is upright and intact with no obvious reason for sinking. It is in about thirty feet of water and is approximately fifty feet long and sixteen feet wide.

Our team will be continuing to survey at several Lake Superior parks this summer, including Isle Royale. We are just beginning to piece together the complicated picture of the lake bottom - there is much more to be explored! Next time you look out across the big lake, take a minute to ponder what lies beneath the surface.

**Lara Hutto**  
Hydrographic Surveyor



Sonar image from research vessel *Echo* (center) reveals evidence of a shipwreck (top)



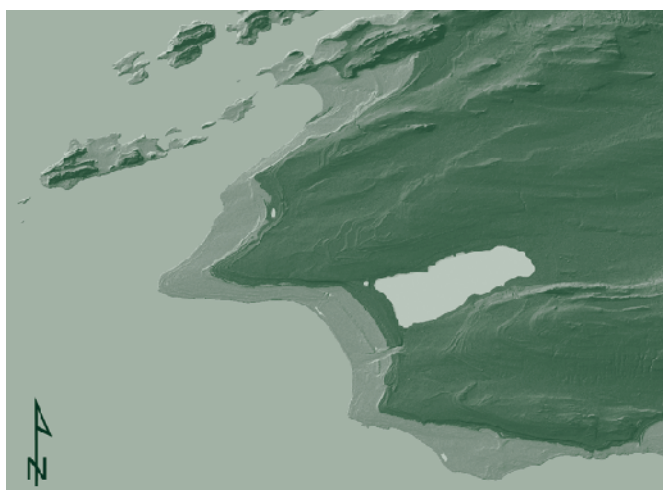
A park diver surveys the newly-discovered barge

## Where's the Beach? Surveying Ancient Shorelines

Last summer, National Park Service archaeologists from Isle Royale National Park and Grand Portage National Monument and a team of volunteers undertook an archaeological survey of Isle Royale's ancient Nippissing shoreline, seeking evidence of prehistoric use. More than simply finding new sites, archaeologists wanted to learn about island use and occupation at a time when human presence here was relatively novel. But to find anything, the team had to turn inland, away from the lake and into the thick island forest.

Isle Royale's Nippissing shoreline is one of its most prominent former shorelines. Resting forty-six feet above today's shoreline, the Nippissing was active approximately 5,000 years ago. Many other relict shorelines trace themselves across the archipelago. What distinguishes the Nippissing, however, is

its association with the first known human endeavors on Isle Royale. Somewhere along this shoreline is where the first canoe carrying the island's earliest visitors landed.



Today's Isle Royale (lighter color) is larger than it was 5000 years ago (darker color)



Shovel testing near Grace Creek

Many, many years ago, a canoe passage to Isle Royale required a few more paddle strokes than it does today. This is because our modern shoreline was then

submerged, and the island a bit smaller in landmass. Although similar in some respects, the older version of Isle Royale featured a unique series of bays and peninsulas. These same features, through time and a combination of rising landmass and receding lake levels, have taken on new appearances that stray far from those witnessed five millennia ago. The once open bays are now inland, either dry or landlocked. The peninsulas have become inland hills or resemble elongated versions of their former selves. At first glance these features seem nondescript, resembling many other inland locations. Given further scrutiny, one will notice distinct terrace-like features, sometimes cascading down a forested hillside. Such features are in fact beachheads, relicts of a

previous Lake Superior shoreline. Archaeologically speaking, these locales may have served as occupation sites and were the focus of the survey.

Much of the survey work was situated in the Washington Harbor vicinity, with smaller efforts around Moskey Basin. More than 400 shovel test pits revealed seven new archaeological sites, six of which are prehistoric in origin. Artifacts from these sites are primarily flakes and other waste material related to the production of stone tool implements. Most of this material comes from rock types not found on Isle Royale, suggesting it was imported. Additionally, two copper implements were located, including a small chisel that was likely set within a wooden or bone handle. These results are encouraging, given the limited survey coverage. In 2013, archaeologists plan to continue the shoreline research, expanding into new sections of the Nippissing. In doing so, we hope to learn more about human interaction with the island during a time when the two were relatively new to one another.

**Seth DePasqual**  
Cultural Resource Manager

# Interpretive Activities

Enjoyable and educational programs are offered on Isle Royale at Rock Harbor and Windigo, and they are also presented on the National Park Service vessel, *Ranger III*. In addition, the tour boat *MV Sandy* offers guided excursions.

Ranger guided programs are free, although those involving *MV Sandy* and the *Ranger III* waterway cruises include a transportation fee. Check at local bulletin boards for further details.

For outdoor activities, dress for the possibility of cold or rain and wear sturdy footwear. Trails are rocky and can be slippery during or after wet weather; wear shoes with good ankle support, weatherproofing, and soles that grip well. Come join us!

- All times are Eastern Daylight Time
- \$ = transportation cost
- \*\* = indicates tours with a park ranger

ROCK HARBOR AREA	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Rock Harbor Visitor Center</b> Information, books, maps, educational sales materials, camping permits, dive permits, user fee payments, and Jr. Ranger Program.			Daily 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. – July and August Reduced schedule possible in May, June and September				
<b>Interpretive Programs</b> Join a park representative for an exploration of Isle Royale's natural and cultural history.			Check the bulletin board for program schedule.				

MV SANDY TOURS FROM ROCK HARBOR	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The trails on guided tours are rocky and uneven with some steep climbs and descents; trails may be slippery. Be prepared for cold temperatures and the possibility of rain.			For all tours and programs involving the <i>MV Sandy</i> , obtain tickets and information at the Lodge Registration Office. <i>MV Sandy</i> Tours will operate from June 4 through September 6. Rates for the various tours are available at the Rock Harbor Lodge and Rock Harbor Visitor Center; children under 12 are charged half-price for the <i>MV Sandy</i> . <i>Water Bus</i> service for hikers/paddlers available with some tours. Contact Rock Harbor Lodge for details.				

<b>Hidden Lake/Lookout Louise (\$)**</b> <b>Greenstone Shuttle</b> A 4-mile boat trip on the <i>MV Sandy</i> to Hidden Lake Trailhead followed by a guided 2-mile round trip hike past Hidden Lake up 320 feet to Lookout Louise. View the south shore of Canada and the north shore of Isle Royale. Return with the group or bring a lunch and water and hike 9.4 miles back to Rock Harbor.			9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Water Bus)		9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Water Bus)		
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<b>Passage Island (\$)**</b> An 8-mile boat tour on the <i>MV Sandy</i> crosses one of Isle Royale's popular shipping lanes. The 2-mile guided round-trip hike leads to Passage Island Lighthouse and explores an area of low moose presence.		1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.				1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	
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<b>Edisen Fishery and Rock Harbor Light (\$)</b> Visit the historic commercial fishery with the resident fishery demonstrator and take a quarter-mile walk to the oldest lighthouse (1855) on Isle Royale and enjoy its maritime exhibits.					2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.		9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (Water Bus)
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<b>Captain's Cruise (\$)</b> Explore with the Captain of the <i>MV Sandy</i> , scenic, out-of-the-way destinations, such as Middle Island Passage, Lorelei Lane, Rock Harbor Lighthouse, Davidson Island, and Starvation Point.			2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.				
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<b>Raspberry Island/Sunset Cruise (\$)</b> Take a walk along a boardwalk through the spruce bog on Raspberry Island followed by a cruise on the <i>MV Sandy</i> around Scoville and Blake Points to view features like the Canada shoreline, the site of the <i>Monarch</i> shipwreck, and a Lake Superior sunset (after Aug. 15, cruise only).			8:00 p.m. to Sunset in June-July 7:30 p.m. to Sunset in August-September			8:00 p.m. to Sunset in June-July 7:30 p.m. to Sunset in August-September	
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DAISY FARM	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Interpretive Programs</b> Join a park representative for an exploration of Isle Royale's natural and cultural history.			Check the campground bulletin board for program schedule.				

WINDIGO	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Windigo Visitor Center</b> Information, books, maps, educational sales materials, camping permits, dive permits, user fee payments, and Jr. Ranger Program.			Daily 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. – July and August Reduced schedule possible May, June, and September				
<b>Interpretive Programs</b> Join a park representative for an exploration of Isle Royale's natural and cultural history.			Check the bulletin board for program schedule.				

HOUGHTON	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Houghton</b> Information, trip planning, books, maps, and other educational sales materials, <i>Ranger III</i> and group camping reservations, boater camping permits, dive permits, and user fee payments.		6/4 through 8/17 open 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. 8/19 through 9/14 open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, Saturday 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. 9/16 through 6/3/2014 open 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday, closed holidays					

RANGER III	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Interpretive and Educational Programs</b> While onboard, park staff and guest speakers, weather permitting, will explore Isle Royale's natural and cultural history or topics related to the Lake Superior Basin. Park staff will assist in trip planning, answering questions, and issuing backcountry camping permits.			9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 5/28 thru 9/10	9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 5/29 through 9/11		9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 5/31 thru 9/13	9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 6/1 through 9/14

<b>Keweenaw Cruises (\$)</b> Enjoy an afternoon cruise along the scenic Keweenaw Waterway aboard the <i>Ranger III</i> . For reservations call (906) 482-0984					1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. 7/11 and 8/15		
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# Wilderness Use

*During Isle Royale's early history, visitors did not come to vacation. They came to extract the island's resources: mining its copper and harvesting its fish. The wilderness was never conquered, but the landscape still bears evidence of these past visitors.*

*Today, the conditions historically viewed as a burden attract a new clientele who come to enjoy the archipelago's wilderness and isolation. But current visitors can still adversely affect this place. To minimize your impact on park resources and other visitors, follow park regulations and practice Leave No Trace ethics.*

## Camping

Permits are required for all overnight stays at campgrounds, cross-country sites, docks, or at anchor, regardless of group size or method of travel.

**Group Camping Permits** — groups of seven or more

Advance reservations are required for any group or organization 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. Parties of seven to ten must camp in group tent site locations only (see chart on page six). Parties of six or fewer will camp in individual sites. 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 group member including known allergies and medical conditions, and medications currently taken.

For reservations and trip planning assistance call (906) 482-0984; write to Group Reservations, Isle Royale National Park, 800 East Lakeshore Drive, Houghton, MI, 49931; or E-mail ISRO\_GroupReserve@nps.gov; or make reservations on-line at [www.nps.gov/isro](http://www.nps.gov/isro).

**Small Party Camping Permits** — parties of six or less

Camping for individual parties is on a first-come, first-served basis. Individual parties can obtain permits onboard *Ranger III* or upon arrival at the Rock Harbor or Windigo Visitor Centers.

All small party campsites on Isle Royale contain either tent sites or a three sided-shelter. Shelters and tent sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Shelters may not be reserved and may not be used solely for cooking or the storage of gear. Tents may not be erected outside at shelter sites. Close shelter doors gently to minimize intrusive noise.

Expect crowded conditions at campsites from late July through August. When sites are full campers should double up and share empty tent pad space.

Campers must stay in established campsites unless off-trail (cross country) arrangements are made when permitting. Off-trail hiking and camping are difficult on Isle Royale. Cross country camping is recommended only for experienced campers.

For trip planning assistance, call (906) 482-0984; write to Isle Royale National Park, 800 E Lakeshore Drive, Houghton, MI 49931; or E-mail ISRO\_ParkInfo@nps.gov.

## Commercial Groups and Special Use Permits

Organizations that charge trip participants a fee or that compensate members or trip leaders in any way are commercial groups under federal law. This applies to both non-profit and for-profit groups and organizations.

**For-Profit Groups** require a Commercial Use Authorization - CUA (\$200 fee)

**Non-Profit Groups** require a Special Use Permit - SUP (\$50 fee)

Applications for CUAs and SUPs are accepted between January 2 and May 15. For application forms and further information visit [www.nps.gov/isro/parkmgmt/businesswithpark.htm](http://www.nps.gov/isro/parkmgmt/businesswithpark.htm).

Commercial filming and still photography SUP have a different fee schedule based on type of activity and number of people. Contact Greg Bickings at 906-487-7178 or [greg\\_bickings@nps.gov](mailto:greg_bickings@nps.gov) for details.

## “Quiet, Please”

Most visitors come to Isle Royale to hear the sounds of nature in a wild setting. Excessive human noise disturbs wildlife and other visitors. During quiet hours, between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. EDT, if people in adjacent campsites can hear your activities, you are being too loud.

## Respect Wildlife

Observe, photograph, and enjoy park wildlife from a safe distance. Use binoculars or a zoom lens “to get closer” to wildlife. Loons are especially susceptible to disturbance, and may abandon their nests when approached too closely by boats. Cow moose with calves, particularly in the spring, and bull moose during the fall rut can be dangerous; give them a wide berth.

Keep wild animals wild by discouraging them from approaching humans. Practice proper food storage and keep a clean camp. To protect your food make sure it is sealed and secured. It is illegal to feed, touch, tease, or intentionally disturb wildlife, their homes, nests, or activities. Animals, particularly fox and otter, when habituated to human food, may eventually overcome their natural wariness of humans and may have to be destroyed.

## Human Waste

Proper disposal of human waste helps prevent pollution of water sources, minimizes aesthetic impacts to other visitors and reduces the spread of illness. Never defecate within 200 feet (at least 75 steps) of lakes, streams, trails, gullies, or campsites. In areas without outhouses, select a site that visitors are unlikely to discover. With a small trowel, dig a “cathole” 6 to 8 inches deep and 4 to 6 inches in diameter. Use toilet paper sparingly. After use, cover the “cathole” with the excavated soil and disguise it with natural materials. Urinate on durable surfaces away from campsites and water sources. Pack out all used feminine-hygiene products, carrying them in plastic bags, doubled to confine odor.

## Showers

The concession operation offers token-operated shower facilities at Rock Harbor (Open 5/24, Close 9/6) and Windigo (Open 6/4, Close 9/8).

## Waste Water Disposal

### Cleaning Cookware

Most cookware can be cleaned with hot water, a little elbow grease, and sand or other natural scrubbers. Clean cookware at least 100 feet from lakes, streams, trails, gullies, or campsites. Soap is unnecessary for most dishwashing jobs. Even biodegradable soaps take a long time to degrade. Use these products sparingly and keep them at least 100 feet from water sources and campsites. Use a small strainer or screen to remove food bits from the water and pack them out with your garbage. The remaining gray water should be scattered or broadcast over a wide area away from camps and water sources.

### Bathing/Cleaning Clothes

When bathing use soap only if necessary and use it sparingly. Get wet, then move at least 100 feet away from all water sources and campsites to lather and rinse. Rinse water can be carried in collapsible containers or pots. Clothes can be cleaned by taking them away from water sources and campsites and thoroughly rinsing them with plain water.

## Drinking Water

Potable water is only available in Rock Harbor and Windigo. All surface lake and stream water should be considered contaminated with pathogens. Drinking contaminated water can make you very sick. Water collected in the park should be boiled at a rolling boil for at least one minute or passed through a 0.4 micron filter. To be assured of no risk of contamination from small bacteria and viruses, all filtered water should be further treated with iodine or other approved chemical methods. By itself, chemical treatment is not an effective method of water purification. If you boil your water, bring plenty of stove fuel. If filtering, bring a replacement cartridge for filters that cannot be cleaned in the field. Please note: SteriPENs have not been manufacturer-tested for a common Isle Royale parasite and cannot be considered effective.

Precautions should be taken to prevent filters from becoming clogged. Filter water from a pot rather than directly from a lake or creek. Allow the sediment in the pot to settle and filter only from the cleaner water on top.

Dehydration is a factor in most medical problems experienced in the park. In hot weather the Greenstone, Minong, and other trails become hot and dry, and creeks that once offered water may be dry. To avoid dehydration, be sure to carry a minimum of 2 quarts of water per person. Drink as much water as possible while near water sources. Start hiking early before the day heats up. Hike at a slower pace than usual and rest in shady spots. Dehydration is also a problem in cold weather as most people don't feel thirsty and tend to drink less. Watch for mild signs of dehydration such as thirst, fatigue, headache and dizziness. Signs of severe dehydration include nausea, reduced or no sweating and long stretches without urinating.

## Drinking Water Notice

*In the past few years, blue-green algae blooms have occurred in several inland lakes including Chickenbone Lake and Lake Ritchie. Blue-green algae blooms can be toxic, but due to the large variety of blue-green algae species and individual conditions of each bloom, we cannot predict if a particular bloom is toxic or not. Filtering does not remove blue-green algae toxins from the water. Exposure to a toxic bloom can cause a range of symptoms from skin irritation to more serious gastrointestinal or respiratory problems. To be safe, the park recommends that you avoid swimming or filtering water if it appears to have a cloudy blue-green cast or looks like “pea soup” or green paint. If you see an algae bloom while in the backcountry, please report it to a park ranger. If algae blooms occur, current information about conditions will be available at park visitor centers. For more information visit the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website, <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/clmp-toxicalgae.html>.*

## Hantavirus

There have been no reported cases of Hantavirus at Isle Royale National Park. The deer mouse is the primary carrier of the virus. An infected mouse carries the virus in its urine, saliva, feces, and in the carcass. The primary way humans become infected is through breathing in the virus. Infection can also occur by touching the mouth or nose after handling contaminated materials.

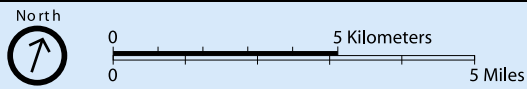
To minimize risk, avoid coming into contact with rodent droppings and burrows, avoid sleeping on bare ground, and store food and garbage in rodent-proof containers. For additional information on Hantavirus visit [www.cdc.gov/hantavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/hantavirus)

## Pack It In, Pack It Out

It starts at home. Through careful meal planning and repackaging of food items, you can reduce food leftovers and trash in the backcountry. Please pack out everything you take in. Leftover food, food-scrap, orange peels, nutshells, apple cores, twist-ties, candy wrappers, fishing line, and cigarette butts must be packed out. If you have food leftovers, either save and eat them later or pack them out. Do not burn, bury or place trash, food scraps or garbage in outhouses. Please help keep the backcountry clean by packing out what you packed in.

## Leave What You Find

Enjoy your discoveries and take them home via photographs, drawings, and memories. Natural objects of beauty or interest such as moose antlers, plants, driftwood, cultural or archeological resources, rocks and minerals, including those found in Lake Superior, must be left where they are so others can experience the same sense of discovery. Removing, possessing, or disturbing park resources is prohibited. This may seem like a harmless act, but the cumulative effect of many people doing the same can be quite damaging to park resources. Picking small quantities of berries for personal consumption is permitted.



Do not use this map for navigation.

Lake Superior water level is low. Boaters use caution.

Seaplane  
Houghton, Mich.  
to Windigo  
30 minutes one-way

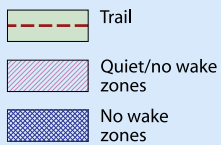
*Voyageur II*  
Grand Portage, Minn. to Windigo  
2 hours one-way

*Sea Hunter*  
Grand Portage, Minn. to Windigo  
1-1/2 hours one-way  
22mi/35km



To reduce noise and wake impacts the park has designated certain areas around the island as Quiet/No-wake Zones. For detailed information on the zones, contact a park ranger.

The Isle Royale National Park boundary extends 4.5 miles into Lake Superior from Isle Royale and the outer islands, or to the international boundary.



## CAMPGROUNDS

KEY: CR - Fires in community ring only  
S - Self-contained stoves only  
W - Treated water supply  
F - Campfires allowed or standing grills provided

	Consecutive Night's Stay Limit 6/1 - Labor Day	Individual Tent Sites	Shelters	Group Tent Sites	Special Information	Normal Conditions Depth at Dock in Feet	On-board Generator Use Permitted
Beaver Island	3	0	3	0	S	2'-5'	yes
Belle Isle	5	1	6	0	F	13'	yes
Birch Island	3	1	1	0	S	5'	no
Caribou Island	3	1	2	0	CR	10'	yes
Chickenbone E.	2	3	0	1	S	-	-
Chickenbone W.	2	6	0	3	S	-	-
Chippewa Harbor	3	2	4	1	F	7'	no
Daisy Farm	3	6	16	3	S	9'	no
Desor N.	2	3	0	0	S	-	-
Desor S.	2	7	0	3	S	-	-
Duncan Bay	3	1	2	0	F	6'	no
Duncan Narrows	3	1	2	0	F	6'	no
Feldtmann Lake	2	5	0	2	S	-	-
Grace Island	3	0	2	0	S	2'-4'	yes
Hatchet Lake	2	5	0	3	S	-	-
Hay Bay	3	1	0	0	S	3'-7'	yes
Huginnin Cove	3	5	0	0	S	-	-
Intermediate Lake	2	3	0	0	S	-	-
Island Mine	3	4	0	2	F	-	-
Lake Richie	2	4	0	2	S	-	-
Lake Richie/Canoe	2	3	0	0	S	-	-
Lake Whittlesey	2	3	0	0	S	-	-
Lane Cove	3	5	0	0	S	-	-
Little Todd	2	4	0	0	F	-	-
Malone Bay	3	0	5	2	F	3'-6'	yes
McCargoe Cove	3	3	6	3	CR	7'	no
Merritt Lane	3	1	1	0	S	8'	no
Moskey Basin	3	2	6	2	S	8'	no
Pickeral Cove	2	1	0	0	S	-	-
Rock Harbor	1	11	9	3	W-S	-	-
Rock Harbor Marina	Unlimited	-	-	-	F	3'-12'	yes
Siskiwit Bay	3	4	2	3	CR	2'-6'	no
Three Mile	1	4	8	3	S	9'	no
Tobin Harbor Dock	5	-	-	-	S	3'-8'	yes
Todd Harbor	3	5	1	3	CR	2'	no
Tookers Island	3	0	2	0	S	7'	no
Washington Creek	3	5	10	4	S-W	-	-
Windigo Dock	5	-	-	-	S	4'-20'	yes
Wood Lake	2	3	0	0	S	-	-

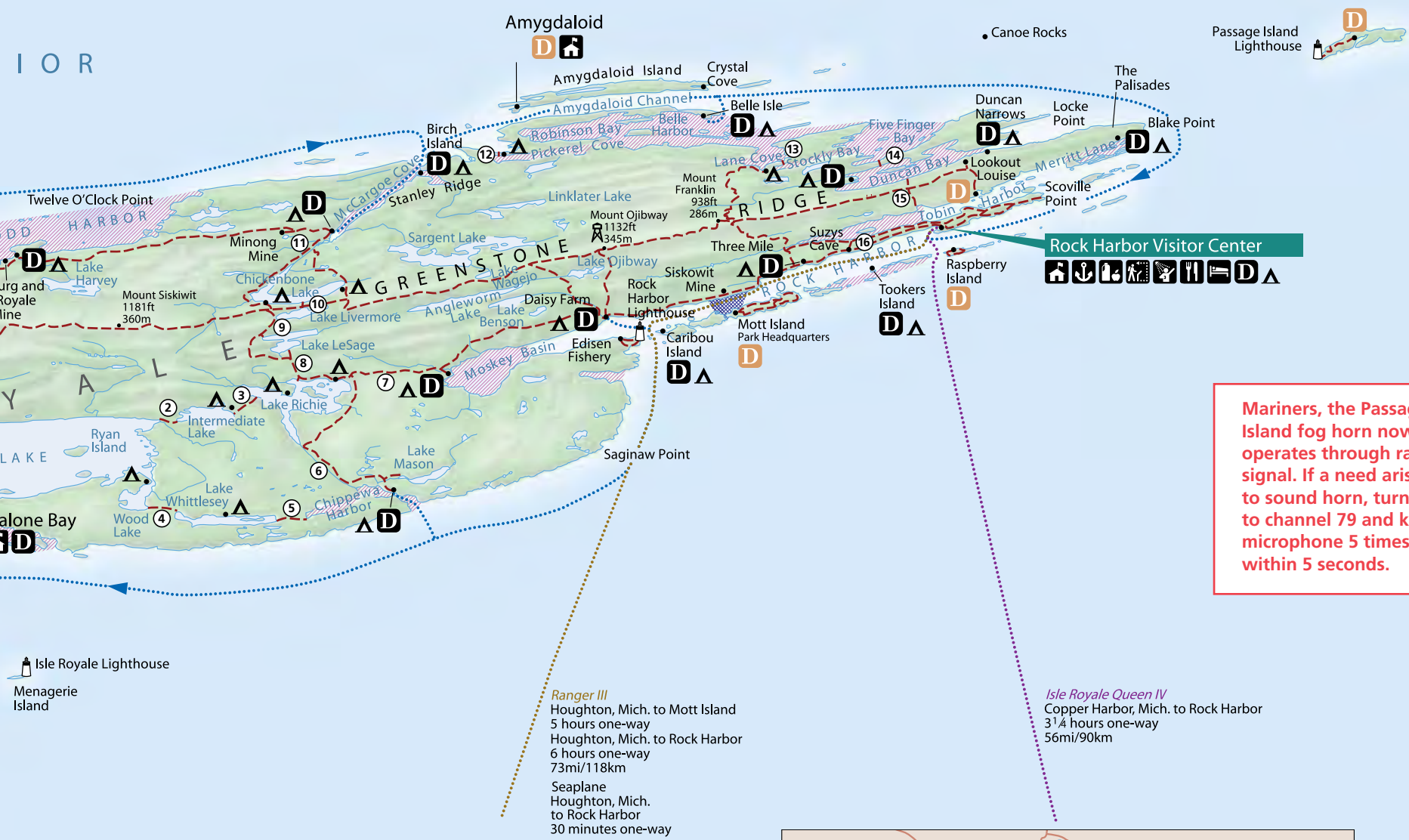
\* Refer to page 8 for details

## CANOE PORTAGES

Distance•Elevation-Change•General Comment

- Malone Bay - Siskiwit Lake - 3 miles, 40' Gradual Slope
- Siskiwit Lake - Intermediate Lake - .4 miles, 40' Gradual
- Intermediate Lake - Lake Richie - .6 miles, 120' Hilly and wooded
- Wood Lake - Lake Whittlesey - .6 miles, 80' Rolling
- Lake Whittlesey - Chippewa Harbor - .6 miles, 140' Steep grades and rocky
- Chippewa Harbor - Lake Richie - 1.2 miles, 160' Hilly
- Moskey Basin - Lake Richie - 2.0 miles, 120' Gradual but very long
- Lake Richie - Lake LeSage - .6 miles, 100' Steep grades, wet
- Lake LeSage - Lake Livermore - .4 miles, 80' Steep grades, wet
- Lake Livermore - Chickenbone Lake - .2 miles, 40' Steep but short
- Chickenbone Lake - McCargoe Cove - 1.2 miles, 80' Hilly
- Pickeral Cove - .1 miles, 10' Short and sweet
- Lane Cove - Stockly Bay - .1 mile, 8' Short and sweet
- Five Finger Bay - Duncan Bay - .2 miles, 8' Short and sweet
- Duncan Bay - Tobin Harbor - .8 miles, 175' Extremely steep
- Tobin Harbor - Rock Harbor - .2 miles, 40' Up and over

NOTE: Because of Isle Royale's geology, north-facing slopes are much steeper than south-facing slopes.



**Mariners, the Passage Island fog horn now operates through radio signal. If a need arises to sound horn, turn to channel 79 and key microphone 5 times within 5 seconds.**

**Ranger III**  
Houghton, Mich. to Mott Island  
5 hours one-way  
Houghton, Mich. to Rock Harbor  
6 hours one-way  
73mi/118km  
Seaplane  
Houghton, Mich. to Rock Harbor  
30 minutes one-way

**Isle Royale Queen IV**  
Copper Harbor, Mich. to Rock Harbor  
3.4 hours one-way  
56mi/90km



### SAFETY TIPS

The island's Wilderness and Lake Superior present challenges and potential hazards to the inexperienced or ill-prepared.

- Basic emergency services are available on the island, but contacting rangers for assistance can be difficult. Emergency response and evacuation may take time, requiring you to rely on your own skills and equipment. Most private boaters on Lake Superior have radios and can contact park rangers in an emergency.
- Bring a good first aid kit, a sufficient supply of any needed medications, and clothing appropriate for the time of year.
- Filter with chemical treatment or boil all surface water. Drink plenty of water. When dehydrated, you tire more quickly, don't think clearly, and are more prone to fall.
- Weather and lake conditions can deteriorate quickly and unexpectedly. Hypothermia can occur any time of the year, especially near Lake Superior, where water and air temperatures are cool to cold year-round. Fog and waves can quickly create dangerous conditions for boaters, especially for paddlers.
- Many people underestimate hiking travel times and overestimate their abilities. Plan shorter, realistic travel days; don't turn your wilderness trek into a forced march.

### FISHING REGULATIONS

Species	Seasons	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Comment
Lake Trout, Rainbow Trout and Salmon Lake Superior and Siskiwit Lake	April 16 to October 31	10" except 15" for lake trout	5 in any combination, but no more than 3 of any one species - only one over 34"	*1, *2 Artificial lures only on Siskiwit Lake*3 *4
Coaster Brook Trout Lake Superior	May 1 to Labor Day	N/A	Catch and release only in park's Lake Superior waters.	*1 See Greenstone article page 10 for details *4
Brook Trout Streams and Hidden Lake	Last Saturday in April to Labor Day	N/A	Catch and release only — No possession allowed	Artificial lures *3 and barbless hooks *4 See Greenstone article page 10 for details
Rainbow Trout Streams		7"	5 fish with no more than 3 fish over 15"	
Lake Herring (Cisco) and Lake Whitefish Inland Lakes	April 16 to October 31	N/A	Catch and release only	*3 *4
Yellow Perch Lake Superior and Inland Lakes	April 16 to October 31	No minimum size	50	Recommend daily limit of 10 *4
Northern Pike Lake Superior and Inland Lakes	May 15 to October 31	24" Lake Superior Inland Lakes - No minimum size, 30" maximum	5 in any combination, but no more than 2 Northern Pike	Artificial lures only on interior lakes *3 and streams *4 See Greenstone article page 10 for details
Walleye Lake Superior and Inland Lakes		15"		

For additional fish species, seasons, creel limits and 2013 regulation updates and changes review the Michigan Fishing Guide

\*1 Park boundaries extend 4.5 miles out into Lake Superior from the outermost land areas of the park.  
\*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 or streams.  
\*4 Only barbless hooks may be used for fishing the park's rivers, creeks, and streams, and all inland lakes. Barbed hooks are only allowed in Lake Superior waters.

# Wilderness Use

## Insects

Expect mosquitoes, black flies, gnats, and other insects to peak in June or July. During wet summers, mosquito populations can continue well into August. Bring insect repellent, netting, or other skin barriers. Dry summers will produce an abundance of yellow jackets. Bring an epinephrine kit if you or a member of your party is allergic to bee stings. For others, over-the-counter antihistamines may help counter minor swelling and itching.

## Minimize Use of Fires

Campfires are permitted at only a handful of campgrounds. A backpacking stove is a must; these stoves are lightweight, dependable, easier to use, and less damaging to the park than wood fires. Where campfires are allowed, a metal fire ring is provided; never build your own ring. Gather only dead and down wood away from the camp area. **Do not import firewood; insects and pathogens from an infected wood source could devastate Isle Royale's forests.** Use small diameter wood no larger than an adult's wrist, as this will burn completely and will eliminate the need to pack a hatchet or saw. Collect wood from a wide area and away from the immediate vicinity of camp. This keeps the camp area from becoming depleted of wood and potential nutrients. Do not break branches or strip bark from standing trees, live or dead. Resist the temptation to gather driftwood or wood from beaver dams or lodges. Do not burn trash in any form. The fire should be kept small. Once finished, make sure the flames and coals are dead out and cold to the touch; double check before going to bed or leaving camp.

## Canoeing/Kayaking

Lake Superior is well known for its cold temperatures, fog, and sudden squalls that can generate waves that could easily swamp a canoe. This along with scarce outer shore landing sites adds to the potential danger. Small, open vessels are encouraged to use the numerous miles of waterways that the inland lakes provide. Canoeists and kayakers should be familiar with weather patterns and consult the marine forecast at visitor centers before embarking. Be prepared to adjust your schedule to the weather. A portable marine radio is recommended.

### Portages –

Canoe routes and portages are on the northeast half of the Island. Portages are marked with a letter “P” on a post.

### PFD –

Every canoeist and kayaker must have a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device. Wear it; your life may depend on it.

### Boat Rental –

Canoe, kayak, and motorboat rentals are available at Windigo and Rock Harbor. For more information contact the Rock Harbor Lodge. (refer to page 2).

## Loons

Isle Royale National Park contains over 100 loon nesting territories, supporting the only known population which still breeds in Great Lakes waters. These birds nest on

land very close to the shoreline, making them highly susceptible to human disturbance. An adult loon who tremolos (the laughing call) is sending a message that you are too close. From mid-May through July 15 (loon nesting season) visitors are to stay at least 150 feet away from small islands. Additional areas may be closed due to loon nesting, please check at the visitor centers for updated information.

## Invasive Species

Invasive species are considered to be one of the top threats to the ecological integrity of our national parks. Please take time before and during your trip to do your part to repel the invasion.

### What can you do to stop the spread?

#### Before traveling to Isle Royale

##### Boaters

Drain live wells and bilge on land - remove transom water, lake water, and unwanted bait from your boat. Wash your boat, including bilge and equipment with either: a) hot (greater than 104 degrees F) water, b) high pressure water, c) disinfectant OR Clean and dry your boat and equipment in the sun for five days. Rainy days don't count.

##### Backpackers

Prior to departure, clean your tent, backpack, camping gear, clothing, and boots.

##### Canoeists and Kayakers

Remove weeds, algae, and other plant and animal materials from your boat. Wash your boat and equipment with either: a) hot water (greater than 104 degrees F), b) high pressure water, c) disinfectant OR clean and dry your boat and equipment in the sun for five days. Rainy days don't count.

##### Anglers

Clean fishing gear before island departure.

##### Divers

Wash all dive gear in warm chlorinated tap water - Disinfect your wetsuit with a special-purpose shampoo - dry all dive gear and wetsuit for seven days before island departure.

### While on Isle Royale

If you filter water from Lake Superior, change your filter or backflush several times with filtered water before using inland.

##### Canoeists and Kayakers

Wipe down your boat and associated gear before moving from Lake Superior to inland waters.

##### Anglers

When moving from Lake Superior to inland waters, clean gear and change line spools.

## Wheeled Vehicles/ Devices

Wheeled vehicles (except for non-motorized wheelchairs) or other mechanical forms of transportation are not allowed outside developed areas at Rock Harbor and Windigo. This includes bicycles and portaging devices.

## 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 among other things the slingshot, blowgun, and bow and arrow. Fireworks are prohibited.

**Exception:** As of February 22, 2010, a federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under applicable federal, state and local laws to legally possess firearms in the park. **However, the discharge of firearms within park boundaries is illegal.**

**Park User Responsibility:** It is the responsibility of visitors to understand and comply with all applicable state, local and federal firearms laws before entering the park. As a starting point view the Michigan MCL Section 28.425b and visit the Michigan State Police website. For information on weapons restrictions aboard ferries and seaplanes, see park website.

**Weapons prohibited in Federal Facilities:** Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in the park; those places are marked with signs at all public entrances.

For more detailed information and links to legislation and pertaining laws visit [www.nps.gov/isro/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm](http://www.nps.gov/isro/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm)

## Pets

Dogs, cats, and other mammals are not allowed. This includes pets on boats within the park boundaries, which extend 4.5 miles into Lake Superior from the outermost land areas of the park. Visitors bringing pets to Isle Royale will be required to leave immediately. Pets disturb wildlife and can transmit diseases, particularly to wolves. Special conditions apply to guide dogs. Please contact the park for further information.

## Boating

All boaters staying overnight at anchor, at docks, or in campgrounds must first obtain a camping permit. Lake Superior offers challenging and often dangerous weather in the form of dense fog, high winds, waves, and thunderstorms. Combine this with rocky reefs, limited safe harbors, and Isle Royale's remoteness, and it pays for you, your crew, and your boat to be shipshape. For additional information on boating and trip planning please request the park's Isle Royale Boating Guide. **In addition to Houghton, Rock Harbor, and Windigo, boaters may obtain Isle Royale camping permits on-line at [www.nps.gov/isro](http://www.nps.gov/isro).**

### Restricted Water Activities –

Water skiing and personal watercraft including vessels commonly referred to as jet skis, waverunners, sea-doo's, wet bikes, or surf jets are prohibited. Since all of the park's inland lakes are located within designated Wilderness, they can only be explored by paddling. Vessels with motors (even if not in use) are prohibited on inland lakes and streams.

### Portable Generators, Electronic and Motorized Devices –

Operation of electronic and motorized devices such as stereos, televisions, radios tuned to commercial stations and portable generators are not permitted except in developed and open-water motorized zones. Developed areas include the Windigo and Rock Harbor developed areas, and the Mott Island Headquarters area. Open water motorized zones include Lake Superior waters outside of designated “quiet/no wake waters”.

### On-Board Generators –

The operation or use of permanently installed (by the boat manufacturer) on-board vessel generators is allowed between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time in developed zones and at the following docks: Beaver Island, Belle Isle, Caribou Island, Grace Island, Hay Bay, Malone Bay, Rock Harbor, Tobin Harbor and Windigo. On-board generators may not be operated or used at the following public docks: Birch Island, Chippewa Harbor, Daisy Farm, Duncan Bay, Duncan Narrows, McCargoe Cove, Merritt Lane, Moskey Basin, Siskiwit Bay, Three Mile, Todd Harbor, and Tookers Island. Vessels at anchor within Quiet/No Wake Zones may operate on-board generators between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, except when anchored within 1/4-mile of a designated park campground.

### Quiet/No Wake Zones –

These zones promote a 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. Quiet/No Wake Zones include specified areas near Todd Harbor, Johns Island, Barnum/Washington Islands, Hay Bay, Wright Island, Malone Bay, Chippewa Harbor, Conglomerate Bay, Moskey Basin, Lorelei Lane, Tobin Harbor, Merritt Lane, Passage Island, Duncan Bay, Five Finger Bay, Lane Cove, Robinson Bay, Pickerel Cove, Belle Harbor, Crystal Cove, and McCargoe Cove. Consult map on page 6 and 7.

### Pollution Prevention –

Head pump-out service is available at Windigo and Rock Harbor when the concession operation is open. Vessels carrying spare fuel in portable containers must use legally approved containers. Fuel may not be stored on docks.

### Customs –

All vessels arriving from Canada (U.S. or Canadian) must clear U.S. customs at Windigo or Rock Harbor Visitor Center. **A valid passport, U.S. Passport card, enhanced drivers license, or trusted traveler program card is required. Visitors from Canada can be cleared for Isle Royale only.** For additional information go to [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov).

### Divers –

Please refer to your dive permit regulations concerning compressor use.

### Fuel –

Gasoline is sold from June 4 through September 8 at Windigo; gasoline and diesel fuel are sold from May 24 through September 6 at Rock Harbor. Diesel fuel is not available at Windigo. Early and late season service or fuel may be obtained at Windigo and Mott Island if personnel are available.

For detailed information on park regulations visit [www.nps.gov/isro/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm](http://www.nps.gov/isro/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm)

For additional information on Leave No Trace request a copy of the park's LNT booklet or visit [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)



# Fifty Lakes One Island: Exploring Wilderness Waters

In the spring and fall of 2011, George Desort spent more than 70 days exploring all of Isle Royale's inland lakes by foot and paddle, gathering material for his latest film, *Fifty Lakes One Island*. When asked what motivated his recent expedition, he replied, "I made the film *Fifty Lakes One Island* because I want to share the most important place in my life with others. Seeking and exploring Isle Royale's inland waters was the greatest intangible treasure hunt I can imagine."

Stove, matches, map, compass, tent, headlamp, sleeping bag, water bottle...The gear list is racing through my mind as I ride the park



ferry *Ranger III*, rolling from side to side during the always-memorable crossing of the Big Lake. As the list grows with the building swells, I remind myself it is too late for second-guessing. No fuel? I can always survive on jerky and energy bars. No map? I will never leave an established

trail or hike at night. After fighting off a few waves of anxiety, I convince myself that I will adapt to any inconvenience. I always do. A trip to Isle Royale is never about the gear.

Spotting the island on the horizon, it is now time to welcome its influence. My only necessities are food, water, and shelter. After a hot meal and deep sleep in the tent, I

am confident in my preparations and am able to allow the island experience to begin. It takes a few days for the mind and body to find the island's pace, but once in stride, the diurnal cycle takes hold. Days are filled with packing, unpacking, hiking, and paddling while nights are overcome with the most vivid, memorable yet exhausting dreams the soul can handle. I say bring it on, bring it all on.

On a cloudless October morning, I cram the kayak with twenty days worth of gear. Departing Daisy Farm for Siskiwit Bay I agonize over weather, waves, miles, and loneliness. Gratefully, I paddle through the chaotic waters of Saginaw Point without incident. As the waters begin to calm, so does my mind.

For me, Isle Royale is a place for exploring my past, present, and future without judgment. I begin to remember playing with captive wolf pups in northern Minnesota as a seven-year-



old. I hold conversations aloud with my dad, who died seventeen years ago. I'm thinking about the edit of *Fifty Lakes One Island*, about friends who have died too soon, the futures of nephews, godsons, and myself. Paddling only a few feet from the shoreline, the island offers worthy diversions, but by the time I reach Wright Island, distractions, time, and physical pain have subsided. Each paddle stroke brings me closer to the elusive, but attainable, meditative state I only find on Isle Royale.

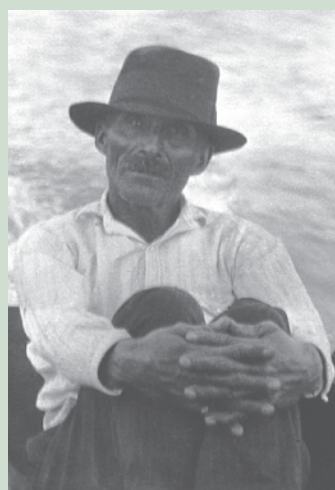
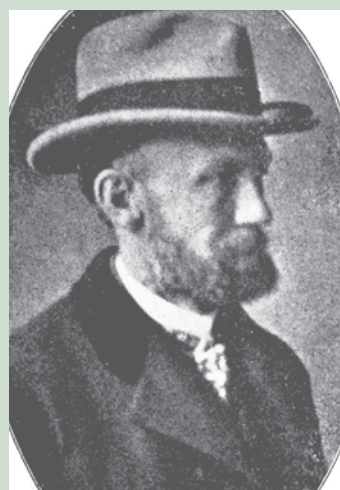
George Desort  
Filmmaker

## What's in a Name?

From the first travelers to today's visitors, a sense of adventure and an unquenchable spirit have been requisites for an Isle Royale expeditioner. The names of many of the Island's inland lakes are testament to this long, rich history of exploration and discovery. Look carefully into the lakes and you may see reflections of past explorers.

## Update: Cultural Resources Management Plan

Last winter the National Park Service worked on draft alternatives to be considered in the Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP). The alternatives will be available online for review and commentary. Public comments are a critical part of this planning process. We look forward to working with you and appreciate your continued interest in the future of cultural resources in Isle Royale National Park. Newsletters, participation opportunities and other information related to the CRMP can be found online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ISROcrmp>.



1) In 1847, the first land survey of Isle Royale was in progress. In tandem with this, a geological survey was undertaken. During this expedition, assistant geologist Eduoard was the first to recognize and document the effects of glaciation on the landscape of Isle Royale. The second largest lake on the island is named in his honor. What is this lake?

*Hint: Two campgrounds and the island's highest point also bear his name.*

2) After early surveys were completed, Isle Royale became the domain of the explorer-scientist. In the 1890s, Arthur led an expedition to once again delve into Isle Royale's geologic story. Three lakes: Forbes, Mason and Wallace are named for survey team members. A.C.'s name was given to a secluded spot on the island's northeastern shore. Where is it?

*Hint: A.C. is also remembered in the names of a campground and a trail.*

3) Isle Royale fishermen were explorers in their own right; becoming intimately familiar with their fishing grounds. Martin fished the south shore of the island in the 1920s and 30s, but, unlike most fishermen, did not live on the shore of Lake Superior. He often used a raft to pole to his home on the north shore of the lake that now bears his name.

*Hint: He would have fished the rich and productive reefs between Point Houghton and The Head.*

4) Among many professions, John was a noted island guide for summer residents, tourists, journalists and researchers. He and his wife, Tchi-ki-wis, were the last Native American couple to call the archipelago home. They lived on Birch Island in the summers during the 1920s and 30s. What lake is honored with John's name?

*Hint: The long narrow lake is located fairly near his island residence.*

5) In 1929, between expeditions to the Arctic and the Himalayas, zoologist Walter Koelz explored Isle Royale and surveyed its inland lake fish populations. Many of the lakes surrounding Chippewa Harbor were named by him: including one for his mother (Lake Theresa) and another for his dog (Lake Scholts). What lake did he name for himself and other survey team members George Stanley and John Brumm?

*Hint: It contains just a portion of his first name.*

ANSWERS: 1) Lake Desor, 2) Lane Cove, 3) Lake Halloran, 4) Linklater Lake, 5) Lake Wagejo

## REMINDER:

Barbless hooks and artificial lures only in all inland lakes, streams and creeks.

# Fishing at Isle Royale

A Michigan fishing license is required for fishing in Lake Superior, including narrow bays and harbors, and when transporting fish from the island to the mainland. If you are under 17 years of age, you may fish without a license. Licenses are not required to fish on the inland waters of Isle Royale; possession limits are generally the same as those set by the State of Michigan. Also see additional information on this page regarding special brook trout regulations. Anglers should refer to the Michigan fishing regulations for possession limits and detailed license requirements for Lake Superior (also see the chart on page 7 for a brief guide to regulations). Only 24-hour licenses are available on the island and only when concession services are open. You may purchase a Michigan fishing license online at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

## Special Brook Trout Regulations

Surveys indicate populations are dangerously low and may be at risk of disappearing unless protective measures remain in place. The National Park Service and Michigan DNR have implemented protective regulations at Isle Royale in order to help with the recovery of this once-common fish.

Brook trout can be identified by their nearly square tail and wormlike pattern on the back and dorsal fin. If you're uncertain about the species you catch, return it to the water.

**Lake Superior Waters**  
(extend 4.5 miles out from the island)  
Catch and release only for all brook trout, including all bays and harbors.

### Inland Waters

Catch and release only in all lakes, streams, and creeks. Only artificial lures and barbless hooks can be used in all lakes, streams, and creeks.

# Invader Alert – Aquatic Invasive Species

Isle Royale waters, like all Lake Superior waters, face a growing threat from the invasion of non-native species. Once species like zebra mussels, spiny water fleas and sea lamprey enter an area, they cause large scale changes in the ecosystem.

Two invasive species, the sea lamprey and the spiny water flea have already established a presence in Isle Royale waters. The spiny water flea is presently found only in Lake Superior. The park is concerned it may enter the inland lakes. Once established, its spines harm predator fish and the fleas disrupt the zooplankton population, the basic food source for many fish species.

In 2009, zebra mussels were documented for the first time. Their potential to cause catastrophic change cannot be overstated. If zebra mussels were to enter the inland lakes it is estimated that they would cover nearly every habitable surface on an inland lake floor in two to four years.

The exotic virus Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) has reached Lake Superior. This disease affects more than 40 species of fish including lake trout and coaster brook trout. The incredible genetic diversity of Isle Royale's lake trout would be at risk if VHS was introduced to Isle Royale waters.

## Fishery Conservation

With its multitude of islands and bays on Lake Superior, as well as numerous lakes and streams on the interior of the island, Isle Royale provides many opportunities for outstanding recreational fishing for wild, native fish. How can you help to conserve and minimize damage to the Isle Royale fishery?

- The possession or use of bait for fishing within the Lake Superior waters of the park is limited to those fish and/or fish parts that are caught within Isle Royale National Park waters. Transporting fish or fish parts for use as bait to the park is prohibited.
- Catch only what you plan to keep or eat. Catch and release, while encouraged, can be damaging and very stressful on fish.
- Know the minimum and maximum legal size of fish so that if they are too small or too large they can be quickly released.
- If moving from Lake Superior to an inland lake, change to a new spool of line. This will help prevent spread of the spiny water-flea, an exotic aquatic invertebrate that competes with juvenile fish for food. It has been found in Lake Superior waters of the park but is not yet documented in inland waters. Spiny water fleas can adhere to fishing line and be easily spread to other bodies of water.
- Release larger fish and keep medium size fish to insure future productivity. Larger, more mature fish produce more offspring than smaller fish.
- Instead of killing trophy fish, consider a modern graphite mount produced from a picture of the fish.
- Return fish to the water as soon as possible. While unhooking them, keep fish in the water as much as possible.
- Try not to handle fish, but if you need to, do so with a wet hand. Release handled fish gently by allowing them to swim from your hands rather than throwing them back into the water.

- Do not squeeze the fish or place fingers in the gills, since a torn gill can cause the fish to bleed to death.
- Remove the hook gently. Pliers work best. Cut the line near the hook if a fish is deeply hooked. A steel hook will decompose in time.
- Use only artificial lures (required in inland waters) as exotic species can accidentally be introduced by using live bait. In addition, live bait is more likely to be swallowed; resulting in more damage to fish.
- Use barbless hooks or bend down the barbs on the hooks. Using larger spoons when fishing for larger fish will help prevent catching undersize fish.

### Disposal of Fish Remains

At Rock Harbor and Windigo, please use the fish cleaning station. At other locations, the preferred method is to dump remains chopped up into pieces 4" or less in deep (50' or deeper) water. This reduces the unsightly remains and odors around campgrounds and the unnaturally large gathering of gulls at these sites. At inland lakes the preferred method of disposal is to chop fish remains into pieces 4" or less and deposit into deep water via canoe. If you do not have a canoe, you could request the assistance of a canoeist. The alternate method is to chop up remains into pieces 4" or less and move at least 200 feet (75 steps) from campground and throw remains as far as possible into deep water. These steps will eliminate the potential for attracting and feeding wildlife at campgrounds. Please clean fish away from docks and campgrounds. Do not throw remains in shallow water near shore or throw remains to gulls or other animals.

### Transporting Fish to the Mainland

You are allowed only one day's catch in your possession. While the license holder remains on the Island, Michigan

## Stopping the Spread - Visitor Responsibilities

Vessel owners are legally responsible for Aquatic Invasive Species decontamination prior to entering park waters (extending 4.5 miles from Isle Royale and the outer islands). This applies to all vessels (power and sailboats, canoes, kayaks, etc.), regardless of size or configuration. Please take the following steps to prevent the transport of zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species to Isle Royale waters:

**Inspect** for zebra mussels and other aquatic invasives attached to your trim tabs, swim platform, motor mounts, hull and equipment. Feel the hull. A coarse sandpaper texture may indicate larval mussels attached to your boat.

**Remove** all zebra mussels and other invasive species along with any aquatic plants from your boat, trailer and equipment. Larval mussels are best removed with a scrub brush or similar method. Treat invasives like litter. Dispose of them in a trash can.

**Drain** all water from your motor, livewell, bilge, transom, etc. away from any body of water.

**Wash** your boat, including bilge and equipment with either: a) hot water (greater than 104 degrees F), b) high pressure water, or c) disinfectant OR

**Clean and Dry** your boat and equipment in the sun for five days. Rainy days don't count.

**Check** to see if your boat is coming from a port known to have zebra mussels. Duluth, Superior, Thunder Bay, Marquette, Ontonagon and Ashland all have documented infestations. If so, take extra measures to assure decontamination.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) allows those with DNR permits to ship legally taken fish on the *Ranger III*, *Isle Royale Queen IV*, *Sea Hunter*, *Voyageur II* and the seaplane. This one-a-year permit covers up to a single day's catch limit. Fish must be claimed when the ferry service arrives at their destination. Permits may be obtained by writing: Department of Natural Resources, 427 U.S. 41 North, Baraga, Michigan 49908-9627 or calling (906) 353-6651.

Fishermen returning on the *Ranger III* must check in their fish with the ship's purser. Fish cannot be transported in coolers on private boats onboard the *Ranger III*.

### Fish Consumption Advisory

Contaminants discovered in the Park ecosystem remind us that although Isle Royale is remote, it is part of a global system. Ongoing research in six inland lakes (Sargent, Siskiwit, Eva, Shesheeb, Wagejo, and Anglemorm) shows fish with mercury levels exceeding the State of Michigan fish consumption advisories.

For information on fish consumption advisories check with park staff or visit the Michigan Department of Community Health website at: <http://www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish> or the EPA Fish Advisory website at: <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/fishshellfish/fishadvisories/advisories/index.cfm>

Jay Glase  
Fishery Biologist



## Join the Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association and Support Isle Royale National Park Programs

The Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association, in partnership with the National Park Service, promotes the public's understanding and appreciation of Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park through education and research.

By publishing and selling products about Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park, we educate people about these special places and raise funds that are reinvested in the parks to support research and interpretive programs.

Every year the Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association contributes approximately \$25,000 in cash and in-kind aid to Isle Royale National Park.

### YOU CAN HELP....

You can support the work of the Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association and our partner parks by becoming a contributing member of our organization. Your tax-deductible contribution will help us share the stories of Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park with people of all ages, around the world.

#### Membership levels are:

Life _____	\$1200	(Payable in 4 installments)
Patron _____	250	See website for member premiums.
Sustaining _____	100	
Supporting _____	50	
Household _____	35	
Individual _____	25	

#### Member benefits:

- a 10% discount on all purchases from IRKPA outlets and many other national park visitor centers throughout the U.S.,
- three issues of Wolf's Eye newsletter,
- copies of park newspapers, *The Greenstone* and the *Keweenaw Guide*,
- invitations to park programs, trips, and events,
- monthly e-mail park news updates.

Become a member today!

Call us at 800-678-6925, or join online at [www.irkpa.org](http://www.irkpa.org)

## The Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association:

Offers books and other educational products in visitor centers at Rock Harbor, Windigo, Houghton and Calumet;



Rock Harbor Visitor Center

Produces park signs and brochures;



Brochures

Conducts field trips and workshops;

Isle Royale Botany Workshop



Provides funding for Isle Royale's Artist-in-Residence Program.

Isle Royale Artists in Residence



ISLE ROYALE & KEWEENAW PARKS ASSOCIATION PRODUCTS

## BOOKS, MAPS & MORE

Your purchases help support Isle Royale National Park!

**Becoming Wilderness: Nature, History, and the Making of Isle Royale National Park** \$12.95  
Explore the little-known backstory of how Isle Royale became a national park, and the people and politics behind the decision to make a remote island in Lake Superior the first wilderness national park. 99 pp. Author: Amy Tholen Baldwin

**Moose: Giant of the Northern Forest.** \$19.95  
This classic work is a celebration of the moose and this iconic animal's place in the northern forest ecosystem. With 80 dramatic photographs of moose in their natural habitat. 144 pp. Author: Bill Silliker, Jr.

**A View from the Wolf's Eye** \$12.95  
Carolyn Peterson's memoir of her 37 summers on Isle Royale as wife of long-time wolf/moose researcher Rolf Peterson. An uplifting and inspiring chronicle of day-to-day life in a very special wilderness. 102 pages. Author: Carolyn Peterson

**Island Life: An Isle Royale Nature Guide** \$19.95  
A complete guide to the common flora and fauna of Isle Royale in one easy-to-use and easy-to-carry volume. Over 350 species of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, trees, and flowers, each illustrated with a color photograph or drawing. 168 pages. Authors: Ted Gostomski & Janet Marr

**Isle Royale National Park: Foot Trails and Water Routes** \$16.95  
The park's authoritative trip-planning guide. Complete descriptions for trails and waterways, including mileage, difficulty and amenities at each destination. More than 60 photos and 35 detailed maps of the park's backcountry. 4th Edition. 184 pages. Author: Jim DuFresne

**The Wolves of Isle Royale: A Broken Balance** \$29.95  
This classic first-hand account of the Isle Royale predator/prey study is illustrated with more than 100 photographs. The book reveals the true nature of the little-understood wolf and some of the secrets of this one-of-a-kind research project, now entering its 54th year. 192 pages. Author: Rolf Peterson

**Ecological Study of Wolves on Isle Royale 2012-2013** \$4.95  
This year's report from the winter study on Isle Royale. Includes latest information on the island's wolf and moose populations. Annual Reports from 1987-2012 also available. Authors: Rolf Peterson & John Vucetich

**Superior Wilderness: Isle Royale National Park** \$16.95  
A natural history of Isle Royale for the layperson, emphasizing the ecology of the island, the relationship between its plants, animals and physical environment. Color photographs and an extremely readable text. Maps, photos, charts, illustrations. 171 pages. Author: Napier Shelton

**Wolf-Moose Snowflake T-Shirt** S-XL \$18.95, 2XL \$20.95  
George Desort's original design of wolf and moose tracks that form a snowflake! Says "Wolves and Moose of Isle Royale" and "www.irkpa.org." Preshrunk 100% cotton in gray or royal blue.

**National Geographic Kids National Parks Guide U.S.A.** \$14.95  
Bring the fun and amazement of our national parks to kids. Includes tips on exploration, information about animals, sidebars, checklists, fun facts, maps, and cool things to do. Age 8 and up. 160 pp.

**Jr. Ranger Backpack, Hat, and Vest**  
High-quality Jr. Ranger products, designed with the young nature explorer in mind, complement our national parks' Jr. Ranger programs.  
Sturdy, feature-rich nylon backpack \$24.95  
Poly/cotton hat with chin strap (S, M/L) \$11.95  
Poly/mesh zip vest with pockets (youth S, M, L) \$29.95

**Moose Flipbook** \$3.95  
Watch a bull moose move through a forest and shake off water after a swim. Simple and fun mini-book that's loaded with facts about these amazing creatures. Wolf flipbook is also available.

**Trails Illustrated Map** \$11.95  
Topographic map includes valuable wilderness tips and Leave No Trace guidelines, along with updated trails, trailheads, points of interest, campgrounds, and much more. Printed on waterproof, tear-resistant material with a plastic coating with one half of the island on each side. Measures 4" x 9" folded and 38" x 25" fully opened. Scale = 1:50,000. Updated 2006.

**NOAA Lake Charts** \$22.50  
Official navigation charts for Isle Royale, Lake Superior, Grand Portage, the Great Lakes, Keweenaw Peninsula, and Portage Canal. Soundings in feet. Folded or rolled. Add \$4.00 for mailing tube if rolled.

**Exploring Isle Royale** DVD \$21.95  
This orientation video produced by the National Park Service shows how to best enjoy the island's many attributes, including its trails, lakes, and campsites. Winner of the 1995 Michigan Outdoor Writers Association Best Outdoor Travel Program. 28 minutes.

### Special Value Package

**Hiking & Canoeing Package** \$29.00  
Includes the Trails Illustrated map, the book *Isle Royale National Park: Foot Trails and Water Routes*, and the park checklists of birds, mammals, and rocks.

[www.irkpa.org](http://www.irkpa.org)  
800-678-6925

**IRKPA members receive a 10% Discount on all purchases!**

Visit our sales outlets at Isle Royale National Park visitor centers on the waterfront in Houghton, Michigan, and on the island at Rock Harbor and Windigo.



Shipping Charges/US Mail:	
Up to \$5.00	\$3.00
\$5.01 - \$10.00	\$4.00
\$10.01 - \$20.00	\$5.00
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\$30.01 - \$50.00	\$8.00
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Priority Mail: Add \$4.00	
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