

Chapter 1 : Isle Royale National Park - Wikitravel

*The Place Names of Isle Royale [Smitty Parratt, Doug Welker] on www.nxgvision.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. The origins, histories, and stories of over Isle Royale locations, from inland lakes to campgrounds, ridges, coves.*

You can help by adding to it. May Cross-section of the Lake Superior basin showing the tilted strata of volcanic rock that form Isle Royale The island is composed largely of ridges, running roughly southwest-to-northeast. Greenstone belts are exposed, with rounded stones of chlorastrolite , also known as greenstone, near and in the lake. Coastal areas were once submerged beneath prehistoric lake waters, and contain many tumbled boulders and other large rocks. History[edit] The island was a common hunting ground for native peoples from nearby Minnesota and Ontario. In prehistoric times, large quantities of copper were mined on Isle Royale and the nearby Keweenaw Peninsula. The region is scarred by ancient mine pits and trenches up to 20 feet deep. Carbon testing of wood remains found in sockets of copper artifacts indicates that they are at least years old. In Prehistoric Copper Mining in the Lake Superior Region, published in , Drier and Du Temple estimated that over , tons of copper had been mined from the region. However, David Johnson and Susan Martin contend that their estimate was based on exaggerated and inaccurate assumptions. Isle Royale was given to the United States by the treaty with Great Britain , but the British remained in control until after the War of , and the Ojibwa peoples considered the island to be their territory. The Ojibwas ceded the island to the U. The ancient pits and trenches led to the discovery of many of the copper deposits that were mined in the 19th century. Once the island became a national park in , logging and other exploitive activities ended, and the forest began to regenerate. The island was once the site of several lake trout and whitefish fisheries, as well as a few resorts. Today, it has no permanent inhabitants; the small communities of Scandinavian fishermen were removed by the United States National Park Service NPS after the island became a national park in About 12 families have lifetime leases for their cabins and claim Isle Royale as their heritage, and several descendant fishermen fish the Isle Royale waters commercially. Recreational activities[edit] Beach near mouth of Washington Creek Recreational activity on Isle Royale includes hiking , backpacking , fishing , boating , canoeing , kayaking , and observing nature. The island is covered in wilderness trails, some of which are quite challenging, with steep grades. Wheeled vehicles are not permitted on Isle Royale, such as bicycles or canoe portage devices, however wheelchairs are allowed. There are two small settlements on the island proper: Rock Harbor, which has a resort, a marina, and basic amenities, and Windigo, a smaller facility on the far western end of the island. Both have pay showers and food available A typical National Park Service campground consists of a few shelters cabin-like structures with one wall of mosquito -proof screen , individual tent sites with picnic table, and group camping sites. There are one or more pit toilets at each facility. Campgrounds along the shore have a boat dock and overnight boaters are a common sight at some campgrounds. Waterfront locations also attract canoeists and kayakers. No wells are available, thus all water is usually filtered or thoroughly boiled to prevent infection by parasites and bacteria. Upland areas along some of the ridges are effectively "balds" with exposed bedrock and a few scrubby trees, blueberry bushes, and hardy grasses. Occasional marshes exist, which are typically the by-product of beaver activities. There are also several lakes, often with wooded or marshy shores. The climate, especially in lowland areas, is heavily influenced by the cold waters of Lake Superior. The island is well known among ecologists as the site of a long-term study of a predator-prey system , between moose and eastern timber wolves. There is a cyclical relationship between the two animals: Eventually, the wolves kill too many moose and begin to starve and lower their reproductive rates. Just prior to becoming a national park the largest mammals on Isle Royale were Canadian Lynx and the Boreal woodland caribou. Archeological evidence indicates both of these species were present on Isle Royale for 3, years prior to being removed by direct human actions hunting, trapping, mining, logging, fires and possibly the introduction of invasive species. The last Boreal woodland caribou documented on Isle Royale was in Though Canadian Lynx were removed by the s some have periodically crossed the ice bridge from neighboring Ontario , Canada, the most recent being an individual sighting in Before the appearance of wolves, coyotes were also a predator on the island. Coyotes

appeared around and disappeared shortly after wolves arrived in the s. Some foxes are quite used to human contact, and can be seen prowling the campgrounds at dawn, looking for stray scraps left by unwary campers. For its part, the wolf is an elusive species which avoids human interaction. Ermine have been periodically sighted around docks. Other mammals that can be seen include mink along the various lake shores and muskrats occasionally at beaver ponds. Several species of bat also exist on the island. Scheduled ferry service runs May through September. This proved to be a failure due to the long boat ride and lack of ridership and was discontinued after only four trips.

Chapter 2 : Isle Royale - Books - Shop

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Isle Royale is the largest island in Lake Superior and was once a hub for commercial fishing operations. Some hikes are ranger-led. Permits are also required for groups of 10 or more people. Canoeing and kayaking are another great way to explore Isle Royale and its surrounding islands. Sudden squalls out on the lake can inundate a canoe, so open-vessel use is generally limited to inland lakes and streams on the island. Water temperatures in below the surface can get as low as 34 degrees Fahrenheit, and obstructions inside the wrecks pose hazards even to experienced divers. Outfitters in Minnesota and Michigan provided guided tours of various wrecks. Because of the extreme weather that often hits the islands, and to provide a seasonal respite for its wildlife population, Isle Royal closes during the winter from November 1 to April. Rock Harbor Lodge is the only lodging facility in the park. Each of its 60 rooms come with a private bath and a view of Lake Superior. There are also 20 duplex cottages on site that come with even more furnishings. There is a restaurant and dining room at the lodge. Other accommodations in the park are campgrounds. Reservations are highly recommended. Permits are required for overnight camping, boating and dock space. Wildlife in Isle Royale National Park Fish like trout and whitefish have attracted people to Isle Royale for centuries, and continue to draw anglers to this day. The wolf and moose predator-prey study in Isle Royale National Park is the longest-running survey of such a system in national park history. Originally planned as a year study in , it has been running continuously for more than 50 years. Park visitors can get involved in the study by joining a moose-watching expedition. There are also internships with the study available for college students. Early white explorers, such as the French, came to the islands in search of copper. Later, when negotiating the Treaty of Paris that ended the Revolutionary War, Benjamin Franklin insisted that the island be included in the United States. In the early 19th century, intrepid American settlers tried earnestly to forge a living from the remote, rocky island in the vast lake. These settlements subsisted throughout the s, but never truly prospered. Mining operations would continue throughout the 19th century.

Chapter 3 : Isle Royale National Park (U.S. National Park Service)

Auto Suggestions are available once you type at least 3 letters. Use up arrow (for mozilla firefox browser alt+up arrow) and down arrow (for mozilla firefox browser alt+down arrow) to review and enter to select.

Sign up to work in a lighthouse, study wolves or join the fur trade. Exploring Isle Royale Famous for its moose and wolves, this Lake Superior wilderness island is beguiling. When it rains on Isle Royale, you just have to soak it up. It depends on how you look at it. The skies were gray out on Scoville Point, but the air felt as soft as a shawl. Underfoot, the rock pulsated with life, like a coral reef. Each square foot was lovely, a veritable riot of life. Still, the smaller life forms are not what most people come to see on Isle Royale National Park. Heading along Rock Harbor Trail in the cool drizzle, I thought about who would like this kind of weather. When I moved a little closer and took a few photos, it bolted a few yards, then settled down when its mother just kept eating. Mother and calf were on a mission, steadily eating their way from one side of the trail to the other, putting on fat for winter. LaFontain returned only to see their backsides disappearing into thick woods. Chasing moose For many, moose are the marquee attraction on Isle Royale, a mile-long land mass surrounded by tiny islands. Around , moose migrated from Minnesota and were free of predators for nearly 50 years, until Lake Superior froze and a pair of wolves scampered over. Populations of predator and prey seesaw back and forth, studied and documented by researchers from Michigan Technological University in Houghton since The heat-sensitive moose are stressed: A warmer climate stops the 1,pound animals from eating as much food as they need to survive the winter; in winter, ticks latch on by the tens of thousands, weakening moose through blood loss and by distracting them from eating; and there are fewer balsam firs, their preferred food. But their only predators on the island, wolves, have been dwindling and now are down to eight. So the moose population has nearly doubled between and That makes Isle Royale one of the best places in the world to see one. Ironically, busy Rock Harbor may be the best place to see wildlife in summer. The moose know wolves avoid people, so they hang out nearby. Then, I headed back on the Tobin Harbor Trail, stopping to admire the extravagant flora: When I reached the harbor, I saw a deckhand wielding a giant hose on the decks of the Ranger III from Houghton, whose passengers had suffered the same fate. Yellowstone gets more people in one day than Isle Royale gets in a year; of all the national parks, it gets the fewest visitors, about 17, annually. And once there, a visitor may be subject to savage weather in "hypothermia country," as former ranger Nevada Barr put it in her mystery novel "A Superior Death. But I got to hear two evening programs, one given by the two artists in residence, and I had two fine dinners in the restaurant. And then, on my last day, the sun came out. Suddenly, the island sprang into action. After the island became a national park in , residents and their children were given a lease for life; a dozen cabins remain, as do traces of the fisheries, copper mines and resorts that once flourished. On the other side of Tobin Harbor, the captain dropped us off, and we started climbing up the ridge, passing Hidden Lake. Moose often come to the lake to lick sodium deposits, said ranger Newman, pointing to a much-nibbled balsam she said looked "worse than a Charlie Brown Christmas tree. Along a boardwalk over a bog, I found a purple-fringed orchid, one of 32 varieties there. In a meadow, she said, archaeologists had found traces of copper mining from 4, years ago. Like the Keweenaw Peninsula, Isle Royale yielded up its copper. But despite many attempts, the isolated mines never made much money. Loggers tried to extract money, too. It spurred faster action to create the national park, which had been authorized in At Lookout Louise, we all admired the view of the archipelago below, mirrored by an armada of clouds lined up in the sky, and the Ontario mainland in the distance. Then, everyone else went back to the boat, and I headed off down the mile Greenstone Ridge Trail. This ridge, which forms the spine of the 9-mile-wide island, is thought by many geologists to be part of the largest lava flow on Earth. It was as close to heaven as a person can get on Isle Royale. Swiveling my head to take in views on both sides, I soaked up the sun and helped myself to handfuls of ripe raspberries and thimbleberries, whose voluptuous bushes crowded the trail. The park newspaper, the Greenstone, is very helpful in planning trips. Call for a copy. Weather can thwart plans, especially for canoers and kayakers, so have a backup plan. Those staying in a cottage or motel room should make lodging and ferry reservations at the same time, since one or the other may

sell out on a particular day. July and August are peak months. The park is open from mid-April through October, but spring and fall can be harsh. Black flies can be annoying in June. Getting there from Grand Portage, Minn.: Day trips leave at 8: For more, see *Life on the Grand Portage*. Getting there from Copper Harbor, Mich.: Since the boat leaves Copper Harbor at 8 a. For more, see *Copper Harbor refuge*. Getting there from Houghton, Mich.: Tuesdays and Fridays, returning at 9 a. Passengers get percent discounts on fares if they buy a package at Rock Harbor Lodge. Reserve at , www. In fine weather, camping is the way to go on Isle Royale. Rock Harbor Lodge is run by a concessionaire called Forever Resorts: Utilitarian duplex housekeeping cottages, also s-vintage, are on a wooded hill over the harbor. Rates include 6 percent sales tax, 3 percent room assessment tax and 21 percent utility surcharge. All lodgings are quite expensive, especially during peak season, July Aug. They sleep six in bunk beds and have electricity but not plumbing. Permits for tent sites at 36 campgrounds and 88 screened, three-sided shelters can be obtained at the ranger stations on the island. Water taxis will take campers to other points. Rock Harbor restaurant serves pretty good food, with such entrees as fresh lake trout and pork chops with wild-blueberry glaze. Prices high, but reasonable for the location. The Greenstone Grill serves burgers, pizza and snacks. From Rock Harbor, the M. From Rock Harbor and Windigo visitors centers, rangers lead hikes and give programs on natural and cultural history; check for times when you arrive. Longtime researcher Rolf Peterson recommended that new wolves be introduced, and the Park Service will decide. Moose often are seen. Foxes frequently are seen around campgrounds and lodgings. Every year, the Wolf-Moose project seeks volunteers to go on a weeklong backpacking trip in the backcountry with researchers. Volunteers will search for moose bones and collect data. All food is supplied, but volunteers pay their own way to the island.

Chapter 4 : Isle Royale Facts

The Place Names of Isle Royale by Smitty Parratt, Doug Welker, S Parra starting at \$ The Place Names of Isle Royale has 1 available editions to buy at Alibris.

Winter Study 46 mins Ecological knowledge depends on carefully collected data and observations. Learn about the field methods used to study the wolves and moose of Isle Royale - moose necropsies, observing wolves from light aircraft, estimating moose abundance, and more. The ebb and flow of wolf and moose populations 72 mins How and why do populations of wolves and moose fluctuate over time? The most important events in the history of wolves and moose on Isle Royale have been entirely unpredicted - introduced diseases, severe winters, outbreaks of parasitic ticks, genetic rescues from immigrant wolves. These fluctuations and their causes lead to some important insights about nature in general. Isle Royale, the place where it all happens 11 mins Islands are special places, and some ecological insights can only be had by understanding the biogeography of a place. Learn how island biogeography has been so important for understanding wolves and moose on Isle Royale. Statistical analysis of wolf-moose abundances 43 mins Previously, we developed insights arising from the chronology of wolves and moose, considered as a historical narrative. The mechanisms of predation, part 1 67 mins Learn about how much of our knowledge about predation is rooted in ecological theory and concepts like kill rate, predation rate, functional response, numerical response, and more. Learn what the wolves and moose of Isle Royale teach us about these theories of predation. The Mechanisms of predation, part 2 47 mins What would it mean to say, wolves are an important top-down, destabilizing force on moose population dynamics? Moose and theories of life history, part 1 64 mins Life history theory aims to explain every aspect of an individual organism. Why are moose as large as they are and no larger? Why do males grow larger and die sooner than females? Learn about the answers to these questions and more. Moose and theories of life history, part 2 51 mins Senescence is the decline in body function as an organism ages. Why do organisms senesce? Does it serve any purpose? Arthritis is a particular manifestation of senescence. Why do moose get arthritis as they age? Also, learn how senescence can have an important impact on the population dynamics of moose and wolves. We have also considered wolves and moose as populations of interacting predator and prey.

Chapter 5 : Isle Royale National Park

The Isle Royale archipelago in northern Lake Superior has been important to humans for thousands of years. The veins of copper in the island's weathered, glaciated rock attracted Native American and later, Euro-American miners.

This interactive map lets you zoom into different historic features around the island, and many of the features provide a link to detailed information. Explore lighthouses, fisheries, mining, Native American heritage, and more. How about the Kemmer cottage in Tobin Harbor? Is it just another old Cabin along the shore? The smell of coffee and bread may not waft from the cabin as it did when Elizabeth Kemmer EK lived there and the Rock Harbor lighthouse may not be bustling with the activity of the Johnson fishing family anymore, but the stories are still there. They are the remnants of an important history that help us find out about Isle Royale and possibly also about ourselves. There are stories everywhere. If you stand at the top of the cliffs at Passage Island lighthouse, you stand in the footsteps of years of lightkeepers and assistant lightkeepers, watching the lake and trying to keep ships safe. You might have been with him when he discovered the wrecked ship, Monarch, and helped initiate the rescue of her passengers and crew. Why do we need to keep these places? The sites provide the tangible resources that can link us to the stories and history of the island. The memory of EK remains because her cabin is still here, otherwise we might forget about her. The Passage Island lighthouse stands strong as a reminder of the thousands of mariners who have passed by the island and those who are still passing by. We have to do our best to preserve the sites so we can also preserve the stories and memories of a way of life that came before us. Nothing can compare to standing on the dock at Wright Island, feeling the fresh lake air, watching a moose across the harbor, and hearing the distant call of a loon. We need to be able to stand here too so we can feel at least a little what it was like for her. Being able to stand in the same spot connects us to the past in a way that words simply cannot. Without the visible - cabins, docks, landscapes - we might forget about the history and those who were here before us. We need these tangible reminders to link us to the past. We need these places because they can take us away from our lives for awhile, for a few minutes or a few days, and let us connect to a different time, away from modern distractions - a place where we can go for peace of mind and memories.

Chapter 6 : Isle Royale - Wikipedia

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Lake Superior resembles the profile of a snarling wolf; Isle Royale is the eye. Its French name might lead you to pronounce it "eel roy-AL", but the common pronunciation is the anglicized version, "ile ROY-ul".

Understand[edit] Isle Royale is currently a wilderness preserve first, a sanctuary for those seeking to experience it second, and a travel destination third. So wildlife gets the run of the island, and human visitors are generally restricted to established trails and accessible lakes, with leave-no-trace camping protocols in effect. Modern conveniences and comforts are very limited; away from the small ports on either end of the island, "running water" means "a creek", and only "outhouse" pit toilets are available. Many of the more accessible ones are stocked with toilet paper, but bring your own or be prepared to improvise. National Park Service park to shut down altogether for the winter. Because of this, along with its geographic isolation and challenging ruggedness, it receives fewer visitors in a year 17, in than many national parks endure in a day. Those visitors stay a remarkable average of days each even counting day-trippers , but it still has one of the lowest visitors-per-square-mile figures outside of the huge Alaskan parks. Which is, of course, a large part of its appeal.

History[edit] Old School House Over four millennia ago, Native Americans began visiting Isle Royale to dig for copper, to tap maple trees for sugar, and to fish. Isle Royale National Park was established by Congress in , and the last of the land de-privatized in with a few of the land owners given lifetime leases. The archipelago was designated a Wilderness Area in , and named an International Biosphere Reserve in .

Three Mile campground on Isle Royale Isle Royale The archipelago consisting of Isle Royale itself and dozens of smaller islands is the edge of a geologic fault which pushed up from the lake floor and was scoured by ice-age glaciers into a long, ridged island, with lakes and inlets of Lake Superior filling in low points between some of the ridges. The south sides of these ridges and the south lakeshore tend to be more gently sloped; the north sides and lakeshore more steep. The Greenstone Ridge runs the length of the island, with a trail along most of its crest. The highest point on the island is Mount Desor at feet m above sea level " about feet m above lake level " with several other spots along the Greenstone above feet m in elevation. Flora and fauna[edit] The island is mostly forested in a mixture of boreal and northern hardwood ecosystems, with a selection of conifer spruce, fir, pine and deciduous birch, aspen, maple, ash trees. Past human habitation has left some apple trees behind. Marsh vegetation is more common in the west, but found in low spots everywhere. A wide variety of orchids and wildflowers can be found throughout the island. Berries grow wild; blueberries can be found on open ridge tops, and thimbleberries with maple-like leaves bigger than your hand; white flowers in early summer, red berries in late summer grow seemingly everywhere. Around , moose introduced themselves to the island, presumably swimming from Ontario. Wolves followed later, crossing increasingly rare safe ice bridges in and . As a closed environment, the island serves as a prime field study of the relationship between prey and predator. Because the wolf population is descended from two small packs, the island also demonstrates the effects of inbreeding on their viability. Other common mammals are red foxes filling the scavenger niche, especially around camp sites , beavers in inland lakes and ponds , red squirrels everywhere , snowshoe hares, and otters. Loons, eagles, and ospreys nest on the island, and a large variety of songbirds, woodpeckers, and aquatic birds especially gulls and ducks will be seen. Painted turtles, garter snakes, and a few varieties of amphibians are common. Northern pike are plentiful in most of the inland lakes, along with varieties of trout, perch, walleye, and other sport fish. Mosquitoes, no-see-ums, and a few varieties of biting flies are unfortunately abundant, though the extent of these nuisances varies year to year, by season, and from one locale to another. Insect repellent is essential, and a face net will provide welcome relief when the bugs seem intent on driving you crazy even when your bug dope prevents them from landing. There are bees on the island as well. Rainfall fluctuates from month to month, but July and August have the least overcast days making them the busiest weeks of the summer. Regardless, a stay of several days any time of the summer without at least some rain is uncommon; either bring rain gear or plan on spending time stuck in your tent or a

shelter. During its resort days, the island was a popular haven for allergy sufferers. In the winter, conditions are inhospitable and the island is closed to all but wildlife researchers. Even the park headquarters relocate to Houghton for the winter. YQT [4] in the Canadian province of Ontario. It is served by Canadian airlines. Highway 61 links Thunder Bay with Grand Portage, Minnesota, from which ferry service to the park is available. CMX [5] in Houghton, Michigan, which also has ferry services to the park. United Airlines is the only commercial carrier at the airport. There is also floatplane service see below from the airport to Isle Royale. DLH [6] in Duluth, Minnesota, about 3. Operates mid-May thru September; daily mid-July thru mid-August, but progressively less frequent earlier and later in the season. Single-day round-trip fares were recently introduced and vary in price, depending on availability. Operates Mid June thru Labor Day. US Mail and parcel service to Isle Royale. Advance reservations are strongly recommended for all ships, especially in late July and early August. The Queen and Sea Hunter and Voyageur II both offer discounted fares for day-trips to the park, which give you about hours on the island. Note that Isle Royale is at the western extreme of the Eastern time zone, but the Minnesota-based ferries operate on Central time. The ferries from Michigan dock at Snug Harbor, an inlet of Rock Harbor near the east end of the island; this is the largest "civilized" area on the island. Because Rock Harbor Lodge, Rock Harbor campground, and Rock Harbor Visitor Center are located here, this site is commonly referred to as "Rock Harbor", even though that technically refers to the whole miles-long stretch of water. The ferries from Minnesota dock at "Windigo", a smaller port at the west end of the island and "Rock Harbor". Each port has a small camp store, drinking water, modern restrooms, pay showers, and coin laundry; these are the only such facilities in the park. A new service was offered in the season. It was five scheduled round trips to Windigo by the Ranger III, only four trips were made with the fifth being cancelled due to lack of passengers. This service was a failure and will not be offered again. This was primarily to allow day trip visits from Houghton and hikers to hike the length of the island one-way. Schedules will provide time to land at Windigo and cross the island with a return to Houghton. By floatplane[edit] Floatplane service is available from Houghton. The plane can dock at either port, and since it can make multiple crossings in a day, this can give you some flexibility with the time of day you arrive and leave. All boats of whatever nationality coming from Canada are required to check in with U. Customs at Windigo or Snug Harbor. Sanitation and fuel services are also available at these ports. To protect the island wildlife from diseases and disruption, pets are not permitted on boats within the park boundaries. This fee is payable in advance via pay. Backcountry campers are required to file a plan with the rangers indicating the campgrounds they expect to use each night. Special permits and reservations are required for groups of , for off-trail hikers, and for canoeists camping outside of designated campgrounds. Fishing in Lake Superior and connected waters requires a paid license from the state; inland lakes have no licensing requirement. Hunting is not permitted. Except for a few wide, flat trails at the ports for NPS equipment, and a little pavement in the Snug Harbor area, there are no roads on the island. Mountain bikes and wheeled portage devices are not permitted. As a wilderness area, the park does not meet modern expectations of accessibility. You need to be able to walk on rough surfaces and steep terrain to get anywhere at all beyond the immediate vicinity of the ports. At Windigo, even the information office and store are up a short but steep hill. Lakeshore canoeing and sightseeing by boat are the best options for those with limited mobility. Service animals are permitted, but only with prior arrangements. By foot[edit] A mile network of groomed trails connects most areas of the island. These are unpaved, and only somewhat improved, with exposed roots and stone common. When crossing "bald" areas of exposed solid rock, small cairns of stones are piled periodically to mark the route. In marshy areas, plank walkways have been built to allow passage and small bridges cross flowing streams. By paddle[edit] Several of the inland lakes and protected inlets of Lake Superior are connected by portages ranging from a few dozen feet to a few miles. See[edit][add listing] a loon frolicking in McCargoe Cove The primary attraction is the wilderness of the island. The trails generally adhere to leave-no-trace principles. Sightings of small fauna such as squirrels and songbirds are inevitable. When populations are high, moose sightings are fairly common. Their numbers have been low recently, however. Depending on solar activity and magnetic field fluctuations, the aurora borealis " Northern Lights " is frequently visible. On clear nights, the lack of light pollution offers outstanding star-gazing opportunities at lakeshores where the tree cover breaks. Surrounding Isle Royale there

are several lighthouses you can visit e. Do[edit][add listing] Fishing is a popular activity, which you can do from motorboats in the waters surrounding Isle Royale, or from canoes in its inland lakes many of which are both secluded and teeming with fish. A number of ships have met disaster on the rocks and islets around Isle Royale, making the surrounding waters fairly popular with shipwreck divers. The boat trips can take you to some of the more interesting spots along the southeast end of the island, such as Passage Island and its lighthouse a few miles into Lake Superior, and several of the sites mentioned below for self-exploration. The lodge also schedules nightly informational programs. Rent a canoe and paddle Tobin Harbor, a long, sheltered inlet on the north side of the narrow peninsula the lodge and ranger station are on. Sample canoe rental rate: Rent a canoe and paddle Rock Harbor.

Chapter 7 : List of islands in Isle Royale National Park - Wikipedia

Isle Royale has now become a haven for backpackers, kayakers, divers and scientists and is visited by roughly 15,000 people annually making it one of the least visited of America's national parks. Source: DuFresne, Jim.

Administered as part of Keweenaw county, it lies 56 miles 90 km from the Upper Peninsula shore and 15 miles 24 km from the Canadian shore and is 45 miles 72 km long and 9 miles 14 km across its widest point. Isle Royale National Park, authorized in 1906 and established in 1942, encompasses the island itself and numerous surrounding islets and rocks. Isle Royale, Michigan. Carbon tests indicate that prehistoric copper-mining pits date to some 4,000 years ago. Commercial copper mining was undertaken in the mid and late 19th century, and the waters around the island were commercially fished in the 19th century. By the beginning of the 20th century the island had become a popular resort area. Efforts by preservationists in the 1930s led to it becoming a national park. The island consists of layered basaltic and sedimentary rock sculpted by glaciers into linear ridges and valleys. There are many lakes and streams. Chlorastrolite, a greenstone found there, is the Michigan state gem. Hundreds of species of plants grow on the island, including many that are threatened or endangered. Various types of coniferous and deciduous trees provide an outstanding example of forest transition between boreal taiga and temperate; wildflowers, ferns, lichens, mosses, and fungi abound. A variety of small fur-bearing mammals inhabit the island. Moose began populating it in the early 20th century, either traversing the ice or swimming from the Canadian mainland; they exist in a dynamic relationship with their predator, the gray timber wolf. More than 100 kinds of birds, including herring gulls, warblers, and loons, visit the island and its waters. Its streams and inland lakes contain pikes, perch, and other game fish. Travel on Isle Royale is possible only on foot or by boat. Surrounding the island is a collection of well-preserved shipwrecks, which are accessible to scuba divers. Seaplane service also is available from Houghton. Learn More in these related Britannica articles:

Chapter 8 : The Place Names of Isle Royale - Smitty Parratt, Doug Welker - Google Books

"Place Names of Isle Royale" by Parratt & Welker, Natural History Association The guide to places on the island and the history of their names. As far as trail guides go, I am going to plug my own linked below.

She was shaped of ice and water, from glaciers that piled rich sediments in the south and scoured her bare in the north. Today, she is a corrugated series of ridges and valley that follow her long axis. She is mostly green with boreal forest, speckled with blue inland lakes, and rimmed in the dark grey basaltic rocks that separate her from Lake Superior. Isle Royale has always been isolated. On an easy day, she is separated from the rest of the world by 24 km of icy waters. On many days, she is further protected by fog, ice, wind, waves and storms. Offshore, just beneath the surface, she is littered with the skeletons of no fewer than a dozen ships. Even our mammalian brethren have found getting to Isle Royale difficult. Of the 50 or so mammal species that live on the mainland, only about 20 mammal species call Isle Royale home. And several that once called it home have since gone extinct – caribou, coyote, sharp-tailed grouse. Humans have never regularly lived year-round on Isle Royale. For at least three thousand years, Native Americans used Isle Royale for copper and fish, but mostly limited their visits to the summer. Nineteenth century Americans did the same. Today, Isle Royale is used for wilderness recreation, but only in the summer. We have only been fair-weather visitors. Biogeography is the term scientists use to speak about how it is that the ecology of a place is so very much influenced by the geography of a place. A primary goal is to understand how and why the wolf and moose populations on Isle Royale fluctuate over the years. Isle Royale is not too close, not too far, not too small, and not too large. Nature is difficult to understand because it usually includes interactions among so many species. Isle Royale is different. Here, wolves are the only predator of moose, and moose are essentially the only food for wolves. That simplicity is key to understanding more complex places. And if we cannot understand the simple places, it says something about our ability to understand more complex places. To understand nature it also helps to observe an ecosystem where human impact is limited. On Isle Royale, people do not hunt wolves or moose or cut the forest. It is a very rare place on the planet where wolves, their prey, and the plants that support the prey are all left unharvested by humans. Isle Royale is remarkable, because nature runs wild there. Because the wolves and moose on Isle Royale are isolated, they are unable to leave. The population fluctuations we observe are not the mere wanderings of wolves and moose to or from the island. Instead, wolf fluctuations result from the birth of pups when they can be supported by the flesh of moose, and wolf deaths that occur when food is scarce. Moose fluctuations result from the birth of calves and survival of adult moose, both of which depend on climate, forest growth, ticks, and wolf predation.

Chapter 9 : The history of Isle Royale National Park

Isle Royale (/ ɛ̃ˈr ɛ̃ˈʁɔjɑl /) is an island of the Great Lakes, located in the northwest of Lake Superior, and part of the U.S. state of Michigan. The island and the surrounding smaller islands and waters make up Isle Royale National Park.

Isle Royale was formed and shaped over a long period of time, beginning several thousand years ago. Geological research indicates that the body of Isle Royale was formed by molten lava as it seeped up through cracks in the floor of Lake Superior. After the lava hardened and formed the island, the land mass received its unique washboard appearance from years of exposure to glaciers. The massive sheets of ice moved across the surface of the island and carved large grooves into the surface, which today are visible as the many ridgelines, cliffs and valleys. When the glaciers melted away they left deposits of mud, silt and water. The mud and silt provided a rich growing environment for plants and trees, while the water filled in the many depressions on the island and formed the lakes and swamps. The presence of trees and plants lured birds and insects to the island and they were eventually followed by small animals which made the 15 mile crossing from Canada when the lake froze over during the winter months. Animals, however, were not the only ones to discover Isle Royale. It is believed that the earliest presence of human beings on the island can be traced back to approximately 10,000 years ago. The French also heard about Isle Royale and documented its presence on some of their maps when they were exploring this region. In 1763, the island was given control of the island and it became the first Lake Superior territory to be admitted to the Union. In 1800, the American Fur Company built several fishing camps on the island, but they were forced to stop operations in due to an economic depression. Several fishing companies returned to the island years later, but were not able to turn a large enough profit to make it a permanent way of life on the island. Miners arrived on the island as early as 1857. This first attempt at extracting copper did not meet with much success due to inefficient mining methods and low profits, and the miners ceased operations by 1890. While the miners have long since left the island, a couple mine pits from that period can still be seen by visitors today. The other location is on the Stoll Trail near the Rock Harbor lodge, which was the site of the Smithwick mine. By this time, mining techniques were more advanced and ore transportation from the island was more efficient, overall this helped companies see increased profits over the earlier mining attempts. The mining business brought many people and families to Isle Royale. The two major mining areas on the island at this time were at McCargo Cove on the north side of the island, and near the Siskowit Bay on the south side of the island. By the two sites had almost become small cities, which included houses, stores, docks, roads, and schools. The size of the settlements necessitated the need for some type of government, and Isle Royale County was formed in this year. After the miners left the island it was re-discovered by entrepreneurs who attempted to make a living by catering to passengers of passing steamships. It is Albert Stoll who has been given credit as being the driving force behind the movement to make Isle Royale a national park. Today, the Stoll Trail near the Rock Harbor lodge bears his name. This page last updated on