



Around the Archipelago

The Reintroduction of Cultural Fire



October 2017, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, in collaboration with the Red Cliff Band, Bad River Band and other Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission member bands, conducted a prescribed burn on Stockton Island. The primary goal of this fire was to reintroduce the cultural practice of burning. Interagency fire specialists burned five acres on the northern end of the Stockton tombolo to reduce biofuel, encroaching shrubs and trees, promote the growth of blueberries and other native plant species and improve wildlife habitat. This area is exceptionally diverse and home to a variety of wetlands and rare plant communities, including the globally imperiled Great Lakes Barrens.

People have harvested blueberries for generations within the islands. Stories of families picking berries tell of camping and coming together to harvest; they also tell of fire. Along with other forest species, blueberries respond to fire on the landscape. Native Americans used fire to promote the berry harvest on Stockton Island for centuries. This burn marks the beginning of a connection to the landscape that reflects a parallel between Native cultural practices and the mission of the National Park Service. With this success, the lakeshore plans to implement more burning across the Stockton Island tombolo.



Raspberry Island boat house suffered severe damage.

Storm Damage

Late October 2017 storms produced northeast storm force winds to 50 knots. These winds created waves in excess of 25 feet around the Apostle Islands. As a result, notable damage to docks, buildings, campsites and trails occurred. A team of National Park Service staff assessed as much of the damage near the shoreline as possible given the time of year and sea conditions.

As soon as boats can get back on the water in spring 2018, the damage assessments will continue in order to set priorities for repairs, factoring in safety, visitor use, historic significance, integrity and cost. Please check our website, or call us prior to your visit to learn the status of damage, repairs and closures. Some facilities may be closed for some or all of 2018.

Visitor Center Hours

Little Sand Bay Visitor Center

Closed for 2018 due to construction. A mobile Visitor Center will be available near the rest rooms.

Bayfield Visitor Center

Mid October–April 30: Call ahead for availability.

May 1–27: Mon–Fri., 8am - 4:30pm

May 28–Sept 30: Daily, 8am - 4:30pm

Oct 1–Oct 13: Mon–Fri, 8am - 4:30pm

Planning a visit to the Islands: What you need to know.

Weather: Check the nearshore and offshore marine forecast before heading out on the lake. NOAA's National Weather Service in Duluth has both forecasts (www.crh.noaa.gov/dlh/marine.php), as does marine radio channel 7 – 162.500MHz.

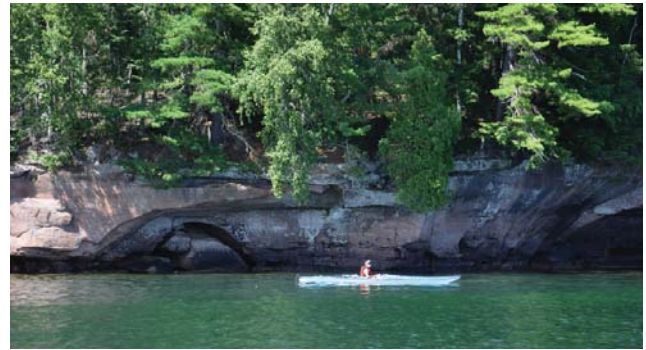
Fishing: A Wisconsin fishing license with a Great Lakes trout and salmon stamp is required for those 16 and up.

Hunting: May occur within the national lakeshore from September through mid-May. All hunting is in compliance with federal, state and tribal laws. Free access permits are required for hunting on the islands.

Gathering: Fruits, nuts, berries, and mushrooms from non-threatened or endangered plants can be collected up to one gallon, per person, per week for personal use only. Apples can be harvested up to five gallons, per person, per week.

Camping: Permits are required for all camping in the national lakeshore. Reservations can be made at recreation.gov by searching "Apostle Islands Camping Permits." See our website or camping brochure for more details about camping, fires, bears, ticks and leave no trace principles. www.nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/camping.htm

Swimming: Lake Superior's average temperature is only 8 degrees above freezing, but on calm, summer days in shallow bays the water can get into the 70s. There are no lifeguards on duty. Do not swim within 100 feet of a harbor, public dock, or boat secured to a dock. Diving or jumping from cliffs at Devils or Sand Island, and the mainland sea caves is not permitted.



Paddling: Sea kayaks are recommended because of their stability and sealed hulls. Canoes are not recommended. Beginners should not try to cover more than 10 miles in a day. Inform a friend or relative of your travel plans. Wear a personal flotation device (PFD) and use wet or dry suits. Be sure to pack these things: marine radio, first aid kit, extra paddle, sunscreen, insect repellent, compass, nautical charts, 50 feet of line, waterproof matches, a head lamp, and provisions for at least one extra day.

Boating: All children under 13 must wear a PFD unless in an enclosed cabin or below deck. There should be Coast Guard approved type I, II, or III PFDs for each person on board. Boat sober. Have a marine radio, compass, nautical charts, spare propeller, and running lights. Personal watercraft (jet skis) are not permitted in the national lakeshore. Stay 100 feet from commercial fishing nets and be wary of shoals.

Unpredictable waves and currents do exist in the lake, so use caution!



Quarter Launch

The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore quarter, unveiled on April 11, is the second of 2018 and the 41st overall in the United States Mint America the Beautiful Quarters® Program. The reverse (tails) design depicts the sea caves at Devils Island with the lighthouse in the background and a kayaker paddling in the foreground.

Programs and Tours

Guided Lighthouse Tours

Mid-June through mid-September. Fee: \$3/child, \$5/adult, or \$10/immediate family.

Evening Campfire Programs

Stockton Island Presque Isle campfire circle mid-June through Labor Day.

Island Tours

Apostle Islands Cruises (authorized National Park Service concessionaire) has sightseeing cruises and island shuttles, departing from Bayfield. For more information call 800-323-7619 or visit www.apostleisland.com.

A list of authorized kayak outfitters and other charters is on our website: <https://www.nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/commercial-services.htm>

Around the Archipelago - 2018 Spring

415 Washington Ave., Bayfield, WI 54814 - (715) 779-3397

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