


Welcome to Voyageurs National Park

Located on Minnesota's border with Canada, Voyageurs' 218,000 acres include four major lakes and thirty smaller inland lakes that together make up more than a third of the total park area. Voyageurs is a water based park, but you may experience it in a multitude of ways ~ by canoe, kayak, motorboat, tour boat, houseboat, visiting a visitor center or on foot.


Voyageurs is located in the southern tip of the northern boreal forest. During the first weekend in June the peak migration of birds occurs and the largest diversity of wood warblers north of Mexico gather in this extraordinary habitat. We invite you to come and experience the beauty of spring in this beautiful national park.

What others had to say about the Rendezvous...

 We wanted to thank you for a wonderful weekend of birding at Voyageurs. We had a great time and learned so much too! Already talking next year! Great food, great fun and thanks so much! Larry and Susan White ~ 2004

Richard Oehlenschlager is amazing! Always a great weekend! You do a great job of getting the word out! Kurt & Mary Lysne ~ 2003/2004

Many different people come which makes the event that much more interesting! Joyce Anderson ~ 2004

 Amazing!

Hiking Trails

Before or after the Rendezvous stroll along one of the 8 hiking trails in Voyageurs National Park and explore the wonderful diversity of flora and fauna the park has to offer. You can reach four of the trails by car; the other four are accessible by watercraft.

Visitor Centers

Visit any one of the 3 visitor centers the park has to offer and you will find a variety of things to see and do. The Rainy Lake Visitor Center is located at the north end of the park, and Kabetogama Lake Visitor Center and Ash River Visitor Center are located near the middle of the park. All three visitor centers have friendly and courteous staff who can help you find your way around the park.

Visit us online at www.nps.gov/voya to find out more information about Voyageurs National Park

General Information; What You Need to Know

Registration

Participants may register for as many activities as they choose. If you register for 2 or more fee activities you will receive a special gift. Pre-registration is required. Participant numbers are limited for activities. Once you have made an activity selection, we ask that you please stay with that selection.

Hikes, special speaker presentations, canoe programs and boat trips fill as we receive registrations. Register early to ensure your spot. **Please register by May 21, 2005.** Registration is available at the door if space is available.

Area Businesses and Accommodations

Some International Falls area businesses have provided a booklet of coupons in your registration packet to help you enjoy your stay in the area at a discount price. **You may pick up your registration packet, coupons and entry button at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center on Friday June 3, from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** The button is your ticket into the activities.

A block of hotel rooms has been set aside at the Hilltop Motel (218) 283 - 2505 and the Super 8 Motel (218) 283 - 8811 until May 4, 2005. If you are interested in reserving one or more of these rooms please ask for the VNP Birders rooms. **Limited availability so call early.**

Camping is available. See park website for accommodations. www.nps.gov/voya

What to Bring

June in Minnesota can be unpredictable. Prepare for all conditions! For those heading out on tours, bring rain gear and waterproof footwear. Binoculars, field guides and other birding essentials along with sunscreen and insect repellent are advised.
















Transportation

Getting to and from activities is your responsibility. Please plan accordingly. A map of the park with travel and mileage information is enclosed.

Registration Fees

The registration fees cover speaker costs, supplies and volunteer expenses. Your support of the Birders Rendezvous is greatly appreciated.

Guest Speakers

-  **Gaea Crozier** is a Non- Game Specialist for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and is currently working on Northern Goshawks. She earned her B.S. in Zoology from the University of Wisconsin and her M.S. in Biology from the University of Minnesota. She has conducted bird surveys for the past 9 years.
-  **Jen Fox** is the Biological Technician for Voyageurs National Park. She has a B.S. degree in Zoology/Fisheries and Wildlife from Oregon State University and a M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from Michigan Technological University. She has worked on numerous wildlife and fisheries projects with state and federal agencies over the past 12 years. She is currently assisting with loon research in Voyageurs.
-  **Don Graves** is an Instructor at Rainy River Community College. He has taught Biology and Geology in the Minnesota State College and University System for over 16 years and has been birding for nearly 25 years. He has led numerous birding groups in Voyageurs and has vast knowledge of the natural history of the boreal biome.
-  **Lee Grim** is a retired Ornithologist/Biology Instructor and has been a Biologist at Voyageurs since 1973. Lee received his degrees in Biology, Zoology and Wildlife Management from North Dakota State University and the University of Minnesota. Lee has obtained a wealth of knowledge about the birds that live and migrate through Voyageurs.
-  **Marshall Helmberger** is the Editor of the TimberJay newspaper. He is a Minnesota native and has lived in Northern Minnesota since 1984. Marshall is an avid birder and has led bird trips for over 20 years.
-  **Ahlan Johanson** lives in Fort Frances, Ontario and has been birding for more than 4 years. He retired from the Ministry of Natural Resources where he worked for the lands and parks department. He received his degree in Forestry from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay and has been an active member of the Rainy River Field Naturalists since his retirement. Ahlan enjoys the outdoors, fishing and leading beginning bird hikes.
-  **Cory MacNulty** is the Executive Director of the Voyageurs National Park Association. She received her degrees in Geography and Conservation Biology from the University of Wisconsin and the University of Minnesota. Cory has studied common loons for over 10 years. She led loon research projects in Voyageurs National Park in the late 1990's and again in 2004.
-  **Ilka Milne** manages the Nature Conservancy Canada's Northwest Ontario program. Starting with two sleepless summers prowling for owls for her Masters in Science thesis, she has been birding in the Rainy River District for 12 years. As a musician, Ilka likes identifying birds by ear.
-  **Bill Morgenstern** lives in Fort Frances, Ontario and has been a professional nature and bird photographer and outdoor writer for more than 18 years. He has published his photos in the Minnesota Weather Guide Calendars and Teldon Calendars. Bill loves photographing the small wonders of the world.
-  **Elizabeth Nauertz** is the Data Specialist for the Inventory and Monitoring Program at Voyageurs. She is from Wisconsin and says the "back 40" was her playground growing up. Elizabeth received her degrees in Biology, Chemistry, and Forest Ecology. For the past 13 years she has been conducting ecological research while studying and learning about the birds of the boreal forest.
-  **Richard Oehenschlager** is the Assistant Curator of the Science Museum of Minnesota. He has been a master bird bander and a birder for over 30 years. Richard's name has been placed on an Antarctic Landmark "Oehenschlager Bluff" in official honor of a research expedition there. He spends much of his off- duty time giving hikes and intriguing his audiences.
-  **Tawnya Schoewe** is the Rainy District Naturalist at Voyageurs. Tawnya received her degrees in Forestry and Biology from Itasca Community College and Bemidji State University. She owned and operated *Independent Naturalists* and was a college instructor in Forestry and Ecology. Tawnya has developed a love for all birds of prey and enjoys sharing her knowledge and passion with people.
-  **Andrea Schwartz** is the Namakan District Naturalist at Voyageurs. She received her degree in Wildlife Management from the University of Minnesota and has been a birder since seeing her first Great Blue Heron as a youth. She led several bird walks while a park ranger at Padre Island National Seashore in Texas and worked for the Trumpeter Swan Society of Minnesota.
-  **Bob Smalley** is an avid birder originally from Canada who now lives in International Falls. Bob is retired but keeps busy with his own landscape business and traveling to Costa Rica. He has been birding for more than 15 years and loves to share his knowledge with people.
-  **Steve Windels** is a Biologist at Voyageurs. He received his degree in Wildlife Management and is currently pursuing his PhD in Forest Ecology from Michigan Technological University. He has spent the last three years researching the Canada Yew. Steve has been birding for over 8 years.