



Stockton Island



Tracks in the Sand

“Strolling the singing sand beach with views of the Northwoods Caribbean can’t be beat!”

What would the Apostle Islands be without sand? No island is blessed with more spectacular and diverse sandy areas than Stockton. The 10,054 acre island features sand beaches at Quarry Bay, Presque Isle Bay, and Julian Bay. The bridge of sand connecting Presque Isle Point to the rest of Stockton Island is an outstanding example of a geologic feature called a “tombolo”. The tombolo is home to a variety of plant communities (bogs, dunes, lagoons, savannahs, and pine forests), the park’s largest campground, and the “singing sands” of Julian Bay. People everywhere feel the call of the beach, but at Julian Bay, the call of the “singing” sand can actually be heard.

Bear Prints

“I dreamt of a bear while sleeping in my tent. In the morning there was a bear print next to my tent.”

Stockton Island supports a resident population of black bears. A study of Stockton Island bears revealed that the population grew from two animals in 1984 to a high of 31 non-cub bears in 1994. DNA analysis of bear hair samples collected in 2002 determined that there were at least 26 different bears living on Stockton Island that summer. A similar study in 2010 identified only 13 bears on the island. Stockton’s resources can only support so many bears. When the population exploded, the animals naturally regulated their numbers. Some bears swam to other islands, females had fewer and smaller litters, and several smaller bears were killed and eaten.

Bears occasionally turn to alternative food sources. In summer 2002, a large boar with a scar on his rear

end roamed between the camping areas at Presque Isle and Quarry Bay. “Skar’s” campground visits in search of “easy pickings” slowly became more frequent and menacing. After using every available nonlethal tool to discourage Skar’s aggressive behavior, park rangers were forced to shoot him. Visitors must take precautions to help keep this from happening again. Never approach or feed a bear. Keep a distance of at least 50 yards, even for photography. Don’t lure or allow bears to feel comfortable around campsites, docks, and picnic areas. Store food and cooking equipment in the bearproof food lockers. Take steps to reduce food odors. Keep a clean campsite. If you encounter a bear in a visitor use area; make yourself look big; wave your arms; bang pots, yell, make noise until the bear leaves the area; and report the encounter to park staff as soon as possible.



Footprints

“The natural and undisturbed areas of of the tombolo, Presque Isle and Julian Bay never cease to amaze, while human history and its imprint are clearly visible at Quarry Bay. The island is a gem and a perfect stop for anyone looking to understand the overall significance and value of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.”

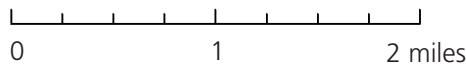


Stockton Island has attracted people for centuries. Archeological evidence indicates that native populations may have fished on the island as much as 5,000 years ago. Over the past 1,000 years native people camped on the island seasonally to hunt, fish, gather berries, and harvest maple sap. By the late 1800s, Stockton Island attracted commercial activities such as fishing camps, lumber camps, and a brownstone quarry to its shores. Today, visitors flock to Stockton Island to anchor in its protected bays, explore its varied landscapes, camp in its lakeside campsites, and walk its white sand beaches.

The shoreline areas that attract the most visitors also tend to be very fragile. Vegetation in sandy areas is susceptible to trampling. When plants that stabilize the sand are killed, erosion becomes a problem. Informal trails mar the landscape around the Presque Isle campground and at Julian Bay. Visitors can help protect our fragile landscapes by using sand ladders provided at the campsites, walking on designated trails and boardwalks, and on beaches below the line of vegetation. This will help leave no trace of our passing...except tracks on the beach.

“Great getaway paradise!! So nice to bring you back to the simple things in life! Can’t wait to go back!”

Stockton Island

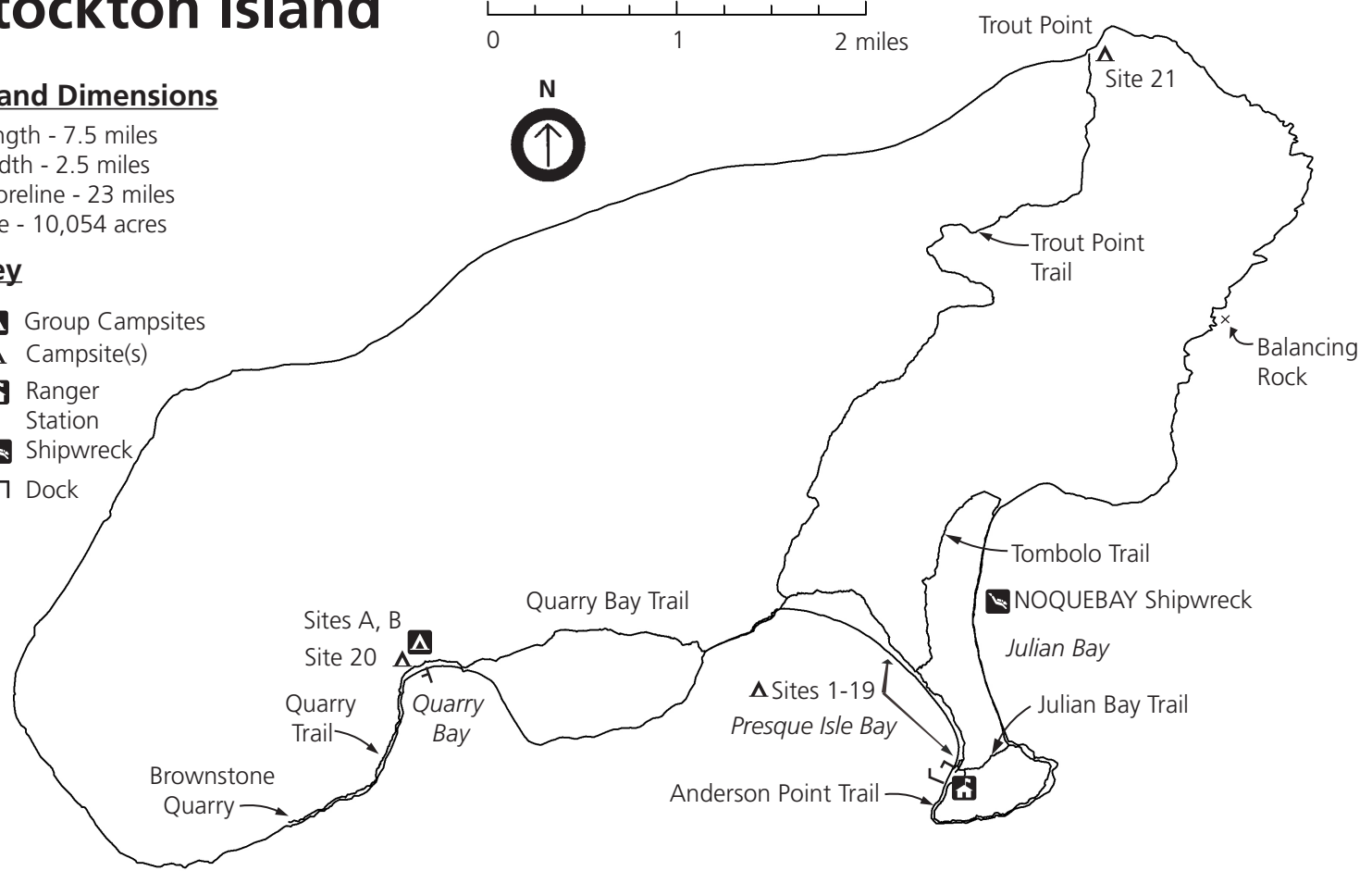


Island Dimensions

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

Key

- Group Campsites
- Campsite(s)
- Ranger Station
- Shipwreck
- Dock



Hiking

There are about 14 miles of hiking trails on the island. Portions of the Trout Point and Quarry Bay trails may be hard to follow. 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 around the 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 travels through forest and bog and then onto the Julian Bay beach. Follow the beach south to the Julian Bay trail. A lagoon outlet along the beach may require hikers to wade across. (2-3 hours)

QUARRY BAY TRAIL, 3.6 miles
 This trail goes from the Presque Isle dock, through the campground, past the Trout Point trailhead, en route to Quarry Bay. The path through the meadow north of Presque Isle Bay may be difficult to follow.

QUARRY TRAIL, 1.5 miles
 The trail leads from Quarry Bay west along the shore to an abandoned quarry operated by the Ashland Brownstone Company from 1889 to 1897.

TROUT POINT TRAIL, 6.3 miles from Presque Isle to Trout Point
 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. The trail is lightly maintained and may be hard to follow.

Boating and Camping



Docks are located at Presque Isle Bay and at Quarry Bay. Docking is available on a first-come first-served basis. Please observe all docking signs and regulations. A fee is charged for overnight docking. Some dock space is reserved for 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. Campsite #1 near the Presque Isle docks is accessible to visitors with mobility impairments. Two accessible group campsites are located at Quarry Bay. One individual campsite is located at Quarry Bay and another at Trout Point. Limited camping is also available outside of designated campsites. Camping permits are required for all camping in the national lakeshore. A camping fee is charged. Permits must be picked up at the Bayfield headquarters visitor center before the start of a trip.

Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics

Visitors can do their part to help protect park resources by following the seven principles of "Leave No Trace" outdoor 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

We ask your help to preserve Stockton Island's beauty and ensure visitor safety. Hikers should use designated trails, boardwalks and sand ladders where provided. 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. 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 on beaches at Julian Bay or Presque Isle Bay or on beaches adjacent to campsites. Burn only dead, fallen wood and do not leave fires unattended. Fireworks are not allowed. Keep pets leashed and do not leave them unattended. Do not feed bears or other wildlife. Campers are required to use bear-proof food lockers. With your help, future visitors to Stockton will find the island as you have - in its wild and natural state.

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