

# Isle Royale

NATIONAL PARK

MICHIGAN



SEASON

June 15 to September 15

# Isle Royale

## NATIONAL PARK



ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK is unique among the 28 national parks in its wilderness setting, isolated as it is from the main-

land by many miles of Lake Superior waters. It is reached only by boat or chartered seaplane. Upon arrival the visitor finds no roads or wheeled vehicles. The ever-present marine landscape, coupled with remains of prehistoric mining operations, varied wildlife, and vegetative forms, makes this a distinctive primeval park. It is a part of the National Park System owned by the people of the United States and administered for them by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior.

The establishment of Isle Royale and the surrounding islands as a national park was authorized by act of Congress, approved March 3, 1931. On April 3, 1940, the Secretary of the Interior accepted the deeds from the State of Michigan to all privately owned land, which, together with the public domain set aside by Presidential proclamation of 1923, total 133,838.51 acres and comprise Isle Royale National Park. The park was formally dedicated August 27, 1946.

With more than 200 small islands and countless minor rocks surrounding it, Isle Royale might well be termed an archipelago. The northeastern end of the main island consists of five chains of islands and peninsulas forming four fjordlike harbors, the longest of which is Rock Harbor. The islands on the southwestern end form a harbor (Grace Harbor) within a harbor (Washington Harbor). Most of the harbors are navigable, as the water is deep close to shore.

Isle Royale, the main island, is the largest in Lake Superior. About 45 miles long and 9 miles across at its widest point, it contains approximately 210 square miles. The highest elevation on the island is Ishpeming Point, 705 feet above the level of the lake and 1,307 feet above sea level. The other islands range in size from mere rock protrusions to islands 2 or more miles in length.

Mott Island, where park headquarters are located, is part of the outer chain that forms the southeast boundary of Rock Harbor, a harbor 13 miles long.





Beautiful Harbor View From Belle Isle Camp

There are many lakes on Isle Royale, the largest being Siskiwit with an area of 6 square miles. These inland lakes, the open glades among heavily wooded slopes, and the oft-broken shore line all add to the beauty of the island.

### *GEOLOGY*

The rocks of Isle Royale are very old, having been formed perhaps 900,000,000 years ago. They are principally lava flows with some interbedded sandstone and conglomerate, the latter apparently deposits of ancient rivers. These beds, originally horizontal, have been bent downward forming the great basin now occupied by Lake Superior, on the northwest rim of which Isle Royale is situated.

The beds on the island slope to the southeast into the basin. The edges of the softer beds have been eroded into valleys extending lengthways of the island, leaving between them the harder beds rising in parallel ridges. Greenstone Ridge is the principal one. Its gentle southeast slope is formed by the upper surface of a hard bed of basaltic rock and its steep northwest face by the eroded edge of the same bed. The other ridges are similar in form.

All these strata pass under the lake and appear again on the Michigan shore where they carry the rich copper deposits of Keweenaw Point, and are known as the Keweenawan rocks.

Within the last million years the great glaciers of the Ice Age have reshaped the basin and formed Lake Superior. They overrode Isle Royale, grinding smooth the surfaces of its rocks and leaving the numerous undrained depressions now occupied by its lakes. During the melting and retreat of the ice-sheets the waters of the Great Lakes overflowed through various outlets before the present low outlet was uncovered. As indicated by the high wave-cut benches around its shores, lake waters at one time stood at a level which must have completely submerged Isle Royale. As new outlets were opened, and the lake level subsided, the island emerged, and shore-line gravels were deposited along its cliffs, their several benches recording the various levels at which the lake waters halted for a time.

### *FLOWERS AND TREES*

The geographical location and geological development of Isle Royale combine to give it a wide and interesting variety of flora. Boreal (arctic) species mingled with that of the lake forest, together with bog vegetation, create an outstanding example of the transition from north to south. Bunchberry dogwood carpets wide areas; pipsissewa (prince's pine), the universally loved twin flowers, trilliums, and pyrola are found in the dense woods. The spectacular devil's club, so familiar in the Pacific Northwest, occurs in many places, although several hundred miles



east of its natural range; and saprophytic plants (those living on moisture from other plants), including the Indianpipe or ghost-flower, are found in abundance. Deep blue iris and several kinds of orchids skirt the swamplands. Perhaps the greatest joy of the flower lover comes with the discovery of orchids, wild and undisturbed. Bluebells (harebells) nod from every crevice, and showy wood lilies lift their cups above luxuriant grasses. There are innumerable ferns, lichens, mosses, fungi, and a wide variety of rushes and sedges. Dense undergrowth makes travel difficult, except along the trails or in open meadows.

The large stands of light green deciduous trees, with their rounded tops, are found side by side with the darker green spire-shaped conifers. Several species of birch occur, the most abundant being yellow birch and paper, or white birch. Sugar, red, and mountain maple, black ash, Northern (boreal) red oak, quaking aspen, mountain-ash, alders, and willows are found throughout the islands. Balsam fir is the most common conifer, but Northern white-cedar, white and black spruce, tamarack, and Eastern white, jack, and Red (Norway) pine are all abundant. In regions where mining is prevalent, it has been the custom to set fires to expose the rock strata, and most of the island shows evidence of old burns. Thus there are few large forest trees but many stands of different ages and some old patriarchs which have withstood the burnings. Certain areas have stands which consist almost entirely of birch and poplar.

## *WILDLIFE*

Separated as it is from the mainland, Isle Royale lacks many forms of wildlife common to both Canada and the United States. Bear, porcupine, deer, wolves, caribou, and several hiber-

### **Guide Preparing Meal for Successful Fishing Party** *(Photo by W. Ray Scott)*





## INTERPRETIVE SERVICE

Rangers engaged in protection work will give information and assist visitors to the limit of their available time.

## ADMINISTRATION AND PROTECTION

Mainland headquarters for Isle Royale National Park are located in Houghton, Mich.; summer headquarters are maintained from May 15 to November 1 on Mott Island, in Rock Harbor. Here are located offices, warehouses, radio station, and employees' quarters. The superintendent is in direct charge of the park. All comments regarding service, requests for information, or other communications should be addressed to the Superintendent, Isle Royale National Park, Houghton, Mich.

Exclusive jurisdiction over the park has been ceded to the United States by the State of Michigan. Offenders charged with violations of the rules and regulations will be brought before a United States Commissioner.

## FISHING

The waters of the park are open to fishing under National Park Service regulations. Detailed information as to seasons, limits of catch, and minimum size limits should be obtained from the office of the superintendent or from a park ranger. No fishing license is required to fish in park waters.

Fishing boats may be rented at the developed centers and fishing trips arranged to suit the visitor. Fishing tackle is furnished by the guides on guided trips. They also have a limited supply for sale, or it may be purchased at the park stores.

## Rock of Ages Light Tower and Radio Beacon

*(Photo by Marjorie Smith)*



Isle Royale Moose (*Copyright, Frank M. Warren*)

nating rodents have not made their appearance here or have disappeared because of unfavorable living conditions. Moose, beaver, coyote, mink, muskrat, and snowshoe rabbits are common, particularly the moose and beaver. The favorite haunts of the moose are Washington Creek, McCargo Cove, and Lake Eva. They are also seen frequently along the trails in the interior. Beaver are found along the streams and in the inland lakes and may be seen also in most of the bays and harbors by those who patiently watch and wait. Birds are common during spring and fall migrations; many varieties are observed throughout the nesting and summer season.

## HISTORY

The Indian, fur trader, miner, lumberman, and fisherman, as well as the summer cottager, have all contributed to the fascinating history of Isle Royale. A visit to the old copper pits of aborigines, the ruins of the old mines of 1844 to 1896, the site of a post of the American Fur Trading Company, or one of the present-day fishing villages typical of Norway or Finland is certain to stimulate keen interest in the history of the island.

The story of man's search for the precious native copper (pure copper not combined with other elements) is the most intriguing chapter in the history of the island. It is a story of ardent hopes and shattered dreams, of dire hardship and failure, for mining did not prove successful, although it was attempted in 1844-55, again in 1871-83, and once more in the 1890's. In 1874, a mass of native copper weighing 5,720 pounds was found on Isle Royale and exhibited in the Centennial Exhibition of 1876 at Philadelphia. Larger pieces were found later.





Main Building at Rock Harbor Lodge. Cabins are available for persons who want seclusion and privacy.

### *BOATING*

Rowboats for rowing or for use with outboard motor and motor launches are available for rent for scheduled and special trips at the lodges. Boat trips may be arranged in connection with trail trips, picnic parties, or sightseeing cruises to outlying islands. Trips, combining hiking and boating, may be made from Rock Harbor Lodge to the head of Rock Harbor, Chippewa Harbor, and Lake Richie and return, or to Tobin Harbor and Mount Franklin and return. An all-boat trip to Passage Island, the site of the United States lighthouse, is interesting. For full information address the National Park Concessions, Inc., Rock Harbor Lodge, Isle Royale National Park, Rock Harbor, Mich., or the Superintendent, Isle Royale National Park, Houghton, Mich.

### *CAMPING*

The following camp sites have been designated by the National Park Service: Pickett Bay, Washington Harbor, Siskiwit Bay, Siskiwit Lake, head of Rock Harbor, McCargo Cove, and Chippewa Harbor. While no facilities have been provided to date, individuals or parties may use these camps. Parties planning camping trips may obtain additional information by writing the superintendent.

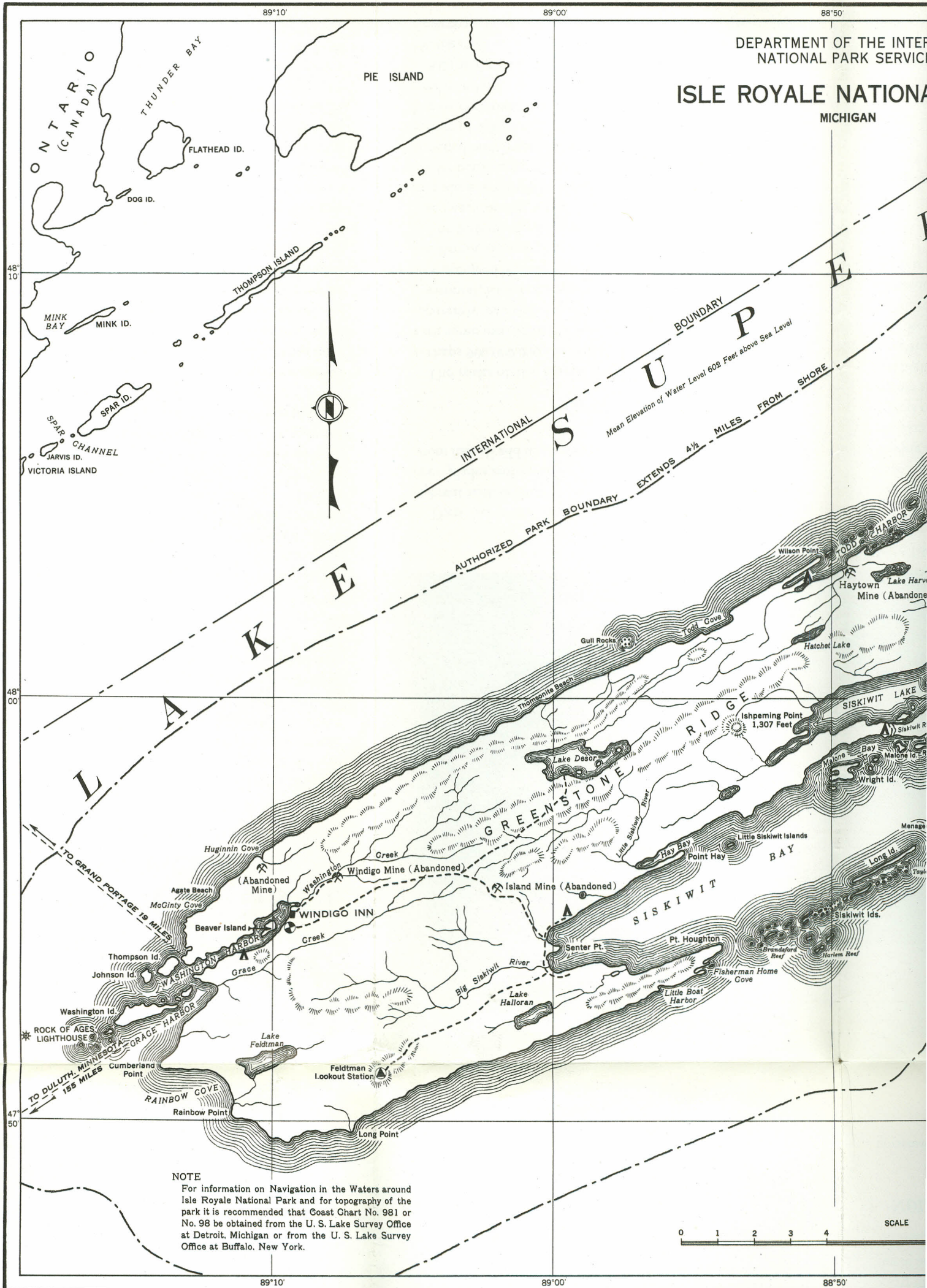
### *HIKING*

The trail system of Isle Royale is designed to make accessible the principal points of interest by the most direct routes. The trails are primitive, in keeping with the wilderness character of

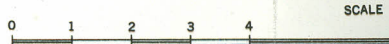


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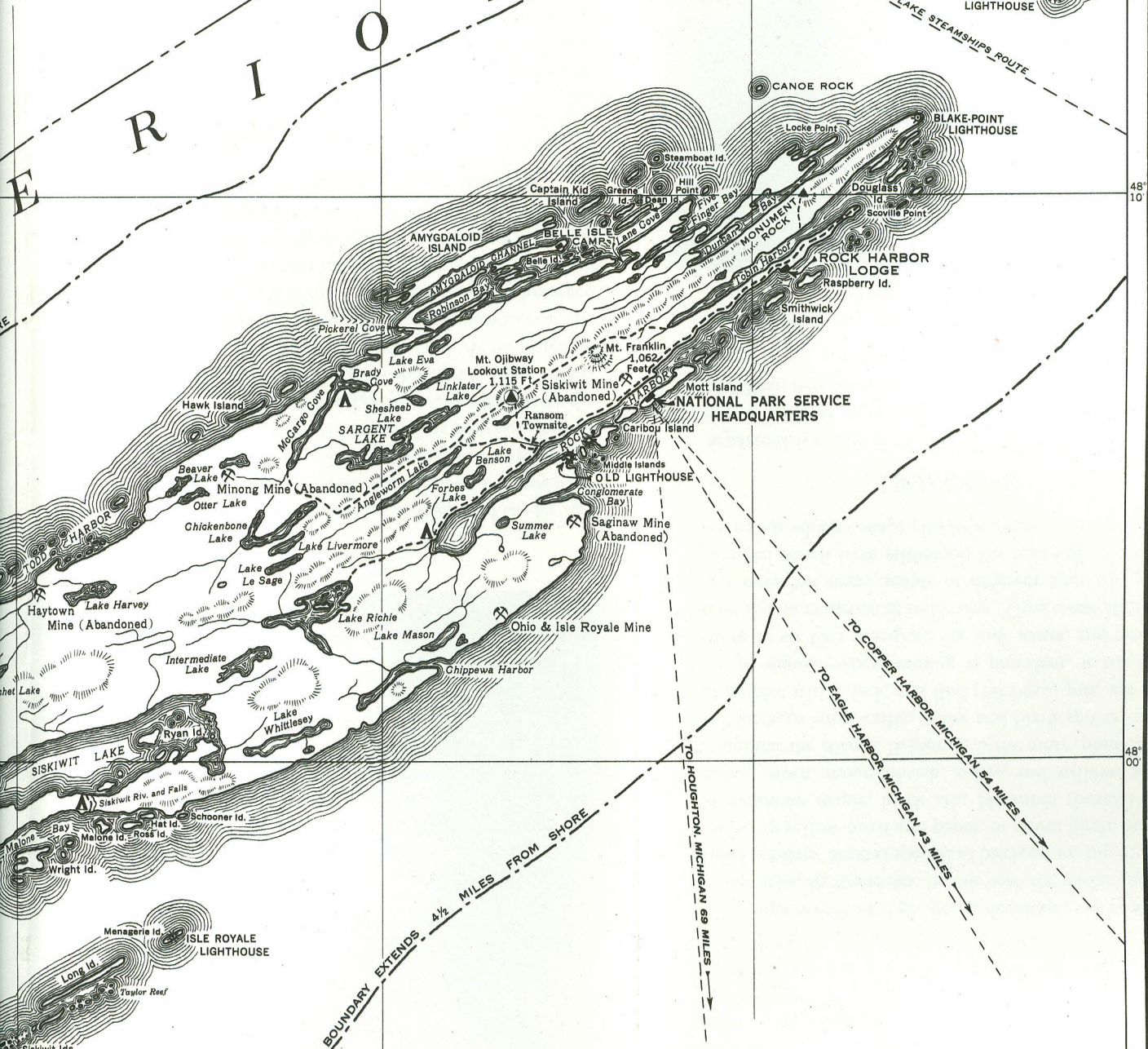


**NOTE**  
For information on Navigation in the Waters around Isle Royale National Park and for topography of the park it is recommended that Coast Chart No. 981 or No. 98 be obtained from the U. S. Lake Survey Office at Detroit, Michigan or from the U. S. Lake Survey Office at Buffalo, New York.

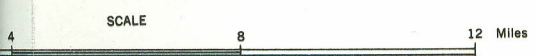
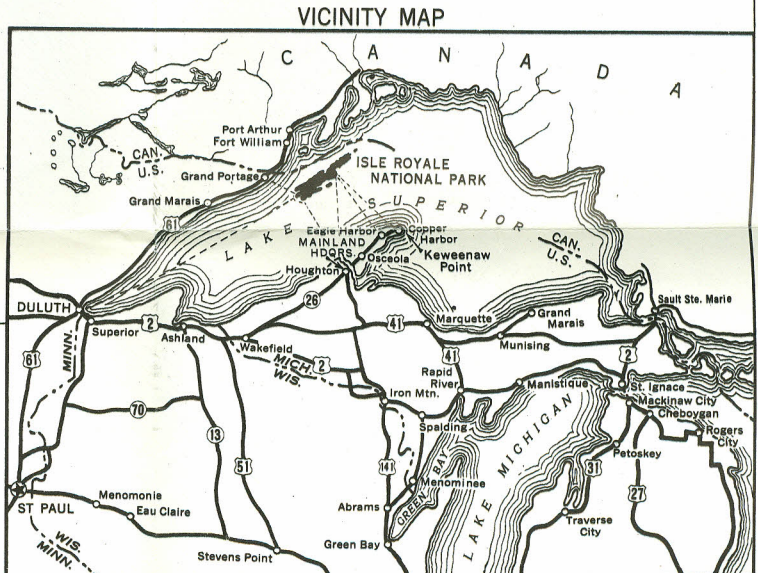




DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK  
MICHIGAN



- LEGEND**
- Park Boundary
  - Unimproved Trail
  - Lookout Station
  - Designated Campsite
  - Ranger Station
  - Lighthouse
  - Building
  - Abandoned Mine





the park, but are suitable for experienced hikers. Several combination trips, by boat one way and trail the other, are popular with visitors. Fire lookouts, inland lakes, historic mine ruins, campgrounds, picnic grounds, and interesting geological features may be reached by trail. Trails are not blazed, but are marked with metal tags. Where they cross open glades, stones or posts are used.

From Rock Harbor Lodge, trails lead to Mount Franklin and Mount Ojibway, Lookout Louise, and Monument Rock; from Belle Isle Camp, trails lead to Mount Ojibway and McCargo Cove; from Windigo Inn, trails lead to Huginn Cove, Lake Desor, and Siskiwit Bay.

In planning hiking trips, park visitors are urged to obtain explicit directions from the lodge or park headquarters.

### *WHAT TO WEAR AND WHAT TO BRING*

Since nights are cool in the park, and day temperatures rarely rise above 80 degrees, visitors should bring warm clothing when visiting Isle Royale. One seldom goes out on the lake without heavy sweaters or coats. Hiking clothes are best suited for boating and fishing, as well as for hiking. Living accommodations are informal, and the visitor always feels at home in hiking and sports clothes.

Opportunities for photography are excellent, and the camera is an important part of the visitor's equipment. Films may be purchased at the lodges. Dark glasses are advisable when on the water or along the lake shore. A limited amount of fishing tackle may be purchased locally; but it is advisable for visitors to bring their own where special tackle is desired. Tackle is furnished without extra cost only on guided trips.

### *ACCOMMODATIONS*

Limited lodge facilities on the American plan are available during the season. Information concerning the type of accom-

modations, daily and weekly rates, and reservations may be had by addressing the National Park Concessions, Inc., Rock Harbor Lodge, Isle Royale National Park, Rock Harbor, Mich. (summer address), or the Superintendent, Isle Royale National Park, Houghton, Mich. The winter address of the concessioner is National Park Concessions, Inc., Mammoth Cave Hotel, Mammoth Cave National Park, Mammoth Cave, Ky.

### *MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES*

Small quantities of staple camp supplies, films, pictures, post cards, candies, tobacco, and curios are available at the lodges and at park headquarters.

Gasoline and oil may be purchased in small quantities at the lodges or from the guides.

### *MAIL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES*

Mail service is provided to the park twice weekly from Duluth, Minn. A post office is maintained at Rock Harbor Lodge. The address here is Rock Harbor Lodge, Isle Royale National Park, Rock Harbor, Mich. Mail for Belle Isle Camp and Windigo Inn should be addressed to these points, Isle Royale National Park, Mich., via Duluth, Minn.

Through arrangement with the Western Union Telegraph Co., messages are sent and received to and from all points in the park via the National Park Service radio system. Incoming messages should be addressed to the terminal point desired, Isle Royale National Park, Mich. (Route via Houghton, Mich.) A joint rate covers both the radio and telegram cost.

### *TRANSPORTATION*

*M. S. Detroit*, Grand Marais, Minn., limited passenger, freight, and mail service from Grand Marais, twice weekly. For further information address H. Christiansen & Sons., Inc., Lake Avenue, Duluth, Minn.





*M. S. Disturbance*, Grand Portage, Minn., limited passenger service. For further information address Sivertson Bros. Fisheries, Lake Avenue, West, Duluth, Minn.

*M. S. Coastal Queen*, Fort William and Port Arthur, Ontario, Canada. Passengers and camp luggage. Service three times weekly during the season, beginning July 1. For further information address Northern Engineering and Supply Co., Ltd., Fort William, Ontario, or National Park Concessions, Inc., Rock Harbor Lodge, Isle Royale National Park, Rock Harbor, Mich.

Motor launch service from Copper Harbor may be arranged by writing Charles Kauppi, Copper Harbor, Mich.

**Rail and Bus Service.**—Daily rail service to Houghton, Mich., via Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad in connection with the Duluth, South Shore, and Atlantic Railway.

Daily bus service to Houghton is maintained by the Northland Greyhound Lines. Connections are made with related lines providing service to all principal cities. Bus service is also available from Duluth, Minn., to Grand Marais, Minn., Grand Portage, Minn., and Fort William and Port Arthur, Ontario.

Current information relating to travel and transportation may be had by addressing the Superintendent, Isle Royale National Park, Houghton, Mich.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

### (Briefed)

The park regulations are designed not only to protect the natural beauties of the park but to aid visitors in the enjoyment of the area. You are requested to assist the park administration by respecting these rules. The following synopsis is for your guidance. Complete rules and regulations may be seen at the superintendent's office. Rangers are here to help and advise you as well as to enforce the regulations. You are invited to visit park headquarters for information or assistance at any time.

**FIRES—The Park's Greatest Peril.**—Kindle fires only in designated campgrounds and never on roots of trees or near

dead wood, moss, dry leaves, mold, etc. Campfires should not be left unattended. Before leaving they should be extinguished to the last spark. **Don't take chances. Make sure your fire is out. During periods of high fire danger the superintendent may prohibit the kindling of fires away from designated campgrounds or in hazardous areas.**

**Keep Park Clean.**—Keep your camp clean. Whenever possible burn garbage in your campfire; place cans and residue in containers where provided. If none are available, bury refuse or place in pit. Do not throw lunch papers, wrappers, or other trash along the trails or in the water.

**Trees, Flowers, Animals, Natural Features.**—Destruction, injury, or disturbance in any way of trees, flowers, birds, or animals is prohibited; however, dead and fallen trees may be used for firewood, unless fuel is available from other sources. Removal of artifacts, geological specimens, plants, trees, or flowers is prohibited.

**Dogs and Cats.**—Such animals are prohibited on Government land in the park unless on leash, crated, or otherwise under physical restrictive control.

**Lost and Found.**—Lost and found articles should be reported to headquarters at Mott Island or Houghton or to any ranger station. All persons should leave their name and address so that articles may be forwarded or claimed. Articles not claimed by the owners within 60 days may be returned to the finders.

**Registrations.**—All parties traveling in their own boats, or camping, are requested, **upon their arrival**, to report at park headquarters on Mott Island, or at any ranger or guard station. Registration cards are available at these points.

**Firearms.**—Unless adequately sealed, cased, broken down, or otherwise packed to prevent their use while in the park, firearms are prohibited, except upon written permission from the superintendent.

**Boats.**—Regulations prescribed by the Department of Commerce govern use of boats operating in waters of Lake Superior.

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