



Isle Royale

Isle Royale is one of the largest islands in the Great Lakes. Located in the northwest corner of Lake Superior, Isle Royale is actually an archipelago (a series of

islands). The largest island is called Isle Royale. The entire island chain is 45 miles long and 9 miles wide at its widest point. Because Isle Royale is 50 miles from Michigan's nearest shore (and only 15 miles from Canada), it is sometimes left off Michigan maps. Isle Royale also is a densely forested wilderness that can only be reached by boat or floatplane.

Native Americans mined copper on Isle Royale more than 4,000 years ago. They called the island Minong, which means "a good place to live."

After the Europeans arrived in the Great Lakes, they trapped animals on the island. French Catholic missionaries also visited Native Americans who lived on the island.

When the American colonies won their independence from Great Britain in 1783, Isle Royale was placed in American waters because

existing maps put the island in the middle of Lake Superior.

During Michigan's copper boom of the mid-19th century, mining companies dug shafts on the island looking for minerals. When the miners left the island, commercial fishermen arrived.

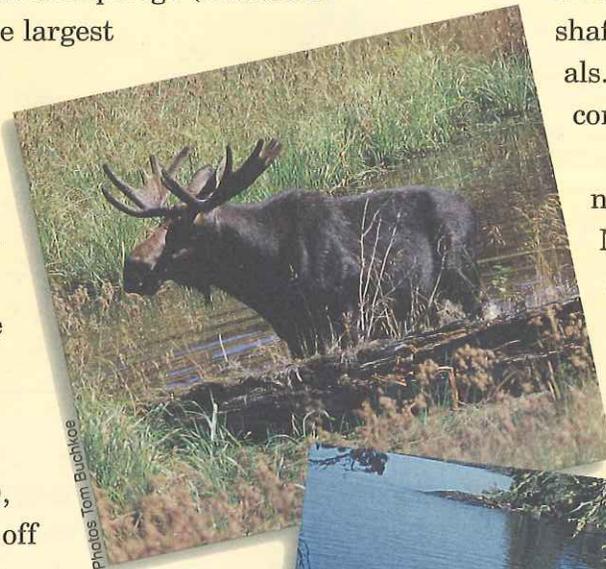
In 1940, Isle Royale became a national park. Today, Isle Royale National Park is a roadless land of wild animals (moose, fox, and wolf), refreshing lakes and rugged terrain. No vehicles are allowed on the island and the park is only open during the

summer months. Visitors can hike the island's 175 miles of trails and camp at numerous sites.

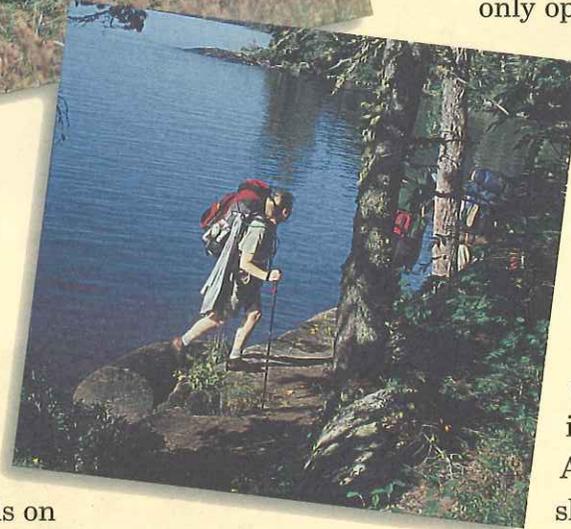
Shipwrecks are also part of the island's legacy. At least ten major shipwrecks occurred around Isle Royale.

These shipwrecks are part of the national park and many divers enjoy visiting the remains of these boats.

Isle Royale National Park is truly one of Michigan's most unique places to visit.



Photos Tom Buchholz



In July 1980, college buddies David Olson and Roger Rosentreter spent a week exploring Isle Royale National Park.

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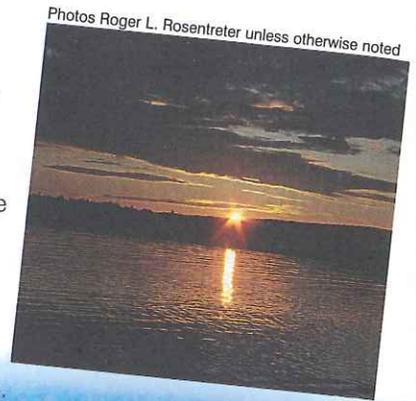
Tom Buchkoe



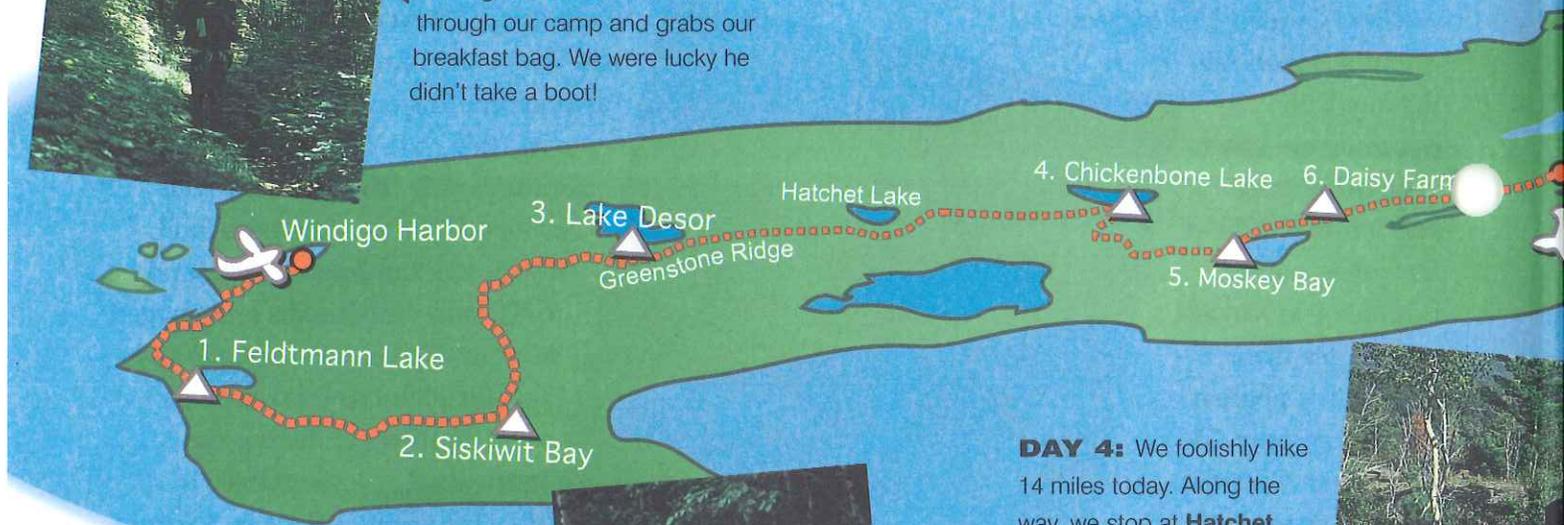
DAY 1: Packs loaded, David and I board a float-plane in Houghton for the 30-minute flight to Isle Royale. It is exciting as we approach the island from the air. We land at **Windigo Harbor** and hike 8 miles to **Feldtmann Lake**. We encounter our

first sign of wildlife when a fox runs through our camp and grabs our breakfast bag. We were lucky he didn't take a boot!

DAY 3: We hike 10 miles to **Lake Desor**. Lots of rugged hiking as we go from 600 feet to 1,400 feet above sea level. The trail passes an abandoned copper mine. That night we enjoy a great sunset. ▲

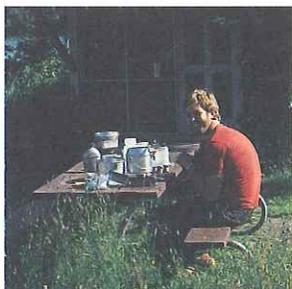


Photos Roger L. Rosentreter unless otherwise noted

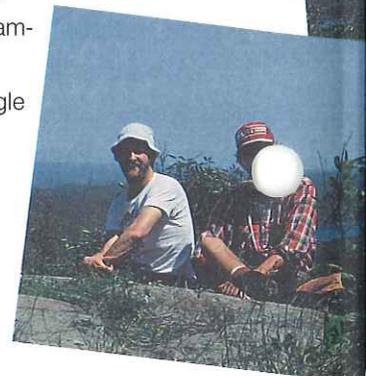


DAY 2: We hike 10 miles to **Siskiwit Bay**, often in tall grass and weeds. We bump into a moose on the trail. He poses for the camera and we are quiet so we don't disturb him. We learn later that it is better to make noise so the moose doesn't confuse us with a wolf and attack. Oops! After making camp, we meet up with another fox. He also poses for pictures. More important,

this time we aren't fooled and we keep him out of our camp. We don't need a tent at Siskiwit, since there are screened shelters at the campground. Isn't this a wilderness trip?



DAY 4: We foolishly hike 14 miles today. Along the way, we stop at **Hatchet Lake** to filter some water. Getting off the Greenstone Ridge (the backbone of the island) down to the lake was the most work we've ever done for a drink of water. We see more moose and great views of Lake Superior. We also try out the camera's automatic shutter. We struggle into camp at **Chickenbone Lake** just before dark.

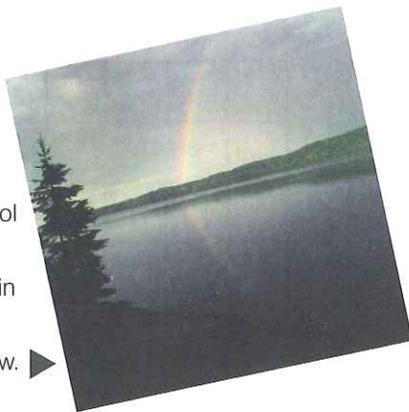


of a GREAT Trip

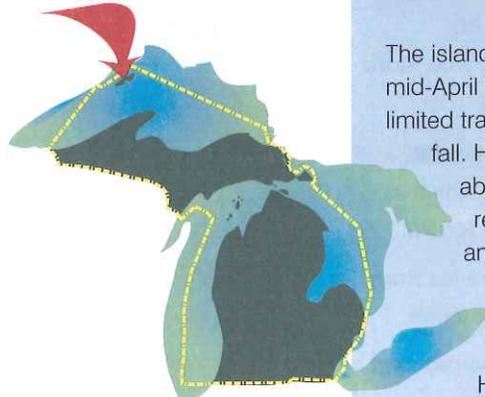
Where to Take Your Family

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DAY 5: We hike 6 miles to **Moskey Bay** where we enjoy cool breezes off Lake Superior. A brief rain shower results in a spectacular rainbow.



ISLE ROYALE



The island is open to visitors from mid-April to the end of October, with limited transportation in the spring and fall. Historic sites include an abandoned copper mine, a restored commercial fishery, and Rock Harbor lighthouse.

Isle Royale National Park

800 East Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, MI 49931-1895
(906) 482-0984
www.nps.gov/isro

GETTING TO ISLE ROYALE

From Copper Harbor:

The *Isle Royale Queen IV* takes passengers on a 3-hour ferry ride to the island.

The Isle Royale Line

P.O. Box 24
Copper Harbor, MI 49918
(906) 289-4437
www.isleroyale.com

From Houghton:

The *Ranger III* takes passengers on a 6-hour ferry ride.

Isle Royale National Park

800 East Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, MI 49931
(906) 482-0984
www.nps.gov/isro/Transportation/ranger3.htm

For a faster, but more expensive ride to the island, passengers can take a seaplane. The plane can carry up to 5 passengers with a limited amount of gear. The flight leaves from Houghton County airport and takes just 30 minutes.

Royale Air Service, Inc.

P.O. Box 15184
Duluth, MN 55815
(218) 721-0405
www.royaleairservice.com



DAY 6: Only 4 miles of hiking today. There is lots of clean water (and daisies) at **Daisy Farm**. No more filtering water! We cook spaghetti tonight to celebrate our 50-mile hike.



DAY 7: We ride a "water taxi" 6 miles to **Rock Harbor** and "civilization." The next day we board the floatplane back to Houghton. We say farewell to this Michigan wilderness and look forward to a sauna to wash away a week of no showers!



Tom Buchkoe



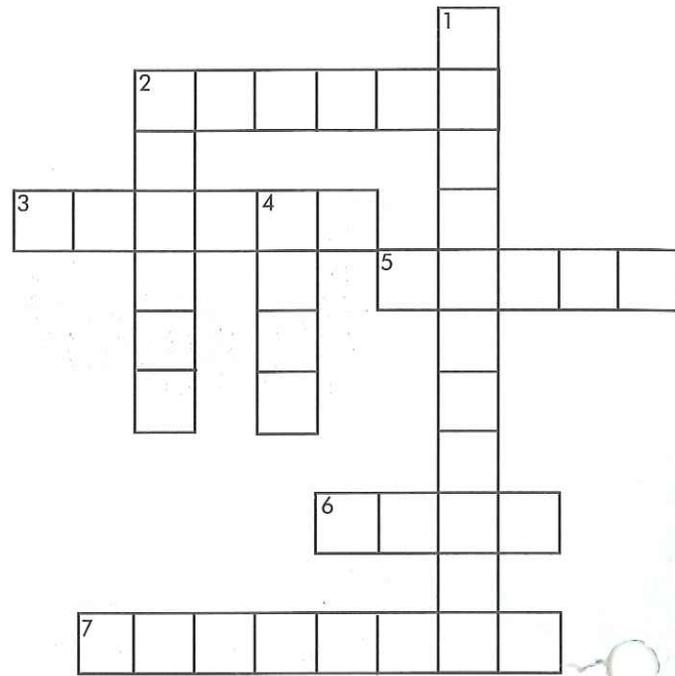
What Did You Learn?

ACROSS

2. Native Americans mined _____ on Isle Royale more than 4,000 years ago.
3. Native Americans called the island _____, which means "a good place to live."
5. Isle Royale is _____ miles from Michigan's nearest shoreline.
6. Isle Royale can only be reached by _____ or floatplane.
7. Isle Royale is located in the northwest corner of Lake _____.

Word List (in random order)

SUPERIOR
ARCHIPELAGO
NINE
BOAT
COPPER
MINONG
FIFTY
CANADA



DOWN

1. A series of islands is called an _____.
2. Isle Royale is only fifteen miles from _____.
4. The island chain is just _____ miles wide at its widest point.