Welcome to Isle Royale National Park

Imagine you are standing on the shore of a vast lake, looking out to a low rise of land on the horizon. Do you wonder what is out there? Would you strike out over open water to find out? For more than four thousand years, people have been enticed to make the crossing from the shores of Lake Superior to Isle Royale. The how and why of these journeys varies over time, but the allure of crossing the lake to visit this isolated archipelago remains constant.

While Isle Royale seems relatively isolated and protected from the outside world, it is not immune to change. Because of their small size and their separation, island ecosystems are often dynamic. Change can happen quickly. And small isolated locations can be particularly sensitive to the effects of larger-scale phenomena, such as climate change—which influences wolves, moose, and other park resources.

Isle Royale's isolation—one once considered an obstacle—is today the primary reason people travel to the park. But still, visitors to this wild place, just like those who came before, must make the crossing to the island.

The gateways to Isle Royale are steeped in historic connections. Consider exploring these stories of past travelers, residents and immigrants at Grand Portage National Monument and Keweenaw National Historical Park.

Then, I invite you to make the crossing...and discover for yourself the magic of a wild, isolated national park.

Phyllis Green
Superintendent

Islandness and Isle Royale Wolves

In 2017, the National Park Service, with stakeholder input, will decide whether or not to keep wolves as a part of Isle Royale's ecosystem. This is perhaps one of the most important decisions we have collectively faced as stewards of this unique and captivating landscape. As such, it is important to contemplate origins, recognize our environment and practice integrity in our deliberations.

Glaciers left the island nearly ten thousand years ago, humans arrived 4,500 years before the present, moose became established in the early 1900s and wolves arrived in 1948—only eight years after the National Park Service officially assumed management of the island. Today, the park sits silent for half the year as the majority of its inhabitants, human and non-human alike, leave for more hospitable environments. However, over eons, the island has decided who comes and who stays.

Isolation is a dynamic force that shapes the face of Isle Royale. Those who have experienced this force often refer to this characteristic as “islandness.” Islandness is an undeniable and often harsh fact of life on Isle Royale. Yet in the same breath, it is the essential contributor to the island’s alluring beauty and nature. There is no one reason beyond the park’s islandness that ties together why the lynx, the caribou, or the coyote no longer roam the forests; or why three separate attempts at copper mining never took hold; or why the ancestors of today’s Grand Portage Band of Chippewa were likely never year-round residents; or finally, why wolves can likely no longer persist without intervention.

Islandness is a duality, and where there is no answer, there is an opportunity for self-discovery. It may be that mainland solutions to island problems do not apply. Regardless, an opportunity stands before our collective “self” to understand different perspectives on how to help define the future of a place we hold so dearly in our hearts. Many of you have taken the time to participate in the planning process—thank you for your input. I implore you all to continue to follow the planning effort addressing the presence of wolves at Isle Royale by reviewing the draft environmental impact statement.

A difficult path stretches out before us, but as Albert Einstein once said, “In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.” If we bring the best of ourselves and recognize what is admirable in others to address this challenge, we will reach a decision with the integrity that it deserves.

Mark C. Romanski
Division Chief – Natural Resources

To learn more about the proposed plan, review the draft environmental impact statement at: https://parkplanning.nps.gov/isrowolves
Fee Changes

Park fees have not increased since 1997 while the costs of managing the park and providing visitor facilities and services has increased significantly. Starting in the 2017 season, a new entrance fee replaces the former user fee.

The new entrance fee will consist of:

- A $7 per person daily entrance fee. It is charged to enter or remain within the park per calendar day.
- The Isle Royale Season Pass (valid April 16, 2017 through October 31, 2017) will cost $60 and include up to three adults traveling with the pass holder as is consistent with other Federal Recreation Passes.
- All Federal Recreation Passes (Annual, Senior, Access, Military) will be honored. Entrance fees will be waived for the pass holder and up to three adults traveling with the pass holder.
- The $150 season boat rider pass will be discontinued. Boaters may purchase the $60 Isle Royale Season Pass instead.
- Children ages 15 and under will be exempt from paying entrance fees.
- Through August 31, 2017 entrance fees will be waived for 4th grade students and up to three accompanying adults when student presents 4th grade pass or paper voucher.

How To Pay

Daily entrance fees may be paid ahead of your trip online at paygov (search Isle Royale National Park.) If your entrance fee charge will be greater than $60, consider purchasing an Isle Royale Season Pass. The Isle Royale Season Pass may be purchased ahead of your trip from the Houghton Visitor Center. All Federal Recreation passes may be purchased in person upon arrival to the Houghton, Rock Harbor, or Windigo Visitor Centers; when purchased from this park, all fees support Isle Royale National Park.

If you have questions regarding how this fee change may affect your visit, please visit the park website, www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/fees.htm, or contact the park at (906) 482-0984.

Forever Resorts: Rock Harbor and Windigo

Lakeside Lodge Rooms

Sixty rooms are available; each accommodates four and offers private bath. Open 6/6 through night of 9/15.

Housekeeping Cabins

Twenty duplex cottages accommodate six and are furnished with kitchenettes, utensils, dishware, private bath, double bed and one bunk bed. Open 5/26 through night of 9/15.

Gift Shop and Dockside Store

Gift Shop offers handcrafted gifts, apparel, photo supplies, postcards, souvenirs, daily fishing licenses, and tackle. The store offers camping, hiking, and boating accessories, groceries, freeze-dried foods, fishing tackle, stove fuel, showers, laundry facilities, and sundries.

Gift Shop open 6/6 through 9/15; Dockside store open 5/26 through 9/15.

Lighthouse Restaurant and Greenstone Grill

Hearty meals, including fresh Lake Trout. Visitors welcome for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Food service open 6/6 through breakfast on 9/16.

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 5/26 through 9/15.

Fishing Charters and Sightseeing

Charters are fully equipped for catching lake trout and salmon. For details on sightseeing trips refer to page 9. Open 6/6 through 9/15.

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. Open 6/6 through 9/11.

Windigo Camper 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. Open 6/6 through night of 9/16.

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.
There are few places that more completely define solitude than Rock of Ages Lighthouse. Perched atop a knife-edged reef on the western brink of the Isle Royale archipelago, Rock of Ages Lighthouse has stood watch, silently guarding the rocky shores of Isle Royale for more than a century. Standing ten stories tall with a 2nd order Fresnel lens, Rock of Ages Lighthouse is just as striking a sight today as when it was built in 1908. One of the most powerful lights on the Great Lakes, with a range of twenty-five miles, the light serves as an important signpost for ships crossing Lake Superior, and marks the dangerous Rock of Ages Reef.

Since 1979 the Rock of Ages Lighthouse has been left to the wind, waves, and ice without a keeper to maintain it. The Rock of Ages Lighthouse Preservation Society has partnered with Isle Royale National Park to pick up where the last lighthouse keeper left off. Over the next few years, the Rock of Ages Lighthouse will undergo restoration with the help of dedicated volunteers, preserving the history of this amazing historic structure.

Rock of Ages Lighthouse is a welcome sight to all who journey to Isle Royale, not just because they have almost arrived, but because it means that the rest of the world has been left behind. Rock of Ages Lighthouse has a way of protecting all those who pass by from the ever-changing craziness that is our modern-day reality. Like Isle Royale, Rock of Ages is a world set apart. Those fortunate enough to set foot on the Rock know the overwhelming power of just being there, surrounded by the vast waters of Lake Superior and beauty of Isle Royale.

Nothing is easy about working at the lighthouse. You must carry heavy supplies up the 180-step spiral stairs and work twelve-hour days. Often you wait patiently on shore until the weather clears to make the half-hour trip in your small boat that must then be tied up to an old crumbling dock on the open waters of Lake Superior. Despite these obstacles, working on the Rock is an extraordinary experience for everyone involved.

The true value in a restored Rock of Ages Lighthouse will not just be in the beauty of the place, but in the ability to experience it, to feel what it is like to live the life of an offshore lighthouse keeper. With the help of all those who love Isle Royale, Rock of Ages could become a living lighthouse once again.

Learn how to get involved at: rockofageslps.org

David Gerth
Founder/Director

Fishing for Answers about Isle Royale’s Lake Trout

The Lake Trout, a keystone species that influences the entire Lake Superior food web, is an important icon of Isle Royale National Park. In fact, lake trout and the commercial fishery developed around this species are a primary reason for post-European settlement of the island.

A great diversity of lake trout once inhabited the Great Lakes. The accounts of 17th century Jesuit missionaries and early commercial fishers described lake trout with a wide assortment of body shapes, colors and other physical adaptations. Historically, Isle Royale lake trout exhibited much of that diversity, with at least twelve distinct forms described around the island. Names like smoky, redfin, paper belly, and the Rock of Ages Trout describe the physical characteristics or home territory of these distinctive lake trout.

Divergence into many forms, each using a certain habitat or feeding on specific prey, is not uncommon for lake trout in deep, cold lakes throughout their native range. Unfortunately, lake trout diversity has been reduced dramatically in the Great Lakes by sea lamprey predation, overfishing, stocking of hatchery fish, and the invasion of other non-native species. Lake Superior, especially the waters near Isle Royale, still holds the most abundant and diverse remnants of that historical diversity.

Recent studies have begun to better describe the life history of four forms of lake trout within the waters around Isle Royale. Biologists and fishers who spend time here immediately recognize there are likely more than four types of lake trout swimming around the archipelago. Lake trout usually return to the same areas to spawn each year, so locally adapted populations may emerge over time. The incredible variety of rocky habitats and unique depth contours found around the island provide greater opportunity for this potential adaptation. The National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are collaborating on a study of lake trout near their historical spawning grounds to fully describe and better understand the level of diversity around Isle Royale.

During the last several autumns, scientists sampled over twenty spawning reefs around Isle Royale. Concurrently, the National Park Service has mapped the lake bottom near these historical spawning reefs with sonar, in the hope that these habitat characteristics can be related back to the unique lake trout populations. Ideally this project will eventually sample the majority of spawning reefs around Isle Royale.

The information collected during this study will help resource managers to better conserve and protect this iconic species in Isle Royale National Park for generations to come.

Michael J. Seider
Fishery Biologist
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Jay Glase
Midwest Regional Fishery Biologist
National Park Service

Working at the Stvertson Fishery on Washington Island, scientists photograph lake trout for body form measurements.
Visiting Isle Royale

Isle Royale National Park is a remote wilderness area and visits to the island require thoughtful planning and preparation.

Park Entrance Fees
There is a daily entrance fee of $7 per person per calendar day. This applies to all park visitors, including those visiting the park or park waters for one day. The Isle Royale Season Pass and National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Passes (Annual, Senior, Military, and Access) all cover this fee for the pass holder and up to three accompanying adults. Children aged 15 years and younger are exempt (see page 2).

Insects
Expect mosquitoes and black flies 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 often result in an abundance of wasps. Bring an epinephrine kit if you or a member of your party is allergic to bee stings.

Drinking Water
Potable water is only available in Rock Harbor and Windigo.

Wheeled Transportation
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.

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 service dogs. For details visit www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/service-dogs.htm

Caution – Wilderness Ahead!

The island’s wilderness and Lake Superior present challenges and potential hazards to the inexperienced or ill-prepared. Bring a good first aid kit, a sufficient supply of any needed medications, and clothing appropriate for the time of year and your planned activities.

Emergencies
Basic emergency services are available on the island, but contacting rangers for assistance can be difficult. Cell phone service is not reliable; do not depend on it for your trip. 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 may be able to contact park rangers in an emergency. To contact the park in an emergency:

- 1-800-433-1986 (Via satellite phone or from Canada: (440) 546-5945)

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

Hypothermia can occur any time of the year, especially near Lake Superior, where water and air temperatures are cool to cold year-round. The best defense is to stay warm and dry. Dress in layers and put rain gear on before you get wet. Mild symptoms of hypothermia include shivering, apathy, and coordination loss. If someone in your party shows these signs, stop, get the person warm and dry. Add more layers, climb in a sleeping bag, and sip warm liquids.

On the Trail
Watch Your Step! The footing is often uneven. Roots and rocks can trip up the unwary hiker. Rain makes trails muddy and slick. When wet, roots, rocks and boardwalks are extremely slippery.

Stay on the Path: As you travel, you may encounter downed trees or large puddles. To lessen your impact go over, under, or through these obstructions. Skirting obstructions widens or creates new trails and makes it harder for future visitors to tell where the trail is, further impacting habitat along trails.

Plan Conservatively: 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.

Be Kind to Your Feet: Wear sturdy, well-broken in boots. Address hot spots and small blisters right away, before they become real problems. Give your feet spa treatment after hiking by soaking them in a lake and wearing comfy shoes in camp.

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. Boil water at a rolling boil for at least one minute, or pass through a 0.4 micron or finer filter. By itself, chemical treatment is not an effective method of water purification. SteriPENS and other UV purifiers have not been manufacturer-tested for a common Isle Royale parasite and cannot be considered effective.

Dehydration
Drink plenty of water. When dehydrated, you tire more quickly, do not think clearly, and are more prone to fall. Dehydration is a factor in most medical problems experienced in the park.

Water can be scarce between campgrounds, especially along ridges. Carry a minimum of two quarts of water per person; drink and refill whenever near water sources. In hot weather, start hiking early, travel at a slower pace, and rest in shady spots. Dehydration also occurs in cold weather as most people do not feel thirsty and tend to drink less.

Watch for 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.

Toxic Water Alert
In recent years, blue-green algae blooms have occurred in several inland lakes. Blue-green algae can be toxic and filtering does not remove toxins from the water. Avoid swimming, fishing or filtering water if it has a cloudy-blue cast or looks like “pea soup.” If algae blooms occur, advisories will be posted at park visitor centers. For more information visit www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/safety.htm

Customs
All vessels arriving from Canada (U.S. or Canadian) must clear U.S. Customs at the Windigo or Rock Harbor Visitor Center during regular business hours. A valid passport, U.S. Passport card, enhanced driver’s license, or Trusted Traveler Program card is required. Visitors from Canada can be cleared for Isle Royale only. For additional information visit www.cbp.gov.

Commercial Groups and Special Use Permits
For-profit groups providing goods, activities, or service to the general public within the park must obtain a Commercial Use Authorization – CUA ($200 fee.) These groups include camps, outfitters, tour groups, or any other operation that provides compensation, monetary gain, benefit, or profit to an individual, organization, or corporation for the authorized use. Applications for CUAs are accepted between January 2 and May 15. Commercial filming and still photography, and special events (e.g. weddings) require a Special Use Permit. Fee depends on type of activity and number of people.

For application forms visit www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/special-permit-fees.htm

Physical limitations, including age or illness, can prevent a person from hiking. Contact the Windigo or Rock Harbor Visitor Centers for more information. To request accommodations for a disability, contact the Island Superintendent at the Windigo or Rock Harbor Visitor Centers.

For more information or assistance during your visit, call the park at 701-364-2231. Park staff can be reached 24 hours daily.

Contact the Island Superintendent:
The Island Superintendent or Designee will work with park staff to resolve any problems that arise. Additional information and assistance can be obtained via satellite phone or from Canada: (440) 546-5945.
Hiking
Over a hundred miles of trail wind through forests and hug the shoreline, climb steeply to ridgetop views, and descend into wetland sanctuaries. Ninety-nine percent of the park’s land base is federally designated wilderness that beckons you to explore.

Camping
Thirty-six campgrounds are scattered throughout the park. Campsites are accessible on foot or by watercraft. All campgrounds have tent sites,outhouses, and are sited 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, regardless of group size or method of travel.

Group Camping (parties of seven or more)
Advance reservations are required for any group or organization bringing seven or more people to the island. This includes families and friends traveling and camping together (see page 89).

Small-party camping (parties of six or fewer)
All small-party campers contain either tent sites or a three-sided shelter. Shelters and tent sites for individual small parties are available firstcome, first-served.

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

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

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

Off-trail camping: Campers must stay in established campites unless off-trail (cross-country) arrangements are made when permitting. Island terrain and vegetation make off-trail hiking and camping difficult.

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

Route Considerations: Lake Superior is well-known for its cold temperatures, fog, and sudden squalls that can generate large waves. Small, open vessels are encouraged to use the numerous miles of inland lake waterways instead.

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

Weather: Canoeists and kayakers should consult the marine forecast at visitor centers before embarking. Be prepared to adjust your schedule to the weather. A portable marine radio is recommended for visitors on overnight trips.

Inland Lake Canoe Routes and Portages are on the northeast half of the island. Portages are marked with a letter “P” on a post (see page 6).

Boat Rentals are available at Windigo and Rock Harbor. Contact the Rock Harbor Lodge for more information (see page 2).

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.

Lake Superior Waters:
• 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. Youth age 17 years or younger may fish without a license.

• Possession or use of bait for fishing within Lake Superior park waters is limited to those fish and/or fish parts caught within the bordering Michigan waters. Transporting fish or fish parts for use as bait to the park is prohibited.

Inland Lakes and Streams:
• Licenses are not required to fish on the inland waters of Isle Royale.

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

Possession Limits are generally the same as those set by the State of Michigan. Anglers should consult the Michigan fishing regulations for possession limits and detailed license requirements for Lake Superior (see chart for a brief overview of regulations.)

Fishing Licenses: Only 24-hour licenses are available on the island, and only when concession services are open. Purchase a Michigan fishing license in advance, and download a copy of the Michigan Fishing Guide at www.michigan.gov/mdnr.

Disposal of Fish Remains
Follow these guidelines to eliminate the potential for attracting and feeding wildlife and to reduce unsightly fish remains and odors. Clean fish away from docks and campgrounds. Do not throw remains into shallow water, to gulls, or to other wildlife.

To dispose of remains:
• At Rock Harbor and Windigo, use the fish cleaning station.

• At other Lake Superior locations, deposit chopped remains (pieces 4” or less) into water at least 50’ in depth.

• At inland lake sites, the preferred method is to deposit chopped remains (pieces 4” or less) into deep water via canoe. The alternate method is to move at least 200’ (75 steps) from the campground and throw chopped remains as far as possible into deep water.

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


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

Day Use: Boaters visiting the park or park waters for the day are required to pay entrance fees (see page 2) and are encouraged to fill out a day permit at Windigo, Rock Harbor or Houghton.

Overnight Stays: All boaters staying overnight at anchor, at docks, or in campgrounds must obtain a camping permit at Houghton, Rock Harbor, or Windigo. Boaters are encouraged to permit ahead of their trip. Call (906) 482-0984.

Restricted Water Activities: Water skiing and personal watercraft including vessels referred to as jet skis, waverunners, sea-dos, wet bikes, or surf jets are prohibited.

All of the park’s inland lakes are located within designated wilderness, and may only be explored by paddling. Vessels with motors (even if not in use) are prohibited on inland lakes and streams.

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. See map on pages 6 and 7 and consult www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/upload/quiet-no-wake-2015.pdf

On-Board Generators: The operation or use of permanently installed (by the boat manufacturer) on-board vessel generators is limited to specific times and locations. For details visit www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/upload/Boaters-2017.pdf

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

Gasoline is sold at Windigo; gasoline and diesel fuel are sold at Rock Harbor when concession services are open (see page 2.) Diesel fuel may be available at Windigo in 2017. Early- and late-season service or fuel may be obtained at Windigo and Mott Island if personnel are available.

Diving
Experienced divers can explore the most intact collection of shipwrecks in the National Park Service. Visit www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/scuba-diving.htm for information on diving in the park.

Dive Permits are required. Each diver must register at a park visitor center before diving.

Fish Consumption Advisory
Contaminants in the park ecosystem remind us that although Isle Royale is remote, it is part of a global system. Research in six inland lakes (Sargent, Sinkwitt, Eva, Sheshee, Wagejo, and Angleworm) shows fish with mercury levels exceeding the State of Michigan fish consumption advisories. Visit www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish for details on advisories.

Fishing Regulations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Seasons</th>
<th>Minimum Size</th>
<th>Daily Possession Limit</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake Trout</td>
<td>Rainbow Trout and Salmon</td>
<td>Lake Superior</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>10” except 15” for lake trout</td>
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<td>Siskewit Lake</td>
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<td>Lake Superior</td>
<td>Last Saturday in April to Labor Day</td>
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<td>Streams and Streams</td>
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<td>Last Saturday in April to Labor Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rainbow Trout</td>
<td>Streams</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Herring (Cisco)</td>
<td>Lake Whitefish</td>
<td>Inland Lakes</td>
<td>April 16 to October 31</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
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<td>Northern Pike</td>
<td>Lake Superior and Inland Lakes</td>
<td></td>
<td>April 16 to October 31</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Yellow Perch</td>
<td>Lake Superior and Inland Lakes</td>
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<td>May 15 to October 31</td>
<td>24” Lake Superior Inland Lakes – No minimum size, 30” max</td>
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<td>May 15 to October 31</td>
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Review the Michigan Fishing Guide for additional fish species, seasons, creel limits and 2017 regulation updates and restrictions.

*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 lures 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, 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.
**Protecting Your Park**

Please do your part to preserve and protect the park’s wilderness character for use and enjoyment by present and future generations.

**Leave What You Find**

Objects of beauty or interest such as antlers, plants, driftwood, cultural or archeological resources, rocks and minerals including those found in Lake Superior, must be left where they are. Removing, possessing, or disturbing park resources is prohibited. Fishing and picking small quantities of berries and mushrooms for personal consumption are permitted.

**Quiet, Please**

Most visitors come to Isle Royale to hear the sounds of nature in a wild setting. Soundscapes, or sound environments, are an important feature of the park. Be aware of the noise that you make so others may enjoy the peace and solitude of the park.

**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.

**Operation of electronic and motorized devices** such as stereos, televisions, radios tuned to commercial stations, and portable generators are not permitted except in the developed areas of Rock Harbor and Windigo, and in Lake Superior waters outside of designated quiet/no wake zones.

**Keep the Island Clean**

**Trash:** All trash and leftover food (including peels, cores, and nuts) must be packed out. Garbage left on the island must be hauled to the mainland which is time-consuming and expensive.

**Human Waste Disposal:** Never defecate within 100 feet (at least 50 steps) of lakes, streams, trails, or campsites. In areas withoutouthouses, dig a cathole 6 to 8 inches deep; after use, cover with soil. Urinate on durable surfaces, like rocks or bare soil, away from campsites and water sources.

**Cookware Cleaning:** Use hot water and a little elbow grease. Soap is unnecessary for most dishwashing; even biodegradable soaps take a long time to degrade. Use these products sparingly and keep 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 trash. The remaining water should be broadcast over a wide area away from water sources and campsites.

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

**Minimize Use of Fires**

Campfires are permitted at only a handful of campgrounds. A backpacking stove is highly recommended. Where campfires are allowed, a metal fire ring or grate is provided; never build your own ring.

**Use and Down Wood** must be packed out. Garbage left on the island must be hauled to the mainland which is time-consuming and expensive. Trash and food scraps must not be burned, buried, or placed in outhouses. Be thoughtful about micro-litter (small pieces of waste, wrapper corners). A zip lock bag for trash in a shirt pocket is a great way to prevent inadvertent littering.

**Water Filtering:** From mid-May through July or activities.

**Check at visitor centers for current closures.**

**Wildlife**

Isle Royale is home to an abundance of animals, but many common species from the surrounding mainland are missing. The island’s isolation has created a simple, yet spectacular ecosystem.

**Show Respect.** Observe, photograph, and enjoy park wildlife from a safe and respectful distance. If an animal changes its behavior, you are too close. It is illegal to feed, touch, tease, or intentionally disturb wildlife, their homes, nests, or activities.

**Loons** are especially susceptible to disturbance, and may abandon their shoreline nests when approached too closely. From early May to July or activities.

**Moose** are large and potentially dangerous animals. Always give them wide berth. If you encounter a moose, step behind a rock or 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. In fall, bull moose are in rut and can be aggressive.

**Keep Wildlife Wild.** Discourage animals from approaching humans. Practice proper food storage and keep a clean camp. To protect your food make sure it is sealed in scent-proof containers and secured. Hard-sided containers are preferred, but using doubled zip lock bags for your food and scented items is also appropriate. Animals will steal unattended food and other items.

**Invader Alert**

Invasive species are considered to be one of the top threats to the ecological integrity of national parks. You are responsible for taking time before and during your trip to prevent the transport of invasives to and around Isle Royale.

**Before traveling to Isle Royale**

**Campers:** Clean your tent, backpack, camping gear, clothing, and boots.

**Anglers:** Clean fishing gear and change line spools.

**Boaters, Canoists and Kayakers:** 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.

- **Inspect for and remove zebra mussels and other aquatic invasives attached to your trim tabs, swim platform, motor mounts, hull and equipment.**
- **For smaller boats:** 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.
- **Remove weeds, algae, and other plant and animal materials from your boat.** Drain live wells and bilge on land.

**Divers:** Wash all dive gear in warm chlorinated tap water. Disinfect your wetsuit with a special-purpose shampoo. Dry all dive gear and wetsuits for seven days before entering park waters.

**While on Isle Royale**

**Water Filtering:** If you filter water from Lake Superior, change your filter or backflush several times with filtered water before using your water filter inlet.

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

**Canoes, Kayaks, and Other Non-motorized Vessels:** Wipe down your boat and associated gear before moving from Lake Superior to inland waters.

**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.

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

**Exception:** Possession of firearms within the park is regulated by Michigan law. The discharge of firearms within park boundaries is prohibited. Visit www.nps.gov/isro/learn/management/lawsandpolicies.htm.

**Leave No Trace**

Adventure, simple living, and solitude are important components of an Isle Royale visit. In order to ensure these kinds of experiences, park visitors should be familiar with skills and habits that foster an ethic of Leave No Trace. For guidance on how to Leave No Trace during your park stay, visit www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/upload/LNT%20Booklet.pdf.
Educational programs are offered at Rock Harbor, Windigo, and aboard Ranger III. In addition, the tour boat The Sandy offers guided excursions.

### Radiant Island ($)

The 2-mile round-trip hike leads to Radiant Island Lighthouse. Enjoy an afternoon cruise along the scenic Keweenaw Waterway aboard District Library in Houghton. For children ages six through twelve years. Join a National Park Service ranger for forty-five minutes of indoor and outdoor activities at the Portage Lake Visitor Center.

### Hidden Lake/Lookout Louise ($$)

A 4-mile boat trip is followed by a 2-mile round-trip hike up to Lookout Louise for views of Canada. The trails on 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. The trails on 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.

### Passage Island ($)

An 8-mile boat tour on the Sandy crosses one of Isle Royale’s popular shipping lanes. The 2-mile round-trip hike leads to Passage Island Lighthouse. Rates are available at the lodge and visitor center. Water Bus service available with some hours. Contact the lodge for details.

### Edisen Fishery and Rock Harbor Light ($)

Visit the historic commercial fishery with the resident fishery demonstrator and take a quarter-mile walk to the oldest lighthouse (1835) on Isle Royale and enjoy its maritime exhibits. Information, books, maps, camping permits, dive permits, fee payments.

### Ranger III

Ranger III offers guided excursions. In addition, the tour boat Ranger III enjoys a cruise through the spruce bog on Raspberry Island followed by a cruise around Scoville and Blake Points to view features like the Canada shoreline, the site of the Monarch shipwreck, and a Lake Superior sunset (after Aug. 15, cruise only).

### Keweenaw Waterway Cruises ($)

Enjoy an afternoon cruise along the scenic Keweenaw Waterway aboard Ranger III. For 2017, during the first portion of the cruise, a ranger will discuss waterway landscapes and illustrate the waterway’s significance to the Keweenaw Peninsula. For reservations call (906) 482-0984.

### Ranger Programs at the Portage Lake District Library

Join a National Park Service ranger for forty-five minutes of indoor and outdoor activities at the Portage Lake District Library in Houghton. For children ages six through twelve years.

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### Group Camping

Advance reservations are required for any group or organization bringing seven or more people to the island. This includes families and friends traveling and camping together.

If your group exceeds ten people you must split into two parties, each independent and traveling on completely separate itineraries.

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, medical conditions, and medications currently taken.

How to Make A Group Camping Reservation

1. All group camping reservations must be made in advance.
2. Check out the group camping website: www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/
group-camping-parties-of-seven-to-ten.htm
3. Download the Group Camping Reservation Form.
4. Email the completed form to isro_groupreserve@nps.gov (fax and mail are fine too.)
5. Park staff will contact you once they begin processing your reservation to confirm, discuss any necessary itinerary changes, and request payment.
6. If you have any issues or questions, call the Houghton Visitor Center (906) 482-0984.

### IF YOU HAVE

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<tr>
<th>6 people or fewer</th>
<th>2 or more parties of 6 people or fewer (not to exceed 20)</th>
<th>Two or more groups of 7 – 10 people and One party of 6 people or fewer</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Individual camp sites. First come, first serve</strong></td>
<td><strong>Individual camp sites. First come, first serve</strong></td>
<td><strong>Reserved Group tent sites</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Small Party Backcountry Camping Permit</strong></td>
<td><strong>Small Party Backcountry Camping Permit for each party of campers. With completely separate itineraries</strong></td>
<td><strong>Group Camping Permit</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rock Harbor or Windigo Visitor Centers upon arrival to island, or onboard Ranger III ferry.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Group Camping office in Houghton in advance by phone at 906-482-0984 or online <a href="http://www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/group-camping-parties-of-seven-to-ten.htm">http://www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/group-camping-parties-of-seven-to-ten.htm</a></strong></td>
<td><strong>Group Camping Office in Houghton.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>$25 for first 10 people. Additional $25 for 11 to 20 people.</strong></td>
<td><strong>$25 for 10 to 20 people.</strong></td>
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### FEE

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**Separate itineraries means that small parties/groups cannot camp in the same campground at the same time.**
Isle Royale National Park continues to plan for the future. Three plans are currently in progress: Cultural Resources Management Plan, Wilderness Stewardship Plan, and Wolf Management Plan. Drafts of these plans and associated environmental impact statements will be available online for review and comment. Public comments are a critical part of the planning process, and we look forward to working with you and appreciate your continued interest in the future of Isle Royale National Park. Newsletters, participation opportunities, and other information related to these plans can be found at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ISRO.

Lake Superior’s cold, deep waters both isolate and protect Isle Royale from outside influences. But despite the island’s geographic separation, evidence has shown that it is not unaffected by the outside world.

As our planet becomes more interconnected, can Isle Royale remain isolated from forces like human-driven climate change? How might these island denizens be affected?

**Wolf**
Wolves arrived on Isle Royale by walking across an ice bridge that connected the island to the mainland. However, with rising global temperatures, the likelihood of future ice bridges forming is reduced. This limits the arrival of other wolves who could add diversity to the gene pool.

**Johns Hotel**
The Johns Hotel was opened in 1892 on what is now Barnum Island. In 2011, a strong storm blew down numerous trees across the island. Though the hotel was spared, the increasing likelihood of more extreme weather due to climate change could affect this and other historic structures.

**Loon**
Isle Royale National Park contains more than a hundred loon territories, supporting the only known population that still breeds in Great Lakes waters. Changing water levels could affect nesting success, and warming temperatures could affect water visibility and ecosystem structure of the lakes they inhabit.

**Steamship America**
The park’s shipwrecks are valued for their remarkable preservation, but are vulnerable to invasive zebra mussels, which attach to these structures. Mussels reproduce exponentially, but have thus far been held at bay by cold water temperatures. Warmer waters could mean a higher population, which would obscure details on America and other historic shipwrecks.

**Pale Paintbrush**
Stranded when the last glacier retreated from Isle Royale, this arctic plant is able to thrive considerably south of its normal range, residing along cool Lake Superior shorelines in the park. This species is threatened in Michigan. Warmer temperatures could cause Pale Paintbrush to disappear.

**Moose**
Though summer provides a plentiful buffet, it brings temperatures that drive this cold-loving creature into the water. A dip in the lake might provide momentary relief for individual moose, but the same cannot be said for the species as a whole. Hotter summers mean greater stress for Isle Royale’s moose population, already at the southern edge of their habitat range.

**Balsam Fir**
Balsam Fir is plentiful on Isle Royale now, but as a cold weather species, it is vulnerable to warming climates. Since it is the primary winter food for moose, the loss or reduction of this species could affect the island ecosystem.

**Winter Tick**
Female winter ticks take a blood meal from moose each spring before laying eggs. In years when ticks are abundant, there can be 100,000 ticks on a single moose. Moose can lose a lot of blood, and itching can lead to hair loss and hypothermia. Warmer springs are linked to reproductive success for winter ticks.

**Edisen Fishery**
The historic fish house and dock at the Edisen fishery sit on the waters of Rock Harbor. This placement makes the structures reliant on the lake. Changing water levels could cause the structures to become damaged or inaccessible.

**Cisco**
As a cold water fish, cisco cannot withstand water temperatures warmer than 67°F. In the mid-nineties, scientists found a handful of cisco in four inland lakes, but another study in 2013 failed to locate any cisco in two of the four lakes. This could be the first example of localized extinction as a direct result of climate change.

**Planning for the Future**
Isle Royale National Park continues to plan for the future. Three plans are currently in progress: Cultural Resources Management Plan, Wilderness Stewardship Plan, and Wolf Management Plan. Drafts of these plans and associated environmental impact statements will be available online for review and comment. Public comments are a critical part of the planning process, and we look forward to working with you and appreciate your continued interest in the future of Isle Royale National Park. Newsletters, participation opportunities, and other information related to these plans can be found at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ISRO.
If round-trip is scheduled between 6/13 and 6/24
Round trip: Adult  $63.00   Children  $23.00,
Prior to 7/4 and after 8/26
7/4 through 8/26
100 lbs. gear per passenger
Outboard Motor.........................................15.00
Accessible Bathroom
Programs • Backcountry Permits issued and
Children (1 thru 15)
Adults
Depart from Houghton 12:30 pm
www.nps.gov/isro
ISRO_ParkInfo@nps.gov
E-mail: isleroyalequeen@gmail.com
(906) 289-1060
(906) 289-4437
P .O. Box 24, Copper Harbor, MI 49918
Motor Boaters be advised that the
presently not equipped to carry motor boats.
Boaters should contact the
notice is required.
If canceling a group of 10 or more, two weeks
There is no refund if canceled less than 3 days
The plane cannot carry stove fuel. Selected fuels
at least two full weeks prior to departure.  
MISCELLANEOUS
Hot coffee available • Freight shipments must be arranged in advance • Fast salvage • Fishing poling boats – in protective cases • Hard gear must be in securely closed packed boxes • Fuel storage
FOR INFORMATION OR RESERVATIONS CONTACT
Grand Portage-Isle Royale Transportation Line, Inc.
Phone: (906) 482-8753
(906) 482-3981 – May thru Oct
isleroyaleboats.com
Website: www.isleroyaleboats.com
How to Pay
Pay entrance fees in advance at www.psa.gov search “Isle Royale” • Bring your receipt as proof of
How to Pay
Fare

11
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.

IRKPA helps educate people about these special places and raises funds through memberships, sales, and grants that are reinvested in the parks to support interpretive programs and research. We publish and sell books and other products relevant to our parks, print park newspapers and brochures, conduct field trips and workshops, and provide funding for historic preservation projects and public outreach events.

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 membership: $1200 (Payable in 4 installments)
- Patron: $250
- Sustaining: $100
- Supporting: $50
- Household: $35
- Individual: $25

Member benefits:

- 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

IRKPA 2017 Workshops

Isle Royale Plant I.D. June 5-10
NEW Isle Royale Field Ornithology June 13-17
NEW Keweenaw Plant I.D. July 25-27
NEW Isle Royale Night Sky Photography August 25-30

More information: http://irkpa.org/get-involved/workshops

BOOKS, MAPS & MORE

Your purchases help support Isle Royale National Park!

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. 194 pp. Author: Jim DuFresne

- Trails Illustrated Map: $11.95
- Topographic map with wilderness tips, Leave No Trace guidelines, trails, trailheads, points of interest, campgrounds, and more. Printed on waterproof, tear-resistant material with half of the island on each side. Measures 4” x 5” folded and 38” x 25” open. Scale ± 1:50,000. Updated 2006.

- Hiking & Canoeing Package: $29.00
- Includes book and map above, plus the park checklist of birds.

- Exploring Isle Royale DVD: $14.95
- An orientation video produced by the National Park Service shows how to best enjoy the island's many attributes, including its trails, lakes, and campgrounds. Winner of the 1995 Michigan Outdoor Writers Association Best Outdoor Travel Program. 28 minutes.

- 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 pp. Authors: Ted Gustomski & Janet Marr

- Superior Wilderness: $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 very readable text. Maps, graphs, charts, illustrations. 171 pp. Author: Napier Shetton

- 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 in its 50th year. 192 pp. Author: Rolf Peterson

- SS America: A North Shore Legend DVD: $19.95
- The America brought mail, provisions, friends and fish to and from Isle Royale and the Minnesota/Ontario shore until she sank in 1928. Oral histories, photographs, newspapers, and underwater video recount the ship’s history in a timely past in this 66-minute WDDSE Duluth Public TV documentary.

- Retro Isle Royale Print: $42.95
- Anderson Design Group of Nashville, TN’s hand-illustrated print, featuring iconic images of Ranger III, the Rock Harbor Lighthouse, and the National Park Service ferry M/V Ranger III. (3 x 3 in.)

- Isle Royale Patch: $4.95
- This quality embroidered patch celebrates two icons of Isle Royale that have carved their names into our history: the Rock Harbor Lighthouse and the National Park Service ferry M/V Ranger III.

- Isle Royale Passport Stamp: $2.50
- Isle Royale’s new custom passport stamp/sticker, designed to fit national park passport books or be used as a sticker, includes additional park information on the packaging.

- Isle Royale NP Fleece Hats: $19.95
- Beautiful, high-quality fleece hats with “Isle Royale National Park” written on the front, the park’s official badge on the back, and blue, red, yellow, green, or white color options. Available as a premium for $100+ membership or donation.

- Game of Silence: $6.99
- In Louise Erdrich’s sequel to Birchbark House, Omakayas, or Little Frog, learns from mysterious visitors in 1850 that the Shimikoomatag, or white people, want her people to leave their island in Lake Superior and move farther west. Grades 3-8. 288 pp.

- Folkmanis® Finger Puppets: $5.95 to $9.95
- Children engage in imaginative play with these award-winning, well-made finger puppets that celebrate the natural world with animals from our national parks.

- Jr. Ranger Backpack, Hat, and Vest: $19.95
- High-quality Jr. Ranger products, designed with the young nature explorer in mind, complement our national parks’ Jr. Ranger programs.


- www.irkpa.org

- Instate: 906-482-3627
- Outstate: 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 $10.00: $3.00
- $10.01 - $20.00: $4.00
- $20.01 - $30.00: $5.00
- $30.01 - $50.00: $7.00
- $50.01 - $75.00: $9.00
- $75.01 and over: $12.00

Priority Mail: Add $4.00 for mailing tube if rolled.

12 Your Guide To Isle Royale National Park – 2017