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.

THE LAKE SUPERIOR EXPERIENCE

Lake Superior, born in fire and ice, has offered adventurous travelers and campers miles of discovery for thousands of years. The geological history and features of the north shore reveal some of the oldest rock formations on earth and are a testimony to the great forces of nature, which created this great lake.

Although the North Shore of Lake Superior is located on the southern fringe of the boreal forest, the cold, harsh conditions created by Superior’s cold water resemble a subarctic ecosystem. Brilliant lichens, mosses, wildflowers, and two plant types: Ignumesis, butternut or cloudberry together with spruce, white pines, aspens and birch form the rugged coastline. The North Shore’s cultural history and diversity is no less impressive. The North Shore offers the paddler an opportunity to learn about the people and traditions of the First Nations of the lake and the European influence of early explorers, missionaries and fur traders. Evidence of the history of the lumber, mining, shipping, and commercial fishing industries are found all along the shore.

LAKE SUPERIOR WATER TRAIL

The Lake Superior Water Trail was established by the Minnesota Legislature in 1993, the Minnesota portion of the Lake Superior Water Trail extends from the St. Louis Bay at Duluth to the Pigeon River on the Canadian border, a distance of approximately 150 miles. The trail continues into Michigan and First Nations will develop a Water Trail in the future. The purpose of the Water Trail is to provide a series of maps for use by sea kayakers. The development and maintenance of the Water Trail is a joint effort of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Lake Superior Water Trail Association of Minnesota.

This map covers approximately 42 miles of Superior’s shoreline in Eastern Cook County. This section of the Water Trail will record the paddler with cobbles and sand beaches and many interesting geological formations embodied in the low baseline shoreline outcroppings. Roughly half of this trail section falls within the Great Portage Indian Reservation and has limited public access points. Paddlers traveling the area need to plan ahead with an eye on the weather and personal needs. The first nation people of the Grand Portage Indian Reservation and the Grand Portage National Monument area to learn. Located within the reservation are the Sun Island and views of high inland vistas. Much of the reservation land is in excellent state of preservation in a semi-wilderness setting. Use of all reservation land is only permitted by its Trust Land and Natural Resources Office (218) 475-2401. If crossing the border into Canada or the U.S. you will need to notify the appropriate custom official for proper entry procedure.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

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other conditions and know your own lake and

can be increased by shoreline features and current.

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

• Be familiar with dangers of hypothermia and dress appropriately for the cold water (50-60 degrees Fahrenheit). Cold water is a killer – wearing a wet or dry suit is strongly recommended.

• Seek instruction and practice kayak skills, rescue techniques, before paddling on Lake Superior.

• Be careful of rocks, oxbows and other obstacles.

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

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

• Carry a cell phone or two-way radio.

• Study shoreline features on your chart and review exit points before launching. Look for current channels, guards and other aids to navigation.

• This map is not adequate for sale use as a navigational aid.

USGS topographic maps and NOAA charts of the North Shore can be obtained from a variety of sources, such as kayaking or camping gear retailers. Learn how to use maps and a compass for navigation before setting out on the lake.

A paddler needs to be prepared mentally and physically to deal with these conditions and to ensure the Lake Superior offers paddlers a unique experience on this remarkable global resource.

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For more information on individual site capacity, refer to the route description portion of this map.

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