

WILDERNESS TRAILS



A Guide to the Trails in Isle Royale National Park

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Front Cover: Duncan Bay from Lookout Louise.

Photo by William W. Dunmire.

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INTRODUCTION

ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK is unique among the National Parks of the country in its wilderness setting, isolated as it is from the mainland by many miles of Lake Superior waters. Travel within the park is accomplished solely by boat or on foot. It is the purpose of this booklet to acquaint you with the trail system of the park. It is for the most part a rather primitive trail system in keeping with the wilderness flavor of the island, being composed of about 165 miles of ungraded footpaths. There are hikes to suit all tastes—long, short, easy, and rugged ones—each different from the others and each revealing another segment of the unspoiled natural scene of Isle Royale.

Isle Royale National Park exists for the benefit of the American people not only of today, but equally so for future generations. The park is for your enjoyment and benefit, but in order to preserve its essential wilderness flavor—the entity that is its prime attraction—it is necessary that the visitor leave things as he found them. A good rule for the trailside: "Take nothing but pictures; leave nothing but footprints."

Keep your campsite clean and natural. Burn your garbage and carry out that which will not burn. If you are in one of the improved campsites, place your refuse in one of the containers provided for the purpose. Above all, do not pollute lake or stream waters with debris. Bury human wastes away from lakes and streams. Always remember that the lakes and streams of the island are a source of drinking water for you and for others. Leave your camp for the next fellow as you hope he has left his for you.

Be familiar with park regulations which were designed to protect the park and at the same time help you and other visitors to enjoy your stay. Regulations are contained in the Isle Royale information folder. A camping permit is required and should be obtained from a park ranger before you start your hike.

The animals here are truly wild and they are not likely to bother humans unless they feel threatened in some way. However, you

should always treat moose, especially cow moose, with respect. If a moose is encountered along a trail, give it a wide berth if it shows any sign of belligerence. Never annoy, molest, or even feed wild animals—for the protection of both yourself and the animal! There are no poisonous snakes on Isle Royale, and only scattered patches of poison ivy.

Of course, you should always be careful where and how you travel, with the sharp tools you use, with the water you drink, and the food you eat. Remember that doctors and hospitals are a long way off and possibly several days distant—so please be careful. Lake Superior water away from confined harbors may appear to be safe but for extra precaution should be boiled or treated with a water purifier such as halazone. All inland waters should be considered “unsafe” and should be boiled for at least five minutes before drinking.

The soil on Isle Royale is characteristically thin and in many places non-existent. Thus the surface on many of the trails is rocky, and where loose stones are present, footing can be treacherous. It is a good idea to wear hiking boots or good quality hiking shoes on your hikes. Also, because of the rugged nature of many of the interior trails, you should plan your hikes so that you will be in camp well before nightfall. Retain flexibility in your plans until your hiking pace is established.

All overnight campers are required to register at a ranger station and obtain a camping permit. For shorter daytime trips, be sure that someone knows of your hiking plans. Solo hiking into the interior is not recommended.

USING THIS GUIDE

This booklet is arranged so that you can locate all the trails in each vicinity under one grouping. Thus the 12 trails within the Rock Harbor area and the 5 trails near Windigo are covered under those sections. Interior trails on the south and north shores of Isle Royale are treated similarly in separate sections. The Greenstone Ridge and Minong Ridge Trails are described individually. The booklet concludes with a section on the short portage trails, those that connect one harbor or lake to another and built expressly for portaging small boats or canoes.

Consult the centerpiece map, chart, and key for general locations and trail mileages. Of course you will want a more detailed map to consult during your hikes. The map contained in the free Isle Royale information folder shows the location of trails and campsites in fair detail. The best map of Isle Royale for hikers is available from the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. 20240. There are two editions: The forest-areas-in-green edition and the shaded relief edition, most hikers prefer the latter which is sold at park information stations during the visitor season.

ROCK HARBOR VICINITY

There is a greater variety of trails in the Rock Harbor vicinity than any other area in the park. Four trails (actually two loops) lead away from Rock Harbor Lodge, but since the lodge is located half way down a narrow peninsula, the other trail-heads must be reached by boat, or else they involve a long hike down the peninsula. Within the Harbor, Daisy Farm, Moskey Basin, and Three-Mile Lakeside Camps all offer access directly from the campgrounds to the interior of Isle Royale by trail. Wherever you decide to stay in Rock Harbor, you will find that a small boat or canoe is desirable in getting to some of the trails and a necessity in reaching others. The trail-heads for Lookout Louise, Rock Harbor Lighthouse, Mott Island, and Raspberry Island can only be reached by water.



Albert Stoll, Jr., Self-Guiding Trail

ALBERT STOLL, JR. MEMORIAL TRAIL

2.3 Miles from Rock Harbor Lodge to Scoville Point

This is a self-guiding interpretive trail that begins at Rock Harbor Lodge and ends at Scoville Point, 2.3 miles away. Essentially following the shoreline, the trail winds along the craggy bluffs of Rock Harbor and the quieter wooded slopes of Tobin Harbor. A special feature of this trail is an exhibit on aboriginal copper mining located at one of the prehistoric mine pits.

Actually, the complete trip forms a figure eight by following a loop return near Scoville Point and later connecting with the Moose Trail on Tobin Harbor. You can shorten this hike considerably by taking only the first portion of the Stoll Trail and returning to Rock Harbor via the Moose Trail. The Moose Trail passes the historic Smithwick Mine, a remnant of copper mining activity in the 1840's.

ROCK HARBOR TRAIL

10.5 Miles from Rock Harbor Lodge to Moskey Basin

The Rock Harbor Trail, which follows the rocky shore of Rock Harbor from Rock Harbor Lodge to its head some 10.5 miles away, is one of the longer trails in the park. As its name implies it parallels the shoreline. It passes Suzy's Cave, an inland sea arch, two miles from Rock Harbor. Loop trips from Rock Harbor are possible by returning via the Tobin Harbor Trail with cutoffs at Suzy's Cave (3.8-mile round trip) and at the Mt. Franklin Trail (6.3-mile round trip).

The historic Siskowit copper mine is located along a spur trail just opposite the National Park Service headquarters on Mott Island. Here you can see the dumpings of the old mine, as well as some of the old shafts. A few stone foundations mark the site of several buildings built while the mine was in operation more than 100 years ago.

Daisy Farm Lakeside Camp is located 7.1 miles from Rock Harbor Lodge. Here, at one of the largest campgrounds in the park, campsites, fireplaces, grills, and toilets are available. An additional 3.4 miles brings you to the lakeside camp at Moskey Basin—the basin-like head of Rock Harbor.

Rainbow from Moskey Basin Lakeside Camp



Hiking on this trail, although it does not involve any major climbs, is continuously up and down over rocky, hummocky terrain, and so it is desirable that good stout walking shoes be worn. Travel along this trail is usually somewhat slow due to its rocky and irregular nature.

TOBIN HARBOR TRAIL

2.9 Miles from Rock Harbor Lodge to the Mt. Franklin Trail

Taking off from the path leading to the seaplane dock in Tobin Harbor, this trail closely follows the shore to a junction with the Mt. Franklin Trail a short way from Three-Mile Lakeside Camp. It is a rolling, easy trail with good footing and is shaded along its length under a birch and spruce-fir canopy. There are many fine viewpoints of the harbor with its myriad of small islands.

Halfway to the Mt. Franklin junction take the short inland cut-off for a look at Suzy's Cave, an inland sea arch that was formed when Lake Superior was at a higher level than today.

From Rock Harbor you can make a pleasant loop trip of 6.3 miles by following this trail to the Mt. Franklin junction, turning left to Three-Mile Camp, then returning via the Rock Harbor Trail. By cutting across to the Rock Harbor Trail at the Suzy's Cave cut-off, the loop can be shortened to 3.8 miles.

LOOKOUT LOUISE TRAIL

0.9 Mile from Tobin Harbor to Lookout Louise

To reach this trail, you must travel either by boat across the sheltered waters of Tobin Harbor from the Rock Harbor Lodge Tobin Harbor docks, or by boat around Scoville Point from Rock Harbor into Tobin Harbor. From the dock to Lookout Louise the trail is almost completely uphill but the climb is not difficult.

Just a short distance from the Harbor is Hidden Lake, a small lake created by the work of the beaver. The lake area is an excellent wildlife region, so keep your eyes peeled. The tracks of the moose, fox, and timber wolf are frequently seen in the soft mud around the water.



Duncan Bay View from Lookout Louise

Half way up the trail as it climbs the slope of the Greenstone Ridge is a high pinnacle of rock—Monument Rock—carved by the wave action of Lake Superior when it stood at a higher stage.

A short distance farther is the Greenstone Ridge Trail junction. Walk down the Greenstone Trail a short distance to see an example of an aboriginal copper mining pit constructed here some 1000 to 4000 years ago by an unknown people who may have been ancestors of the Chippewa or some other Indian tribe.

The climax of the trail is found at its end, at Lookout Louise, where you can look out from the summit of the ridge over the waters of Duncan and Five Finger Bays to the Canadian mainland some 20 miles away. The view from Lookout Louise is one of the best known and most photographed in the park.

LOOKOUT LOUISE - MT. FRANKLIN TRAIL

4.9 Miles from Lookout Louise to Mount Franklin

Beginning at a junction just south of Lookout Louise on the Lookout Louise Trail, this trail leads southwestward to Mount Franklin. As such, it is actually a part of the Greenstone Ridge Trail.

Near its northeastern end it passes several prehistoric mining pits, some of which have recently been excavated to show their form when originally dug thousands of years ago. Along the way to Mount Franklin are numerous views from the ridge to both north and south of Isle Royale. About a mile from Mount Franklin, are some of the island's most luxuriant patches of thimbleberries.

MOUNT FRANKLIN TRAIL

2.2 Miles from Rock Harbor to Mount Franklin

The trail to Mt. Franklin can be taken as the initial segment of the Greenstone Ridge Trail. It begins on Rock Harbor about 3 miles from the lodge. There is a concrete dock on the harbor at Three-Mile Lakeside Camp near the trail-head so that access by boat is easy. Of course, the trail-head can also be reached by the Rock Harbor Trail. The junction of the Rock Harbor and Mt. Franklin trails is a short way up the harbor (southwest) from the dock.

Like most trails that cut across the width of Isle Royale, the Mt. Franklin trail continuously alternates between ridge and valley. In one of the major valleys the trail crosses the Tobin Creek swamp at the head of Tobin Harbor.

From the warm, dry ridge slopes near Tobin Harbor there is a view of one of the park's few jack pine stands. The contrast with the moist forest habitat nearby is striking.

The trail ascends the Greenstone Ridge to Mt. Franklin with its spectacular view of the north side of the island. This summit was named for Benjamin Franklin whose negotiations with the British after the Revolutionary War may have been responsible for placing Isle Royale within the boundaries of the United States.

The north shore of Isle Royale is easily accessible from this point via the Lane Cove Trail (described under North Shore Interior Trails) which makes a rewarding extension of the Mt. Franklin hike.



View of the Greenstone Ridge from Mt. Ojibway Lookout Tower

MOUNT OJIBWAY TRAIL

1.7 Miles from Daisy Farm Lakeside Camp to Mt. Ojibway

The trail begins at the Daisy Farm Lakeside Camp, crosses several ridges, and terminates at the fire lookout tower on Mount Ojibway, a high point of the Greenstone Ridge. It is a self-guiding interpretive trail, so be sure to pick up a leaflet at the Daisy Farm trailhead which describes trailside features. Like the Mt. Franklin trail it alternates between ridge and valley, offering you a variety of habitat types through which to travel.

Near the lake it traverses the spruce-fir and paper birch forest that dominates northeastern Isle Royale, emerging into an open park-like meadow with scattered young white pine trees as it ascends the hot and dry south slope of Ransom Hill. On the north slope of Ransom Hill is a luxuriant paper birch forest growing from the ruins of an old forest destroyed by fire some 100 years ago. The slopes of Mt. Ojibway contain scattered patches of red and sugar maple, trees rather common on the ridges at the southwest end of the park, and found here in their northeasternmost extension.

The view from the fire tower at the top of the ridge is one of the finest in the park. You can see Rock Harbor, Lake Benson, Anglemorm Lake, and Sargent Lake, as well as mile upon mile of

unspoiled forest land. The lookout on duty at the tower during fire season will be glad to point out these features and to explain the operation of the tower and its equipment.

DAISY FARM TRAIL

1.9 Miles from Daisy Farm Lakeside Camp to the Greenstone Ridge

Like the two previous trails, the Daisy Farm Trail begins at Rock Harbor and crosses ridge and swamp, finally ascending to the top of the Greenstone Ridge. Near the campground it follows Benson Creek for a short distance. If you are a fisherman, here is a chance to try for brook trout. Two rather extensive bog-swamps are traversed by foot bridge, and you have an opportunity to see some of the more interesting swamp and bog plants.

About a mile from Daisy Farm, just as you begin to cross the first major swamp, the insect-devouring pitcher plants and sundews are to be seen. Bog laurel, labrador tea, and bogbean are also common, as are the larger trees—the black spruce and the tamarack. These plants grow in bogs, swamps, and other moist habitats of the island.

The Daisy Farm Trail reaches the summit of the Greenstone Ridge at a relatively low point and so provides the easiest access to its top of any of the trails leading in from Rock Harbor.

This trail is often taken as the last leg of the Ojibway-Greenstone-Daisy Farm triangle. A counter-clockwise route is recommended in order to take advantage of the self-guiding leaflet that is available at the start of the Ojibway Trail.

LAKE RICHIE TRAIL

2.3 Miles from Moskey Basin to Lake Richie

The trail begins at the Moskey Basin Lakeside Camp, crosses a creek and small beaver lake, and then alternates through spruce-fir forest and rocky clearings until, 2.3 miles from Rock Harbor, it reaches the lovely Lake Richie. The trail follows a valley most of

the way from Rock Harbor to the lake and so the walking is relatively easy. Lake Richie, one of the island's larger inland lakes, is excellent for pike fishing.

Across the lake from the trail the tall snags of a burned out white pine forest reveal some of the damage created by the extensive 1936 fire.

Lake Richie, in its quiet seclusion, is an excellent wildlife area. Moose are frequently seen feeding on the aquatic vegetation near its shores, and the loon, merganser, and other ducks are common.

HISTORIC FISHERY—OLD LIGHTHOUSE LOOP TRAIL

0.4 Mile Circuit from Rock Harbor to the Lighthouse

The trail begins at the Edison Historic Commercial Fishery Dock located across the harbor from the Daisy Farm Campground. Mr. Peter Edison operated the commercial fishery for over 50 years. Browse around and examine equipment and paraphernalia used in commercial fishing of years ago. A guide is usually on hand to answer questions and demonstrate or explain the fishery operation.

A short trail to the Rock Harbor Lighthouse begins near the net drying racks. Take the trail to the right at the trail junction. On the right you will see the burial site of an island resident who died around the turn of the century. A short distance farther is the lighthouse.



Edison Historic Commercial Fishery

The old lighthouse was constructed in 1855 to guide boats into the harbor during a copper mining boom on the island. Abandoned soon after the mines closed, the lighthouse was subsequently used as a summer home by early visitors to the island and later by commercial fishermen and their families. In 1962 the National Park Service restored the foundation of the structure to prevent further inward leaning of the tower. An exhibit display at the lighthouse tells its story.

Leaving the lighthouse follow the return trail which passes by the capstan of an old boat. This trail closely follows the cliffs overlooking Middle Islands Passage and offers a number of outstanding photo points.

Rock Harbor Lighthouse



MOTT ISLAND CIRCUIT TRAIL

1.4 Mile Loop from Park Headquarters

Mott Island, long and thin, is typical of the chain of offshore islands, actually the tops of an underwater ridge, that form the outer barrier of Rock Harbor. This trail, starting behind Park Headquarters, follows the rugged south shoreline half way down the island, crosses to the Rock Harbor side, and returns along the protected shore. A 1.3 mile extension of the trail leads to the northeast tip of Mott and a view of Lorelei Lane, the narrow channel that splits the outer island chain beyond.

Just off the gravelly beach near the start of the circuit is an underwater reef that harbors the broken remains of the *Algoma*. This 270-foot twin-masted schooner smashed into the reef and sank here during a November storm in 1885. Over 40 lives were lost in this, the worst shipwreck of many in the history of Isle Royale.

RASPBERRY ISLAND BOG TRAIL

0.6 Mile Circuit from the Raspberry Island Dock

Raspberry Island is located directly across the harbor from Rock Harbor Lodge and is accessible only by boat. Private boats are welcome and water taxi and boat rental service is available at the Lodge if desired. The trail is self-guiding with interpretive markers that describe the unique plants and other features of the Raspberry Island Bog.

WINDIGO VICINITY

Some splendid hikes are available to visitors staying at Windigo, with four trails leading directly from the developed area and others accessible by boat. Every visitor to Windigo should make a point of taking the short Windigo Circuit Trail which provides a delightful introduction to the area. Medium length trails lead to Huginnin Cove and the Wendigo Mine Explorations. For the more ambitious hiker seeking overnight excursions there is the Wilderness Loop, a 25½-mile trip, and of course Windigo is a trail-head for the Greenstone Ridge Trail that runs the length of the island.

WINDIGO CIRCUIT TRAIL

0.8 Mile Loop around the Windigo Developed Area

Take this hour-long self-guiding walk for an introduction to the natural and historic features of the Windigo area. An old Lake Superior shoreline, remains of mining activities, and a moose rub are among the interesting stops. The trail starts near the Windigo Ranger Station and ends at Windigo Inn.

WASHINGTON CREEK TRAIL

1.8 Miles from Windigo to Wendigo Mine Explorations

Leaving the Windigo Ranger Station, the Washington Creek campground is to the left of the trail. In this area notice the rather abrupt bank to the right of the trail. This is an old beach line produced when Lake Superior was much higher than at present. The trail, being entirely in the valley of the creek, is bordered by dense stands of white spruce, black spruce, balsam fir, paper birch, aspens, and white cedar.

After passing the two trails to Huginnin Cove, the trail continues straight ahead to the Wendigo* Mine Exploration Pits.

* Windigo was originally spelled Wendigo by the old mining company. The old spelling is retained for historic features bearing this name.

Cow Moose in Washington Creek at the Campground



HUGINNIN COVE LOOP TRAIL

4 Miles from Windigo to Huginnin Cove

An ideal loop trail for either a day hike or an overnight camping trip. The trail introduces you to a variety of interesting habitats. To hike the trail in a counter-clockwise direction, take the left fork off the Washington Creek trail that leads toward the Wendigo Mine. As you cross Washington Creek on the small footbridge, look at the muddy bank upstream. You may see a moose at this "mineral lick".

After crossing a ridge you will arrive at the Wendigo Mine. Evidence of mining activity is scattered over a wide area along this section of trail. Be careful not to step into old exploration pits and shafts—some are well camouflaged by ground vegetation.

Continuing northwestward, the trail passes by two beaver ponds where—if you are patient—wildlife of many sorts can be seen. Watch for beaver, muskrat, mink, fox, moose, and waterfowl. After passing the second beaver pond, the trail passes through a large aspen stand before dropping to a bluff overlooking Lake Superior and the Canadian shore. The trail swings southwestward along the island's north shore cliffs to Huginnin Cove and campground. The return trail to Windigo begins next to the small creek running into the cove. This trail is mainly a glacial trough that runs from Huginnin Cove to Washington Harbor near Beaver Island. You will pass two beaver ponds on this trail also. Be alert for moose activity and look for "moose rubs"—small trees that have had their bark rubbed off by moose rubbing their antlers on them. Eventually the trail climbs out of the glacial trough and heads toward the mouth of Washington Creek. The trail follows Washington Creek across from the campground and continues upstream until crossing a footbridge next to a stream gauging station. (Instruments for measuring the flow of water in Washington Creek are housed in the small building.) From here the trail ascends out of the stream channel and across an open flat area to return to the Washington Creek trail.

FELDTMANN RIDGE TRAIL

14.3 Miles from Windigo to Siskiwit Bay

The trail, which was completed in 1965, penetrates deeply into some of the most remote parts of Isle Royale. It provides a route along the shore of Washington Harbor, through magnificent stands of mature hardwoods, across the head of the Big Siskiwit Swamp, by a superb inland lake, and culminates on Feldtmann Ridge with one of the most spectacular scenic views in the park. It can be hiked as the first (or last) leg of the Wilderness Loop from Windigo by connecting with the Island Mine and Greenstone Ridge Trails—or just a portion of it can be walked to get a glimpse of the interior of the island.

The trail begins at the Windigo Ranger Station and runs along the shore of Washington Harbor, turning inland opposite the end of Beaver Island. A small target faces the Harbor here for boaters who may wish to eliminate the first mile of hiking. You reach Grace Creek 1½ miles from Windigo shortly after crossing the Greenstone Ridge—here at a rather low elevation. The huge yellow birch trees on the ridge will introduce you to the forest that lies ahead. Look downstream about 75 yards from the Grace Creek bridge to see a large beaver house. The creek is an excellent brook trout stream.

Beyond the creek is the first of several long boardwalks, necessary on this trail because of poor drainage conditions where the inland topography is so gentle. On the second ridge past Grace Creek you pass through a grand mixed forest of mature yellow birch and sugar maples, then cross a sphagnum moss bog lined with black spruce trees.

At the head of Feldtmann Lake you cross an alder swamp on the longest (1200 ft.) continuous boardwalk in the park. To the east are the headwaters of the Big Siskiwit Swamp—more than 10 square miles of nearly impenetrable morass—the largest by far on Isle Royale. Ahead are the sheer reddish bluffs of Feldtmann Ridge, topped by solitary white pines. As the trail swings toward Feldtmann Lake, it winds among mossy talus boulders of conglomerate rock that have rolled down from the cliffs above. Take the Feldtmann Lake Trail

to the lake which is just beyond the trail junction, if you want to try your luck with northern pike.

The Ridge Trail, however, ascends steeply beyond the junction, and soon you are in command of a splendid view to the west. Besides Feldtmann Lake below, on most days the Rock of Ages Lighthouse and the Minnesota and Canadian mainland are clearly visible. Look for a jumbled mass of sticks high in some of the tallest pines just back from the ridge. These are the nests of bald eagles, birds that were formerly much more abundant but have declined drastically in numbers throughout the U. S. probably due to chemical poisoning from pesticides. A note of caution: The rocks at the edge of the dropoff are undercut in many places. Do not venture out to the rim of the Feldtmann Ridge cliffs.

Beyond the cliffs the ascent to Mt. Feldtmann is gradual, passing through birch and mountain ash woodlands. In the openings the shrubbery has been heavily browsed by moose. In this stretch just south of the trail is a small beaver pond where both the dam and the beaver house can be seen.

You reach Feldtmann Tower $8\frac{3}{4}$ miles after leaving Windigo. The lookout at the tower will welcome a visit—why not drop in on him and say hello? The view from the tower is excellent. The ridge overlooks the vast Big Siskiwit Swamp, and beyond you can

Feldtmann Lake from Feldtmann Ridge Trail

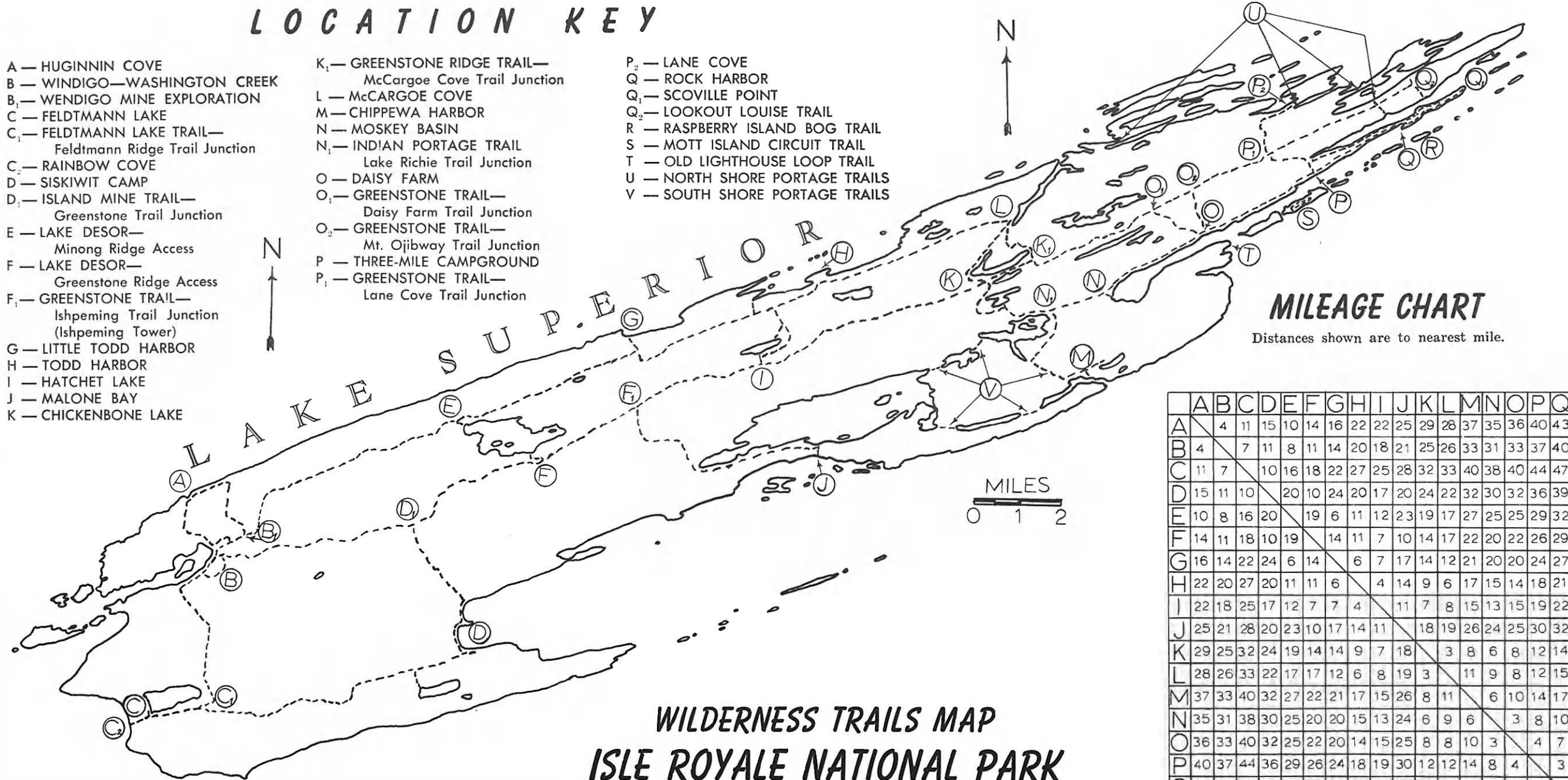


LOCATION KEY

- A — HUGINNIN COVE
- B — WINDIGO—WASHINGTON CREEK
- B₁ — WENDIGO MINE EXPLORATION
- C — FELDTMANN LAKE
- C₁ — FELDTMANN LAKE TRAIL—
Feldtmann Ridge Trail Junction
- C₂ — RAINBOW COVE
- D — SISKIWIT CAMP
- D₁ — ISLAND MINE TRAIL—
Greenstone Trail Junction
- E — LAKE DESOR—
Minong Ridge Access
- F — LAKE DESOR—
Greenstone Ridge Access
- F₁ — GREENSTONE TRAIL—
Ishpeming Trail Junction
(Ishpeming Tower)
- G — LITTLE TODD HARBOR
- H — TODD HARBOR
- I — HATCHET LAKE
- J — MALONE BAY
- K — CHICKENBONE LAKE

- K₁ — GREENSTONE RIDGE TRAIL—
McCargoe Cove Trail Junction
- L — McCARGOE COVE
- M — CHIPPEWA HARBOR
- N — MOSKEY BASIN
- N₁ — INDIAN PORTAGE TRAIL
Lake Richie Trail Junction
- O — DAISY FARM
- O₁ — GREENSTONE TRAIL—
Daisy Farm Trail Junction
- O₂ — GREENSTONE TRAIL—
Mt. Ojibway Trail Junction
- P — THREE-MILE CAMPGROUND
- P₁ — GREENSTONE TRAIL—
Lane Cove Trail Junction

- P₂ — LANE COVE
- Q — ROCK HARBOR
- Q₁ — SCOVILLE POINT
- Q₂ — LOOKOUT LOUISE TRAIL
- R — RASPBERRY ISLAND BOG TRAIL
- S — MOTT ISLAND CIRCUIT TRAIL
- T — OLD LIGHTHOUSE LOOP TRAIL
- U — NORTH SHORE PORTAGE TRAILS
- V — SOUTH SHORE PORTAGE TRAILS



MILEAGE CHART

Distances shown are to nearest mile.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
A		4	11	15	10	14	16	22	22	25	29	28	37	35	36	40	43
B	4		7	11	8	11	14	20	18	21	25	26	33	31	33	37	40
C	11	7		10	16	18	22	27	25	28	32	33	40	38	40	44	47
D	15	11	10		20	10	24	20	17	20	24	22	32	30	32	36	39
E	10	8	16	20		19	6	11	12	23	19	17	27	25	25	29	32
F	14	11	18	10	19		14	11	7	10	14	17	22	20	22	26	29
G	16	14	22	24	6	14		6	7	17	14	12	21	20	20	24	27
H	22	20	27	20	11	11	6		4	14	9	6	17	15	14	18	21
I	22	18	25	17	12	7	7	4		11	7	8	15	13	15	19	22
J	25	21	28	20	23	10	17	14	11		18	19	26	24	25	30	32
K	29	25	32	24	19	14	14	9	7	18		3	8	6	8	12	14
L	28	26	33	22	17	17	12	6	8	19	3		11	9	8	12	15
M	37	33	40	32	27	22	21	17	15	26	8	11		6	10	14	17
N	35	31	38	30	25	20	20	15	13	24	6	9	6		3	8	10
O	36	33	40	32	25	22	20	14	15	25	8	8	10	3		4	7
P	40	37	44	36	29	26	24	18	19	30	12	12	14	8	4		3
Q	43	40	47	39	32	29	27	21	22	32	14	15	17	10	7	3	

WILDERNESS TRAILS MAP ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK

see Sugar Mountain and the Greenstone Ridge. To the northeast, Siskiwit Bay and Lake Halloran are in view.

Upon leaving the tower on the last 5½-mile leg to Siskiwit Camp, you soon enter a thick forest of scrubby young birch trees. This is the result of the 1936 Siskiwit fire that burned one third of Isle Royale. You will be in portions of the burn from here to Siskiwit Bay.

Along the ridge top notice that the rocks contain many stones and pebbles cemented in a reddish matrix. This type of rock is known as conglomerate and was formed in the distant past when ancient stream and river deposits became extremely compacted. On Isle Royale the conglomerate layers tend to be much harder than those of sandstone; thus Feldtmann Ridge which has resisted erosion is composed mostly of conglomerate, while the valley below was carved out from the weaker sandstones.

On the lower portions of the walk, the trail, actually an old logging road built in the 1930's before Isle Royale was a National Park, follows a terrace created by an old beach line of Lake Superior. At the time this beach was formed the Big Siskiwit River valley was part of Lake Superior and the land area to the south of the valley was a separate island.

A little over half way from the tower to Siskiwit Camp is a spur trail to Lake Halloran. One of the chief attractions of this side trip is a chance to see the rare showy ladyslipper orchid. In early summer, this plant blooms in some abundance on the moist southwest margins of this secluded lake.

The open grassy area that you pass through just before reaching Siskiwit Bay was cleared in the 1930's for a CCC camp located here. A short distance beyond, on the lake shore, is Siskiwit Bay Lakeside Camp with campsites, tables, grills, and a large dock.

FELDTMANN LAKE TRAIL

2.4 Miles from Rainbow Cove to the Feldtmann Ridge Trail

Feldtmann Lake, with excellent shallow waters for northern pike, may be reached by a trail about a mile in length from the

beach at Rainbow Cove. The trail follows the small stream that drains the lake into Lake Superior.

Beyond the outlet stream at the lake, the trail climbs to some higher ground to avoid the swampy shore. For some distance the trail follows an embankment resembling an earthen dam which is actually the remnant of an ancient beachline of Lake Superior. The trail ends at its junction with the Feldtmann Ridge Trail. If you have the energy, take the right hand branch of the Ridge Trail for a short way to obtain one of the finest views of the island atop Feldtmann Ridge.

Access to the lake trail is by water or by the Feldtmann Ridge Trail. A boat trip to Rainbow Cove should be made only in calm weather. Rainbow Cove receives the full force of southwest winds and waves, so you must be very careful when using small boats in the cove. Small boats have been swamped when pulled only partly onto the beach; therefore, anchor out in the cove or pull your craft **ALL THE WAY OUT.**

GREENSTONE RIDGE TRAIL

By far the longest and one of the more rugged trails in the park is the wild and primitive Greenstone Ridge Trail. Winding across Isle Royale's wilderness interior atop the Greenstone Ridge some 40 miles between Rock Harbor Lodge and Windigo Inn, it is without a doubt the park's most varied and beautiful trail. By the same token, however, it is also a difficult trail and is to be recommended for the seasoned hiker only.

In general, three or four days should be allowed for the trip from lodge to lodge. All supplies needed for the hike must be carried on the back, and since the trail is rough under foot and involves a good many steep climbs, it should be emphasized that it is advisable to take only those things that are absolutely necessary. An overly-heavy pack has ruined a good many of what would have otherwise been enjoyable trips. Water is not available on the ridge and can be conveniently had only at the three overnight camps—each along the shore of an inland lake. To reach these campsites it is

necessary to come down off the ridge and descend to the lake; the next morning, of course, the climb back to the summit of the ridge awaits you. Storms are frequent on Isle Royale so it is wise to have a light tent or some other light shelter with you.

Because the trail is remote, it is not advisable to set out on it alone. The difficulty of gaining aid in an emergency makes it much more desirable to hike the trail with a companion. Even then, because you are more or less on your own, extra caution is urged.

For those who enjoy wilderness and respect its values the Greenstone Ridge Trail offers one of the most rewarding outdoor experiences the park has to offer. It is a trip that once made will not soon be forgotten.

THE TRAIL

39.9 Miles from Rock Harbor Lodge to Windigo Inn

If you begin your trip at Rock Harbor Lodge, travel down the Rock Harbor Trail some 3 miles, turn inland and gradually climb the Greenstone Ridge to Mount Franklin. From this point on, most of the walk follows the crest of the ridge—a long, straight mass of very dense rock called the Greenstone Basalt—actually the uptilted edge of an ancient lava flow. From the summit of the ridge you are provided with endless panoramas of the Isle Royale wilderness; the changing forest carpet and the many inland lakes visible from the ridge contrast with the vast expanses of Lake Superior and the more remote mainland shores.

Just a short distance down the trail from Mt. Franklin is another peak on the ridge, Mt. Ojibway. A fire tower is located here, and, although not continuously manned, you are welcome to inspect it. Between the tower and the first overnight campsite at Chickenbone Lake, the trail allows easy access to the isolated inland Anglemore Lake and Lake Livermore, where, as in Chickenbone, excellent northern pike fishing is to be found.

Beyond Chickenbone Lake the trail winds across a major gap in the ridge and then ascends to another peak, Mt. Siskiwit. Here



Chickenbone Lake

the trail climbs directly up the slope, but the view from the top is certainly worth the effort. In one direction the vast wilderness region of McCargoe Cove, Chickenbone Lake, and Lakes Livermore, LeSage, and Richie unfolds beneath you while in another direction Intermediate Lake, Lake Siskiwit, and Siskiwit Bay come into view. Here, as in many other stretches of the trail the tall, spire-like hulks of burned out white pine trees give testimony to the destruction wrought by forest fire on the island. Most of the affects of fire seen in this area date to the disastrous 1936 fire which ravaged almost a third of the island.

Seven miles from Chickenbone Lake a spur trail descends 300 feet to Hatchet Lake Camp which includes campsites and tables. Hatchet Lake is one of the few large inland bodies of water on Isle Royale that do not contain northern pike or yellow perch; however, brook trout occasionally are taken here.

From Hatchet Lake the trail climbs to Ishpeming Point, the second highest summit in the park. Here a fire tower is located, and the lookout will be happy to show you around. Please do not depend upon getting water from the lookout, as his supply is extremely limited.

From Ishpeming Point the trail descends through a scrubby burn area to Lake Desor, and the third overnight camp on the southwest side of the lake. The strangely wild Lake Desor area is all about you and the campsite area is a fine place to observe many of the animals in the lake region.

From the campsite the trail ascends back to the Greenstone Trail and eventually crosses Mt. Desor, the highest point on Isle Royale with an elevation of 1394 feet above sea level.

Leaving Mt. Desor the trail enters the sugar maple-yellow birch forest, which dominates the interior of southwestern Isle Royale, and the remaining ten miles of the walk is beneath this luxuriant canopy. Six miles before reaching Windigo is the junction with the Island Mine Trail. This junction is very nearly at the summit of Sugar Mountain, third highest peak along the Greenstone Ridge. Sugar Mountain was so named because of the abundant sugar maple growing in the area and because just to the left of the trail at the Island Mine Junction there was an Indian sugar camp prior to 1847. The trail terminates on Washington Harbor at the Windigo area.

The ideal arrangement for covering the island along the Greenstone Ridge Trail is to hike from one lodge to the other, beginning at either one, and returning to the starting place by boat. The Sivertson Bros. boat, which delivers mail and supplies to various points around the island, is available on a scheduled basis for such service. The boat trip itself is extremely interesting.

Sugar Maple Forest on Sugar Mountain



MINONG RIDGE TRAIL

26 Miles from McCargoe Cove to Windigo

This trail, constructed in 1966, was originally intended as a fire manway. It was to allow reasonable access to remote areas of the island in case of forest fire. Running from McCargoe Cove to Windigo, this trail provides access to a section of the park that had been little used. The area has consequently retained an atmosphere of naturalness and possesses wilderness values that can be appreciated by the dedicated backpacker and hiker. Because of this the manway has been redesignated as the Minong Ridge Trail and opened to public use. The Minong Ridge Trail is not an easy hike and thorough preparations must be made before attempting to meet its challenge. The trail is not recommended for large groups or for young or inexperienced hikers. The trail is largely unimproved and it is almost certain that some wading will be required to cross small streams and certain sections of trail made swampy by early and mid-season runoff or by frequent rain showers. Two or three days should be allowed for the trip. Designated campgrounds are found at two trailside locations. Refer to free printed information for regulations regarding camping at other than designated locations. Water is a critical factor and is reasonably available at only a few points along the way.

Anyone hiking the Minong Ridge Trail should exercise a good deal of caution. Assistance in the event of an emergency may be long in coming due to the remoteness of the area. "Always hike with a companion" is a good rule for this trail. If you are prepared (proper clothing, equipment, food, and in good physical condition) the Minong Ridge Trail can provide the finest wilderness experiences the park has to offer.

THE TRAIL

McCARGOE COVE TO LAKE DESOR

The initial leg of your trip is along the Minong Mine Trail which you follow .7 mile to its junction with the Minong Ridge Trail. From this junction it is only a short walk to the ridge. The

Minong trail does not always follow the crest of the ridge and many outstanding views can be had by leaving the trail and observing the island and surroundings from some of these ridge top locations.

Six miles from McCargoe Cove is Todd Harbor. Todd Harbor was the site of intensive mining activities during the period 1847-1853. The community of Haytown developed but shortly thereafter folded with the closing of the mines. At Todd Harbor is a campground with individual and group sites. A small dock provides campground and trail access by water. Todd Harbor itself is beset with numerous rocks and reefs and should be navigated with care. Boaters should use the #981 Lake Survey Navigation Chart. Following around the cove, the Minong Ridge Trail passes above the Haytown Mine site and leads on to the Hatchet-Greenstone Ridge Trail junction.

One-half mile beyond the Hatchet-Greenstone Ridge Trail junction is the turnoff to Pickett Bay. An unimproved trail one-half mile in length leads to Pickett Bay where water can be readily obtained.

Between the Pickett Bay and Little Todd Harbor Trail junctions notice the abundance of forest clearings and the numerous stands of birch and aspen. The trail progresses along the ridge top for the most part and offers outstanding views of numerous swamps and beaver ponds.

A one-half mile spur trail will take you to Little Todd Harbor. Lake water is easily obtained at this location for the next leg of your journey.

The six mile section of trail between Little Todd and the water pickup point at Lake Desor generally follows the rugged crest of the Minong Ridge. The ridge itself is divided by a series of gaps carved by glaciers thousands of years ago. The trail is steep in places and extra time should be allowed for hiking this section of trail. From the vicinity of the Lake Desor trail junction you may want to climb to the crest of the Minong Ridge. On a clear day you have an exceptionally fine view of the Isle Royale shoreline, Lake Superior, and a large section of the Canadian shoreline. The

nearest point on the Canadian shoreline is about 18 miles from this location.

The spur trail to Lake Desor is only several hundred yards long. Lake Desor is the last good watering point before you reach Windigo or Huginnin Cove. Just a reminder however—you should boil your water for at least five minutes before drinking.

DESOR TO WINDIGO

From the west end of Lake Desor to Washington Creek lies the wettest section of the trail. Be prepared to do some wading and walking on beaver dams since the trail alternates quite regularly between ridgecrests, swamps, and beaver ponds. In many of the wet areas the old "corduroy" bridges are partially or completely washed out. The irregular topography is due mainly to a series of glacial troughs that cut across the ridge. Several views of Canada and the Greenstone Ridge are offered at the ridgecrest sections of the trail.

Notice the young white birch and maples where the trail passes Lake Desor. Burnt stumps and large white pine snags are evidence of the 1936 fire that swept through this area and burned about one-third of the island.

Explore the edges of the beaver ponds along the way. Where the habitats of water and soil meet there is much to be discovered.

After passing a large beaver pond, the trail drops off the ridge toward Washington Creek. You will cross a small fork of the creek before reaching the main branch. There is no bridge, so get ready to wade or look for a log on which to cross. Just across the creek is the Wendigo Mine Explorations and the Washington Creek trail that leads to Windigo.

SOUTH SHORE INTERIOR TRAILS

In addition to the inland trails starting from Rock Harbor and Tobin Harbor (covered in the section on the Rock Harbor vicinity) three other routes lead to the interior from various points along the south shore of Isle Royale. Chippewa Harbor, Malone Bay, and Siskiwiit Bay are all trail-heads; each site has a boat dock. The Siskiwiit Falls-Ishpeming Trail and the Island Mine Trail both terminate

on the Greenstone Ridge, while the Indian Portage Trail crosses the island to the north shore. These inland trails, cutting as they do across the northeast-southwest strata of Isle Royale, provide great scenic and forest variety for a given distance of trail.

INDIAN PORTAGE TRAIL

10.6 Miles from Chippewa Harbor to McCargoe Cove

It is believed that Indians portaged their canoes across the island by following this route which connects the two harbors by way of four inland lakes. The trail, completed in 1964, offers great variety—alongside streams and lakes, across swamps, and through changing forests, with many little ups and downs; in short, a splendid cross-section of Isle Royale.

From the Chippewa Harbor campground you head inland, passing a spur trail that leads to Lake Mason. The trail then follows the drainage from Lake Richie, sometimes alongside the creek, but often well above it. About a mile from Chippewa, you enter an area devastated during the 1936 Siskiwit fire where tree growth still is scrubby. The fire extended from the Big Siskiwit Swamp and Lake Desor nearly to Moskey Basin, burning about one-third of the island. The trail passes near the southeastern arm of Lake Richie, then heads inland across the old burned slopes, not returning to the water until joining the Lake Richie Trail, 4 miles from the start.

The half-circling of Lake Richie continues as the trail closely follows its shores for another mile, leaving the lake opposite Hastings Island, the largest of several. The lake is noted for its northern pike fishing, and many openings along this shore provide accessible casting spots.

After leaving Lake Richie, you cut across the interior of Isle Royale. Its washboard topography running northeast to southwest soon becomes evident. Each low point contains a swamp, creek, or lake, while the ridges are often more or less open. You pass near two arms of Lake LeSage and the end of Lake Livermore (both contain northern pike) before reaching the Greenstone Ridge. A short descent leads to Chickenbone Lakeside Camp.

From the campsite the trail crosses a swamp at the head of the lake, then follows its picturesque shoreline and, finally, Chickenbone Creek to McCargoe Cove. This arm of the lake, the creek, and the cove lie in the depression formed from an ancient geologic fault trench that cuts diagonally across the island—one of the few exceptions to the rule that major geographic features on Isle Royale run in a northeast-southwest direction.

Just after passing the McCargoe Cove Trail junction, look for remains of the old stamp mill and horse stable site (described in the section on that trail). The trail ends at McCargoe Cove which contains one of the park's larger lakeside camps with a dock and standard Isle Royale camping facilities.

SISKIWIT FALLS TRAIL

0.5 Mile from Malone Bay to Siskiwit Lake

The dock at Malone Bay is located behind a small point on the shore of the main island. From the dock a short trail leads to the Malone Bay Lakeside Camp where there are campsites with tables, grills, and toilets.

About half way to the campground a bridge crosses Siskiwit outlet river. Then, after crossing the bridge, a fishing trail to Siskiwit Lake branches off to the right.

Just before reaching the campground the main trail branches off and leads to Siskiwit Lake. This trail is much easier to traverse than the fishing trail and arrives at the same location on Siskiwit Lake.

Siskiwit Falls, really more of a cascade, is located a short distance from the lake and is one of the most delightful spots on the island.

ISHPEMING TRAIL

6.9 Miles from Siskiwit Lake Outlet to Ishpeming Point

The trail from the Siskiwit Lake Outlet to Ishpeming Point traverses extremely varied areas. As the trail leaves the Siskiwit Lake outlet area, it skirts the south side of Siskiwit Lake all the way to

the southwest end of the lake. In this section (about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles long) the trail leads through a very fine stand of paper birch with a few old white pines scattered throughout—especially prominent at the lake's shore. Also in this stretch of trail are numerous excellent views of Siskiwit Lake—the largest inland lake on Isle Royale with an area of about 7 square miles.

The trail then turns abruptly inland and crosses the swamp and the small stream leading from Mud Lake into Siskiwit Lake on a series of footbridges. A small, relatively fast-flowing stream a little farther on is the last sure source of water for many miles. Remember, though, that it should be boiled before drinking.



Fire Lookout Tower on Ishpeming Point

Not far past the stream, you will emerge from the delightful birch-aspen forest into the extensive 1936 burn area. Here the going begins to get tougher. For about a mile there is a very gentle upward slope containing hazelnut, young birch, and aspen saplings.

Red Oak Ridge, is ascended by a series of short steep climbs, and it will be noted that sugar maple, northern red oak, and white pine are becoming more and more evident—especially on well-drained ridge tops and sunny, south-facing slopes.

Approximately three-quarters of a mile from Mount Ishpeming a small stream is crossed by a footbridge. The last few ridges are seemingly steep and long—especially so to a tired hiker. Ishpeming Point is not far, however, and the view from the top is one of the finest.

With a map it is easy to identify most of what is seen from atop Ishpeming Point. The trail ends at the junction with the Greenstone Ridge Trail, and the tower is located a short distance north-eastward from the junction. The lookout will welcome your visit. The word "Ishpeming" is from the Chippewa meaning Heaven, and was given to this particular peak of the Greenstone Ridge at a time when it was thought to be the highest on Isle Royale. The records do not clearly show this, but the name may have been given by the Chippewa themselves. Recent surveys, however, have found Mount Desor to be higher. The Chippewa word "Negaunee," meaning Hell, has not been applied to any Isle Royale location, but there are two towns, Ishpeming and Negaunee, near Marquette, Michigan.

ISLAND MINE TRAIL

4.9 Miles from Siskiwit Lakeside Camp to the Greenstone Ridge

The Island Mine is, perhaps, the most distinguishing feature along this trail. However, there are several other interesting and important aspects.

Before leaving the dock at the southeast end of Siskiwit Bay, notice the red color of the beach. The sand here was eroded from red sandstones which make up much of the underlying rock in the Siskiwit Bay area from Wright Island southwestward.

A short way from the dock the trail passes Siskiwit Bay Lakeside Camp and a junction with the Feldtmann Ridge Trail. Just

beyond the junction can be seen a large clearing, the remains of Camp Siskiwit CCC Camp. The Island Mine Trail soon crosses the Big Siskiwit River, which drains the vast swampland to the west. You may notice that the river periodically reverses direction—flowing up stream for 15 or 20 minutes, then flowing into the bay for the same length of time. This is caused by the Lake Superior “seiche,” a regular oscillation of the lake level created by atmospheric pressure changes and winds; it is comparable to water sloshing in a bathtub, the tub here being the Lake Superior Basin.

The trail crosses Senter Point and emerges on another sand and gravel beach on the north side. Senter Point is named for John J. Senter, partner in the Siskiwit Mine operation in Rock Harbor. The point was used by the Island Mine Company in the 1870's as a place to store explosives and again by the CCC before its camp was established at the beginning of this trail. You can see the remains of the stone powder house by taking a short detour to the east just before you reach the gravel beach on the north side of the point.

Island Mine Powder House Ruins



After completely circling the end of Siskiwit Bay, the trail begins its inland section in a northwest direction. For almost a mile inland much of the terrain is swampy with dense forests of spruce, fir, paper birch, aspen, and alder. The trail itself follows the bed of the wagonroad which was built in the 1870's to service the Island Mine from the docks and town at Siskiwit Bay.

About one mile from the bay the trail crosses a small creek. From this point the land takes on more relief—ridge and valley follow valley and ridge. In this section, also, is one of the natural wonders of Isle Royale, the transition zone between the northern hardwood and boreal forest types. Here you will see on the dry, warm, south-facing slopes sugar maples and some northern red oaks, while on the moist, cool tops of the ridges and in the valley-like depressions are the spruce, fir, and paper birch which prevail near the periphery of the island and gradually become less prevalent toward the island's interior.

The Island Mine, located approximately two miles from the bay, will be quite evident as you reach it. The mine began operations in 1873 and continued until 1877. The great piles of poor rock attest to the size of the second largest mine to have operated on Isle Royale. You may explore the mining ruins if you wish, but be extremely careful to avoid stepping into one of the old shafts or small pits—in many cases hidden by plant growth.

Beyond the mine area the trail becomes narrower and more rugged. Soon the last stand of spruce and fir is passed and you enter the luxuriant sugar maple-yellow birch forest, which is an expression of the warmer, drier climate of the interior ridge section. The trail ends near the summit of Sugar Mountain (named for the sugar maple) where the Indians produced maple syrup from the spring sap flow prior to 1847. In all the trail is five miles long—two miles around the end of Siskiwit Bay, and three miles from the bay to the junction with the Greenstone Ridge Trail.

NORTH SHORE INTERIOR TRAILS

Four trails provide access to the Greenstone Ridge from the North shore. (One of these, the Indian Portage Trail, is described

in the section on the South Shore Interior Trails.) Trail-heads are located at Lane Cove (no dock), McCargoe Cove, and Todd Harbor. McCargoe Cove is probably the best campground on the north shore for hikers, since three trails lead from the camp here: The Minong Ridge Trail to Windigo, and the trails to the Greenstone, one on each side of Chickenbone Lake.

LANE COVE TRAIL

2.8 Miles from Lane Cove to Mt. Franklin

Mt. Franklin is the immediate destination of this trail which starts at Lane Cove, but it also provides access to Rock Harbor from the north side of Isle Royale. In addition many people who have hiked up to Mt. Franklin from Three-Mile Lakeside Camp and have the energy to get a closer look at the north shore will enjoy this fairly rugged trail.

Facing Lane Cove at the northeast end is a target to guide small boat users to the trail-head. A short portage trail to Stockly Bay also takes off from here. The main route traverses along the narrow strip of land separating the two inlets of Lake Superior, then turns inland. Note the workings of beavers on many of the birch and aspen trees along this stretch.

Beyond the first inland swamp you ascend up through a 3,000-year old beachline of Lake Superior, evident from the many rounded cobbles and pebbles embedded in the soil. Smooth water-worn rocks such as these, found inland on Isle Royale, are always an indication of a former lake level.

Upstream from the next drainage you pass a pond containing many dead tree snags. The trees were flooded and killed when the creek was damned years ago by beavers. Beyond, the trail passes through some almost pure stands of quaking aspens—the choicest of trees according to beaver standards. On Isle Royale aspens tend to grow in openings created by former fires or wind blowdowns.

Two steep pitches bring you to the Greenstone Ridge at the Mt. Franklin Trail junction. The summit with its outstanding view is a short walk along the ridge to the southwest.

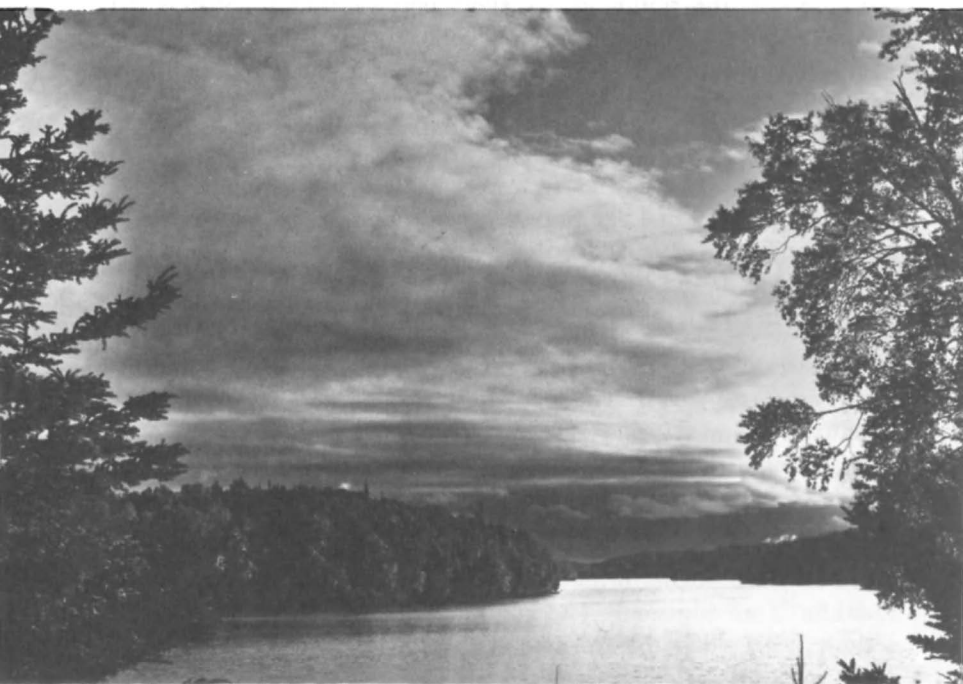
McCARGOE COVE TRAIL

2.2 Miles from McCargoe Cove to the Greenstone Ridge

This trail provides direct access from McCargoe Cove Lakeside Camp to the Greenstone Ridge. Also by starting on this route and returning via short portions of the Greenstone Ridge and Indian Portage Trails, you can make a pleasant day's hike of 6½ miles around Chickenbone Lake from the Cove.

About a quarter mile from The McCargoe Camp at the bottom of a steep grade, look to the left for an open area of bare earth. This sandy flat is the result of the stamp sand which washed down from the mill above. The site was used also as a stable area for horses employed by the Minong Mine operation.

McCargoe Cove



About 40 yards up the hill from the stamp sand are the remains of the stamp mill foundation with iron bolts protruding. This stamp mill operated in the mid 1870s. Ore was transported from the mine half a mile away on the Minong Ridge to the mill by a narrow gage railroad.

Water needed to operate the stamp mill was provided by a dam and flume system. The dam some fifteen feet high and made of logs butted together in a ravine, some of which still remains. All this can be seen some 150 yards farther up the creek in a westerly direction.

About a quarter mile farther a trail turns off to the left (east). If you continue south the trail passes around the west end of Chickenbone Lake to the Chickenbone campsite and on to the Greenstone Trail. If you take the left (east) trail across Chickenbone Creek and go toward the east end of Chickenbone Lake, crossing two beaver ponds along the way.

MINONG MINE TRAIL

0.8 Mile from McCargoe Cove to Minong Mine

The largest copper mine operated on Isle Royale was the Minong Mine of the 1870 era. Associated with it and located at the head of McCargoe Cove on the site of the present Lakeside Camp was a large settlement. This town boasted a schoolhouse, stores, and even a doctor; only the clearing on which it was built remains today. The Minong Mine site is marked by large piles of rock and by the remains of a small railway and ore cars as well as several shafts. Above the trail to the big mine many pit mines—small depressions carved into the rock—are found, the work of prehistoric copper miners. Their process apparently was to heat the bed rock by a wood fire and then throw water on the hot rock cracking it. Next the loose rock was pounded out using “hammer stones” to expose the copper. These hammer stones are large beach pebbles, not native to Isle Royale but apparently brought in from the north shore of Lake Superior. Charcoal from the pits in the area has been dated by the “carbon-14” method and was found to be 3800 years old. The largest concentration of these pits on Isle Royale is here in the McCargoe Cove area.

The trail parallels the Minong Ridge for most of its length, and by leaving the trail and climbing a short distance to the summit of the ridge you can treat yourself to a fine view of the surrounding terrain. This ridge, incidentally, is the highest north of the Greenstone.

THE PORTAGE TRAILS

From Tobin Harbor a canoeist can work his way to McCargoe Cove with a minimum of exposure to open water by linking the bays of the north shore on this system of portage trails. The longest portage is over the Greenstone Ridge to Duncan Bay, a strenuous three-quarters of a mile. Other portages, much shorter, cross the narrow necks of land between Duncan Bay and Five Finger Bay, between Stockly Bay and Lane Cove, and between Pickerel Cove and Herring Bay.

A grand circle of northeastern Isle Royale by canoe and portage is also available, but this trip should be undertaken only by experienced, hardy canoeists, as it involves some long carries. From Rock Harbor the route described above is followed to McCargoe Cove. Chickenbone Lake is reached via the Indian Portage Trail, just over a mile on land. From halfway down the east arm of Chickenbone Lake a short portage crosses to Lake Livermore. The Indian Portage Trail is rejoined at the southwest end of Livermore and followed for almost half a mile to Lake LeSage. At the south arm of LeSage another portage of about a half mile leads to Lake Richie. From here canoeists must travel 2.3 miles by land to reach Moskey Basin and Rock Harbor. All portages are identified with painted targets facing the water.

An unmaintained and unmarked portage trail system begins at the west end of Chippewa Harbor. A $\frac{1}{2}$ mile portage leads to Lake Whittlesey, then to Wood Lake. By canoeing to the northeast tip of Siskiwit Lake a short portage will put you in Intermediate Lake and another portage will give you access to Lake Richie. The Indian Portage Trail then returns you to Chippewa Harbor. Please contact a Park Ranger for latest information before embarking on this canoe portage system.

. . . **Y**e who love the haunts of Nature,
Love the sunshine of the meadow,
Love the shadow of the forest,
Love the wind among the branches,
And the rain-shower and the snow-storm,
And the rushing of great rivers
Through their palisades of pine trees,
And the thunder in the mountains

Longfellow

The Song of Hiawatha