

# NPCATRAVEL



The Travel Program of the National Parks Conservation Association

AUGUST 16–22, 2021

## *THE WILDNERNESS OF* **ISLE ROYALE**

*Learn about a decades-long study tracking the relationship  
between the island's moose and wolf populations*

GET AN INSIDE LOOK AT  
THE CULTURAL HISTORY  
AT KEWEENAW NATIONAL  
HISTORICAL PARK

*4 Days*

EXPLORING THE LEAST-VISITED  
NATIONAL PARK IN THE LOWER 48  
WITH EXPERT NATURALISTS

ROCK HARBOR  
*Isle Royale  
National Park*



HIGHLIGHTS  
↓

- Relax on scenic boat rides to Raspberry Island, Hidden Lake and Lookout Louise
- Take a scenic drive through the Upper Peninsula with several curated stops along the way
- Opportunities for canoeing along the rocky shorelines of Rock Harbor
- Learn about wildlife and ecology research from expert scientists and park naturalists



On the National Park Service ferry to Isle Royale National Park

## The Wilderness of Isle Royale

 Activity level: Moderate

**AVAILABLE DATES:** August 16–22, 2021 (Arrivals on August 15th) | Min/Max: 10/16

**8 days/7 nights** | NPCA Member Price: \$4,925 per person double occupancy & \$475 single supplement

**Deposit:** \$500 per person due at registration

**Arrive/Depart:** Houghton, Michigan

**Reservations:** Please contact Jared Dial, NPCA's Travel Program Manager, at 1.800.628.7275 or email the Travel Program at [travel@npca.org](mailto:travel@npca.org).

**Inclusions:** Accommodations as noted in the itinerary, meals as noted (B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner), ground transportation, sightseeing and excursions as listed, guest speakers, a variety of trail snacks, and bottled water on the bus.

**Exclusions:** Airfare to/from Houghton, luggage charges, guide gratuities, travel insurance, alcohol, and personal expenses.

*Isle Royale National Park is a remote island of rugged wilderness in Lake Superior consisting of dense forests, rocky ridges and small lakes. The island park is accessible only by boat or seaplane, there are no paved roads, and all the human inhabitants leave in the winter, returning control of the island to its wolves, moose, red squirrels, bats, river otters and loons. This is the least-visited national park in the Lower 48, with about as many visitors in a year as Yosemite gets in one relatively quiet day. Isle Royale is perhaps most famous for a decades-long study tracking the relationship between the island's moose and wolf populations. The wolf population had been slowly dwindling for a number of years, getting down to just two wolves in 2018 that were incapable of breeding or keeping the population of over 1,500 moose in check. To restore balance, NPCA supported the National Park Service's bold plan to bring 20 to 30 new wolves to Isle Royale. The project continues to this day. On this NPCA-led trip, get a behind-the-scenes look at this wildlife restoration project with the opportunity to meet National Park Service staff, scientists and other NPCA partners in person. Our eight-day journey begins at Keweenaw National Historic Park, where you will learn about the cultural history of the Upper Peninsula. Then, we'll take the National Park Service ferry over to Isle Royale National Park, learning from park staff along the way. We'll have three full days and four nights in Isle Royale, with plenty of time to explore. You'll get to relax on scenic boat cruises, hike through forests, kayak on one of the world's largest freshwater lakes, keep an eye out for moose and the newly reintroduced wolves, visit landmark lighthouses and forts, and snap photos of colorful sunsets. Finally, we will head back to Houghton, Michigan, for a farewell dinner and departures out the following day.*



### ITINERARY

**DAY Arrivals into Houghton**

**1** Independent arrivals into **Houghton, Michigan (CMX)**. There are two flights from Chicago into Houghton on this day, so guests can choose which flight works best for their schedule. Settle into the hotel and get ready to start your adventure the following morning. **Hampton Inn by Hilton**





Visitors' bags in front of a Copper Harbor bakery

**DAY** **Keweenaw National Historical Park**

**2** Today we'll take a scenic drive up to Copper Harbor and discover several different stops that showcase the beauty of the Upper Peninsula! Originally inhabited by the Algonquin, the **Upper Peninsula** saw its first immigrants when copper mining took hold, drawing a large number of Fins, Swedes, Celts and Italians. We'll head out to explore the town of **Calumet** and meet with National Park Service staff at **Keweenaw National Historical Park**, which celebrates the life and history of copper mining on the Keweenaw Peninsula. We'll visit **The Eagle Harbor Lifesaving Station**, which was constructed in the early 1900s as the US Coast Guard's boathouse dedicated to life-saving rescues on Lake Superior. We'll grab a pastry at the historic **Jampot**, then take the scenic **Brockway Mountain Drive** to the **Estivant Pines Nature Sanctuary** for a quick loop hike. We'll round out the day with a formal welcome dinner at **Harbor Haus**, a local favorite and one of the best restaurants in the Upper Peninsula. *Far View Lodge (B, L, D)*

**DAY** **Ferry to Isle Royale**

**3** We leave Houghton in the morning to catch the National Park Service ferry to **Rock Harbor** in **Isle Royale National Park**. As the ship navigates through the scenic **Keweenaw Waterway** and into the world's largest freshwater lake, we will hear from National Park Service interpretive staff for an introduction to everything Isle Royale has to offer. As the island approaches, a picturesque seascape transitions to a rugged, lichen-covered shoreline and the historic **Rock Harbor Lighthouse**. We arrive at Rock Harbor mid-afternoon and check in to the hotel. We will take a quick geology-focused interpretive hike before meeting for an early group dinner at the Rock Harbor Lodge. Afterwards, we will attend a naturalist-led evening program with national park experts. *Rock Harbor Lodge (B, L, D)*

**DAY** **Isle Royale National Park**

**4** After breakfast, we will take a morning hike to **Scoville Point**, which provides a perfect introduction to the park and opportunity to investigate some of the flora and fauna of the island.\* After enjoying the views, the group will return to Rock Harbor for lunch at the Lodge. In the afternoon, we'll head by boat to **Raspberry Island** for a loop hike along a boardwalk through the spruce bog and forest with areas for

taking in the views from the island's rocky shores. After a boat-ride back to Rock Harbor, guests will prepare for dinner and then an educational presentation from your NPCA host about important park protection efforts in Isle Royale National Park. *\*Our schedule for the Isle Royale days will vary depending on weather and individual interests.*

*Far View Lodge (B, L, D)*

---

**ISLE ROYALE'S REMOTENESS FORCES YOU TO UNPLUG AND FOCUS ON WHAT'S IN FRONT OF YOU, WHICH MAY JUST BE A MOOSE. LISTEN FOR THE HOWL OF WOLVES, WHICH WILL SOON RETURN THANKS TO A PARK PLAN SUPPORTED BY NPCA.**

CHRIS GOEPFERT, NPCA SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER, UPPER MIDWEST

---

**DAY** **Isle Royale National Park**

**5** We'll enjoy a hearty breakfast this morning before adventuring to **Hidden Lake** and **Lookout Louise** for one of the more spectacular northern views of the islands and bays, as well as the Canadian shoreline. Guests will enjoy a **group boat tour** through the tranquil beauty of **Tobin Harbor**, a protected bay of Lake Superior and home to unique populations of nesting loons and coaster brook trout. Tobin Harbor is also home to several historic cottages and families who were central to the park's establishment. Walk along Hidden Lake up to the ridge top, while having the chance to spot moose and learn about the natural and cultural history of the island from your expert guides who have hiked, explored and studied the island for over 40 years. Return to Rock Harbor for lunch. This afternoon, the group can choose to explore by foot or kayak around the rocky shorelines, boreal forest and other

habitats in the vicinity of Rock Harbor or spend time relaxing at the lodge. The group will meet for dinner and optional evening program with the National Park Service. **Far View Lodge (B, L, D)**

**DAY 6 Isle Royale National Park**

**6** We leave Rock Harbor for the day via boat down the Rock Harbor Channel. Step back in time as we visit the historic **Edisen Fishery** and **Rock Harbor Light**, one of the park's four historic lighthouses. Following a picnic lunch on the beach, we hike a short distance to meet with the lead scientist involved in the island's **wolf-moose research**, for a private presentation and group discussion. Isle Royale's famous study of moose and wolves has continued for more than 50 years. Due to its isolation, the island offers biologists an unusual opportunity to study the complex interactions between species in a contained ecosystem. The wolf population had significantly decreased over time, leading to an overpopulation of moose. NPCA has been working with the National Park Service, along with local partners to help restabilize the wolf population on the island. We'll hear about how this work has been instrumental in convincing the National Park Service to move forward with the reintroduction efforts and how NPCA helped amplify the findings of this important work to the public. The group will then take a boat ride to meet with the **Superintendent of Isle Royale National Park**

**Travel Insurance:** To protect yourself from the loss of deposit and cancellation fees, you are encouraged to purchase travel insurance. If you need assistance, NPCA recommends contacting Travel Insurance Services; confirmation packets will include details.

**Traveler Responsibility:** Travelers are responsible for choosing an NPCA trip consistent with their ability, fitness, and overall health. All travelers are required to complete and return their **registration form, personal information form, flight form, and waiver** before being allowed to participate in a trip. Travelers also are responsible for reading and understanding all pre-departure materials and bringing the appropriate clothing and gear as suggested.

for another perspective on this important work before heading back to Rock Harbor for a special final dinner on the island: a fish cookout outdoors if the weather is nice. After dinner, we will hear remarkable stories from our own private naturalist guides, the only people to ever hike the 1,500 mile shoreline around Lake Superior. **Far View Lodge (B, L, D)**

**DAY 7 Ferry to Houghton**

**7** Enjoy the last breakfast on Isle Royale before boarding the National Park Service ferry for our Lake Superior crossing back to Houghton. The six-hour boat ride includes detailed presentations by park naturalists and researchers. Our mid-afternoon docking allows time to rest at the inn or an opportunity to explore Houghton on foot to see the old architecture of the downtown or take a quick hike on the trail around the canal before meeting for a formal **farewell dinner** as a group. **Hampton Inn by Hilton (B, L, D)**

**DAY 8 Departures from Houghton/Hancock**

**8** Following breakfast and checkout, we will have one last morning tour into the old mine shafts of the **Quincy Mines**, which is part of the Keweenaw National Historic Park. From there, guests will catch their 1:00 p.m. departure flight\* from Hancock to Chicago O'Hare (ORD).  
\*A 6:00 a.m. flight is also available. **(B)**

**Trip Cancellation Policy: Cancellation notice must be submitted in writing and is effective upon date of receipt.**

Before 90 days prior to trip start	90-61 days prior	60-31 days prior	< 30 days prior
Deposit is 100% refundable less \$250 per person admin fee	Refund less 25% of trip cost per person	Refund less 50% of trip cost per person	No refund

**LODGING**

Find comfort and relaxation in each of the hotel properties we carefully selected for your NPCA trip.



**Hampton Inn by Hilton:** This hotel is Centrally located on U.S.-41 in downtown Houghton, Michigan, and is at the gateway to Isle Royale National Park and the beautiful Keweenaw Peninsula. The hotel features luxury suites, indoor pool, spa, sauna and fitness room.



**Rock Harbor Lodge (Isle Royale National Park):** Arrive by boat to your park lodge, nestled in the wilderness on the shores of Lake Superior. Rooms are just a stone's throw from Rock Harbor.

**COVID19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

NPCA is always committed to providing high quality tours that ensure the well-being and safety of our members and supporters. Each of our travel partners have developed robust safety protocols to protect the health of our guests, staff, and the communities we visit. As conditions and guidelines continue to evolve, our travel partners are committed to easing concerns and creating flexible options for those interested in rescheduling or booking new travel. NPCA advises all individuals to follow the guidance of public health experts at the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization in protecting themselves and their communities from the coronavirus. Specific guidelines such as health screenings and social distancing will be determined based on the trip's date of departure and group size. Please contact us for details.





# Why Travel with NPCA?

## **SAFETY AND FLEXIBILITY**

Your health and safety is our top priority. NPCA has worked with each of our travel partners to develop safety measures for our 2021 trips in response to the global pandemic.

## **EXPERT TRIP LEADERS**

Every trip will be led by an NPCA staff expert and naturalist guide. We are teaming up with experienced tour operators to give you exclusive insights into your national parks.

## **SMALL-SIZED GROUPS**

Group size on each of our land trips is limited to no more than 16 people to maximize your interactions with experts, enhance wildlife viewing and boost educational opportunities throughout your experience.

## **CONVENIENT TRAVEL**

Everything is included in your tour, including meals, accommodations, snacks, interpretive guides, special speakers, transportation within the destination and all activities (unless otherwise stated).

## **ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS**

NPCA partners with tour operators that support cultural and natural heritage, maximize the economic benefits in the destinations we operate in and establish guidelines for managing environmental impacts.

## **EXCELLENT VALUE**

Our tours offer members the opportunity to explore the parks without the hassle of planning or the frustrations of crowds. We handle the logistics, so you don't have to.

## **NPCA EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION**

Starting in 2021, we will offer a handful of unique tours designed to give you exclusive experiences within the parks and special behind-the-scenes access to National Park Service staff, NPCA partners, and other local specialists. Our goal is to offer NPCA members the best itineraries in adventure and educational travel in the places we know best: America's national parks. Our custom-designed itineraries highlight NPCA's important contributions to park protection while delivering outstanding interpretive hikes and sight-seeing in national parks around the country.

*NPCA is the only independent, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advocacy on behalf of the National Park System. We are 100% privately funded and we rely on donations from individuals like you. One traveler per group must be an active NPCA member to participate in an NPCA trip. An annual membership starts at \$15 per person. Please make dues payable to NPCA by check or credit card at [npca.org](http://npca.org).*