



Island History

The islands you'll encounter on your Wild Island Escape lie along the eastern periphery of the Apostle Islands archipelago and are only protected marginally from Lake Superior's large swells. This makes for more advanced, yet fascinating paddling.

Michigan Island provides an opportunity to explore one of the few remaining stands of virgin timber left in the Apostles. It also boasts the oldest lighthouse in the islands, built in 1948. Ironically, the light was erected on the wrong island and a second one had to be built on Long Island the following year.

Outer Island is a very special place to explore. The 9 mile trail from the southernmost sandspit to the lighthouse on its northern point provides a great opportunity to stretch the legs. Hidden within this second-growth forest lies remnants of an air strip, a commercial turkey farm, and an old narrow gauge railroad.

Beautiful cliffs, sandy beaches, and impressive forestation are located on Cat Island. This island has historically been used by commercial fishermen as a point of refuge during bad weather.

Stockton Island has a plethora of nature trails, quarries, cliffs, singing sand beaches, and caves waiting to be explored.

On your way back to Bayfield, don't forget to ask about Hermit Wilson and his trials on Hermit Island.



We are glad that you have chosen to join us for a trip on beautiful Lake Superior. This overnight excursion will introduce you to some of the cultural, geological, and natural history of the area. Your trip includes: paddling, instruction, food, gear and transportation.

Where To Meet: All trip participants should meet at Trek & Trail in Bayfield at 8:45 am on the day your trip begins.

Accommodations: To find lodging we recommend contacting the Bayfield Chamber of Commerce for accommodation information: 800.447.4094.

Weather: Weather is always a factor that demands attention when going out on Lake Superior. Sea kayaking is a very versatile activity, and if you're prepared it's easy to enjoy the mystical lake atmosphere provided by light rain or cloud cover.

Food: Trek & Trail provides its participants with a beach lunch and snacks during full-day programs. Lunches normally include: sandwiches, vegetables, chips or crackers, cookies, and a beverage.

Prior Conditioning: Trek & Trail strives to provide you with an enjoyable experience. Pre-trip conditioning and physical activities will help prepare you for your trip. Suggestions for conditioning include: sit-ups, push-ups, cycling, rowing, canoeing, swimming, and calisthenics that strengthen your shoulders, arms, and abdominal muscles. Persons with health problems, particularly heart problems, are required to consult their physician prior to participating.

Your Account: Any remaining balance on your account is due within 45 days of your trip. Please be sure you have an accurate understanding of our cancellation policy.

A Little About Bayfield: Bayfield is a comfortable town with the look of a New England fishing village. While here, take time to visit Bayfield's museum and some of the local shops. The ferry ride to Madeline Island is an excellent day excursion. Ask the Bayfield Chamber of Commerce (800.447.4094) for information about potential evening activity opportunities. Great views and magnificent sunsets, vast orchards and exciting charters make up part of the beauty and special allure this area offers -- while you're here take time to enjoy it!

Questions? Please Call: 800.354.8735

Wild Islands Itinerary:

Itinerary is weather dependent and subject to change. The route may vary!



How To Get Here

Trek & Trail's main store and reservation center is located in the Old Cooperage building at 7 Washington Ave. From the junction of Hwy 2 and 13 on the outskirts of Ashland, WI, go North 12 miles on 13 to Bayfield. Once you are in Bayfield, Hwy 13 becomes Rittenhouse Avenue, the "main street" of Bayfield. Go through town at the bottom of the hill 13 will curve to the left. Washington Ave in on the next crossing. Turn right on Washington Ave. and go all the way to the lake. Trek & Trail has limited short term parking at the Cooperage. Ask the reservation office about nearby long term parking.

Other Considerations

*Please make your guide aware of any pertinent medical conditions you may have -- i.e. allergies, medications you're taking, etc. If you have any questions concerning your personal fitness or your ability to participate, please be sure to consult your physician.

*We ask that all minors are accompanied by an adult on all of our tours and expeditions.

*Please remember that if you are late for a trip you are not the only one affected. Our trips are normally fully booked. Your promptness affects everyone's allotted time on the water. Please plan accordingly.

*We cannot control the weather. Occasionally we are forced to alter our trip routes. Please be understanding.

*We recommend that all participants acquire travel insurance to cover emergency medical situations, evacuations and unforeseen last minute cancellations. Please refer to enclosed brochure.



Day 1: After meeting your guide and fellow trip participants at the Cooperage at 9 a.m. on Sunday, you'll begin the trip with a 2-3 hour Basic Safety Course in which your guide will instruct you, or help you review paddling technique, "wet-exits," kayak rescues, safety and weather concerns, and equipment packing. Be prepared to get wet! Trek & Trail may provide you with a wetsuit for the course and trip, depending on conditions, but you may want to bring a set of clothing (long-sleeved T-Shirt and/or wind jacket), specifically for the safety course, that you can leave behind. After the course you'll have lunch, pack your gear, and then shuttle to Little Sand Bay around 1:30-2:00 p.m. Once you've been shuttled via van to Little Sand Bay, it is a 2-3 mile crossing to York Island. If you have enough time, your group may take a side trip to Sand Island Sea Caves. You should arrive at York Island with enough daylight to set up camp, have dinner, and relax around a campfire.

Day 2: Launching from York Island, you'll head out into parts of the Apostles that few kayakers tread. Your group will head to Devil's Island, a nine mile paddle that should take most of the morning, with lunch eaten upon arrival at Devil's Island. After extensive exploring, we'll set up camp, have dinner, and relax in preparation for another day of paddling.

Day 3: After breakfast at Devil's, it's time to head towards one of the middle islands. Once to your island, there should be time to spend combing the shoreline and relaxing. After a rest and lunch, possibilities for an afternoon/evening paddle abound.

Day 4: can be a day to explore some of the beauties of the Apostles as you make your way to Presque Isle Point Campground on Stockton Island or somewhere on Oak Island. On Stockton you'll have time to hike the trail to the brownstone quarry, relax on the singing sands at Julian Bay, and explore the bog.

Day 5: is dedicated to paddling the 10 miles to Bayfield, with a quick stop for lunch on Hermit or Basswood Islands. Then, it's back to the historic Cooperage to clean up and debrief the trip.

Equipment & Clothing List

Chances are you'll be paddling through two of the splendid, sunny days which Lake Superior boasts. From experience, though, we know the weather conditions can vary greatly on any given day of a tour. For your safety and comfort you should come prepared by bringing the following:

- ___ Warm sweater or synthetic Pile jacket (not cotton)
- ___ Long underwear top & bottom (Synthetic works best)
- ___ Wind/Rain Jacket or paddling top
- ___ Shorts and pants of the "quick-dry," synthetic or pile variety
- ___ Footwear that you can get wet
- ___ Light Stocking Cap (if cold)
- ___ T-Shirts
- ___ Swimsuit
- ___ Sun Hat
- ___ Sunglasses
- ___ Water Bottle
- ___ Sunscreen
- ___ Walking shoes or hiking boots
- ___ Wool socks
- ___ Gloves (if cold)
- ___ Flashlight
- ___ Insect Repellent
- ___ Binoculars
- ___ Toiletries
- ___ Sleeping Bag
- ___ Sleeping Pad

Trek & Trail Provides:

- Kayak
- Sprayskirt; Paddle; PFD; Paddle float; Bilge pump
- Farmer bill wetsuits (if needed).
- Tents (if you have one you like, bring it)

