

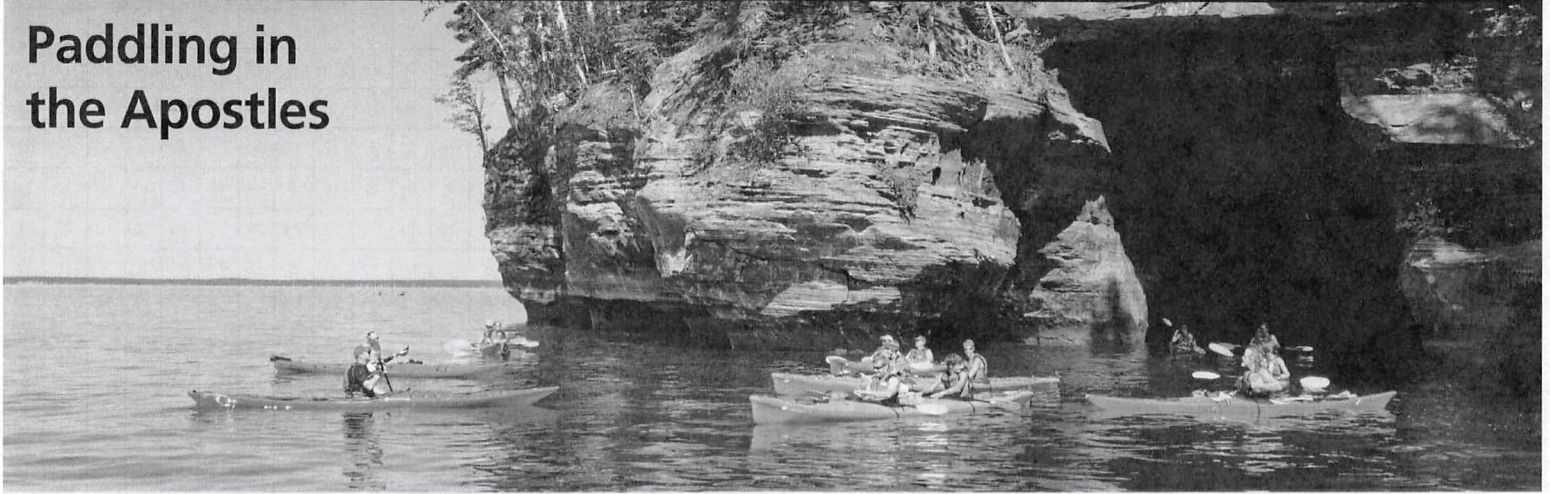
Apostle Islands

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
Wisconsin



Paddling in the Apostles



Many people come to the Apostle Islands seeking the adventure of exploring the area by boat. Closed-cockpit craft like sea kayaks are very popular for travel among the islands. Operating small craft on Lake Superior is fun and exciting, but can also be hazardous. Because of the lake's power and unpredictability, the National Park Service (NPS) does NOT recommend the use of small open boats, canoes, open cockpit or sit-upon kayaks, and paddleboards for travel between islands. This guide describes conditions that may be encountered as well as preparations paddlers should make for a trip at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. The most important prerequisite for a safe trip is good judgment. Be ready and willing to change plans. Boaters must know their equipment, know their limits, and respect the environment.

Safety

Weather Websites

- WISC Watch:
go.nps.gov/ApostleWaves
- Apostle Islands Weather:
go.nps.gov/ApostleWeather

Cold Water Kills

Hypothermia can occur in as little as 10 minutes. If you fall out of your boat you have:

- **1 minute** to orient yourself and float
- **10 minutes** before the water starts to numb your extremities and make moving difficult.
- **1 hour** before the cold water kills you.

Weather and Lake Conditions

- Lake Superior is renowned for its cold temperatures, rough seas, fog, and sudden squalls.
- Current weather information is available on marine band radio channel 7 - 162.500 MHz.
- Always observe and evaluate wind and wave conditions before entering the water. Monitor the nearshore and open water marine weather forecasts for the Apostle Islands area. Lake conditions may become dangerous without warning.
- Average daytime high temperatures range from 60 degrees Fahrenheit in May to the mid 80's in August. Average lows vary from 40 degrees in May, to the upper 50s in mid-summer, to 50 degrees in September. Average water temperatures in May and June are only in the 40s. Even in late summer, surface temperatures rarely exceed 60 degrees, except in protected bays.
- Average summer winds blow at from 5 to 20 knots with waves from 1 to 4 feet. Winds of 30 to 40 knots and 6 to 12-foot seas are possible.

Skills

- Do not exceed your skill level. If you are new to sea kayaking, it is recommended that you take a guided trip with an outfitter go.nps.gov/Outfitters. Ask NPS personnel if you have questions concerning weather, safety, regulations, or destinations.
- Be capable of re-entering your kayak from the water. If re-entering is not possible, stay with the capsized boat.
- Use the buddy system. Stay together and conduct your watersports within the skill level of the group's least experienced member.

Emergency Procedures

Call 911 or contact the U.S. Coast Guard or park rangers on marine channel 16 and specify your location.

Equipment

- A sea kayak which is a long, slim boat designed for coastal paddling. It is usually between 15 - 18 feet long, and between 18 to 24 inches wide. The deck (top) covers the entire boat except for a small opening (cockpit) in which the person sits. Sea kayaks also have bulkheads to prevent water from flooding the entire boat.
- PFD (Personal Flotation Device) / Life Jacket for each person on board - **Required**
- Whistle / Air horn - **Required**
- Wet suit / dry suit - for paddling on Lake Superior and during cooler weather on other lakes. - **Recommended**
- Spray skirt - waterproof barrier for paddling on Lake Superior to keep you dry and to stay warm.
- Paddle float - for self rescue. Paddle float attaches to the kayak blade and helps create an "outrigger" to stabilize the boat and allow for re-entry.
- Bilge pump - device used to remove water for a boat.
- Marine radio/ VHF - should be carried to keep you informed about the weather and to communicate with other vessels.
- NOAA lake chart - #14973 or #14966 for navigation. - **Recommended**



Can you get back into your kayak? In rough conditions?



Clean your kayak before and after using it to prevent the spread of invasive species

Mileage Chart

	BAY	BAS	BN	BS	CAT	DL	DS	GUL	IRN	LNG	MAN	MB	MCH	NT	OAK	OTT	OTL	OTS	RAS	ROC	SL	SEB	STW	SPI	SQB	YORK	LSB
BAYFIELD (BAY)	4	16	14	18	22	20	20	16	6	12	25	16	22	10	14	28	24	14	18	20	20	18	15	13	16	17	
BASSWOOD (BAS)	4	12	10	14	18	16	16	12	10	8	21	16	20	6	10	24	20	10	14	16	16	14	12	10	12	14	
BEAR NO. END (BN)	16	12	4	10	4	2	20	8	24	8	18	22	10	10	6	20	16	6	6	12	10	6	16	14	8	10	
BEAR SANDSPIT (BS)	14	10	4	10	4	4	20	8	20	4	17	18	10	6	4	16	14	4	6	10	8	6	14	12	6	8	
CAT SANDSPIT (CAT)	18	14	10	10	10	10	8	2	24	8	25	12	6	12	6	10	6	12	6	20	18	6	12	12	12	18	
DEVILS LIGHT (DL)	22	18	4	4	10	2	20	10	28	10	21	26	6	14	10	16	16	10	8	12	12	6	20	18	12	14	
DEVILS SO DOCK (DS)	20	16	2	4	10	2	22	8	26	10	20	26	8	12	8	16	16	10	6	14	14	6	22	18	12	14	
GULL ISLAND (GUL)	20	16	20	20	8	20	22	14	22	14	32	6	16	18	16	16	6	22	16	30	28	16	6	8	26	28	
IRONWOOD (IRN)	16	12	8	8	2	10	8	14	22	4	23	14	8	10	4	14	8	10	4	18	16	4	12	10	12	16	
LONG ISL. DOCK (LNG)	6	10	24	20	24	28	26	22	22	18	30	18	28	14	20	40	28	18	24	28	26	26	20	18	22	26	
MANITOU DOCK (MAN)	12	8	8	4	8	10	10	14	4	18	20	12	10	8	2	18	12	6	6	16	14	6	8	6	10	14	
MEYERS BEACH (MB)	25	21	18	17	25	21	20	32	23	30	20	29	27	17	19	35	30	14	22	11	9	22	27	25	12	10	
MICHIGAN DOCK (MCH)	16	16	22	18	12	26	26	6	14	18	12	29	20	14	14	20	10	18	18	28	26	18	4	6	22	26	
NO TWIN NW SIDE (NT)	22	20	10	10	6	4	8	16	8	28	10	27	20	16	10	10	10	14	6	24	22	6	20	18	18	22	
OAK DOCK (OAK)	10	6	10	6	12	14	12	18	10	14	8	17	14	16	8	24	18	4	12	10	10	10	12	10	6	10	
OTTER DOCK (OTT)	14	10	6	4	6	10	8	16	4	20	2	19	14	10	8	16	12	6	4	16	14	4	10	8	10	14	
OUTER LIGHT (OTL)	28	24	20	16	10	16	16	16	14	40	18	35	20	10	24	16	10	22	14	26	28	12	18	20	26	28	
OUTER SANDSPIT (OTS)	24	20	16	14	4	16	16	6	8	28	12	30	10	10	18	12	10	16	12	24	22	12	10	12	20	22	
RASPBERRY DOCK (RAS)	14	10	6	4	12	10	10	22	10	18	6	14	18	14	4	6	22	16	8	6	4	10	14	12	4	6	
ROCKY DOCK (ROC)	18	14	6	6	4	8	6	16	4	24	6	22	18	6	12	4	14	12	8	16	14	2	14	12	12	14	
SAND LIGHT (SL)	20	16	12	10	20	12	14	30	18	28	16	11	28	24	10	16	26	24	6	16	2	16	22	20	4	6	
SAND EAST BAY DOCK (SEB)	20	16	10	8	18	12	14	28	16	26	14	9	26	22	10	14	28	22	6	14	2	18	20	18	4	4	
SO TWIN DOCK (STW)	18	14	6	6	6	6	16	4	26	6	22	18	6	10	4	12	12	10	2	16	18	16	14	12	16		
STOCKTON PI (SPI)	16	12	16	14	12	20	22	6	12	20	8	27	4	20	12	10	18	10	14	14	22	20	16	4	18	20	
STOCKTON QB (SQB)	14	10	14	12	12	18	18	8	10	18	6	25	6	18	10	8	20	12	12	12	20	18	14	4	14	16	
YORK SANDSPIT (YORK)	16	12	8	6	12	12	12	26	12	22	10	12	22	18	6	10	26	20	4	12	4	4	12	19	14	4	
LITTLE SAND BAY (LSB)	18	14	10	8	18	14	14	28	16	26	14	10	26	22	10	14	28	22	6	14	6	4	16	20	16	4	

Trip Planning

Little Sand Bay and Meyers Beach are the only authorized kayak launching areas in the mainland unit of the Apostle Islands. Launching areas are also available outside the mainland unit in Bayfield and Red Cliff. Long term parking is available at these locations, but parking spaces fill up quickly on busy weekends. Large groups should plan to carpool when possible. Never leave valuables in your vehicle and lock it before leaving to explore the park. A fee may be charged to launch and park at some locations. Outfitters in the Bayfield area offer guided sea kayak trips. Call Apostle Islands National Lakeshore at (715)779-3398 or go to go.nps.gov/Outfitters for more information.

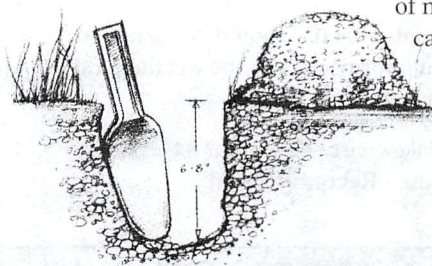
Visitors must obtain a permit to camp at any location in the national lakeshore. A camping fee is charged. The permit system, located on www.recreation.gov, allows campers to reserve campsites in advance and serves as a trip itinerary. Visitors should notify park staff in person, by radio, or by phone (if possible) when conditions force a change in their itinerary. Black bears inhabit the islands in the park. Always maintain a safe distance from bears and report

sightings of bears in visitor use areas to park staff as soon as possible. Campers must maintain a clean campsite and minimize food odors, use bearproof food storage lockers where available, or be prepared to hang food out of reach where lockers are not available. For more information refer to the park's website at go.nps.gov/ApostleCamping.

It is easy to underestimate distances between destination points and changes in weather conditions. Allow plenty of time and allow for weather to accomplish your intended route. We suggest paddling no more than 10 miles per day for beginners or 15 miles per day for seasoned paddlers. Be sure to inform a friend or relative of your travel plans so that someone will notice if you are overdue.

Paddling to the sea caves can be a rewarding experience, but can turn hazardous very quickly. Rebounding waves can make boat handling nearly impossible. These shorelines offer few safe landing sites and should only be visited when conditions are calm. Waves make caves dangerous.

Island Ethics



Apostle Islands National Lakeshore offers visitors the opportunity to experience and enjoy a variety of natural and cultural features. Whether you are camping on the islands or just visiting for the day, respecting the land and the water is essential.

Paddlers must do their part to help protect the park resources. Please follow the seven principles of "Leave No Trace" land ethics:

1. Plan ahead and prepare.
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly.
4. Leave what you find.
5. Minimize campfire impacts.
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be considerate of other visitors.

Beaches are some of the park's most popular attractions. They also support fragile plant communities. Please walk near the water line or on established trails and take care not to trample beach

grasses or lichen.

- Do NOT place kayaks on top of fragile vegetation.
- Only camp on durable surfaces and tent pad locations.
- Use vault toilets wherever possible.
- When vault toilets are not possible, dig a hole 6-8 inches deep and 200 feet from camp and the nearest water body for human waste. Cover the hole after use. Carry out toilet paper used.
- Campfires are not allowed on the following beaches: Julian Bay and Presque Isle Bay on Stockton Island, Raspberry Island beaches, Meyers Beach, Or within 150 feet of campsites with fire receptacles.
- Pack out whatever you bring in.

These leave no trace practices are caring activities designed to decrease the negative impact of users on the environment and keep the islands unspoiled for future generations.