

Apostle Islands

National Lakeshore
Wisconsin

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Official Map and Guide



Scot Stewart

Wisconsin's northernmost landscape juts out into Lake Superior as the scenic archipelago of 22 Apostle Islands. Long a vacation mecca, the area realized new recreational value in 1970 when Congress named 20 of the islands and 2,500 acres of the peninsula as a national lakeshore managed by the National Park Service. In 1986, Long Island was also included. Early French fur traders called this region the Chequamegon (pronounced She-wah'-me-gon), a Chippewa (Ojibway) word meaning "soft beaver dam." The fur trade, which was mainly in beaver pelts, was one of the region's longest lasting commercial enterprises. Among these forested, sheltered islands on the world's most expansive freshwater lake, traders built posts for shipping furs bound for Europe via Montreal and, later, down the Mississippi River. Shipping itself, symbolized by the lakeshore's light stations, became an economic main-

stay making eastern and midwestern markets accessible to local fishing, quarrying, logging, mining, and tourism enterprises. Today's national lakeshore offers myriad water and wilderness recreation pursuits amid occasional glimpses of past human activity on the islands. The beaver, superbly adapted to a woodland waterways environment, symbolizes the region's ecological makeup and its early exploitation. Loggers cut both conifers and deciduous trees extensively in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The sandstone cliffs on the lake's edge were quarried to provide building materials for the Midwest's growing cities. As industries following the fur trade rose and fell, an ebb and flow of tourists pilgrimaged here for the natural beauty and lakeshore recreation of the Apostle Islands and Bayfield Peninsula. That tradition continues and grows.

The Rock

About one billion years ago, braided streams carried sand into the region that eventually solidified into the Bayfield Group of sandstones. During the past three million years, huge glaciers advanced and retreated, scouring the sandstone bedrock and enlarging channels between what would become the Apostle Islands. Lake Superior continues to carve sandstone exposed along area shorelines.

The Lake

At 360 miles long, 160 miles wide, and 1,332 feet deep at its lowest point, Lake Superior is the world's most expansive freshwater body. Lake surface altitude lies at about 602 feet elevation, and its bottom, gouged out by Ice Age glaciers, reaches 730 feet below sea level. Offshore surface water temperatures rarely rise above 65°F.

The Forests

Boreal forests of balsam, spruce, and paper birch advanced slowly northward onto the moist tundra following the Ice Age glaciers' retreat. As the climate warmed, northern hardwood forests of sugar maple, yellow birch, and oak, plus pines and hemlock, succeeded boreal forests farther north. The Apostle Islands lie within a transitional zone where boreal and northern forests meet.

Fur Trade

From about 1660 to 1840 this was a major fur trading center. European robes and felt hats made from beaver pelts fostered a lucrative trade

with high profits. Traders first exchanged European knives, needles, cook pots, and other goods for furs trapped by Indians. Fur companies later hired trappers and voyageurs

who hauled the goods in 25- and 36-foot birch-bark canoes on the 2,500-mile "voyageurs' highway." The painting below is by Frances Hopkins (depicted at

center). For a decade in the mid-1800s she traveled the traditional canoe routes of Canada with her husband, painting numerous pictures of voyageurs.

Chippewa Indians

According to their legends, Chippewa (Ojibway) Indians have lived in this area since the 1400s. Although they hunted and gathered foodstuffs on many of the islands, they regard Madeline Island as their ancestral home. At right is a sample of traditional Ojibway beadwork.



Public Archive of Canada

Quarrying

Shoreline sandstone supplied top grade brownstone for urban Midwest buildings for about 30 years beginning in 1869. Quarry pits remain on Stockton, Hermit, and Basswood Islands. Easy access to boat transport made quarrying econom-

ical until extraction costs increased and architectural styles changed. The old Bayfield County courthouse was built of brownstone in 1883. It now houses the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Visitor Center.

Early Fisheries

As fur trading declined, the American Fur Company tried to develop inland fish markets, establishing fishing stations at several places on western Lake Superior in the 1830s. Economic depression contributed to the demise

of this venture by 1837. When an influx of Scandinavians in the latter half of the 19th century created a market for fish and supplied a workforce, many small fishing camps were set up on the islands.

Tourism Begins

Excursion steamers, then railroads, brought tourists to Bayfield Peninsula hotels—and the wealthy to their summer homes—beginning in the mid-1850s. The Great Depression and

World War II slowed and changed the nature of tourism on the peninsula, but today it is once again a vital part of the region's economy.



Light Stations

Between 1857 and 1891 six light stations were established on the Apostle Islands to aid ships navigating the sometimes stormy channels. Although automated, all stations are still in use

as aids to navigation. The building exteriors and grounds of the Raspberry Island light station have been restored to their 1920s appearance.



Logging

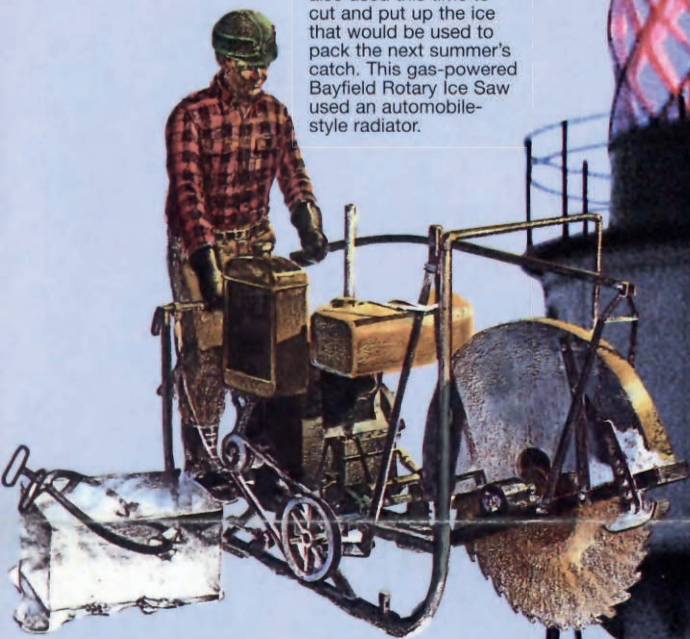
Rapid population gains in 19th-century America spurred a huge demand for timber construction. After exhausting white pine and hemlock, loggers went after the hardwoods. Island forests

were logged first because pine logs could be rafted on the lake inexpensively to sawmills at Bayfield, Washburn, Ashland, and Duluth, or to rail shipping points.



Ice Cutting

Some fishing took place in the winter. Fishermen also used this time to cut and put up the ice that would be used to pack the next summer's catch. This gas-powered Bayfield Rotary Ice Saw used an automobile-style radiator.



Modern Fishing



With deeper and colder waters than the other Great Lakes, Superior supports fewer fish, yet its lake trout, whitefish, and lake herring have been exported in quantity. Although commercial fishing never fully recovered from sea lamprey depredations of lake trout beginning in the 1950s, it is still a viable local industry.

The Land Heals

Let lie since the Great Depression of the 1930s, denuded forest lands are slowly returning to a primeval state. Today's maturing forests are home to black bears, deer, and

a rich diversity of birds and small animal species. The two bald eagle chicks below symbolize nature's constant renewal of life on the islands.



Exploring Apostle Islands



Michael Shedlock

Lakeshore Map and Guide

Visitor Center In Bayfield the old county courthouse houses the **Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Visitor Center** (see map below). Here visitors can view audiovisual programs and exhibits portraying the park's history, natural history, and recreation opportunities. Books, maps, nautical charts, and other publications are offered for sale by a nonprofit group that supports the park's information and visitor services programs.

Little Sand Bay Visitor Center has exhibits, and you can get current boating and weather information. The Stockton Island Visitor Center on Stockton Island is open in summer, as are ranger stations on the islands. **Rangers have radio contact with the mainland. Rangers and the U.S. Coast Guard monitor marine channel 16 to answer questions or respond to emergencies.**

Programs and Activities Schedules for

ranger-led activities are available at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore visitor centers or from any ranger. Events include fish camp and lighthouse tours, nature walks, the junior ranger and campfire programs.

Cultural and Natural Features All natural, historic, and archeological features are protected.

Accommodations and Services Island campsites are the only overnight facilities within the lakeshore. Nearby communities have motels, restaurants, and stores. Campgrounds with a range of facilities are run by private, tribal, city, county, state, and national forest entities.

Respect Property Rights Some cabins and docks within national lakeshore boundaries are privately occupied. Respect property owners' rights; do not trespass.

Pets All pets must be on a leash—no longer than six feet—and



Information For more information about the park write: Superintendent, Route 1, Box 4, Bayfield, WI 54814; or telephone 715-779-3397 and request the information desk. Find more information at www.nps.gov/apis on the Internet.

under control at all times. Pets are prohibited on excursion boats.

Hiking Hiking trails are available on the mainland and many islands. Trails range from South Twin's 1/4-mile trail to Stockton's 14.5 miles. Oak Island's interesting topography, overlook, and backcountry camping opportunities make its 11.5 miles of trails popular with hikers. If you get lost, stay near the water's edge and signal for help. **Hiking near cliffs can be dan-**

gerous because of slippery rock. **Backcountry hikers**—tell a ranger of your plans and report in when you return.

Island Camping Camping permits are required for all camping in Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. A camping permit fee is charged. Permits allow campers to reserve campsites in advance. For information on permits, areas closed to camping, and fees, check the "Camping" brochure. Practice

"Leave No Trace" outdoor skills. Pack out all trash. Build fires in fire rings or grills where provided. Use bear-resistant storage or hang food out of reach.

Wintertime Winter activities are increasing in popularity. Park hiking trails may be used for skiing and snowshoeing. In the park snowmobiles are permitted only on established and unplowed county and township roads. Outside the park are more than 350 miles of well-marked snowmobile trails. Over-ice travel is permitted, but extreme caution is recommended because conditions can be unpredictable and hazardous. **Winter campers must register at park headquarters** in the old courthouse in Bayfield (see map). Winter's beauty masks harsh conditions that pose extreme dangers to the unwary and unprepared. Temperatures of -30°F and wind chill factors of -60°F are not uncommon. Up to 100 inches of snow falls each year.

Hunting Hunting is allowed in certain areas of the lakeshore at certain times. All hunters should be aware that special regulations may apply in these park areas that are different from those governed by state regulations. Wisconsin state license requirements are in force. Check with a ranger before you hunt.

Red Cliff Indian Reservation Lands owned by the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewas are adjacent to the mainland portion of the national lakeshore. The Red Cliff community is three miles north of Bayfield. Facilities and services include a marina, boat launch ramp, and campground (fees).

Madeline Island Not part of the national lakeshore, Madeline Island attractions include Big Bay State Park and the Madeline Island Historical Museum. Car ferries—printed schedules available—run from spring breakup to winter freeze.

Boat Trips The Apostle Island Cruise Service offers a variety of excursion trips (fee) from Bayfield through the islands in summer. Apostle Islands Water Taxi (fee) provides service from Bayfield to island points for one to six passengers. Obtain information on schedules and rates for boat trips and services from the visitor center in Bayfield.

Boating Boat launch facilities are available at Little Sand Bay and at

several locations outside the national lakeshore boundary. Marinas in the Bayfield-Madeline Island area offer equipment, gear, fuel, mooring, and storage for boats up to 60 feet long. See map for locations of public docks. Obey posted regulations and information signs. Rent sailboats and arrange day-long and half-day trolling trips for trout and salmon at area marinas.

Scuba Diving Shipwrecks and sea caves are among the diving opportunities here. Div-

ers are encouraged to obtain required permits at mainland visitor centers, although permits may be issued at island ranger stations. Do not disturb or remove artifacts; all are protected by law. Divers must display a dive flag.

Sea Kayaking Sea kayaking is a popular way to explore islands close to the mainland. Good launch sites are found at Little Sand Bay and Meyers Road. Equipment rentals and lessons are available in Bayfield.

Fishing Islands offer no inland fishing, but Lake Superior provides good sport fishing for lake, brown, and rainbow trout and other salmon species. Peninsula streams harbor brook, rainbow, and brown trout and spawning salmon. A Wisconsin fishing license and a trout stamp are required; state regulations apply. Refuge areas are closed to fishing.

Swimming Lake Superior waters seldom are warm enough for comfortable swimming except in shallow, protect-

ed bays. Swimming within 100 feet of public docks is prohibited within the national lakeshore. Underwater hazards make diving from rocky shorelines dangerous. No lifeguards are on duty.

Drinking Water Warning Filter or boil lake water for at least two minutes before drinking. Do not pollute the lake with soap, fish entrails, human waste, or other contaminants.

Holding Tanks and Bilges Pumping of holding tanks and oily bilges into the lake violates state and federal regulations, which are strictly enforced here.

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WARNING, Dangerous Waters. Lake Superior waters are dangerously cold and sudden storms arise. The lake's history is replete with ship-

wrecks and violent storms. Small boats, canoes, and kayaks should be used with extreme caution on Lake Superior. Just offshore, 50°F

waters can cause even strong swimmers to suffer hypothermia in 15 minutes. Swimming is not recommended in Lake Superior. Keep an

eye on the weather even on calm days. Before you set out, get the current weather forecast from the U.S. Coast Guard Station at Bay-

field or at an island ranger station. The marine weather frequency on your marine radio is 162.55 MHz (Duluth). For safe navigation, you

should refer to NOAA nautical charts #14973 or #14966.

