

Pictured Rocks

NATIONAL LAKESHORE • MICHIGAN

Wilderness, an elusive presence in modern America, is seldom more forcefully and dramatically presented than along the nation's shorelines. In the Midwest, where wild shorelines are relatively scarce, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore offers a rare blend of natural beauty and recreational opportunity. Sharing the Lakeshore with mighty Lake Superior are cliffs and beaches, forests and waterfalls, sand dunes and sparkling lakes. In this meeting place of water and wildlands visitors will find superb fishing, hiking, artistic and sightseeing opportunities.



Viewing the inland lakes and streams from the shore is a pleasure. The water is clear and the rocks are smooth. The forest is dense and the air is fresh.

THE ROCKY SHORE

Along a 24-kilometer (15-mile) section of the Lake Superior shoreline are multicolored sandstone cliffs of the Pictured Rocks escarpment, which rises abruptly as much as 61 meters (200 feet) above the lake level. In a never-ending struggle between the elements and the rock, the erosive action of waves, rain, and ice has carved the cliffs, creating thunder caves, arches, columns, and promontories.

Most of these formations are visible only from a boat. Privately operated scenic cruises are conducted daily in the summer from the city dock in Munising. The Miners Castle area is accessible by road and trail.

RAMPARTS OF SAND

Of equal significance and interest are the Grand Sable Banks and Dunes in the eastern section of the national lakeshore—the results of ancient lake, glacial, and wind activity.

Grand Sable Banks is the exposed part of a glacial deposit extending 8 kilometers (5 miles) along the present Lake Superior shore and rising to 84 meters (275 feet) above the lake level at about a 35-degree angle.

Perched on top of the banks are the Grand Sable Dunes, rising an additional 26 meters (85 feet) and covering an area of 12.8 square kilometers (5 square miles). The sand was blown into great dunes at the edge of an ancient lake which preceded Lake Superior. Wind off the lake is slowly blowing the dunes inland, where they are at least partially stabilized by vegetation.

12-MILE BEACH

The shoreline along this lengthy stretch of the center section of the national lakeshore is a magnificent, broad, sand-and-pebble beach. Although the water temperature of Lake Superior is normally too cold for all but the most hardy swimmers,

the beach is attractive for sunbathing, hiking, and photography. Much of the inland portion of the national lakeshore is densely covered with a forest of mixed northern hardwoods and a scattering of pine, hemlock, spruce, and fir. Spring flowers and autumn foliage are spectacular. In some burned-over areas, there are large, almost pure stands of beautiful white birches. Arborvitae and tamarack trees, as well as leatherleaf and other northern bog plants, are common in marshy areas and around ponds and lakes.

A WATER WONDERLAND

Common throughout the area are inland lakes, ponds, streams, waterfalls, and bogs, providing scenic splendor, educational values, and recreational potential in the form of boating, fishing, hunting, and swimming. Lake Superior, the largest freshwater lake in the world, is a major attraction itself. Another is Munising Falls, which drops 15 meters (50 feet) over the sandstone bluff into a large natural amphitheater. At the base of the bluff there is a natural concavity behind the waterfall, making it possible for visitors to walk behind the falls without getting wet.

The natural combination of cool climate, clear streams, shaded banks, and open bodies of water provides excellent fish habitat and incentive for fishermen. For many years, Lake Superior has been a mecca for both sport and commercial fishermen, who seek, in particular, lake trout and whitefish. The inland lakes contain sunfish, perch, bass, and pike. Brook and rainbow trout are found in the streams and rivers. Michigan fishing licenses are required and State regulations are applicable within the national lakeshore.

OTHER ANIMAL LIFE

Mammals of the area include the white tailed deer, black bear, beaver, porcupine, woodchuck, coyote, bobcat, muskrat, mink, chipmunk, and squirrel. A great variety of water and shore birds as well as upland and migratory birds may be seen in their particular habitats. Hunting for upland and migratory game birds, deer, bear, rabbits, and other animals is permitted in accordance with State and Federal regulations.

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WE'RE JOINING THE METRIC WORLD

The National Park Service is introducing metric measurements in its publications to help Americans become acquainted with the metric system and to improve interpretation for park visitors from other nations. Meters are being used instead of feet, and kilometers instead of miles. Since a foot is a little less than one third of a meter, 50-foot Munising Falls is about 15 meters high.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

THE LAKESHORE TODAY

Some of the areas within the boundaries are in private ownership; you are requested to respect the rights of the owners.

The lakeshore will require several years for full development of comprehensive recreational facilities. Visitors should not expect more than limited improvements during the initial stages of development.

The national lakeshore consists principally of a shoreline zone containing the primary natural features. Also within the legislated boundaries is the inland buffer zone, which is to be managed in a manner that will retain the existing character of the region. The inland buffer zone is privately owned and is utilized for timber harvesting on a sustained yield basis.

The following are accessible by roads and trails, most of which are gravel and sand but passable except in winter: Sand Point, Munising Falls, Miners Castle, Miners Beach, Miners Falls, Little Beaver Lake, 12-Mile Beach, Hurricane River, Grand Sable Banks at the Log Slide, Grand Sable Lake and Sable Falls.

Primitive camping areas accessible by automobile are provided at Hurricane River, Little Beaver Lake, and 12-Mile Beach.



Backcountry camping is permitted in many remote areas of the park. Please obtain a camping permit, available from park headquarters or any park ranger.

To help you enjoy your lakeshore, park rangers conduct nature walks and campfire programs during the summer. A schedule of these activities is posted at camping areas and ranger stations.

For almost five months, snow blankets Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, inviting you to participate in a variety of winter recreational activities, such as snowmobiling, crosscountry skiing, and snowshoeing.

Accommodations and supplies are available in communities near the lakeshore.

VISITOR SAFETY

Your visit to the national lakeshore can be a most pleasurable and rewarding experience, or it can be a time of distress or even tragedy. Hikers should be especially cautious when near the steep cliffs of the Pictured Rocks. Boaters should note that Lake Superior is always cold, and frequently rough; therefore only competent boatmen with proper equipment should venture on this lake. Summer is usually pleasant and warm, but visitors should be prepared for cold, rainy weather and troublesome insects.

Reasonable regulations are in effect for the benefit of you and future generations of park visitors. Generally they pertain to the preservation of natural and cultural objects, and to the use of good outdoor manners so that all may derive maximum benefit from the lakeshore.

ADMINISTRATION

Information regarding facilities for visitors at the national lakeshore and its current status may be obtained by contacting the Superintendent, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Munising, MI 49862.

