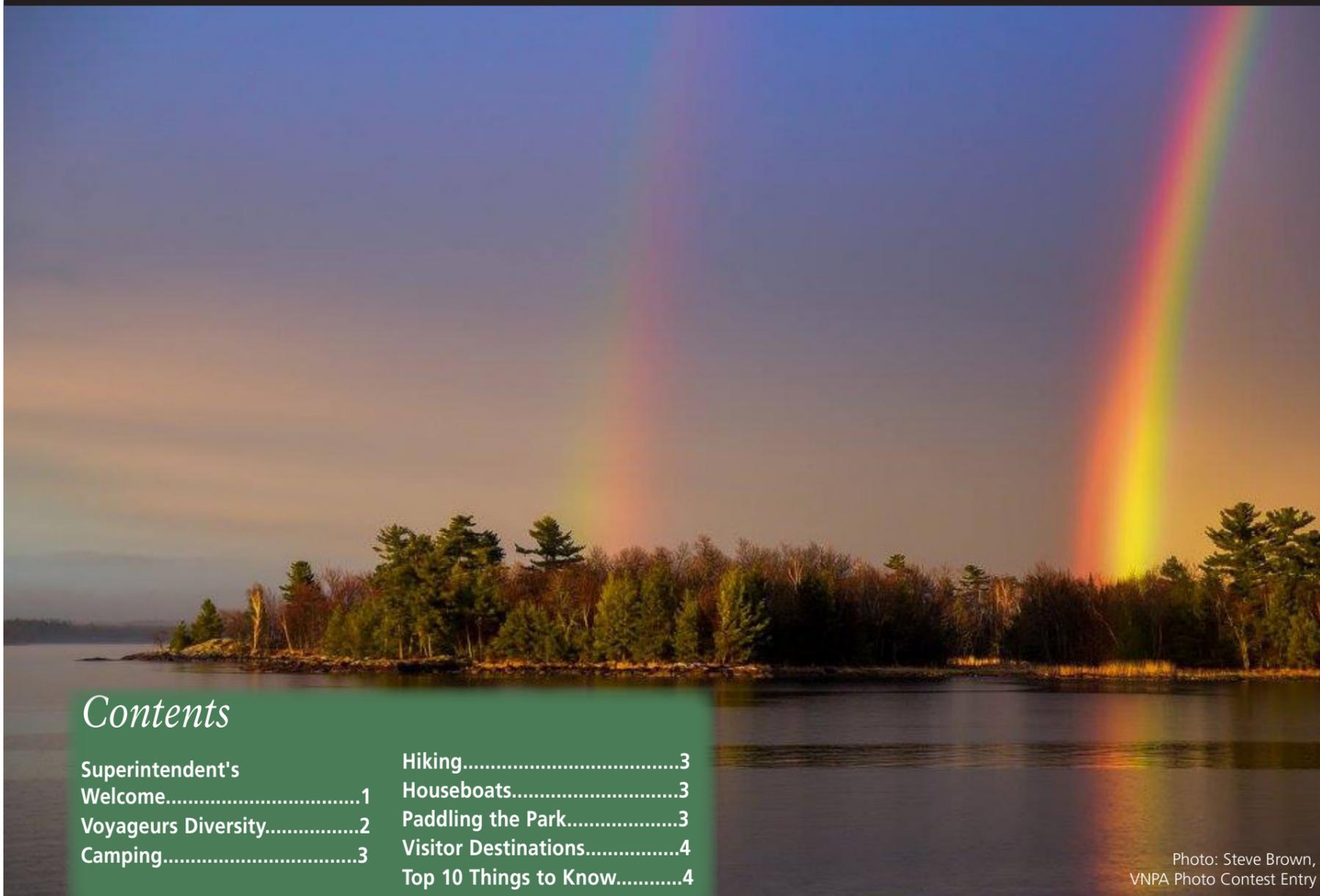


The Rendezvous

Your Guide to
Voyageurs National Park



2018



Contents

Superintendent's Welcome.....	1	Hiking.....	3
Voyageurs Diversity.....	2	Houseboats.....	3
Camping.....	3	Paddling the Park.....	3
		Visitor Destinations.....	4
		Top 10 Things to Know.....	4

Photo: Steve Brown,
VNPA Photo Contest Entry



Welcome to the North Woods!

A land of water, woods, stone and sky. Established in 1975, Voyageurs National Park preserves and protects a landscape reminiscent to what

early French-Canadian canoe men would have experienced as they traversed the region, eventually opening what is now the northwestern United States to further European development.

Not only does the park preserve a portion of the route of the voyageurs, it also holds evidence of 10,000 years of human activity. While exploring the park, visitors can experience the whole timeline of history in the area -- from the Ojibwe Indians and voyageurs, to the stories of miners, loggers, and early settlers. All of them depended on the land as many continue to do so today with development of resorts that cater to tourists seeking escape and solace in the tranquil setting of the North Woods.

Along with the human stories of the region, the park encompasses 218,000 acres which include 134,000 acres of forested woodlands, 84,000 acres of water, and 645 miles of undeveloped shoreline. The woods and waters of the park maintain a biologically rich system of plant and animal life where one can discover 230 bird

species, moose, gray wolves, bald eagles, loons, and black bear.

The National Park Service is the lead steward of the lands and waters that make up Voyageurs National Park. However, protecting this place and providing opportunities to explore and enjoy the park takes the assistance of many partners. These include the residents and businesses of our gateway communities that provide a wealth of guest services; the Voyageurs National Park Association that helps support park projects such as maintaining trails and developing the new Rainy Lake Visitor Center canoe launch; and a variety of partner agencies that work cooperatively to assure the health of the numerous resources within the park. A national park is truly a collaborative effort.

While exploring the park, enjoy the sounds and sights of this spectacular place. Connect with the solitude and adventure that nature can provide. Additionally, do your part to assure you leave the area a little better than you found it. We all play a role in the on-going protection of the area so that future visitors can enjoy it as you are today.

Enjoy your North Woods adventure, I hope it will be a memorable one.

-Bob DeGross
Superintendent, Voyageurs National Park

Park Facilities:

Park Administration Building
360 Highway 11 East
International Falls, MN 56649
(218) 283-6600
Open year round
Hours of Operation M-F
8:00 am-4:00 pm

Rainy Lake Visitor Center
International Falls, MN
Open year round with reduced winter hours, call for the latest information
(218) 286-5258

Kabetogama Lake Visitor Center
Kabetogama, MN
Open in summer
(218) 875-2111



Ash River Visitor Center
Ash River, MN
Open in summer
(218) 374-3221

Crane Lake Ranger Station
Crane Lake, MN
Open when available
(218) 993-2481

Voyageurs - The Diversity of this National Park

A Vast Ecosystem

Imagine walking through a forest mixed with golden colored tamarack or under a canopy of aspens and maples displaying an array of red, gold, and yellow leaves. This is Voyageurs.

Imagine following the smell of pine as you walk along rock covered ridges. This is Voyageurs.

Imagine seeing a fox scurrying by while hearing the call of a loon or the howl of a wolf. This is Voyageurs National Park.

The park lies in a transition zone between the boreal forests to the north and deciduous forests to the south.

Nearly 700 species of plants have

been identified within the park. Boreal forest species are most abundant, occupying about seventy percent of the park.

Quaking aspen dominates the forest with other species including birch, pine, spruce, and balsam fir.

Within this abundant diversity of the northern forest, wildlife abounds.

Many animals characteristic of the North Woods are found here, including moose, white-tailed deer, gray wolves, foxes, coyotes, lynx, bobcats, beavers,

black bears, eagles, ravens, and common loons.

Voyageurs also hosts more than 240 neotropical bird species who either live in or migrate through the park.

Pick up a *Plant and Animal Checklist* at any park visitor center to record your discoveries.



Photo: Jay Iversen, VNPA Photo Contest

The Fur Trade

The waterways of Voyageurs include an important segment of a 3,000-mile fur trade route of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

The driving force behind the fur trade was a demand for hats—beaver hats desired by fashionable Europeans.

As the fur trade expanded, it relied on the voyageurs, or French-Canadian canoemen, to muscle trade goods and furs between Montreal and the Canadian northwest.

The voyageurs in turn, relied on native peoples for furs, guide services, clothing, food, and medicine.

The route of these voyageurs shaped the international boundary between the US and Canada, and the legacy of these voyageurs inspired the naming of this national park.

From supporting the life and culture of Native Americans, to supplying resources for the fur trade, commercial fishing, gold mining, and timber and tourism industries, the interconnected waterway system of this area has influenced the movement of people for thousands of years.

Rocks, Ridges, and Gold

Voyageurs National Park is one of the few places in North America where you can see and touch rocks half the age of the Earth.

The exposed rock you see all around you is the southern edge of the volcanic bedrock that forms the core of the continent and is from the birth of North America.

At one time, massive, explosive volcanoes deposited layer after layer of ash and lava. Subsequent uplifting, folding, tremendous pressure, and superheating created igneous and metamorphic rock.

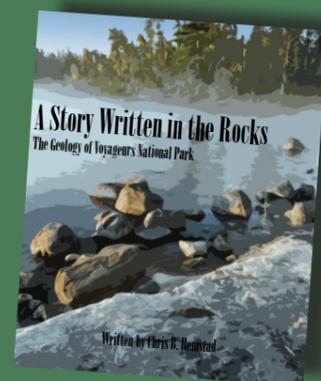
Over time, erosion wore down the volcanic mountain range and the ice ages brought glaciers that moved rivers of ice and scoured away the younger rock layers.

This action exposed the roots of the ancient mountains - the granite, migmatite, and biotite schist you see today.

As the glaciers receded, torrents of melted water filled low-lying areas, creating the lakes and bogs of today's landscape.

Today, the oldest rock in the park tells a recent human story. Fault zones in exposed 2.8-billion-year-old greenstone revealed gold embedded in quartz veins.

The discovery sparked a short-lived gold rush and boomtown in the 1890s. Many of the newcomers stayed for good, and their descendents live in the region today.



To learn more about the park's geological features purchase a copy of *A Story Written in the Rocks* at any park visitor center.



Photo: Taylor Smith, VNPA Photo Contest



Photo: William Archer, VNPA Photo Contest

Water Everywhere

Voyageurs is a water-based park where to truly experience the park, visitors must leave their cars behind and travel by watercraft.

The park lies in the 14,900-square-mile Rainy Lake basin. About seventy percent of the basin lies within Ontario, Canada and thirty percent in Minnesota.

The general direction of water flow through the four main lakes in the park (Rainy, Kabetogama, Namakan, and Sand Point) is northwesterly.

Water leaving Rainy Lake flows to the Rainy River and then to Lake of the Woods, which in turn flows to the Winnipeg River. Ultimately, the system drains to Hudson Bay to the north.

Lake levels in the park's four main lakes are controlled by a dam crossing the international border at Fort Frances, Ontario Canada and International Falls, MN, as well as dams at Kettle Falls and Squirrel Falls on Namakan Lake.

Hiking Voyageurs

The North Woods by Foot

For the well-prepared, hiking in Voyageurs National Park can be a wonderful experience. Trails range from short, easy walks to overnight trips. Some trails are accessible by car, while others are only accessible by boat. No matter where you choose to hike in the park, visit a park visitor center to get a free

trail map and the most up-to-date information about trail conditions.

Don't forget about the Hike-to-Health Program. To get started, pick up a Trails Passport at any of the park's visitor centers.



More information about hiking in Voyageurs can be found at: <https://www.nps.gov/voya/planyourvisit/hiking-trails.htm>

Camping in Voyageurs

A Night Under the Stars

Camping is one of the best ways to experience Voyageurs National Park. All campsites in the park require advanced reservations and are only accessible by boat. See the camping page on the park's website for more information at: <https://www.nps.gov/voya/planyourvisit/tent-camping.htm>

How do I make a reservation?

- Online at www.recreation.gov. When making an online reservation: under "Search" enter "Voyageurs National Park Camping Permits."
- Fees are charged to manage the reservation/fee system, maintain the campsites, and to offer new or continue existing visitor services.

For those who do not have a watercraft, the following campgrounds are accessible by car or RV:

- Woodenfrog State Forest Campground
- Ash River State Forest Campground

Information about these campgrounds, both of which are managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, can be found at: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_forests/sft00027/index.html

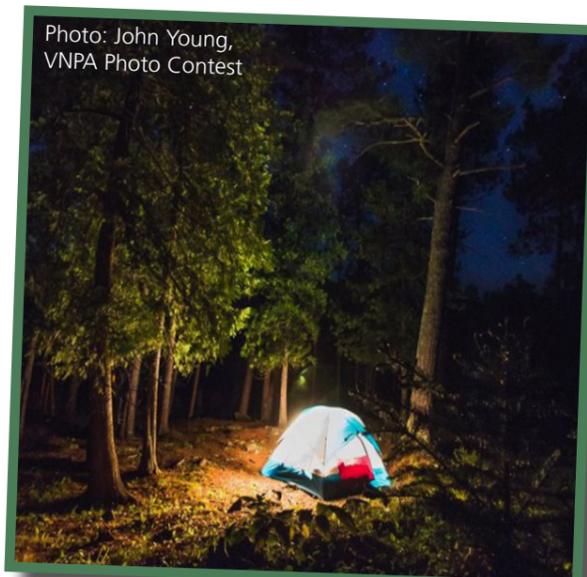


Photo: John Young, VNPA Photo Contest

Houseboating



Photo: Mike Therrien, VNPA Photo Contest

Houseboating is one way to get out to explore the solitude of Voyageurs National Park but still have the amenities of home at your finger tips. All houseboat rentals are commercially operated by companies located just outside the park boundaries.

"Houseboat Permits" are required for overnight stays. Houseboats include commercial and private Houseboats, cabin cruisers, and sailboats.

Houseboat Permits are available at www.recreation.gov or the call center at (877) 444-6777.

Paddlecraft Rental

Visitors wanting to experience the park in a more remote and quiet sport such as canoeing or kayaking may do so in a multitude of ways.

Watercraft Rentals on the Major Lakes

Voyageurs National Park does not rent watercraft for use on the park's major lakes. However, local outfitters offer this service. For a list of rental providers, visit: www.nps.gov/voyagetinvolved/commercial-services.htm

Watercraft Rentals on the Kabetogama Peninsula

Experience the solitude of a remote backcountry lake on the Kabetogama Peninsula without having to portage a watercraft.

Voyageurs provides canoes and/or rowboats on several backcountry lakes for a small fee. A few things to keep in mind when visiting the Peninsula.

- Reservations are required through www.recreation.gov for boat rentals and camping
- Keys for the boat rentals must be picked up at a visitor center prior to departure
- The Peninsula can only be accessed by water, so you will need to use your own boat or reserve a water taxi service to access the trails that lead to the park's boats
- Watercrafts on the Peninsula are located on the following lakes: Locator, War Club, Loiten, Quill, Ek, Cruiser, Little Shoepack, Shoepack, and Brown
- To prevent the spread of the Spiny Water Flea, interim park regulations do not allow you to bring your own watercraft onto the Peninsula.

In order to obtain a "Houseboat Permit", visitors' vessel must have all of the following:

- on-board sleeping facilities
- cooking and food storage facilities
- a no-discharge toilet.

If the vessel does not include all of these on-board facilities then visitors must get an Overnight Frontcountry "Camping Permit" and camp in a designated tent site.

Visitor Destinations

Are you looking for a destination to visit by boat within Voyageurs National Park where you can learn more about the natural or cultural history of this dynamic place? There are many designated Visitor Destination sites throughout the park. These destinations can be reached only by boat and provide visitors with an opportunity to learn about the park and its significance.

Here are some Visitor Destinations Sites to consider visiting:

- Ellsworth Rock Gardens
- Hoist Bay
- Kettle Falls
- I.W. Stevens
- Little American Island
- Anderson Bay

Visit a park visitor center for more information about Voyageurs National Park Visitor Destinations.



Photo: Kristin Tossey, VNPA Photo Contest

Top 10 Things to Know When Visiting Voyageurs National Park:

- 1) Voyageurs is a water-based park. Thirty-eight percent of its surface is covered with water. To really experience the park you need to get out on the water. Bring your own boat, find a rental or go on a ranger-guided boat tour. The ranger-guided boat tour schedule can be found at: <https://www.nps.gov/voya/planyourvisit/guided-tours.htm>.
- 2) Camping in Voyageurs is a one-of-a-kind experience. You need a boat to access all campsites and also need a camping permit reservation. Information about camping reservations can be found at <https://www.nps.gov/voya/planyourvisit/camping.htm>.
- 3) We need your help in protecting this special place! Please don't aid the spread of invasive species. Only Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) certified pest free firewood is allowed. Make sure to clean and dry your boat to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species like spiny water flea. More information about exotic, invasive species can be found at: <http://dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index.html>
- 4) Fishing Voyageurs' waters can be great, but please follow the MN DNR regulations for border waters. For more information: <http://dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/fishing/index.html>.
- 5) Help protect the wild animals that call Voyageurs home. Use the bear-proof food lockers when camping and keep a clean campsite or picnic area. More information can be found at: <https://www.nps.gov/voya/planyourvisit/bears-and-food-storage.htm>
- 6) Leashed and attended pets are welcome in campsites and developed areas. Please clean up after your pet. You may hike with pets on the Rainy Lake Recreation Trail. More information about pet regulations can be found at: <https://www.nps.gov/voya/planyourvisit/pets.htm>.
- 7) The water sure looks refreshing, but please don't drink it. The water in the park's lakes may contain traces of contaminants or harmful algae blooms that can make you or your pet sick. More information can be found at: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/blue-green-algae-and-harmful-algal-blooms>.
- 8) In winter Voyageurs becomes like a different world. Snow and ice conditions vary from day to day. For the latest winter trail conditions visit the park's Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/VoyageursNPS>.
- 9) Kettle Falls Hotel is the only lodging within Voyageurs National Park. It is only accessible by boat. Other lodging can be found just outside the park. For a complete list of lodging options, visit: www.nps.gov/voya/planyourvisit/lodging.htm.
- 10) Thinking of visiting Canada? Visit <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/travel-voyage/gbi-rgf-eng.html> for more information.

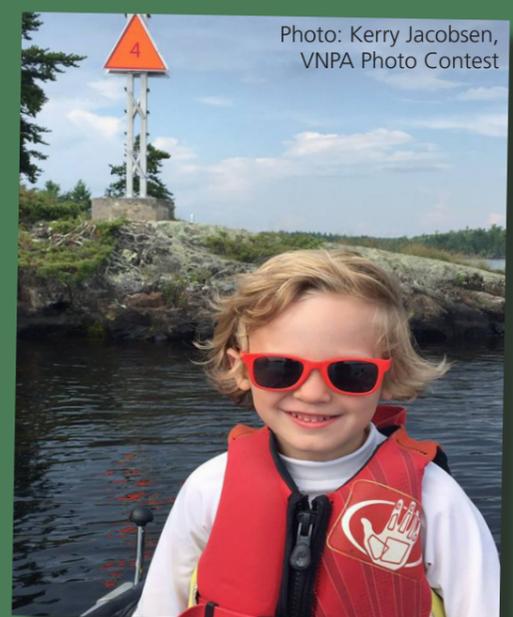


Photo: Kerry Jacobsen, VNPA Photo Contest



Publication of The Rendezvous has been made possible by support from these partners. Visit them online at: www.rainylake.org www.voyageurs.org