



Boozhoo! Hello!

WELCOME TO GRAND PORTAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT!

We are pleased you are here to explore and discover with us. Whether you're here for an hour or a few, there is a lot to see and do.

The Heritage Center is open year-round for your visiting pleasure. During the summer season please come experience the living history demonstrations in the Historic Depot.

Perhaps you're looking for an opportunity to connect with nature? A hike on the Gichi Onigaming or Mount Rose trails will accommodate.

You are among friends, and we hope you enjoy your visit.

Chi-miigwech!
Thank you!

Heather Boyd
Superintendent



Living History Demonstrations

Follow the smell of wood smoke, engage with staff, try on historic clothing!

All demonstrations run seasonally.

- Anishinaabe Oodena (Ojibwe Village) showcases demonstrations of Anishinaabe and voyageur life in the late 1700s
- Great Hall, historically furnished circa 1790s: Learn about the business of the North West Company fur trade
- Historic Kitchen: period cooking and baking demonstrations
- Canoe Warehouse: exhibit of cargo and canoes of the fur trade
- Historic heirloom gardens and outdoor bake oven

Plan Your Visit

TWO OR THREE HOURS:

- Watch the feature film - Rendezvous With History (23 minutes)
- Heritage Center Museum - browse the historical and cultural exhibits and artifacts
- Explore the Historic Depot and Living History Programs

HALF A DAY:

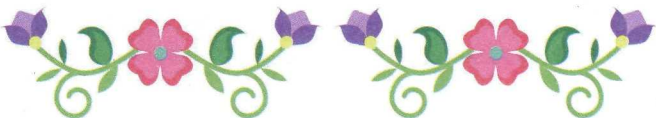
- Become a Grand Portage Junior Ranger
- Hike the Mount Rose Trail or part of the Grand Portage Trail
- Participate in a ranger led program, (20 minutes to one hour)

MORE THAN A DAY:

- Hike Grand Portage Trail
- Camp overnight at Fort Charlotte (advance permit required)
- Grand Portage State Park- Visit High Falls, the highest waterfall in Minnesota (6 Miles North on Highway 61)

Co-Management
Grand Portage National Monument

Did you know that Grand Portage National Monument is the first National Park Service (NPS) unit to be co-managed with a Tribal Nation? First designated as a National Historic Site by the Secretary of the Interior in 1951, federal, state, and local investigations documented the region's contributions to international history. In 1958, Congress authorized the establishment of Grand Portage National Monument which lies entirely within the boundaries of the Grand Portage Band traditional homeland, on a portion of land donated by the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (the Band) and the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT). Today, co-management at Grand Portage National Monument serves as a model of successful partnership between a federal agency and a Tribal Nation.



Pets at the Monument

The Heritage (visitor) Center and Historic Depot including within the stockade are **closed** to pets. **This includes pets in strollers and backpacks.** Leashed pets are welcome on grounds and trails.

Guide or service animals are permitted within all park facilities.

A leash law exists in the Grand Portage community. The Monument requires the use of leash **no longer than 6 feet** where pets are allowed within the Monument, such as in the picnic area and on trails.



Gichi Onigamiing Conservation Crew (GOCC)

GOCC was founded primarily to engage and employ youth, to build skills, knowledge, and self-worth. The work expands beyond the Monument to the community, and *Minong* (Isle Royale National Park), designated a Traditional Cultural Property in 2019. Skills gained include trails maintenance, historic preservation, and vegetation management. These experiences pave the way for a variety of careers in Public Lands.





National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Portage National Monument

Mailing Address

170 Mile Creek Road
P.O. Box 426
Grand Portage, MN 55605

Park Headquarters

218-475-0123

Fax Number

218-475-0174

E-mail

grpo_information@nps.gov

Website: nps.gov/grpo

Social Media

facebook.com/GrandPortageNationalMonument
[twitter @npsgrpo](https://twitter.com/npsgrpo)
[instagram @GrandPortageNPS](https://instagram.com/GrandPortageNPS)

National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

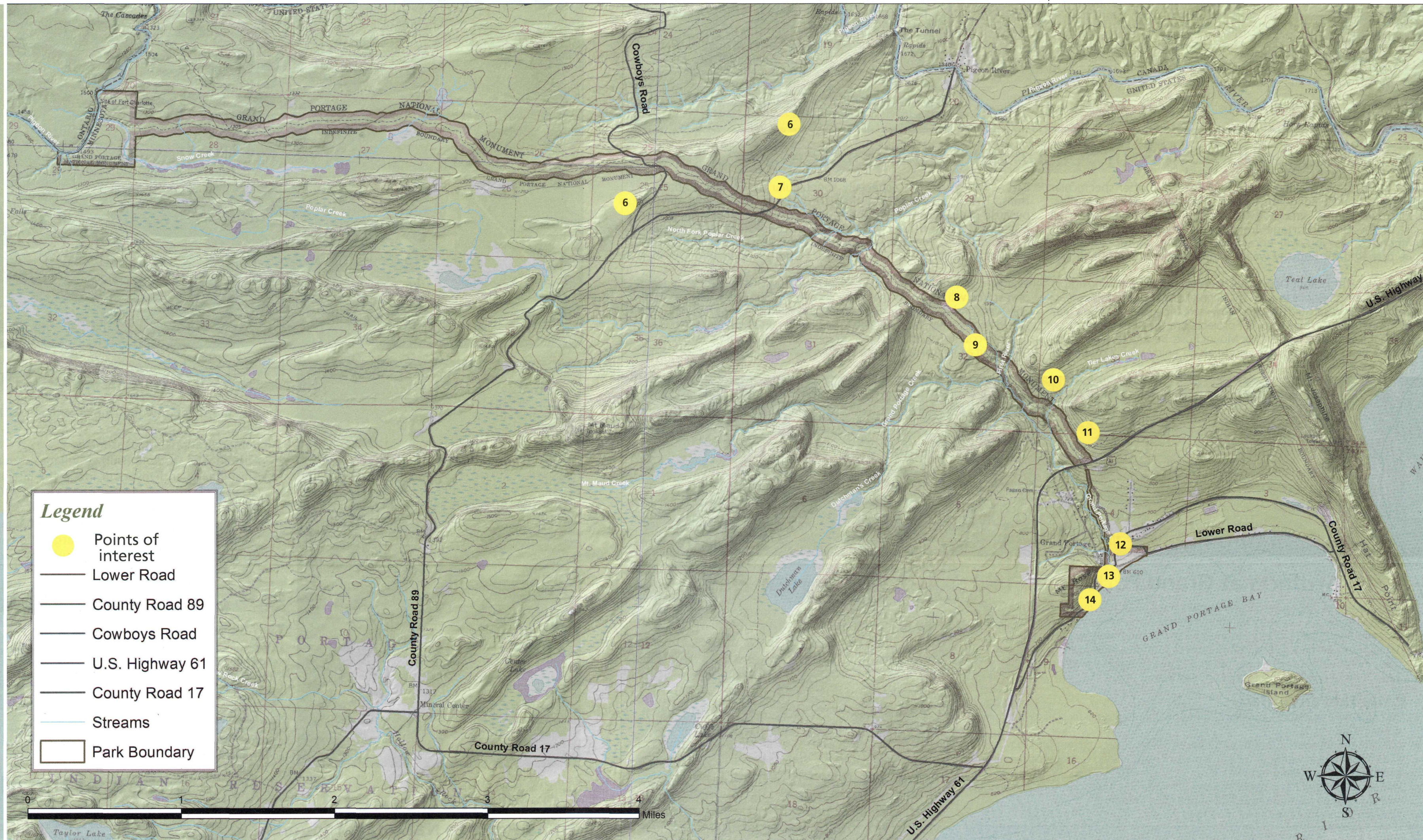
Hiking the Grand Portage Permits Required for Camping at Fort Charlotte

- Obtain information and complete a free camping permit at: <https://www.nps.gov/grpo/planyourvisit/permitsandreservations.htm>
- Two campsites are limited to nine people per site.
- Currently, campsites are only available at Fort Charlotte.

Leave No Trace

- Campfires in fire rings only, burn only dead, fallen wood
- Fires prohibited when fire danger is high
- Treat all water before consuming
- Use tent platforms to reduce soil erosion
- Carry out all refuse
- Use vault toilets
- Pets best left at home
- Observe quiet hours: 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM
- Digging is prohibited

More information call 218-475-0123



Points of Interest on the Grand Portage

Take a walk on the ancient portage, a trail where more moccasins travelled than hiking boots! *Gichi Onigamiing* - Ojibwe for Great Carrying Place - has been in use for over 8,000 years, originally as an Indigenous trail. Historically, *Voyageurs* leap-frogged personal gear and up to seven 90-pound packs of trade goods, carrying two at a time, resting and changing packs every ½ mile at places called *poses*. Today, the Grand Portage is a quiet backcountry trail preserved and maintained by the National Park Service and the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (Ojibwe).

Please Note: Points of interest are not exact, please stay on the trail.

1. Site of Fort Charlotte

Fort Charlotte: 1240 ft. (378 meters/m); 8.5 miles (13.68 kilometers/km) from Lake Superior. When *Voyageurs* reached Fort Charlotte, they left the supplies they carried, and picked up furs to take back to Grand Portage's warehouses for processing and eventual shipment to England and Europe.

2. Whistler's Ravine

Approximately one mile (1.6 km) from Fort Charlotte is an area where a small stream carved a ravine. Today it is called Whistler's Ravine (the 15th *pose*) and is a great birding spot.

3. Highest Point

1340 ft. (408.4 m) Highest elevation on the portage, 7.0 miles (11.27 km) from Lake Superior.

4. The Meadow

During the 18th century fur trade, this was a grassy wetland. Today it is known as the Meadow. Many walked the trail in knee-deep mud, with only moccasins to protect their feet.

5. Giizhikag (The Cedars)

Old-growth white cedar trees persist despite fire, drought, and logging along this section of trail. Known simply as *Giizhikag* (The Cedars), the oldest of this group of trees were saplings when North West Company men and others trudged the portage in 1797.

6. Aabita (Half) Ridge

At 1345 ft. (410 m) the highest point visible from the trail. *Aabita* is the Ojibwe word for half.

7. Old Highway 61

Now it begins as County Road 17, crossing the portage trail 3.7 miles (5.5 km) from Lake Superior and 4.8 miles from Fort Charlotte. The forest changes from deciduous aspen and birch closer to Lake Superior, to coniferous cedar, pine, and tamarack west of this point.

8. The Notch

Voyageurs rested about every one-half mile, usually at the same area called a *pose*. Sixteen *poses* are spaced from the lake to the river. This locale is known as the Notch *pose*.

9. Georges Naganib Stone

In 1953, a large inscribed boulder was found on the trail 1.5 miles (0.8 km) from Lake Superior. The chiseled inscription read, "1688 Georges Naganib." George Naganib is unknown in the historical record.

10. The Parting Trees

David Thompson, surveyor for the North West Company, wrote of a *pose* near here. *Voyageurs* on their way to the interior could catch their last glimpse of Lake Superior while resting here.

11. Minnesota Highway 61

MN Hwy 61, 0.6 miles (.965 km) from Lake Superior. Cross Highway 61 going northwest and you will begin to pass through "the Gap" on the Portage. The Gap is best viewed from the summit of Mount Rose.

12. Grand Portage Bay of Lake Superior

At about 602 ft. (183m) above sea level, the Lake Superior shore is the lowest elevation on the portage.

Map of Heritage Center, Historic Depot and Mount Rose Trails (Inset Map Right)

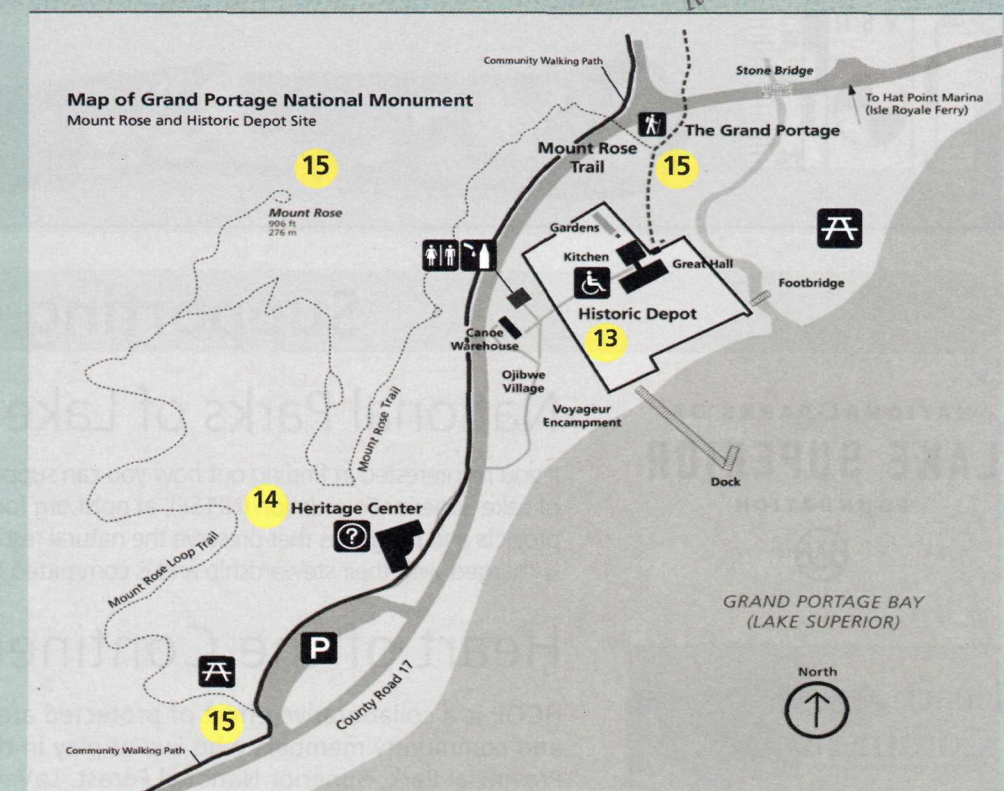
13. Reconstructed Historic Depot includes the: Ojibwe Village, Canoe Warehouse, Kitchen, Great Hall, stockade, North Gatehouse, beginning of the Grand Portage Trail, ghosted buildings with wayside panels, and dock and east picnic area, which are accessible by footbridge or by vehicle across the stonebridge parking near the wood fence.

14. Heritage Center and Park Headquarters

View the 23 minute film *Rendezvous With History, a Grand Portage Story*. Walk through two floors of exhibits and artwork, then peruse America's National Parks store.

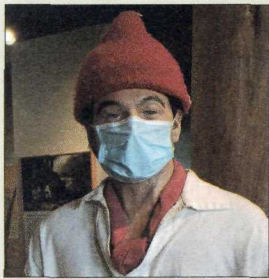
15. Mount Rose Trailhead

Enjoy the shaded picnic area at the west trail head of the Mount Rose Loop Trail. Take a gentle ½ mile climb up the Mount Rose Trail to an overlook of Grand Portage Bay.



Learn More

COVID-19 INFO



- When Community transmission level is at **LOW** or **MEDIUM**: Mask wearing is *not required* for staff, visitors, or others, regardless of vaccination status.
- When Community transmission is **HIGH**: Mask wearing is *required* for all people indoors, regardless of vaccination status, and consistent with CDC and Safer Federal Workforce Task Force guidance on mask wearing.

Check at the Heritage Center for current level of transmission.

Fort Charlotte Campsites

Two backcountry campsites, accessible to hikers and canoeists, are located at the Pigeon River end of the Grand Portage Trail. Each campsite is limited to nine people. **Camping permits are required** and issued online by the park. A permit system allows campers to reserve a campsite in advance. **Allow a minimum of two weeks** in advance for permit processing.

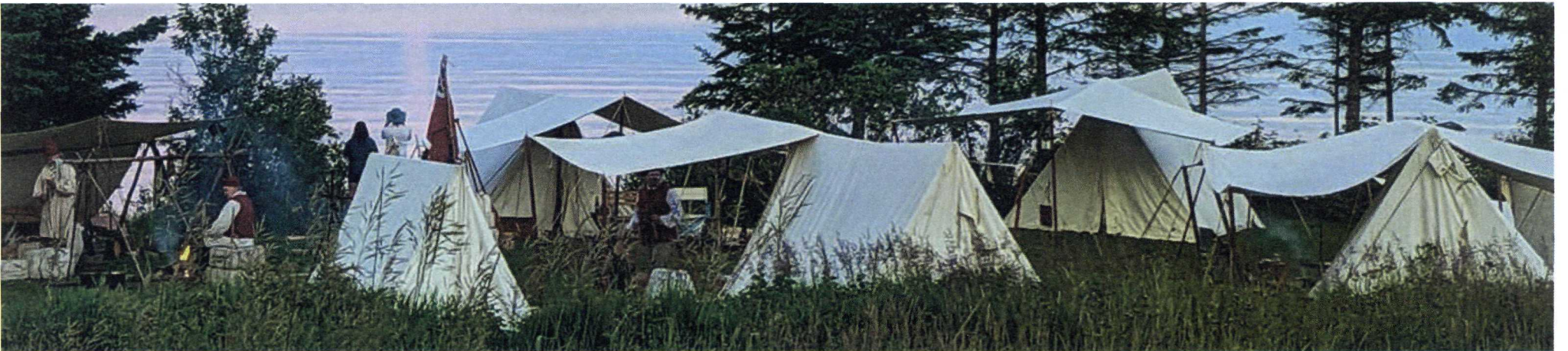
Explore All Four Seasons at Grand Portage

SPRING – Morning hikes along the Mount Rose Trail offer spectacular opportunities to view songbirds, including warblers, wrens, thrushes, and sparrows as they serenade the forested countryside. Hike all or part of the Grand Portage Trail - sturdy mud boots are highly recommended, as you will encounter standing water along the trail. Be prepared for bugs by wearing long sleeves and a head net.

SUMMER – Explore the Historic Depot - get ready to interact with living history interpreters! Great questions to ask: What kind of clothing did people wear? What did they eat? Where did they live? How were the shelters constructed? How did they travel? What historical projects are the staff working on today? Hike the Grand Portage Trail or Mount Rose. Be sure to wear sturdy boots and a head net - both are essentials to enjoy your experience!

FALL – Fall colors are especially spectacular along any of the site trails. This is also the best time to hike the Grand Portage trail because of drier conditions and fewer bugs. Birdwatchers may catch a glimpse of a few rarer species such as Long-tailed and Harlequin Ducks in Grand Portage Bay, and fall is the most likely time to spot *makwa* (a black bear). The Historic Depot is open into October.

WINTER – With the historic site closed for the season, it is a less-crowded time of year. You will likely have the Heritage Center Exhibit Gallery all to yourself. Stay warm inside and watch extra park films highlighting community life in Grand Portage. For those wishing to explore the great outdoors, snowshoe or cross-country ski the Grand Portage Trail. Want to try snowshoeing? Check out a free pair of snowshoes at the front desk of the Heritage Center.



Artifacts at Grand Portage

Under the Archeological Resource Protection Act of 1979, it is illegal to dig in, or to take, purchase, sell, receive, or transport materials from a site on federal land without a permit. Similar laws protect state and private lands, and Native American burials. Damage to a site on federal lands that exceeds \$500 is considered a felony and can result in the seizure of any vehicle (car, truck, fishing vessel, plane, RV) used in the crime, fines of up to \$250,000, and up to five years in prison.

If You Find an Artifact

- Do not remove or disturb the artifact. Context is important for park staff to determine the item's history.
- Call Park Headquarters at 218-475-0123 or e-mail grpo_back_country@nps.gov.
- Record the location with your GPS, on a map, or make a sketch referencing prominent landmarks. Estimate the size of the site.
- Photograph the artifacts in place. Include a common object for scale, such as a pencil or coin. Photograph the site area and the surrounding landscape.
- Note any disturbances, human or natural, to the site.



Rendezvous Days

Join us for a community celebration, a time when Grand Portage comes alive and reflects on its rich heritage. Music, dancing, craft demonstrations, and hands-on workshops ensure an exciting weekend at Grand Portage. Reenactors bring the 1790s alive with the hustle and bustle of summer activity that historically peaked with the North West Company's annual Rendezvous, once held at Grand Portage, when furs from wintering posts delivered down the historic Grand Portage trail met with shipments of trade goods from the East Coast and Europe. Held in conjunction with the Rendezvous Days Pow Wow, sponsored by the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Anishinaabe, this is one weekend you do not want to miss!

Supporting Our Parks



National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation

If you're interested in finding out how you can support Grand Portage National Monument, please visit our partner, National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation (NPLSF), at nplsf.org for more information. The mission of NPLSF is to provide financial support for projects and programs that preserve the natural resources and cultural heritage of all five national parks along Lake Superior. NPLSF is charged with their stewardship and is committed to their long term support, preservation, and enhancement. nplsf.org

Heart of the Continent Partnership

HCOP is a collaborative effort of protected areas on both sides of the border country canoe route, their friends groups and community members who live or play in the region. The HCOP includes Voyageurs National Park to the west, Quetico Provincial Park, Superior National Forest, LaVerendrye Provincial Park and Grand Portage National Monument. For more information on volunteering for HCOP, see their website: heartofthecontinent.org

