

Hunting

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



The shortening days of fall bring with them the transformation of green leaves to crimson and gold, the first frost, lines of waterfowl winging southward across the sky, and thoughts of past hunting trips in the north country.

Hunting is permitted within the National Lakeshore in accordance with federal migratory bird laws and federal and State of Michigan regulations. It is an activity specifically allowed by the Congress of the United States when it authorized the Lakeshore in 1966.



Lakeshore Hunting Opportunities

Pictured Rocks, with its varied topography, mixed coniferous and hardwood forest, lakes, and streams provides habitat for a variety of game animals.

The most popular hunting activities are for whitetail deer, grouse, woodcock, bear, and snowshoe hare. Whether an archer, muzzle loader, or shotgunner, hunters find ample hunting opportunities, from grown over farm fields to backcountry cedar swamps.

The hunting season usually begins in mid-September with the bear and grouse seasons and continues through the winter with snowshoe hare hunting. Refer to your "Michigan Hunting Guide" for specific dates and bag limits. A Michigan hunting license is required and is available in local communities. The appropriate waterfowl stamps (state and federal) may also be required.

Hunting dogs have been field companions to hunters for generations. Dogs are permitted in the Lakeshore for hunting purposes. State hunting regulations apply in the use of dogs for hunting. See also the Lakeshore's "Pets Information Sheet."

Your Safety and Resource Protection

Due to the large numbers of people in the Lakeshore enjoying a variety of other recreational activities - from camping to cross-country skiing, - hunters need to be especially safety conscious. The Lakeshore is also home to many non-game birds and mammals. Be a safe, responsible hunter - know your target.

Today - Tomorrow

Birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians, whether they are game or non-game, common or endangered, all play an important role in nature. They enrich the natural world and add to the pleasures of recreationists. Safe hunting practices and a sound conservation ethic help ensure these pleasurable recreational opportunities for the future. Protected wildlife include eagles, hawks, owls, non-game birds, wolves, lynx, moose, marten, fisher, cougar, and cub bears. It is also unlawful to shoot turtles, frogs, and snakes.



A Few Reminders

Use caution because day hikers and backpackers also use the park during various hunting seasons.

Motor vehicles are allowed only on designated roads within the Lakeshore. Designated roads are those that are open to the general public which access visitor use areas. ATV's are not allowed on park roads.

While carrying a firearm, all hunters must wear a garment of hunter orange that is at least 50% of the garment.

No person may discharge a firearm or bow and arrow within a safety zone of 450 feet from an occupied dwelling, building, cabin, camp or campground. Certain developed and high visitor use areas are closed to hunting for public safety. A map is on the reverse and available at park headquarters.

Bait must be placed only on the ground. Unused bait must be stored

in a sealed animal proof container or inside

a hard-sided vehicle. Apples may be collected from the Lakeshore in a quantity of no more than one bushel per person per week.

While in a vehicle, firearms must be unloaded and enclosed in a case or unloaded and in the trunk. Arrows must be in the quiver when afield outside legal hunting hours.

Target practice is not permitted in the Lakeshore. By federal law, trapping is not permitted within the Lakeshore.

The park backcountry is managed as a primitive or natural zone. No motorized vehicles are permitted. Travel by foot is allowed.

Tree stands, hunting platforms, steps, and ladders must be portable, and cannot be affixed or attached to any tree by nails, screws, or bolts. Screw-in steps are not allowed.

Ground blinds must be identified with owner's name and must be removed at the end of the hunting season. Natural materials may be used only of dead and down tree branches.

Spotlighting is prohibited at all times.

Camping is allowed in the backcountry only at designated sites with a valid permit. Front country camping is allowed only at drive-in campgrounds.

Hunting dogs are permitted during legal hunting periods when accompanied by a licensed hunter and may travel unrestrained in all backcountry and non-developed areas of the lakeshore. When not actively engaged in hunting, dogs must be restrained on a six foot leash.

Park Rangers and Michigan Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officers are authorized to enforce hunting regulations within the Lakeshore.