

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore



9922 Front St. (M-72)
Empire, MI 49630-9797
616-326-5134

South Manitou Island



The park concessioner providing ferry service to South Manitou Island is:

Manitou Island Transit
P.O. Box 591, Leland, MI 49654
Phone: 616-256-9061 Office
or: 616-271-4217 Off Season

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

(Reservations held until 9:45 A.M.)

"The Port Hole" Ticket Office is in Leland's Fishtown.

RATES

	Adult	Children 12 & Under
Round Trip		
Boat Fare	\$18.00	\$13.00
Island Tour	\$ 7.00	\$ 4.00

SCHEDULES

JUNE, JULY & AUGUST – Trips every day

9:30 AM Check in at ticket office
10:00 AM Boat departs for island
11:30 AM Boat arrives at island
4:00 PM Boat departs for Leland
5:30 PM Boat arrives at Leland

MAY, SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER – Same schedule as summer except there are no trips on Tuesday and Thursday. Also check with operator for off-season departure time for return trip to Leland. Boats run on weekends only from September 15th on.

All schedules are dependent on the weather.

REMINDER: Arrive in Leland by 9:30 to load your gear and park your car (parking is available for \$1.00/day).

SPECIAL CHARTER TRIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR CLUBS AND GROUPS. FERRY SERVICE TO NORTH MANITOU ISLAND IS ALSO AVAILABLE.

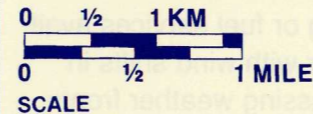
HIKING AROUND SOUTH MANITOU ISLAND

The island is small and its ecosystem extremely fragile. Your visit is one of thousands each year. Make your impact small and your enjoyment large.

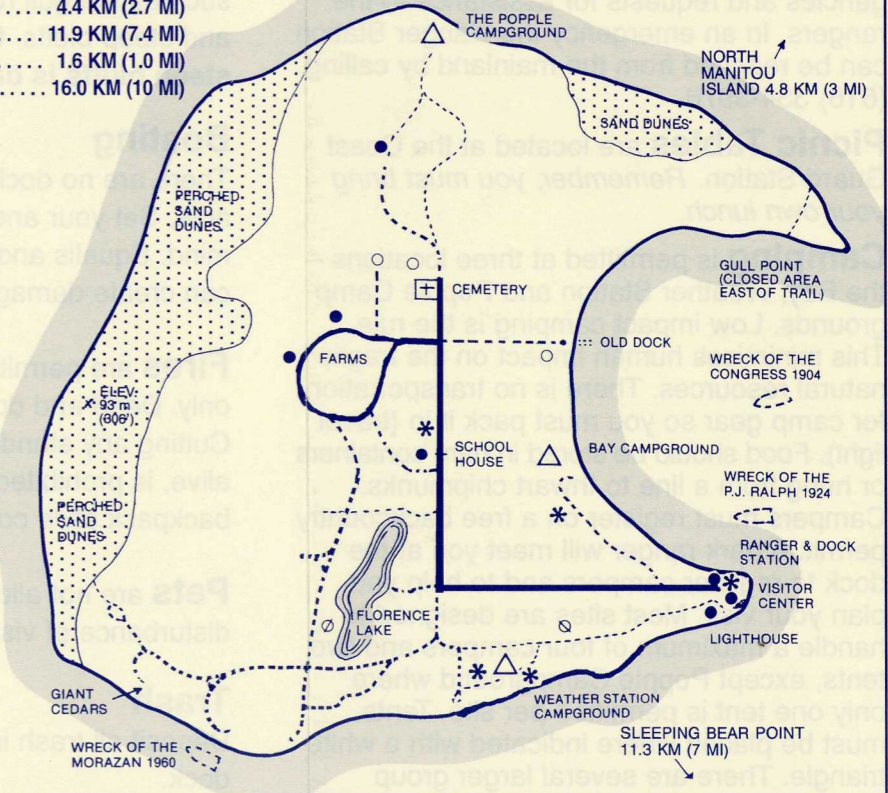
ROUND TRIP DISTANCES FOR SUGGESTED HIKES STARTING AT THE RANGER STATION:

THE LIGHTHOUSE	1.0 KM (0.6 MI)
GULL POINT	7.8 KM (4.6 MI)
GIANT CEDARS AND SHIPWRECK.....	11.7 KM (6.9 MI)
WEST SIDE SAND DUNES.....	11.9 KM (7.4 MI)
CEMETERY	7.8 KM (4.6 MI)
SCHOOL HOUSE.....	4.8 KM (3.0 MI)
WEATHER STATION CAMPGROUND	4.4 KM (2.7 MI)
POPPLE CAMPGROUND	11.9 KM (7.4 MI)
BAY CAMPGROUND.....	1.6 KM (1.0 MI)
AROUND ISLAND VIA SHORELINE	16.0 KM (10 MI)

DECAYING BUILDINGS ARE DANGEROUS. ENTER ONLY BUILDINGS DESIGNATED FOR PUBLIC USE. RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS AT ALL TIMES.



- LEGEND**
- ROADS (Tour & Bike Route)
 - - - TRAILS
 - △ CAMPGROUNDS
 - BUILDINGS
 - BUILDINGS IN RUINS
 - ⊙ PRIVATE BUILDINGS
 - * WATER



Your Visit

The following suggestions are offered to help you have a safe and enjoyable visit. The boat trip can be cool even in summer: bring a jacket. In case of rain, bring rain gear. Wear comfortable hiking boots. Mosquitoes are common in summer. Poison ivy is abundant. There is no food service or store on the island. Bring a lunch. Be sure to return to the dock in time for the boat departure.

Island Tour

Manitou Island Transit offers guided tours in open-air vehicles with stops at the old schoolhouse, farmsteads and cemetery. Some tours focus on natural history and there is an opportunity to customize tours for special interests. The tours take approximately 1½ hours.

The Visitor Center is in the old island post office in the village. Exhibits tell the human and natural history of the island. The facility is open daily from mid-June through Labor Day and on weekends from Labor Day to late September.

The Ranger Station is in the former Coast Guard Station in the village. Rangers are here to help you enjoy your visit and protect the island resources. Report all emergencies and requests for assistance to the rangers. In an emergency the Ranger Station can be reached from the mainland by calling (616) 334-3976.

Picnic Tables are located at the Coast Guard Station. *Remember, you must bring your own lunch.*

Camping is permitted at three locations – the Bay, Weather Station and Popple Campgrounds. Low impact camping is the rule. This minimizes human impact on the fragile natural resources. There is no transportation for camp gear so you must pack it in (travel light). Food should be stored in hard containers or hung from a line to thwart chipmunks. Campers must register on a free backcountry permit. A park ranger will meet you at the dock to register campers and to help you plan your visit. Most sites are designed to handle a maximum of four campers and two tents, except Popple Campground where only one tent is permitted per site. Tents must be placed where indicated with a white triangle. There are several larger group campsites, each designed to hold 25 campers. These group sites are available by reservation only. Please call park headquarters at (616) 326-5134 for reservations. Various factors may require the ferry's departure immediately after arrival. Be at the dock with your gear at 11:30 a.m. in case of an early departure.

Water is available at locations marked on the map. Please do not use pump areas for bathing or dishwashing.

Hiking

For safety, hike with a companion and notify someone of your route and expected return time. Wear footgear that gives good support. Terrain varies from sandy beaches to gravel and boulder-surfaced slopes. Carry drinking water. Please stay on designated trails to avoid causing erosion and damage to plants. This is especially important in sensitive areas such as the gull rookery, giant cedars, dunes and steep bluffs. **CAUTION: hiking on steep bluffs is dangerous.**

Boating

There are no docking or fuel services available. Set your anchor with wind shifts in mind. Squalls and passing weather fronts can create damaging wave conditions.

Fires are permitted in community fire rings only. Dead and down wood may be used. Cutting any standing vegetation, dead or alive, is prohibited. Campers should use a backpack style cooking stove.

Pets are not allowed on the island due to disturbance of visitors and wildlife.

Trash

Deposit all trash in receptacles located at the dock.

Island Fauna

The island has only eleven species of mammals, compared to about forty species on the mainland. The island mammals include fox, beaver, masked shrew, chipmunk, fox squirrel, snowshoe hare, deer mouse and four species of bats. The small size and isolation of the island makes it difficult to maintain a diverse mammal population.

The Geologic Story

South Manitou Island is part of an island chain that extends north to the Straits of Mackinac. The island consists of a ridge of tilted layers of limestone, buried under a blanket of glacial debris. Glaciers carved out the Lake Michigan basin. When the basin filled with water, the peaks of the ridge remained exposed as islands. During post-glacial times, winds blowing on the high, sandy bluffs on the west side of the island moved sand inland, forming perched dunes. The dunes are a fragile environment. Please stay on existing paths and avoid stepping on plants.

The Giant Cedars

Tucked away on the southwest corner of the island is a grove of virgin white cedar trees. The North American champion white cedar is located in the grove. It measures 5.3 meters (17.6 feet) in circumference and stands more than 27 meters (90 feet) tall. One of the fallen trees showed 528 growth rings, dating its existence to before Columbus.

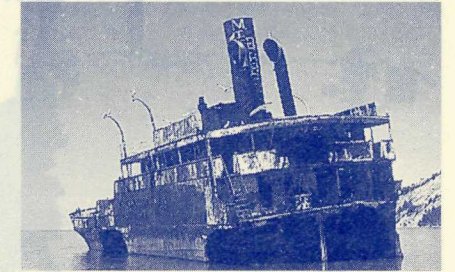
The Lighthouse

The 30-meter (100 foot) lighthouse tower, active from 1871 to 1958, marked the location of the only natural harbor between here and Chicago. Ships took refuge here during storms and steamers stopped at the island to re-fuel with wood for their boilers.

The Coast Guard Station

In 1901 a U.S. Life-Saving Station was built on the island to rescue shipwreck victims. The six-man life-saving crew would either shoot a line to the wreck and haul the victims to shore in a breeches buoy or row a surfboat to the scene. In 1915 the U.S. Life-Saving Service became part of the Coast Guard.

After World War II, modern equipment ushered in a new era in life saving. This was demonstrated on the cold, stormy night of November 29, 1960 when the Liberian freighter, Francisco Morazan ran aground on the southwest shore of the island. Three Coast Guard cutters and a helicopter rescued the fifteen persons on board. The battered wreck is still visible today. As a mark of changing times, the station closed in 1958.



Wreck of Francisco Morazan

The Manitou Passage State Underwater Preserve

This preserve was established in 1988 to conserve the historic and archeologic value of over fifty known shipwreck sites, dating from 1835 to 1960. White mooring buoys with a blue band mark popular dive sites and are used to moor dive boats. Do not drop anchor on or near wreck sites. For more information about the preserve, contact a park ranger. These sites are protected by state and/or federal law.

The Farms

Farming developed slowly on the island but by 1870 most islanders were self-sufficient farmers. Surplus crops were sold to passing ships and mainland markets. The isolation of the island provided an ideal environment for growing prize-winning rye, beans and peas. Today, there are no active farms on the island, but farm buildings, abandoned machinery, the old school and cemetery are reminders of the past.