

Pictured Rocks

National Lakeshore
Michigan

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Bridal Veil Falls flows down to the lake.



A white birch forest greets the visitor.



Au Sable Light Station protects the lake-borne traveler.



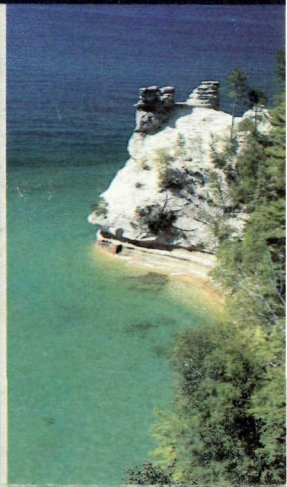
Berries add a touch of color.



The wonder of ripples preoccupies a child.



Heavy dew on a spider web presages a beautiful day.



Miners Castle stands guard.

Welcome to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Cliffs, beaches, sand dunes, waterfalls, and the forest of Lake Superior's shoreline beckon to you to come and explore. The park, which at its widest point is only 4.8 kilometers (3 miles) in width, hugs the lake shoreline for more than 65 kilometers (40 miles). Much of the land is covered with forest, a mixture of northern hardwoods, pine, hemlock, spruce, and fir. Many small lakes, ponds, and streams are also within the park, so there are plenty of places for fishing and boating. Old logging roads and maintained trails give the hiker an almost endless choice when planning a trip. For generations Ojibways hunted and fished in these woods and on the waters of Lake Superior enroute to their summer fishing grounds on the Sault rapids of the Saint Marys River. To them this was the land of "thunder and the gods." In the 17th and 18th centuries French explorers and trappers

entered the area, but they left little besides some place names. In the early years of the 19th century settlers began to enter Michigan's Upper Peninsula in increasing numbers. In later years loggers were attracted by the vast forests of virgin white pine. They, too, moved on when the timber was cut, leaving only a few small towns and the lonely lighthouse keepers along the shore.

The Pictured Rocks, for which the park is named, rise directly from Lake Superior to heights of 15 to 60 meters (50 to 200 feet) and stretch 24 kilometers (15 miles) along the lake to the northeast of the town of Munising. This wall of rock has been sculpted into caves, arches, and formations that for all the world look like castles and fortresses. The play of light upon the layers of rock and cliffs changes with each passing hour.

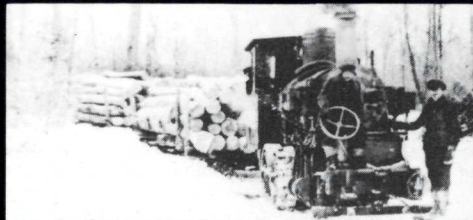
The ramparts of the Pictured Rocks give way to a sand and pebble strand that is known as Twelvemile Beach. In another climate this would be a great place for resting between swims, but here the waters of Lake Superior remain cold the year round and only the hardest souls venture into the lake, and then only briefly. Even though this is not a swimming area, the beach is still the scene for a lot of activities, such as hiking and picnicking. At the northern end of the park are the Grand Sable Banks and Dunes. About 10,000 years ago the last glacier to invade the area left this debris, now known as the banks, as it melted. The dunes have a somewhat different origin, for they are made up of the reshaped beaches of ancestors of Lake Superior. As each lake shrank, the prevailing winds picked up the beaches and piled them into dunes. Wind erosion of the banks themselves also contributes to the mass of the dunes.

This briefly, is Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, a place for relaxation, and recreation. History records that no great armies clashed and that no stirring words were ever spoken here. History is measured in the tread of a moccasin, the cadence of a voyageur's paddle, the black scar of a fire built on a rock slab, or an arrowhead kicked loose from its resting place. What were the people like who left these marks? Did they, as we do, marvel at the grace of a gull braced against the wind? Can we suppose the little children ran and shouted, ecstatic in this wonderland of surf, sand, and tree? Did they think the view was pretty? Or did the cares of daily existence deny them these simple pleasures? Now as then the Pictured Rocks witness the comings and goings of people. The years drift by, and even the seemingly durable rocks change, for the wind, water, and ice continue to carve their signatures on the face of the land.

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Logging Days

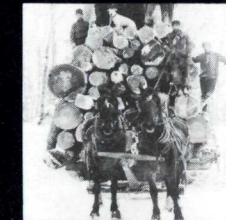
The white pine forests of Michigan's Upper Peninsula became the major source of timber when settlers moved into the treeless Great Plains and the need for lumber for housing and railroad ties soared.



Leaving the depleted forests of the East, logging companies moved into Michigan. One logging crew (right), with its cook, stands in front of the mess hall. Scores of similar camps formed throughout the region from

1870 to 1900 as Michigan produced more lumber than any other state.

Horses and the narrow gauge railroads were used to move the logs out of the woods. They carried the logs to the lake-shore during the winter.



and when spring came, the logs were formed into rafts and floated to the sawmills. Or, if a mill were close by, the trains took them directly. At the sawmills, the new circular saws turned out squared timbers and boards at lightning speed. By 1909,

however, the last of the white pine forests was cut and the heyday of logging came to an end in this area.

Historic photos courtesy of the Alger County Historical Society.

Pictured Rocks Today

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is located on the Lake Superior shore of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It can be reached either from Mich. 28 and Mich. 94 at Munising or Mich. 77 at Grand Marais. Other county and state roads lead directly into the park. Consult the map on the reverse side when planning your trip. The park consists of the Lakeshore Zone, which is primarily Park Service-owned land and the Inland Buffer Zone, which is in mixed public and private ownership but managed in a manner that will retain its existing character. Because much of the land remains in private ownership, please respect the owners' rights.

There is no particular "best season" in which to visit Pictured Rocks, for each has its own charm and variety of activities. In the spring, wildflowers bloom in great profusion and add to the beauty of the natural scene. Fall brings a colorful display as the hardwood forests change color. A mantle of snow, often quite thick, sets the stage for wintertime adventure. And at all seasons, including the summer, violent storms can develop off the lake, so bring rain gear and warm clothing. Insect repellent is a must if you plan to come in the late spring or early summer, for blackflies and mosquitoes are out in force at this time of year. Throughout the summer the park offers a wide range of interpretive activities.

Boat Tours—One of the most popular ways to see the Pictured Rocks is by boat. From June to mid-October privately-operated boat tours leave the harbor at Munising daily. For information, contact the Alger Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 405, Munising, MI 49862.

Accommodations—The closest accommodations and supplies are in Munising and Grand Marais. Both towns have motels, restaurants, groceries, and camping supply stores. Write to: Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 303, Grand Marais, MI 49839; or Alger Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 405, Munising, MI 49862.

Camping—The park has three campgrounds that are accessible by car. The campgrounds, each of which has water, picnic tables, grills, and toilets, are at Little Beaver Lake, Twelvemile Beach, and Hurricane River. The campsites are free and available on a first-come, first-served basis. **Stays are limited and you must register upon arrival at the campground.**

Backcountry Camping—Thirteen campgrounds and 7 group sites are spaced every 3 to 8 kilometers (2 to 5 miles) along the Lakeshore Trail. Only two sites, Mosquito River and Chapel Beach, have toilets. None has water. **Permits are required; only a limited number of reservations is available.**

Public Campgrounds—Besides campsites in the park, public campgrounds can be found in Hiawatha National Forest, the Michigan State Forests, and state and local parks in the area. For more information write to: Hiawatha National Forest, 2727 North Lincoln Road, Escanaba, MI 49829, or to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909.

Hiking—The many old logging roads and established trails provide a wealth of hiking possibilities. The Lakeshore Trail runs along the shore the entire length of the park. A topographic map of the park prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey can be purchased at the visitor centers.

Wintertime Activities—For the cross-country skier and the snowshoer, the average annual snowfall is 510 centimeters (200 inches). All park roads and trails, with the exception of the Lakeshore Trail, which is subject to severe drifting, are perfect for these wintertime activities. A few roads are left unplowed for use by snowmobilers. Check with park rangers for the precise locations. Twenty-four kilometers (15 miles) of groomed cross-country ski trails, access to Munising Bay for ice fishing, winter camping, and snowshoeing make this a winter wonderland.

Fishing—The inland lakes and streams and Lake Superior offer a rich reward to the fisherman, for these waters are home to lake trout, whitefish, sunfish, perch, bass, pike, salmon, and brook and rainbow trout. In winter, ice fishing is available on Munising Bay and most inland lakes. A Michigan fishing license is required.

Scuba Diving—The Alger Underwater Preserve extends from Au Train (west of Munising) to Au Sable Point. The preserve contains large, colorful rocks, weedbeds with fish, and a dozen shipwrecks. Contact the Alger Chamber of Commerce for charter boat services.

Boating—Most of the rivers are too shallow or brush-covered to permit enjoyable canoeing. The waters of Lake Superior may be rough and a small craft could be easily swamped. There are launching ramps at Munising and Grand Marais for motor boats.

Safety—All animals in the park are wild. They should not be fed or petted. You have to contend with hazards everywhere and Pictured Rocks is no exception. The ones you find here, however, may be different than those at home. By being alert, your visit can be accident free.

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. For further information write to: Superintendent, P.O. Box 40, Munising, MI 49862.



Points of Interest

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is a place of beautiful landscapes and vistas. You can become acquainted with its many facets by going to the points of interest listed here. These descriptions are brief, giving only a highlight or two to help you decide what you might want to see. For more details check with any ranger you come across or at the visitor centers.

Munising Falls and Visitor Center. Enjoy a unique opportunity to walk behind the free-falling waters of Munising Falls. A short walk takes you from the visitor center to the falls. The area is accessible to the handicapped.

Miners Castle and Falls. You can drive to this area and see the Pictured Rocks cliffs, including Miners Castle, a monolith as tall as a nine-story building. Nearby are Miners Falls and Beach. The Castle area is accessible to the handicapped.

Chapel Basin, Chapel Falls, Chapel Rock, and beaches are all within an easy day hike. Other major landmarks within walking distance include Mosquito Falls and Grand Portal Point.

Beaver Basin. Woodland trails for hiking and waterways for boating permit exploration of this area. Motorboats on Little Beaver and Beaver lakes are limited to 10 horsepower.

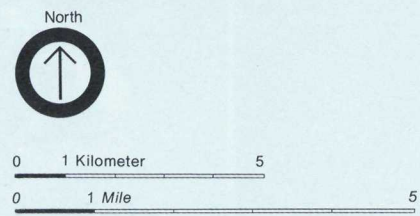
Twelvemile Beach. An unbroken stretch of white sand and pebble beach can provide solitude. Picnicking, camping, and a nature trail are available at Twelvemile Beach Campground. The road approach is through a breathtaking birch forest.

Au Sable Light Station. This lighthouse began beaming its warning to mariners in 1874. The well-preserved structure, a 3.4-kilometer (1.5-mile) walk from the Hurricane River Campground, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Log Slide. This is the site of a 153-meter (500-foot) long wooden "Log Slide" of the late 1800s. From this vantage point, Au Sable Light Station is visible to the west, and the Grand Sable Banks to the east.

Grand Sable Dunes. This 10-square-kilometer (4-square-mile) expanse of dunes sits high on Grand Sable Banks. Stroll through them to enjoy their beauty.

Sable Falls. Just west of Grand Marais, a spectacular cascade, Sable Falls, may be seen. Continue down the trail and you will find one of the many pebble-covered beaches of Lake Superior.



- Lakeshore Zone
- Inland Buffer Zone
- Unpaved Road
- Trail
- Campgrounds
- Other Public Campgrounds
- Ranger station
- Handicap access
- Boat launch
- Interpretive trail
- Cross-country ski trail
- Lifeguarded swimming area

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore consists of two zones. The lakeshore zone is owned by the National Park Service. The inland buffer zone is under a mixture of public and private ownership. Please respect the rights of private landowners.

