

# Backcountry Camping

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



The Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore section of the North Country National Scenic Trail and the Lake Superior shoreline provides a spectacular place for backcountry hiking, camping, and relaxation. Hikers are rewarded with exhilarating views and opportunities for personal challenge and introspection.

Backcountry camping regulations are different for winter, so please see the separate Winter Camping / Ice Climbing brochure.

## Backcountry Permits

All hikers and sea kayakers camping in the backcountry must obtain a permit. A user fee of \$4 per person, per night is required when you pick up your permit. All permit fees are for up to 14 nights. There are no refunds. Individual campsites are available for camping parties of 1-6 people (2 tent limit). Groups of 7-20 people must camp in designated group sites.

Backcountry reservations may be made two weeks or more in advance. An advance reservation fee of \$15 is required when a reservation is made. Changes in reservations require an additional \$15 fee. Cash, check, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover cards are accepted. There are NO REFUNDS. PHONE RESERVATIONS ARE NOT ACCEPTED. Campsites may be reserved in advance by writing or faxing the park.

Permits may be obtained in person only within one day before your trip. Pick up your permit from either the NPS/USFS Visitor Information

Center in Munising (906-387-3700), or the Grand Sable Visitor Center in Grand Marais (906-494-2660 - closed Labor Day through mid-May). Phone ahead for business hours.

If arriving after business hours, you must wait until the next day to obtain your permit and begin your trip. Only people in the camping party may obtain the permit. The Lakeshore backcountry is very popular, especially in July and August and holiday weekends. Advance planning and having an alternate itinerary is important when requesting a permit. Day hikers do not need a backcountry permit.

Backcountry Reservation  
Pictured Rocks Natl. Lakeshore  
P.O. Box 40  
Munising, MI 49862  
906-387-3700 FAX: 906 387-4457

## Backcountry Regulations

Be sure to read the accompanying Backcountry Regulations and Mileage Chart available as a companion to this brochure.

## For Your Safety and Enjoyment

Come prepared for a variety of weather, insects, and terrain. The Pictured Rocks cliffs are spectacular but can be dangerous to the careless hiker. Fifteen miles of the North Country Trail are atop 50-200 foot high cliffs. Cliff tops are covered with loose sand and gravel. Unsupported overhangs of soft sandstone are common. **FOR YOUR SAFETY, STAY AWAY FROM THE CLIFF EDGE.**

The weather near Lake Superior is very changeable. Summers are often warm, but be prepared for cool, rainy, windy weather. Hypothermia can occur at any time - know the symptoms. Use a layered clothing system.

You may encounter bears and other wildlife in the backcountry. Keep a clean camp and exercise caution. Store food in lockers or hang on food poles. Black flies, mosquitos, and stable flies can be a nuisance between late May and September. Long pants and shirts and insect repellent are recommended.

The Lakeshore is closed to hunting April 1 to Labor Day, but is open to hunting the rest of the year during small and large game seasons. Wear blaze orange or bright colors if you are concerned about being seen by hunters.

## Backcountry Sanitation

Only water obtained from park water systems can be assumed safe to drink. All water from streams, lakes or other natural sources must be boiled for one full minute or filtered through a one micron filter before it is used. Wash yourself, dishes, and clothing at least 100 feet from a lake campsite, trail, or stream.

Backcountry toilets are available at Mosquito and Chapel Beach campgrounds. Please do not throw trash in backcountry toilets. To dispose of human waste at other locations, select a spot at least 100 feet from any trail, campsite, or water. Dig a shallow hole 3 to 6 inches deep. Bury waste and paper. Groups should establish a communal privy and cover it after the last use.

Please follow Leave No Trace camping ethics.



## Public Transportation

Shuttle bus transportation is available for hikers wishing to take a bus to the starting point and hike back to their vehicle. For a schedule, reservations, and fee information, contact:

ALTRAN  
P.O. Box 69  
Munising, MI 49862  
906-387-4845