



Around the Archipelago

Updates to Sand Island completed

The Sand Island East Bay dock was replaced last fall. The new L-shaped dock is south of the former dock, extending 170 feet out from the shore, then 50 feet south. Built with steel bin walls and a concrete cap, like the docks at Basswood and South Twin Islands, the lifespan is expected to be 50 – 60 years.

New campsites were added to Sand Island in 2016. The new group campsite, C, is located on East Bay, just north of the Ranger cabin. It is fully accessible with a wooden tent platform and boardwalk connecting it to the dock and vault toilet.

Two new individual campsites were added, as well. Campsite 5 is west of site 4 (previously site 3) on Lighthouse Bay. Campsite 6 is on the cliffs of Justice Bay, looking east. The site is about 100 feet south of the stairs at Justice Bay and accessed from the trail. The stump privy has been challenging for campers to locate because it is slightly south of the campsite along the trail, so plan on arriving during daylight hours.

Individual campsites 3 and 4 switched numbers, based on feedback from campers. Last summer

Group Campsites
Single Campsites



The new dock is slightly south of the former dock's location, but connects to individual campsite 3, group campsite C, and a vault toilet with an elevated boardwalk. Vertical rub rails have been installed on the dock since this photo.

there was some confusion about their locations on the island since campsites are not in numerical or alphabetical order. Individual campsite 3 (last year known as campsite 4) is

located directly behind, inland, from group campsite C. It also has a wooden platform and is connected to the dock and toilet with a boardwalk.



Little Sand Bay changes for 2017

Expect some dust at Little Sand Bay this summer while a new outdoor exhibit is being constructed near the Visitor Center. Twilite, the historic fish tug used by the Hokenson family when they ran their commercial fishing operation at Little Sand Bay, will be placed into permanent dry dock as part of a new display. Once completed, visitors will be able to take a look inside the tug and learn more about the work of commercial fishing families in the Apostle Islands. Construction on this project should not cause a significant disruption in traffic flow to the kayak or boat launch.

The seasonal visitor center at Little Sand Bay is expected to be replaced in 2018-2019, not this summer as originally planned. The new building will be slightly smaller, but built to silver LEED standards and more efficient than the current structure, which is beyond the point of repair. Most of the new exhibits will be constructed outdoors so visitors can see them even when the building is not staffed.

While the construction is happening next summer, traffic will be rerouted. The kayak launch will be temporarily relocated to the Town of Russell beach, to the east of the harbor. A temporary contact station trailer will be on site, staffed by rangers and volunteers during the construction.

Raspberry Island dock temporarily closed for repairs.

The dock at Raspberry Island will be replaced during the spring and early summer of 2017. Crews plan to have it re-opened by July, when the light station sees more visitors. As always, the work schedule is dependent on weather and the Lake. A late winter or stormy weather could delay construction.

Lighthouse tours will be available during dock construction for those arriving at the sandspit, .75 miles to the south. However, the schedule will be variable. Please contact the NPS before you head out to check if a ranger or volunteer will be there to give a tour.

The current wood cribbing of the Raspberry dock is deteriorating rapidly, posing a threat to the historic boat house and tramway to the light station. The new dock will be made with steel bin walls and concrete top, like the docks on Basswood and Sand Island, East Bay, which have a longer life expectancy. The new dock will be in the historic footprint of the current dock. However, the two piers will be slightly narrower to give boaters more room between the east and west pier.

Emergency Contacts

NPS, daytime: 715-779-3397 ext. 2
NPS, 24-hr dispatch: 219-395-1008
911 (Emergency, specify your location!)
Bayfield County Sheriff: 715-373-6120
Marine Channel 16

Bayfield Visitor Center

Jan. 1 – April 30: Call ahead for availability
May 1 – 27: Mon. – Fri., 8am – 4:30pm
May 28 – Sept. 30: Daily, 8am – 4:30pm
Oct. 1 – Dec. 31: Mon. – Fri., 8am – 4:30pm
Little Sand Bay Visitor Center
Mid-June – Labor Day, as available.

Guided lighthouse tours & campfire programs

Park staff and volunteers, as available, will give tours at Raspberry, Sand, Michigan and Devils Island light stations from July through mid-September. There is a fee for lighthouse tours, \$3/child, \$5/adult, or \$10/immediate family.

Evening campfire programs occur nightly at the Presque Isle campfire circle on Stockton Island from mid-June through Labor Day. Evening ranger programs may also be available at Sand Island during the weekends this summer! Contact the Bayfield visitor center before your trip to find out what tours and programs are happening.

Island Tours

Apostle Islands Cruises (authorized National Park Service concessionaire) has sightseeing cruises and island shuttles, departing from Bayfield. For more information call 800-323-7619 or visit www.apostleisland.com. A list of authorized kayak outfitters and other charters is on our website: <https://www.nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/businesspartners.htm>



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Planning a visit to the Islands: What you need to know.

Weather: Check the nearshore and offshore marine forecast before heading out on the lake. NOAA's National Weather Service in Duluth has both forecasts (www.crh.noaa.gov/dlh/marine.php), as does marine radio channel 7 – 162.500MHz.

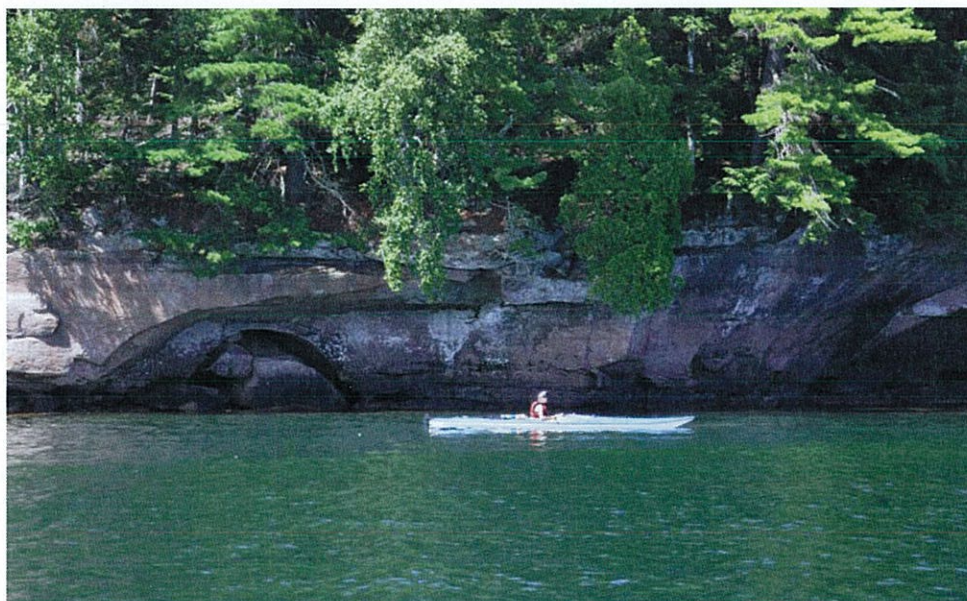
Paddling: Sea kayaks are popular and recommended because of their self-rescueability and sealed hulls. Canoes are not recommended due to the rapidly changing weather conditions on the lake. Beginners should not try to cover more than 10 miles in a day. Inform a friend or relative of your travel plans. Wear a personal flotation device (PFD) and use wet or dry suits. Be sure to pack these things: a marine radio, first aid kit, extra paddle, sunscreen, insect repellent, compass, nautical charts, 50 feet of line, waterproof matches, a head lamp, and provisions for at least one extra day.

Boating: All children under 13 must wear a PFD unless in an enclosed cabin or below deck. There should be Coast Guard approved type I, II, or III PFDs for each person on board. Boat sober. Have a marine radio, compass, nautical charts, spare propeller, and running lights. Personal watercraft (jet skis) are not permitted in the national lakeshore. Stay 100 feet from commercial fishing nets and be wary of shoals. Having a disabled vessel towed can be very expensive!

Fishing, hunting, gathering: A Wisconsin fishing license with a Great Lakes trout and salmon stamp is required for those 16 and older. Hunting may occur within the national lakeshore from September through mid-May. Free access permits are required for hunting on the islands. All hunting is in compliance with federal, state and tribal laws. Fruits, nuts, berries, and mushrooms from non-threatened or endangered plants can be collected up to one gallon, per person, per week for personal use only. Apples can be harvested up to five gallons, per person, per week.

Camping: Permits are required for all camping in the national lakeshore. Reservations can be made at recreation.gov by searching "Apostle Islands Camping Permits." See our website or camping brochure for more details about camping, fires, bears, ticks and leave no trace principles. www.nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/camping.htm

Swimming: Lake Superior's average temperature is 40 degrees Fahrenheit, but on calm, summer days in shallow bays the water can get into the 70s. There are no lifeguards on duty. Do not swim within 100 feet of a harbor, public dock, or boat secured to a dock. Diving or jumping from cliffs at Devils or Sand Island, and the mainland sea caves is not permitted. Unpredictable waves and currents do exist in the lake, so use caution!



A kayaker paddles by Basswood Island, enjoying the blue-green, clear waters of Lake Superior. While the summer sun is warm, the lake water stays cold enough where hypothermia can still be a concern.