

Wolf's Eye

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WILDERNESS TRAILS



A Guide to the Trails in Isle Royale National Park

. . . **Y**e who love the haunts of Nature,
Love the sunshine of the meadow,
Love the shadow of the forest,
Love the wind among the branches,
And the rain-shower and the snow-storm,
And the rushing of great rivers
Through their palisades of pine trees,
And the thunder in the mountains

Longfellow
The Song of Hiawatha

WILDERNESS TRAILS

by

Robert M. Linn and Robert G. Johnsson

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Islle Royale National Park is unique among the National Parks of the country in its wilderness setting, isolated as it is from the mainland by many miles of Lake Superior waters. Travel within the park is accomplished solely by boat or on foot. It is the purpose of this booklet to acquaint you with the trail system of the park. It is for the most part a very primitive trail system in keeping with the wilderness flavor of the island, being composed of about 80 miles of ungraded footpaths. The visitor is not the sole user of these trails; the moose, the timber wolf, the coyote, and the red fox use them continuously. While you will rarely, if ever, see a timber wolf or a coyote, their tracks are commonplace along trails. You do stand a good chance of seeing a moose or a fox. There are hikes to suit all tastes — long, short, easy, and rugged ones — each different from the others and each revealing another segment of the unspoiled natural scene of Isle Royale.

Isle Royale National Park exists for the benefit of the American people not only of today, but equally so for future generations. The park is for your enjoyment and benefit, but in order to preserve its essential wilderness flavor — the entity that is its prime attraction — it is necessary that the visitor leave things as he found them. Adapt yourself to the wilderness and be as inconspicuous and unobtrusive as possible. Take life slow and easy and leave behind no blemish or scar to mark your path.

Keep your campsite clean and natural. Burn your garbage and bury that which will not burn or if you are in one of the improved campsites, place your refuse in one of the containers provided for the purpose. Above all, do not pollute lake or stream waters with debris. Campfire sites are an intrusion on the natural scene; in order to minimize their distracting influence on the landscape, build your fire where others have before you, or if this is not possible, COMPLETELY obscure it when you leave. Be sure that it is on rock or mineral soil (highly organic soil will burn) and not likely to ignite duff or forest debris nearby. Bury human wastes away from lakes and streams. Always remember that the lakes and streams of the island are a source of drinking water for you and for others. When you leave your campsite obliterate all evidence of your presence there. Leave your camp for the next fellow as you hope he has left his for you. Along the trail, too, a little care in disposing of debris so that it is out of sight is the sign of a real woodsman.

Be familiar with park regulations and abide by them. They have not been designed to restrain you but to guide you in your relations with other visitors and with nature. Regulations are contained in the Isle Royale information booklet and on your campfire permit, both of which may

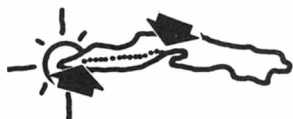
You have nothing to be afraid of on Isle Royale except yourself. The animals here are truly wild and normally they will not bother humans unless humans first bother them. Never, never should park visitors annoy, molest, or even feed wild animals — for the protection of both visitor and animal! There are no poisonous snakes or insects on Isle Royale, and no poisonous plants, such as poison ivy or poison sumac.

Of course, you should always be careful where and how you travel, with the sharp tools you use, with the water you drink, and the food you eat. Remember that doctors and hospitals are a long way off and possibly several days distant — so please be careful. Lake Superior water, away from confined harbors and docks is safe for general use, but for extra precaution the water should be boiled or treated with a water purifier such as "halizone". All inland waters are unsafe and should be treated before drinking.

Be sure someone at a Ranger Station knows where you are hiking or camping. It is not a good idea to hike into the interior along, much less to have your whereabouts unknown. All campers are required to register and to obtain a campfire permit, which is issued free of charge at all Ranger Stations.

Should you have any questions about the trails or the park, feel free to contact a Park Ranger or Naturalist, who are at your service. The National Park Service hopes that this booklet will serve as an invitation to explore and enjoy the wilderness of Isle Royale.

PASSAGE ISLAND TRAIL



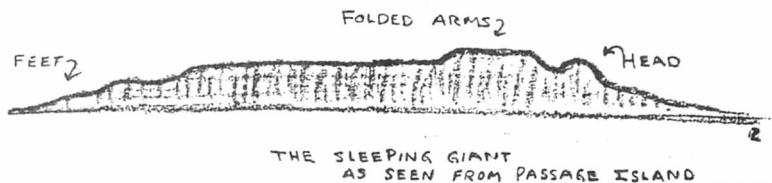
1 Mile from the Bay to the Lighthouse

Passage Island, actually a re-emergence of a high point of the Greenstone Ridge above the lake, lies some 4 miles off Blake's Point and the northeastern tip of Isle Royale. The trail, which winds along the top of the ridge that forms the island, begins at the small harbor on the island's southeast side. To reach the trail-head it is necessary to travel across the open lake from the sheltered waters in the Blake's Point area. Because this trip is hazardous in a small boat, it is not recommended that you attempt it on your own. Arrangements for a crossing in a suitable boat can be made at Rock Harbor Lodge.

The trail alternates through balsam fir forest, exposed ridge, and open meadow. During the early weeks of summer the yellow ladyslipper, one of more than 30 Isle Royale orchids, can be seen. Also along this trail, the unusual devilsclub is to be found. This large plant, named because of its numerous spines, grows on northeastern Isle Royale, in the Pacific Northwest, and in northern Japan. Its discontinuous distribution, and restriction to such a small area in the park is the subject of considerable interest.

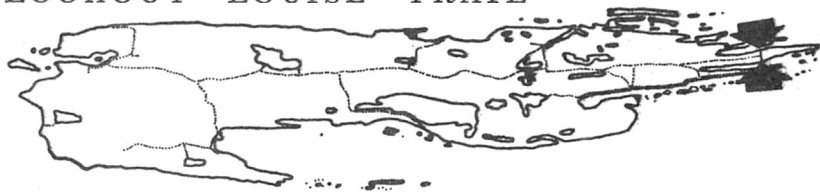
From the trail you will have an excellent view of the Canadian mainland to the north. The "Sleeping Giant",

actually Thunder Cape, dominates the Canadian shore, and farther to the north the Nipigon country is also prominent.



At the end of the trail is the Passage Island Lighthouse and Coast Guard Station. You are welcome to pay a visit to the crew there and to inspect the installation. The passage between Passage Island and Isle Royale is a busy one with ships carrying grain, ore, coal, and other supplies to and from Port Arthur and Fort William (located behind the Sleeping Giant).

LOOKOUT LOUISE TRAIL



1 Mile from Tobin Harbor to Lookout Louise

To reach this trail, you must travel either by boat across the sheltered waters of Tobin Harbor from the Rock Harbor Lodge Tobin Harbor docks, or by boat around Scoville Point from Rock Harbor into Tobin Harbor. From

the boat dock to Lookout Louise, a distance of 1 mile, the trail is almost completely uphill but the climb is not difficult.

Just a short distance from the Harbor is Hidden Lake, a small lake created by the work of the beaver. The lake area is an excellent wildlife region so keep your eyes peeled. The tracks of the moose, fox, and timber wolf are frequently seen in the soft mud around the lake.

Half way up the trail as it climbs the slope of the Greenstone Ridge is a high pinnacle of rock — Monument Rock — carved by the wave action of Lake Superior when it stood at a higher stage.

Farther up the trail, a spur-trail leads to an example of an aboriginal copper mining pit constructed here some 1000 to 4000 years ago by an unknown people who may have been ancestors of the Chippewa or some other Indian tribe.



LOOKOUT LOUISE. DUNCAN BAY BELOW.

NPS Photographer Jack Boucher

The climax of the trail is found at its end, at Lookout Louise, where you can look out from the summit of the ridge over the waters of Duncan and Five-Finger Bays to the Canadian mainland some 20 miles away. The view from Lookout Louise is the best known and the most photographed in the park.

THE OLD LIGHTHOUSE TRAIL



1/8th Mile from Rock Harbor to the Lighthouse

The trail to the Old Rock Harbor Lighthouse begins on Rock Harbor just opposite the Daisy Farm Campground at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Edisen. Mr. Edisen is one of several commercial fishermen who have spent most



THE EDISEN HOME.

of their lives fishing the waters of Isle Royale. Around his home much of the special fishing gear and rig are to be seen. If Mr. Edisen is at home when you arrive, and not too busy, he can explain his operation to you — it's very interesting.

The Old Lighthouse on the Middle Islands Passage, just an eighth of a mile from the trail head, was constructed in the 1850's to guide boats into the harbor during the copper mining boom on the island.



THE OLD LIGHTHOUSE AT THE WEST ENTRANCE TO ROCK HARBOR.

Abandoned soon after the mines closed, the Lighthouse has since been used by several fishermen and their families as a home. Now, in a rather severe state of ruin, it stands a relict of a bygone era. This trail is short and easily traversed and so is suitable for young and old alike.

ALBERT STOLL, JR. MEMORIAL TRAIL



2.3 Miles from Rock Harbor Lodge to Scoville Point

This is a self-guiding interpretive trail that begins at Rock Harbor Lodge and ends at Scoville Point, 2.3 miles away. A specially-prepared guide leaflet is available to help you to identify many of the plants and wildflowers that you will see along the way. Be sure to pick up a copy before setting out. Essentially following the shoreline, the trail winds along the craggy bluffs of Rock Harbor and the quieter wooded slopes of Tobin Harbor.

ROCK HARBOR TRAIL



10.7 Miles from Rock Harbor Lodge to Moskey Basin

The Rock Harbor Trail, which follows the rocky shore of Rock Harbor from Rock Harbor Lodge to its head some 10.7 miles away, is one of the longest trails in the park. As its name implies, it is essentially a shoreline trail. The historic Siskiwit copper mine is located along this trail just opposite the National Park Service headquarters

on Mott Island. Here you can see the dumpings of the old mine, as well as some of the shafts. A few stone foundations mark the site of several buildings built while the mine was in operation more than 100 years ago.

The Daisy Farm Campground is located 7.3 miles from Rock Harbor Lodge along this trail. Here, at the largest campground in the park, Isle Royale shelters, fireplaces, grills, and toilets are available. An additional 3.4 miles brings you to the lakeside camp at Moskey Basin — the basin-like head of Rock Harbor.

Hiking on this trail, although it does not involve any major climbs, is continuously up and down over rocky, hummocky shores and so it is desirable that good, stout walking shoes be worn — as is the general rule throughout the park. Travel along this trail is usually somewhat slow due to its rocky and irregular nature.

LAKE RICHIE TRAIL



2.3 Miles from Moskey Basin to Lake Richie

The trail begins at the Moskey Basin Lakeside Camp, crosses a good trout stream and a small beaver lake, and then alternates through spruce-fir forest and rocky clearings until, 2.3 miles from Rock Harbor, it reaches secluded Lake Richie. The trail follows a valley most of the way from Rock Harbor to the lake and so the walking is

relatively easy. Lake Richie, one of the island's larger inland lakes, is excellent for pike fishing.

Across the lake from the trail the tall snags of a burned out white pine forest reveal some of the damage created by the extensive 1936 fire.

Lake Richie, in its quiet seclusion, is an excellent wildlife area. Moose are frequently seen feeding on the aquatic vegetation near its shores, and the loon, merganser, great blue heron, and bald eagle are common.

MOUNT FRANKLIN TRAIL



2.3 Miles from Rock Harbor to Mount Franklin

The trail to Mt. Franklin is actually the initial segment of the Greenstone Ridge Trail. It begins at Rock Harbor about 3.3 miles from the lodge. There is a small concrete dock on the harbor near the trail-head so that access by means of boat is easy. Of course, the trail can also be reached by the Rock Harbor Trail. The junction of the Rock Harbor and Mt. Franklin trails is about an eighth of a mile up the harbor (southwest) of the dock.

Like most trails that cut across the width of Isle Royale, the Mt. Franklin trail continuously alternates between ridge and valley. In one of the major valleys the trail crosses the Tobin Creek swamp at the head of Tobin Har-

bor. Tobin Creek in the center of the swamp is a fine brook trout stream in the early part of the summer. Farther along you will pass another large swamp that shows considerable evidence of beaver activity.

From the warm, dry ridge slopes near Tobin Harbor there is a view of one of the park's few jack pine stands, and the contrast with the moister forest habitats nearby is an interesting one.

The trail ascends the Greenstone Ridge to Mt. Franklin where a spectacular view of the north side of the island is to be had. Mt. Franklin was named for Benjamin Franklin whose negotiations with the British after the Revolutionary War may have been responsible for placing Isle Royale within the boundaries of the United States.

MOUNT OJIBWAY TRAIL



1.5 Miles from Daisy Farm Campground to Mt. Ojibway

This trail begins at the Daisy Farm Campground, crosses several ridges, and terminates at the fire lookout station on Mount Ojibway, a peak of the Greenstone Ridge. Like the Mt. Franklin trail it alternates between ridge and valley, offering you a variety of habitat types through which to travel. Near the lake it traverses the spruce-fir and paper birch forest that dominates northeastern Isle Royale, emerging into an open park-like meadow with scat-

tered young white pine trees as it ascends the hot and dry south slope of Ransom Hill. On the north slope of Ransom Hill is a luxuriant paper birch forest growing from the ruins of an old forest destroyed by fire some 100 years ago. The slopes of Mt. Ojibway contain scattered patches of red maple and sugar maple, trees rather common on the ridges at the southwest end of the park, and found here in their northeastern-most extension.



THE FIRE LOOKOUT TOWER ON MT. OJIBWAY.

The view from the fire tower at the top of the ridge is one of the finest in the park. You can see Rock Harbor, Lake Benson, Anglem Lake, and Sargent Lake, as well as mile upon mile of unspoiled forest land. The fire guard on duty at the tower during fire season will be glad to point out these features to you and to explain the operation of the tower and its equipment.

DAISY FARM TRAIL



2 Miles from the Daisy Farm Campground to the

Greenstone Ridge

Like the two previous trails, the Daisy Farm Trail begins on Rock Harbor (at the Daisy Farm) and crosses ridge and swamp, finally ascending to the top of the Greenstone Ridge. Near the campground it follows Benson Creek for a short distance. If you are a fisherman, here is a chance to try for brook trout. Two rather extensive bog-swamps are traversed by foot bridge, and you have an opportunity to see some of the more interesting swamp and bog plants.

At the one-mile mark along the trail, just as you begin to cross the first major swamp, the insect-devouring pitcher plants and sundews are to be seen. Bog laurel, labrador tea, and bogbean are also common, as are the larger trees — the black spruce and the tamarack, confined to the moist habitats of the island.

The Daisy Farm Trail reaches the summit of the Greenstone Ridge at a relatively low point and so provides the easiest access to its top of any of the trails leading in from Rock Harbor.

GREENSTONE RIDGE TRAIL



42 Miles from Rock Harbor Lodge to Windigo Inn

By far the longest and most rugged trail in the park is the wild and primitive Greenstone Ridge Trail. Winding across Isle Royale's wilderness interior atop the Greenstone Ridge some 42 miles from Rock Harbor Lodge to Windigo Inn, it is without a doubt the park's most varied and beautiful trail. By the same token, however, it is also the most difficult and is to be recommended for the seasoned hiker only.

In general, three or four days should be allowed for the trip from lodge to lodge. All supplies needed for the hike must be carried on the back, and since the trail is rough underfoot and involves a good many steep climbs it should be emphasized that it is advisable to take only those things that are absolutely necessary. An overly-heavy pack has ruined a good many of what would have otherwise been quite enjoyable trips. Water is not available on the ridge and can be conveniently had only at the three overnight camps — each along the shore of an inland lake. To reach each of these campsites it is necessary to come down off the ridge and descend to the lake; the next morning, of course, the climb back to the summit of the ridge awaits you. There are shelters at these campsites, but in the event that someone has already occupied them before you,

it might be wise to have a light tent or some other light shelter with you.



CHICKENBONE LAKE VIEW FROM THE CAMPSITE.

Because the trail is remote and little-traveled, it is not advisable to set out on it alone. The difficulty of gaining aid in an emergency makes it much more desirable to hike the trail in parties of two or more. Even then, because you are more or less on your own, extra caution is urged.

It is not desired to dissuade potential hikers from attempting the trail, but the trail is very much different from the more traveled routes in the park and you should be prepared for what you will find. For those who attempt it, the Greenstone Ridge Trail offers one of the most rewarding wilderness experiences the park has to offer and it is a trip that once made will never be forgotten.

If you begin your trip at Rock Harbor Lodge, you will travel down the Rock Harbor Trail some 3.3 miles and then turn inland and gradually climb the Greenstone Ridge to Mount Franklin. From this point on, most of the walk follows the crest of the ridge — a long and linear mass of very dense rock called the Greenstone Basalt — actually the uptilted edge of an ancient lava flow. From the summit of the ridge you are provided with endless panoramas of the Isle Royale wilderness; the changing forest carpet and the many inland lakes visible from the ridge contrast with the vast expanses of Lake Superior and the more remote mainland shores, which you can also see.

Just a short distance down the trail from Mt. Franklin is another peak on the ridge, Mt. Ojibway. A fire tower is located here, and, although not continuously manned, you are welcome to inspect it. Between the tower and the first overnight campsite at Chickenbone Lake, the trail allows easy access to the isolated inland Anglemorm Lake and Lake Livermore, where, as in Chickenbone, excellent northern pike fishing is to be found. The shelter at Chickenbone Lake is a small log structure with dirt floor and open front and can accommodate two or three persons.

From Chickenbone Lake the trail winds across a major gap in the ridge and then ascends to another peak, Mt. Siskiwit. Here the trail climbs directly up the slope and if your pack is heavy, you will be forced to climb more or less on all fours. The view from the top, however, is certainly worth the climb. In one direction the vast wilderness region of McCargo Cove, Chickenbone Lake, and Lakes Livermore, LeSage, and Richie unfolds beneath you, while in another direction Intermediate Lake, Lake Siskiwit, and Siskiwit Bay come into view. Here, as in many

other stretches of the trail the tall, spire-like hulks of burned out white pine trees give testimony to the destruction wrought by forest fire on the island. Most of the affects of fire seen in this area date to the disastrous 1936 fire which revaged almost a third of the island.

The campsite at Hatchet Lake includes a log shelter comperable to the one at Chickenbone, and a larger Isle Royale type shelter with wooden floor, screened-in front, and with several bunks.

Down the trail from Hatchet Lake the trail climbs to Ishpeming Point, the second highest peak in the park. Here a fire lookout post is located, and the lookout will be happy to show you around. Please do not depend upon getting water from the lookout because he must carry his drinking water from quite a distance.

From Ishpeming Point (or Mount Ishpeming) the trail descends through a scrubby burn area to Lake Desor, and the third overnight camp at the northeast end of the lake. The shelter provided is a small log lean-to, again with open front and dirt floor. The strangely wild Lake Desor area is all about you and the campsite area is a fine place to observe many of the animals in the lake region. The sand beach near the shelter and the relatively warm waters of the lake make swimming a refreshing experience, especially after a hard day's hike.

From the campsite the trail ascends back to the ridge and eventually crosses Mt. Desor, the highest point on Isle Royale with an elevation of 1394 feet above sea level. The view from the top is breath-taking, revealing directly below Lake Desor and off to the northward the Canadian and

Minnesota shores. Leaving Mt. Desor the trail enters the sugar maple-yellow birch forest, which dominates the interior of southwestern Isle Royale, and the remaining ten miles of the walk is beneath the canopy of this luxuriant forest. Six miles before reaching Windigo is the junction with the Island Mine Trail. This junction is very nearly at the summit of Sugar Mountain, third highest peak along the Greenstone Ridge. Sugar Mountain was so named because of the abundant sugar maple growing in the area and because just to the left of the trail at the Island Mine Junction there was an Indian sugar camp prior to 1847. The trail terminates on Washington Harbor at the Windigo area.



THE SUGAR MAPLE FOREST ON SUGAR MOUNTAIN.

The ideal arrangement for covering the island along the Greenstone Ridge Trail is to hike from one lodge to the other, beginning at either one, and returning to the starting place by boat. The Sivertson Bros. boat, which delivers mail and supplies to various points around the is-

land, is available on a scheduled basis for such service and the trip itself is extremely interesting.

MCCARGO COVE TRAIL



2 Miles from the Greenstone Ridge Trail to McCargo Cove

As you approach Chickenbone Lake from the northeast along the Greenstone Ridge Trail, a sharp descent from the Greenstone Ridge brings you to a trail junction. Turning left (southwestward) you continue on the Greenstone Ridge Trail. Straight ahead (northwestward) lies the head of McCargo Cove. The trail is an easily-hiked one with splendid opportunities to see considerable white pine and paper birch forest. As you approach McCargo Cove, a large open area with almost completely bare earth may be seen to the right of the trail. The reason for the bare earth is not precisely known, but it is thought that horses were once stabled here in connection with the Minong Mine operations and urine from the horses in time produced very salty soil conditions in which nothing would grow. Also, at one time, moose would visit this spot to lick the salt — hence, the platform in a nearby tree from which photographs of moose were once taken. The trail ends at the McCargo Cove campground where there is a small dock, Isle Royale-type shelters, tables, grills, and toilets.

MINONG MINE TRAIL



1 Mile from McCargo Cove to Minong Mine

The largest copper mine operated on Isle Royale was the Minong Mine of the 1870 era. Associated with it, and located at the head of McCargo Cove on the site of the present Lakeside Camp, was a large settlement. This town boasted a schoolhouse, stores, and even a doctor — only the clearing on which it was built remains today. The Minong Mine is 1 mile from the Cove. The site is marked by large piles of rock and by the remains of a small railway and dumpcar as well as several shafts. Along the trail to the big mine many pit mines — small depressions carved into the rock — are to be found, the work of ancient copper miners. Native copper was freed from the rock with the aid of fire, water, and much pounding with stones. Charcoal from one of the pits in the area has been dated by the "carbon-14" method and was found to be 3800 years old. The largest concentration of these pits on Isle Royale is to be found in the McCargo Cove area.

The trail parallels the Minong Ridge for most of its length, and by leaving the trail and climbing a short distance to the summit of the ridge, you will have many fine views of the surrounding terrain. This ridge, incidentally, is the highest north of the Greenstone.

INDIAN PORTAGE TRAIL



1 Mile from McCargo Cove to Chickenbone Lake

A creek draining Chickenbone Lake flows into McCargo Cove. It is believed that the Indians portaged their canoes along this creek to Chickenbone Lake, thence to Lakes Livermore, LeSage, Richie, and finally Chippewa Harbor. Today this portage trail from McCargo Cove to Chickenbone Lake is easily followed and offers fishermen, in particular, easy access to Chickenbone Lake. There is no trail, however, from this point on Chickenbone Lake — you must use the McCargo Cove Trail to reach the other side of the lake unless you travel "cross-country".

SISKIWIT FALLS TRAIL

 $\frac{1}{2}$ Mile from Malone Bay to Siskiwit Lake

The dock at Malone Bay is located behind a small point on the shore of the main island. From the dock a short trail leads to the Malone Bay campground where there are several Isle Royale shelters, tables, grills, and toilets.

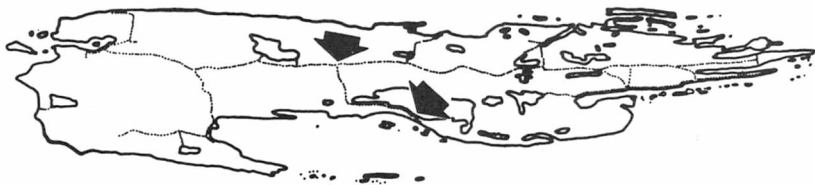
About half way to the campground a bridge crosses Siskiwit River and Falls. Then, after crossing the bridge going to the southwest, the trail to Siskiwit Lake branches off to the right (northwestward). The trail follows Siskiwit River and Falls for the most part and it takes no time at all to reach Siskiwit Lake. Along the way are many good stream fishing spots.



SISKIWIT FALLS AT THE OUTLET FROM SISKIWIT LAKE.

Siskiwit Falls, itself, is located a short distance from the lake and is one of the most delightful spots on the island. At the lake is a very small dock for the use of those who have portaged their light boats into Lake Siskiwit. There is no regular campsite at the lake, so before you build a picnic fire, please inform the Ranger or fire guard stationed at Malone Bay.

ISHPEMING TRAIL



7 miles from Siskiwit Lake Outlet to Mount Ishpeming

The trail from the Siskiwit Lake outlet to Ishpeming Point (also called Mount Ishpeming) traverses extremely varied areas. As the trail leaves the Siskiwit Lake outlet area, it skirts the south side of Siskiwit Lake all the way to the southwest end of the lake. In this section (about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles long) the trail leads through a very fine stand of paper birch with a few old white pine scattered throughout — especially prominent at the lake's shore. Also in this stretch of trail are numerous excellent views of Siskiwit Lake — the largest inland lake on Isle Royale with an area of about 7 square miles.

The trail then turns abruptly to the right (northeast) and crosses the swamp and the small stream leading from Mud Lake into Siskiwit Lake on a series of footbridges. A small, relatively fast flowing stream a little further on poses no crossing problem — for most of the year this may be the last available source of water for many miles. Remember, though, that it should be chemically treated or boiled before drinking.

Not far past the stream, you will emerge from the delightful birch-aspen forest into the extensive 1936 burn



THE FIRE LOOKOUT TOWER ON MOUNT ISHPERING.

area. Here the going begins to get tougher. For about a mile there is a very gentle upward slope containing hazelnut, young birch, and aspen saplings. A high ridge, Red Oak Ridge, is ascended by a series of short steep climbs and it will be noted that sugar maple, northern red oak, and white pine are becoming more and more evident — especially on well-drained ridge tops and sunny, south-facing slopes.

Approximately three-quarters of a mile from Mount Ishpeming a small stream is crossed by a footbridge. Immediately after crossing the bridge the stream forms a

tiny basin to the left from which water may be obtained (except during dry, hot summers when the stream dries up). Again, the water must be treated. The last few ridges are seemingly steep and long — especially so to a tired hiker. However, Mount Ishpeming is not far and the view from the top is one of the finest.

By using the map it is easy to identify most of what is seen from atop Mount Ishpeming. The trail ends at the junction with the Greenstone Ridge Trail, which crosses the summit of Mount Ishpeming. A new lookout tower is located a short distance along the Greenstone Ridge Trail northeastward from the junction. The lookout will welcome your visit. The word "Ishpeming" is from the Chippewa meaning Heaven, and was given to this particular peak of the Greenstone Ridge at a time when it was thought to be the highest on Isle Royale. The records do not clearly show this, but the name may have been given by the Chippewa themselves. Recent surveys, however, have found Mount Desor to be higher. The Chippewa word "Negaunee" meaning Hell, has not been applied to any Isle Royale location, but there are two towns, Ishpeming and Negaunee, near Marquette, Michigan.

TODD HARBOR - HATCHET LAKE TRAIL



3 Miles from Todd Harbor to Hatchet Lake

Todd Harbor, on the north side of Isle Royale, is an isolated area — far from any of the lodges or Ranger Stations.

Anyone who wishes to go to Todd Harbor by boat must be especially cautious of the weather and should not attempt the trip at all unless he possesses an especially seaworthy boat. Todd Harbor is beset with many rocks and reefs and you will do well to refer often to Lake Survey Chart #981 while navigating in the Harbor.

A small dock and campsite are located on the southwest side of a short point of land centrally located on the harbor's south side. From the dock it is necessary to hike around the edge of the small bay to the campsite where there is an Isle Royale shelter, table, grill, and toilet. The trail leads from the campsite, following a small creek to Hatchet Lake where another campsite is located.

ISLAND MINE TRAIL



5 Miles from Camp Siskiwit to the Greenstone Ridge

The Island Mine is, perhaps, the most distinguishing feature along this trail. However, there are several other interesting and important aspects.

The dock at Siskiwit Bay Camp is located at the southwest end of Siskiwit Bay just south of Senter Point. The dock was built during CCC days, in the 1930's, to service the camp, which has now all but disappeared. The shoreline at this point was straight when the dock was built, but a great deal of red sandstone gravel has since filled-in,

making a prominent "beach" area beside the dock. The red sandstone is characteristic of much of the Siskiwit Bay area from Wright Island southwestward.

The trail from the dock leads southwestward to a trail junction. A left turn at the junction leads to Siskiwit Bay Camp (the old CCC camp) and thence along the Feldtmann Ridge Trail. The Island Mine Trail, however, continues straight ahead for several yards, then along a trail branching off to the right and leading to the shore of Siskiwit Bay. Siskiwit Bay at this point has one of the few sand and gravel beaches found on the island. The trail is not marked along the bay's shore — you simply hike northward along the beach. Upon reaching Siskiwit River you will find a bridge (constructed in 1961). You may notice that the river periodically reverses direction — flowing upstream for 15 to 20 minutes, then flowing into the bay for 15 to 20 minutes. This is caused by the raising and lowering of the water level in Lake Superior.



Bridge on the Big
Siskiwit River

Near Senter Point, a trail crosses the point and emerges on another sand and gravel beach on the north side. Senter Point is named for John J. Senter, partner in the Siskiwit Mine operation in Rock Harbor. The point was used by the Island Mine Company in the 1870's as a place to store dynamite, and again by the CCC before its camp was established at the beginning of this trail.

After completely circling the end of Siskiwit Bay, the trail begins its inland section in a northwest direction. For almost a mile inland much of the terrain is swampy

with dense forests of spruce, fir, paper birch, aspen, and alder. The trail itself follows the bed of the railroad which was built in the 1870's to service the Island Mine from the docks and town at Siskiwit Bay.

About 1 mile from the bay the trail crosses Caribou Creek, which eventually empties into Siskiwit Bay. From this point the land takes on more relief — ridge and valley follows valley and ridge. In this section, also, is one of the natural wonders of Isle Royale, the transition zone between the northern hardwood and boreal forest types. Here you will see on the dry, warm, south-facing slopes sugar maples and some northern red oaks, while on the moist, cool tops of the ridges and in the valley-like depressions are the spruce, fir, and paper birch which are most prevalent near the periphery of the island and gradually become less prevalent toward the island's interior.

The Island Mine, located approximately 2 miles from the bay, will be quite evident as you approach it. The mine began operations in 1873 and continued until 1877. The great piles of poor rock attest to the size of one of the largest mines to have operated on Isle Royale. You may explore the mining ruins if you wish, but please be extremely careful to avoid stepping into one of the old shafts or small pits — in many cases hidden by plant growth.

Beyond the mine area the trail becomes narrower and more rugged. Soon the last stand of spruce and fir is passed and you enter the luxuriant sugar maple-yellow birch forest, which is an expression of the warmer, drier climate of the interior ridge section. The trail ends near the summit of Sugar Mountain (named for the sugar maple) where the Indians produced maple syrup from the spring

sap flow prior to 1847. In all the trail is 5 miles long — 2 miles around the end of Siskiwit Bay, and 3 miles from the bay to the junction with the Greenstone Ridge Trail

FELDTMANN RIDGE TRAIL

(including the LAKE HALLORAN TRAIL)



5.5 Miles from Siskiwit Bay to Feldtmann Ridge

The Feldtmann Ridge Trail, for its length, is one of the most easily traversed trails in the Park. It originates at the Siskiwit Bay CCC campsite, passes through a small but beautiful forest of spruce-fir and paper birch, and then emerges into the open and scrubby growth of the 1936 burn. The nature of this growth opens vistas to the northwest along the entire length of the trail. The black spruce of the Big Siskiwit River Valley swamp to the northwest contrasts sharply with the luxuriance of the hardwood stands of the Greenstone Ridge. For all but the final portions of the walk, the trail, actually an old logging road built in the 1930's before Isle Royale was a National Park, follows the terrace created by an old beach line of Lake Superior. At the time this old beach was built, the Big Siskiwit River Valley was part of Lake Superior and the land area to the south of the valley was an island separated from the main Isle Royale.

The last mile or so of the trail climbs Feldtmann Ridge to the fire lookout tower. The ridge itself is largely of red sandstone, but near its summit you will find large de-

posits of stones and pebbles within the basic sandstone matrix. This type of rock is known as conglomerate.

The fire control aid (fire guard) at Feldtmann Tower, one of the most isolated spots in the United States, would welcome a visit. Why not drop in on him and say hello — he'll appreciate it. The view from the tower is excellent. The ridge overlooks the vast Big Siskiwit River Valley and beyond it you can see Sugar Mountain and the Greenstone Ridge. To the northeast, Siskiwit Bay and Lake Halloran are in view.

A spur trail leaves the main trail about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from its origin and winds into Lake Halloran. One of the chief attractions of this side trip is a chance to see, at the right time of year of course, the rare showy ladyslipper orchid which grows in some abundance on the moist southwest margins of this secluded lake.

WASHINGTON CREEK TRAIL



1.5 Miles from Windigo to Wendigo Mine Explorations

Beginning at Windigo Inn and Ranger Station, the Washington Creek campsite is to the left of the trail shortly after beginning the hike. In this same area, notice the rather abrupt bank to the right of the trail. This is an old beach line produced when Lake Superior was much higher than at present. The trail, being entirely in the valley of the

creek, is bordered by dense stands of white spruce, black spruce, balsam fir, paper birch, aspen, and white cedar.

The trail branches $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Windigo, one branch continuing straight ahead to the Wendigo* Mine Exploration Pits. The other branch, turning off to the left (northwestward), continues on as the Huginnin Cove Trail.

*WINDIGO was originally spelled WENDIGO. The old spelling is retained for historic features bearing this name.

HUGINNIN COVE TRAIL



3.5 Miles from Washington Creek to Huginnin Cove

After leaving the Washington Creek Trail you cross Washington Creek on a small footbridge. Before reaching Wendigo Mine you will see some very large white cedars in the lowlands. The mine ruins are actually quite scattered over a considerable area and you could spend a considerable amount of time exploring. It is necessary, however, to be very careful not to step into old exploration pits and shafts — some of them are well camouflaged by the ground vegetation.

Continuing on northwestward, the trail passes alongside two beaver ponds where wildlife of many sorts may be seen if you are patient. Be especially on the lookout for beaver, muskrat, mink, fox, moose, waterfowl and the

bald eagle. While crossing ridges you may see some venerable white pines growing along the well-drained tops.

The trail eventually leads to a bluff overlooking Lake Superior on the island's north side and then swings to the left (westward) to follow on to Huginnin Cove. Huginnin Cove is not well protected from north winds; so if you bring a boat into the cove do not leave it unguarded for very long.

GRACE CREEK TRAIL



3 Miles from Windigo to the bank of Grace Creek

The trail to Grace Creek begins at the Windigo Ranger Station and runs along the shore of Washington Harbor, past Beaver Island, then turns inland, climbs over the Greenstone Ridge (here at a rather low elevation) and descends to Grace Creek. Grace Creek is an excellent brook trout stream, and the trail as a whole is a fine introduction to the flora of the Windigo area.

FELDTMANN LAKE TRAIL



1 Mile from Rainbow Cove to Feldtmann Lake

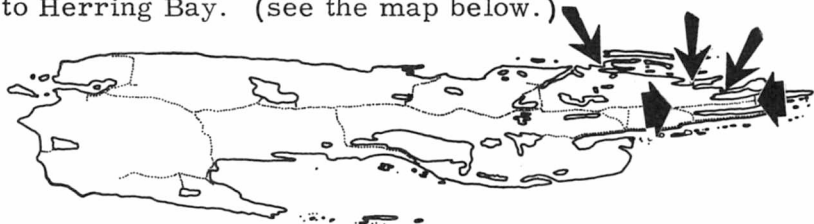
Isolated Lake Feldtmann, near the southwestern tip of Isle Royale may be reached by a trail about a mile in length from the beach at Rainbow Cove. The trail follows the small stream that drains the lake into Lake Superior. The inland lake offers fine northern pike fishing and is a favorite haunt of the rare golden eagle. Looking across the lake from the end of the trail (or looking from Rainbow Cove, for that matter) towards the northeast, you can see a large, sheer-sided bluff. This is the edge of Feldtmann Ridge on which Feldtmann Fire Lookout Tower is located.

Access to the trail is by water only and, since, open lake Superior waters must be crossed to reach it, the trip can only be made in calm weather. Further, Rainbow Cove receives the full force of southwest winds and waves, so you must BE VERY CAREFUL when using small boats in the cove. Small boats have been swamped when pulled only partly onto the beach; therefore, either anchor out in the cove or pull your craft ALL THE WAY OUT.

THE PORTAGE TRAILS

For the canoeist, several small portage trails on the north shore of the island link the sheltered bays of that part of the Park. They are all only a matter of a few hundred or so feet in length at the most and may be located from the water by small markers along the shore.

One such portage crosses the narrow neck of land between Duncan Bay and Five Finger Bay. Another links Stockly Bay with Lane Cove. A third joins Pickeral Cove to Herring Bay. (see the map below.)



LOOKOUT LOUISE-MT. FRANKLIN TRAIL

4 1/2 miles from Lookout Louise to Mount Franklin

Beginning at a junction just south of Lookout Louise on the Lookout Louise Trail, this trail leads southwestward to Mount Franklin. As such, it is actually a part of the Greenstone Ridge Trail. Near its northeastern end it passes several prehistoric mining pits, one of which has recently been excavated to show its form when originally dug thousands of years ago. Along the way to Mount Franklin are numerous views from the ridge to both north and south of Isle Royale and, about a mile from Mount Franklin, are some of the island's most luxuriant thimbleberries. (see the map above.)

index

Albert Stoll, Jr. Memorial Trail	10
Daisy Farm Trail	15
Feldtmann Lake Trail	35
Feldtmann Ridge Trail	31
Grace Creek Trail	34
Greenstone Ridge Trail	16
(see also)	36
Huginnin Cove Trail	33
Indian Portage Trail	23
Ishpeming Trail	25
Island Mine Trail	28
Lake Richie Trail	11
Lookout Louise Trail	6
Lookout Louise-Mt. Franklin Trail	36
McCargo Cove Trail	21
Minong Mine Trail	22
Mount Franklin Trail	12
Mount Ojibway Trail	13
Old Lighthouse Trail	8
Passage Island Trail	5
Portage Trails, The	36
Rock Harbor Trail	10
Siskiwit Falls Trail	23
Todd Harbor-Hatchet Lake Trail	27
Washington Creek Trail	32

cover: Lookout Louise
— 4-color separation by Vance Zink

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Membership in the Isle Royale Natural History Association is \$2.00 per year per person or per single household family. Members receive four issues of Wolf's Eye per year. Additional copies of Wolf's Eye are 25¢ each to members, 50¢ each to non-members.

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