



## North Manitou Island



North Manitou is managed as wilderness with the exception of an 11-hectare (27-acre) area around the village. Visiting the island is a primitive experience emphasizing solitude, a feeling of self-reliance, and a sense of exploration. The primary visitor activities are backpacking and hunting. Travel in the wilderness area is by foot only.

### Traveling to the Islands

Manitou Island Transit is the authorized park concessionaire providing passenger ferry service to North and South Manitou Islands. Reservations are recommended. Passengers must be at the Fishtown Dock in Leland no later than 9:15 a.m. in order to check in at the ticket office. Reservations are held only until 9:30 a.m. Passengers must pack all personal equipment securely to prevent damage from cargo shifts and top loads. For more information contact: Manitou Island Transit, P.O. Box 1157, Leland, MI 49654, Phone: 231-256-9061, E-mail: [www.leelanau.com/manitou](http://www.leelanau.com/manitou).

### Recreation Use Fees

#### Entrance fee for the mainland and Manitou Islands:

Park Pass (per vehicle / valid for 7 days)	\$10.00
Annual Park Pass (valid for one year from month of purchase)	\$20.00

#### North Manitou Island camping fees:

Backcountry Permit (up to 4 people / per night)	\$ 5.00
Group Camping (up to 10 people / per night)	\$10.00

### Come Fully Prepared

**Bring provisions for at least 2 extra days in case adverse weather should occur and the ferry cannot run. There are no stores, supplies, gasoline or fuel on the island. Medical attention is not available. Sick or injured people may be stranded on the island until emergency evacuation can be accomplished. Be in good physical shape. Carry a first aid kit. Know your limitations. Purify your drinking water. Compass and topographic maps are recommended.**

### Pets

Pets are prohibited on the island due to disturbance to visitors and wildlife.

### Docking

The island is open to visitors arriving in private boats. Boaters may use the dock for loading and unloading only. Maximum tie-up time is 30 minutes. **North Manitou Island DOES NOT have a protected anchorage.** Boaters who anchor their craft offshore do so at their own risk. Anchors must be set with wind shifts in mind. Boaters must be prepared for sudden changes in the weather and water conditions.

### Exotic Species Prevention

In order to prevent unwanted plant introductions to the islands, mats are provided on the island and Leland docks to scrape off any hitchhiking dirt and seed sources from your footwear. Please inspect **all** of your equipment for possible plant hitchhikers, such as seeds or burrs, which may be attached to clothing, boot laces or camping equipment, and remove them **before** coming to the islands.

### Camping

Wilderness camping regulations are in effect on North Manitou Island. A backcountry camping permit and fee payment must

be completed before camping. All trash must be packed off the island. Camping is strictly prohibited within 300 feet of the Lake Michigan high water mark, lakes, streams, ponds, springs, buildings or other camps. Camping is prohibited on any trail. The Village Campground contains eight designated campsites, two fire rings, and one outhouse. There is a limit of two tents and four people per site, except for group camping.

### Fires

Open fires are prohibited in the wilderness area. Use gas or alcohol stoves. Fires are permitted in community fire rings in the designated campground. Waste food or empty food containers should not be burned in the village fire pits.

### Water and Sanitation

Potable water is available only at the ranger station. There are outhouses only at the village and Village Campground. All water should be boiled and/or treated with appropriate purifiers. Washing is not permitted at/in any water source. All human waste and toilet paper must be buried at least 6 inches deep.

### Fishing

Only artificial lures are allowed on or in Lake Manitou. A State of Michigan

fishing license is required. Boats without motors are permitted on the lake. However, wheeled vehicles may not be used in transporting boats to the lake. Bass must be at least 18 inches in size and there is a possession and daily limit of one. Please note: Any watercraft brought to the island to be used on Lake Manitou must be decontaminated, at no charge, by the rangers to prevent the introduction of zebra mussels and other non-natives. This includes float tubes, kayaks, raft waders, etc.

### Food Storage

Raccoons have become very troublesome to campers on the island. Campers should not store any food in their backpacks or tents. Food should be kept in a durable bag (nylon or canvas for example) and suspended between two trees about 6 feet above the ground. All trash must be packed out.

### Piping Plover

The piping plover is an endangered species. This rare shorebird nests on secluded beaches. North Manitou Island has one of the few nesting areas in the Great Lakes Region. Human disturbance of the nesting area (near Dimmick's Point) is disastrous to successful reproduction. Therefore, the Dimmick's Point area is closed to hikers from May 1st through August 15th of each year.

# North Manitou Island

The island ecosystem is extremely fragile. Your visit is one of thousands each year. Make your impact small and your enjoyment large. For a safe and successful visit remember the following:

**Potable water is available only at the ranger station.**  
**Ferry departure time can vary with weather conditions.**

Please respect the rights of private property owners. Enter only buildings designated for public use. Unmaintained buildings and ruins are potentially dangerous. For your own safety, do not enter them.

## Also note

Boat motors are prohibited on inland lakes.

No wheeled vehicles are allowed on the island (bicycles, carts, etc.).

Hang food from trees to protect it from raccoons and chipmunks.

North



Use and believe your compass

