

Apostle Islands

National Lakeshore
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Stockton Island



Welcome

You have made the escape to the spirited shores of Stockton. Forget your schedules, let the sun be your timepiece, and have lapping waves set the pace as you explore the largest, most diverse and popular island in Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. This 10,054 acre paradise offers opportunities for hiking, camping, beachcombing, scuba diving, swimming, and bird watching. A visitor

center at Presque Isle is open daily through the summer. Park rangers are available to lead walks and campfire programs and provide assistance.

Stockton Island has attracted people's interest for centuries. Archeological evidence indicates that aboriginal populations may have fished, hunted, harvested berries, and made maple syrup on the island over 1,000 years ago. By the late 1800s, Stockton Island attracted commercial interests such as fishing

camps, a brownstone quarry and lumber camps to its shores. Logging and fires changed the face of the island. Today a new forest grows among old stumps and Stockton once again attracts people this time for the pleasure of a near-wilderness recreational experience rather than the exploitation of its natural resources.

Sculptured Bedrock and Sand Bridges

The story of Stockton Island begins with a look at its geology. The island sits on a foundation of brownish-red sandstone called the Chequamegon Formation. About one billion years ago the sand for this formation was deposited in a type of stream called a braided river

Like the other Apostle Islands, Stockton was shaped during the last ice age, which ended about 10,000 years ago. As continental glaciers advanced through the area, they removed everything down to the sandstone bedrock. As the glaciers retreated they left deposits of boulders, gravel, and sand called glacial till. Melt water from the glacier formed the lake we now call Superior

In the centuries since the ice age, wind, waves, and ice have sculptured exposed shorelines into arches, caves, stacks, and

cliffs. Sand eroded from these areas is deposited along more protected shores to form beaches, sandspits, and a deposit called a "tombolo"

About 5,000 years ago, Presque Isle was a small island, separated by water from its larger neighbor Stockton Island. Shore currents carried sand southward from the larger island forming underwater sandbars that eventually contacted the smaller island. A drop in lake level exposed this bridge of sand connecting the two islands. This sand bridge is a tombolo.

Biological Diversity



At least 429 plant species are found on Stockton Island. These are found in a variety of plant communities including northern hardwood-hemlock forest, bog, pine savanna, and dune.

Stockton's forests, wetlands, and other habitats support a variety of wildlife. Black bears, foxes, beavers, otters, and an occasional white-tailed deer are among the larger mammals found on the island.

The island has one of the most concentrated

populations of black bears in the world. Mice, bats, red squirrels, snowshoe hares, toads, frogs, turtles, and salamanders also make the island their home.

The island teems with diverse bird populations. Loons, mergansers, and ducks often dot the bays. Bald eagles and hawks soar overhead. Spring migration provides a symphony of warbler song in the woods. Birdwatchers also delight to find sandhill cranes and great blue herons in the tombolo lagoon.

Stockton Island

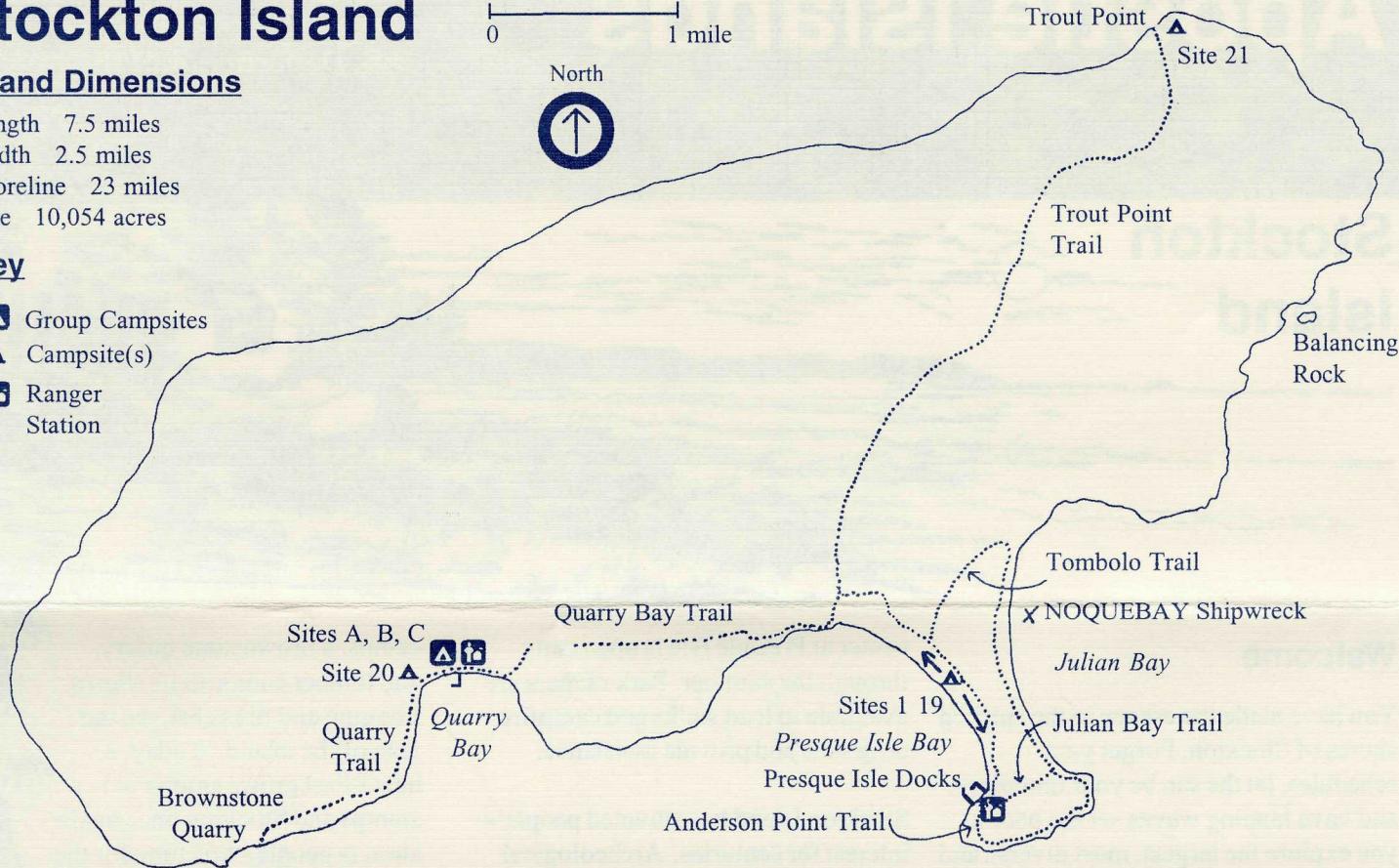
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Island Dimensions

Length 7.5 miles
Width 2.5 miles
Shoreline 23 miles
Size 10,054 acres

Key

- ▲ Group Campsites
- △ Campsite(s)
- Ranger Station



Hiking

There are about 14 miles of maintained hiking trails on the island. Off-trail travel can be strenuous. Rock ledges near the lake are slippery. Use caution when walking on them.

JULIAN BAY TRAIL, 0.4 mile

Trail booklets at the Presque Isle trailhead introduce you to the diverse plant communities along the trail. The trail ends at Julian Bay beach. (20 minutes)

ANDERSON POINT TRAIL, 1.4 miles

This trail winds through the forest along

rocky shoreline between Julian Bay beach and Presque Isle dock. (50 minutes)

TOMBOLO TRAIL, 2.8 miles

Leaving the Quarry Bay trail 0.6 mile from the Presque Isle dock, this trail winds past towering pines, bogs, and along the beach, ending at the Julian Bay trail. A lagoon outlet along the beach may require hikers to make a water crossing. (2 hours)

QUARRY BAY TRAIL, 3.6 miles

This trail goes from the Presque Isle

dock through the campground, en route to Quarry Bay (2 hours)

QUARRY TRAIL, 1.5 miles

Hike from Quarry Bay west along the shore to an abandoned quarry operated by the Ashland Brownstone Company from 1889 to 1897 (50 minutes)

TROUT POINT TRAIL, 4.7 miles

The trailhead is located on the Quarry Bay Trail 1.6 miles from Presque Isle. The path winds through Stockton's interior forest en route to the old logging camp clearing at Trout Point. (2 ½ hours)

Boating and Camping

Docks are located at Presque Isle Bay and at Quarry Bay. Docking is permitted as space is available and within posted times. Please observe all docking signs and regulations. The docks are also used by excursion and National Park Service boats.

Boats can be anchored or beached in Quarry, Presque Isle, and Julian Bays. Boaters should monitor marine weather forecasts, since shifting wind conditions and subsequent rough water can pose a significant threat.

A half-mile long waterfront campground is located among the pines on Presque Isle Bay. Three group campsites and one individual site are located at Quarry Bay. Another individual site is located at Trout Point. Limited wilderness camping is also allowed. Camping permits are required for all camping in the national lakeshore. A camping permit fee is charged. Permits should be picked up on the mainland before the start of a trip. For detailed information, request the free publication, "Camping"

Island Ethics

We ask your help to preserve Stockton Island's beauty and ensure visitor safety. Build campfires only in fire receptacles when provided. Grilling on the dock, or on boats moored to the dock is prohibited. Campfires are not allowed at Julian Bay beach or on beaches adjacent to campsites. Burn only dead, fallen wood and do not leave fires unattended. Fireworks are not allowed.

Vegetation and soils on both sides of the tombolo are fragile and unstable. Hikers

should stay on beaches or designated trails in this area. Climb bluffs only where sand ladders are provided.

Personal flotation devices are required for each person on all vessels, including dinghies. Swimming is not allowed within 100 feet of the docks.

To lessen impacts on the island environment and other visitors, do not wash dishes or yourselves in the lake or at water faucets. Soap and rinse where gray water can filter into the ground. Be prepared to carry all refuse back to the

mainland. Keep pets leashed and do not leave them unattended. Please observe quiet hours from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. Finally, do not feed bears or other wildlife. Keep your campsite clean. Campers are required to use bear-proof food storage lockers where provided. Otherwise, suspend food between two trees at least 10 feet from the ground. With your help, future visitors to Stockton will find the island as you have in its wild and natural state.

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