LAKE SUPERIOR
Lake Superior is the largest freshwater lake on our planet, containing 10% of all the fresh water on earth. The diverse natural history and cultural heritage of the Lake Superior region offers paddlers a unique experience on this remarkable global resource.

Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device.

Be familiar with dangers of hypothermia and dress appropriately for the cold water (52 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit). Cold water is a killer – wearing or dry suit is strongly recommended.

Seek instruction and practice kayaking skills, including rescue, before paddling on Lake Superior.

Be certain your boat has adequate beam and stem flotation and that you have access to a pump for empyting a flooded boat.

Travel with a companion or group. Know the skill level of other paddlers in your group. Discuss safety issues before leaving shore.

Study shoreline features on your chart and review exit points before launching. Remember, cliffs can cause additional turbulence and prevent you from going ashore.

Fog frequently restricts visibility to zero. Bring a good compass and know how to use it.

Anticipate changes in weather, wind and waves by monitoring a weather or marine VHF radio, and using your awareness and common sense.

The National Weather Service broadcasts a 24-hour updated marine forecast on VHF 64, weather band channel 1 on the maritime VHF frequency, from Duluth; a version of this broadcast can be heard by calling 218-729-6697, press 4 for Lake Superior weather information. The VHF radio can also be used to call for emergency help.

Other items recommended for paddlers to carry:

- Spray skirt:
- Float for paddle, whistle and emergency flares:
- Water, snacks and sunscreen; and compass.

The Duluth Harbor is a major port in the U.S. Fee is paid to the Duluth slips to the east and stay out of the shipping lanes. When using the Minnesota and Wisconsin entrances be aware that while inbound ships are easily spotted at some distances, the outbound ships are not visible from the end of the entrances. When paddling through the St. Louis River estuary stay to the right side in order to not give up your right of way. Obtain a chart of the Duluth Harbor for specifics regarding shipping lanes.

Be aware of special paddling hazards in the Duluth-Superior harbor area.

Outgoing currents through the Minnesota and Wisconsin entrances can create confusing, and sometimes reflector waves to create chaotic paddling conditions. Stay ahead of these current changes and keep well away from commercial and recreational boating traffic.

Keyhole/canyon paddlers in state parks. These primitive sites are accessible by water or foot trail only. Most of these sites have fire rings. Fees are charged, and reservations are required. All these sites, all state park rules apply and all vehicles must have a state park vehicle permit.

Water Trail kayak campsites. These primitive sites are accessible from the lake only. There is no parking allowed. They are available on a first-come, first-served basis, with no fee charged at the time. The campsites are intended for a one night maximum stay, weather permitting. Group sites are limited to six paddlers; please do not call them to offer assistance for people not sharing adjacent sites. Fines are not allowed. Leave campsites as clean or cleaner than you find them and carry out all trash. For more information on individual site capacity, refer to the route description portion of this map.

Low impact camping. Please try very lightly when you are on land. Use only established campsites (that means that even walking on what appears to be a “clean” rock surface there are many highly coloured lichens, mosses and tiny plants.) Avoid walking on mosses and lichens along the shore. Use of camp stoves at campsites is recommended. Within state parks campsites are allowed in five rings only.

Camp in groups of 6 or less. Camp only in designated areas as marked on the map.

Respect private homes and property along the shore.

Drinking Water
Drinking water is not provided at most of the campsites. Be prepared to treat all water from the lake and carry all food and water needs paddling in the St. Louis River estuary.

Enjoy
Lake Superior is a unique paddling environment for a sea kayaker to experience the world’s largest freshwater lake. The natural history and cultural heritage of the Lake Superior region will offer paddlers a unique experience on this remarkable global resource.

How Can I Help?
For Association membership and information on becoming involved with the Lake Superior Water Trail Association (LSWTA), write to:
Lake Superior Water Trail
Association of Minnesota
395 S. Lake Avenue
Duluth, MN 55802
Visit the LSWTA website: LSWTADot

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Lake Superior Water Trail

Route Description
(continued from other side)

17.6 McQuade Safe Harbor. DNR protected boat and kayak launch, toilets, parking, and shore fishing. [46° 52.842' N / 91° 51.155' W]

19.6 French River. Carry-in access. Rest area. Toilets. Limited day use parking. [46° 53.963' N / 91° 53.130' W]

22.0 Barkers Island. Access at public boat launch area. Parking, toilets. [46° 55.045' N / 91° 51.155' W]

23.1 Big Sucker River. Rest area on small beach at river mouth. Toilets. [46° 55.675' N / 91° 48.795' W]

24.3 Stony Point. Rest area. Limited day use parking. [46° 55.320' N / 91° 50.855' W]

25.5 Knife River Marine. Access at public boat launch area. Parking. Toilets. [46° 56.705' N / 91° 46.950' W]

26.5 Knife River Beach. Carry-in access. Rest area. Parking. Toilets. [46° 56.705' N / 91° 46.950' W]

28.2 Bob’s Cabins. Emergency landing only. Private resort. Rocky Beach. Contact resort for lodging and other information. [46° 56.789' N / 91° 47.075' W]

30.5 Agate Bay. DNR protected boat launch. (emergency landing only) Parking, toilets, Historic lighthouse and museum at point. [47° 00.875' N / 91° 39.975' W]

End of Route for Map 1