

LAKE SUPERIOR WATER TRAIL - MAP 4

A STATE WATER TRAIL Guide



Grand Marais to Pigeon River Minnesota State Parks and Trails

FRONT COVER ART BY DICK ALLEN



The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

This information is available in alternative format upon request



INFORMATION

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Information Center
 Metro (651) 296-6157
 1-888-MINNDNR (646-6367)
 TDD Metro (651) 296-5484
 TDD MN toll free 1-800-657-3929

DNR Parks & Trails
 (651) 259-5666

DNR Website
www.mndnr.gov

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY:

Lake Superior Water Trail Association of Minnesota
 and
 Matt Kania Map Illustrations

This map is not intended as a sole source for navigational information.

LAKE SUPERIOR
 Lake Superior is the largest freshwater lake on our planet, containing 10% of all the fresh water on earth. The lake's 32,000 square mile surface area stretches across the border between the United States and Canada; two countries, three states, one province and many First Nations surround Superior's magnificent shoreline. 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 WATER TRAIL

Established by the Minnesota Legislature in 1993, the Minnesota portion of the Lake Superior Water Trail extends from the St. Louis Bay in Duluth to the Pigeon River on the Canadian border, a distance of approximately 150 miles. Cooperative efforts in Ontario, Wisconsin, Michigan and First Nations will develop a Water Trail completely around Lake Superior, primarily 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 Lake Superior's shoreline in Eastern Cook County. This section of the Water Trail will reward the paddler with cobble and sand beaches and many interesting geological formations embedded in the low basaltic shoreline outcroppings. Roughly half of this trail section falls within the Grand Portage Indian Reservation and has limited public access points. Paddlers traversing this area need to plan ahead with an eye on the weather and personal needs.

The first nation people of the Grand Portage Reservation have a rich natural and cultural history. Visitors are encouraged to respect the privacy of the Reservation Lands and visit the Grand Portage National Monument area to learn more. Located within the reservation are the Susie Islands and views of high inland vistas. Much of the reservation land is in an excellent state of preservation in a semi-wilderness setting. Use of all reservation land needs prior authorization by its Trust Lands and Natural Resources Office (218) 475-2415. If crossing the border into Canada or the U.S. you will need to notify the appropriate customs office for proper entry protocol.

THE LAKE SUPERIOR EXPERIENCE

Lake Superior, born in fire and ice, has offered adventuresome travelers endless miles of discovery for thousands of years. The geological history and features of the northwestern shoreline reveals 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 waters resemble a subarctic ecosystem. Brilliant lichens, mosses, wildflowers, and rare plants like lignonberry, butterwort or cloudberry together with spruce, white pine, aspen and birch soften the rugged shoreline.

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.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

The many shipwrecks along the North Shore are tragic reminders of the power and fury of Lake Superior. That power is something every paddler must respect and not underestimate. The same dramatic features that enrich the shoreline experience, such as lake cliffs, can pose serious hazards to unwary paddlers; placid summer waters can change in minutes to life-threatening conditions and cliff areas can prevent paddlers from seeking safety on shore. A paddler needs to be prepared mentally and physically to deal with these conditions and possess the paddling skills necessary to assure their own safety and that of others. Local marine weather forecasts should be monitored before and during any trip on the lake. A paddler needs to understand the implications these forecasts have on overall lake conditions, as well as the shoreline area you plan to travel.

Wave heights can be greatly increased by shoreline features and currents.

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

• **Be familiar with dangers of hypothermia and dress appropriately for the cold water (32 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit).** Cold water is a killer – wearing a wet or dry suit is strongly recommended.

• **Seek instruction and practice kayak skills, including rescues, before paddling on Lake Superior.**

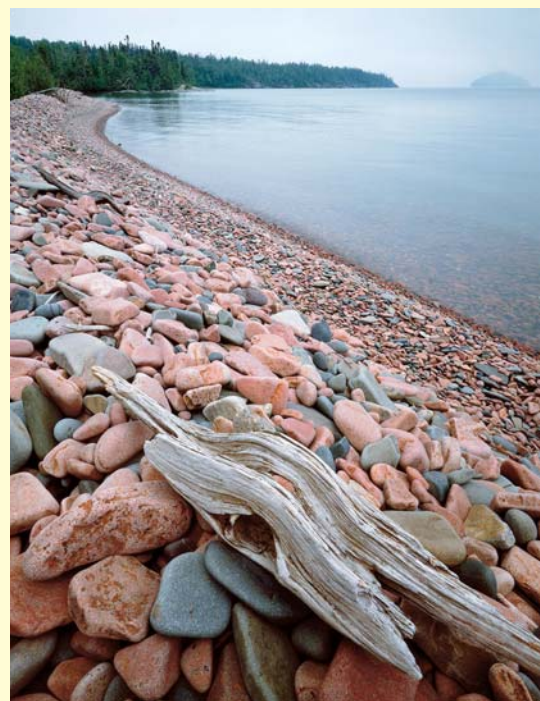
Be certain your boat has adequate bow and stern flotation and that you have access to a pump for emptying a flooded boat.

• **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 water turbulence and prevent you from going ashore.

• **This map is not adequate for sole 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.



CECILE FURBER/DOCK



DECK JARVIS



CECILE FURBER/DOCK



DECK JARVIS



DECK JARVIS



DECK JARVIS

• **All watercraft (including non-motorized canoes and kayaks over 9 feet in length) must be registered in Minnesota or the state of residence.**

• **Each paddler is required to have a wearable U.S. Coast Guard personal flotation device readily accessible and there must be a bright white light and three hand-held flares on board each kayak or canoe after sunset to be displayed in time to prevent a collision.**

• **Choose your trip and daily travel distance in relation to experience, fitness and a 2-3 mph average kayak speed.** Changing lake conditions can greatly affect distances traveled.

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

• **Other items recommended for paddlers to carry:** A portable VHF radio to call for help in an emergency and monitor the weather channels; Spray skirt; Float for paddle; Whistle and emergency flares; Water, snacks and sunscreen; and compass.

• **Anticipate changes in weather, wind and wave 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 KIG 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.

CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES

Camping is permitted at designated sites only. The following options are available:

• **Campgrounds - state park, municipal and private campgrounds.** These are generally located inland. They make a good base camp for day trips. Fees are charged and reservations are advisable.

• **Kayak/backpack campsites in state parks.** These primitive state park sites are accessible by water or foot trail only. Most of these sites have fire rings. \$11 fee charged. Reservations are required. At 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 this time. The campsites are intended for a one night maximum stay, weather permitting. Group sizes are limited to six paddlers; please be courteous to others sharing adjacent sites. Fires are not allowed. Please 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 tread very lightly when you are on land. Use only established trails. (Notice that even walking on what appears to be a "plain" rock surface there are many brightly colored lichens, mosses and tiny plants.) Avoid walking on mosses and lichens along the shore. The use of camp stoves at campsites is recommended. Within state parks campfires are allowed in fire rings only.

• **Camp in groups of 6 or less.** Camp only in designated areas that are marked on the map.

• **Respect private homes and property along the shore!**

Please take breaks and camp only at designated areas.

DRINKING WATER

Drinking water is not provided at most of the campsites. Be prepared to treat all water from the lake and rivers.

ENJOY

Lake Superior is a spectacular environment for a sea kayaker to experience the world's largest freshwater lake. The natural history and cultural diversity will provide additional dimensions to the experience. Enjoy all that Lake Superior has to offer, respect the lake and tread lightly on her shores.

LAKE SUPERIOR WATER TRAIL



Route Description

(continued from other side)

In Miles (0.0 at Minnesota Entrance -Duluth Lift Bridge)

139.1 Paradise Beach. Rest area and primitive campsite. Old cabin near campsite location. No facilities. [47°48.562' N / 90° 04.535' W]

139.2 Paradise Wayside Rest. Undeveloped rest stop on Highway 61. Limited, six hour parking. No facilities. [47° 48.628' N / 90° 4.421' W]

140.4 Brule River. Rest area. Judge Magney State Park maintains a trail from park HQ to near the mouth of river. State park facilities (ranger station, picnic area, campground, public phone) are a 1/4-mile hike upstream on the west side of the river. Depending on the river level you can paddle part way up river to trail. Reservations for camping recommended. Nanaboujou Lodge and restaurant owns property on river left. This is not open for public use unless you are dining or staying at lodge. [47° 48.933' N / 90° 3.069' W]

141.8 Alden's Beach. Rest area. No facilities. Rock cliffs on each side of cobble-sand beach. [47° 49.181' N / 90° 1.342' W]

144.9 Town of Hovland. Public water access. Rest area. Parking. No facilities. Cement pier and "The Ol' Dog Trail" historical marker at this location. [47° 50.335' N / 89° 58.196' W]

146.7 Horseshoe Bay Public Water Access. Rest area. Boat ramp and dock. Parking. Facilities. [47° 51.047' N / 89° 56.208' W]

146.8 Horseshoe Bay Public Trust Fund Land. Rest area, and primitive, dispersed camping. [47° 51.004' N / 89° 55.951' W]

150.0 Arlo's Stop. Rest area and primitive dispersed camping. No facilities. [47° 52.138' N / 89° 52.929' W]

150.0 Antonia's Stop. Rest area and primitive dispersed camping. No facilities. [47° 52.055' N / 89° 52.007' W]

150.6 Reservation River Road. Rest area. No facilities. Small cobble beach with good landing area. Informal local access with limited daytime parking. [47° 52.463' N / 89° 52.238' W]
Caution: No public landing areas next 10 miles.

Note: Use of non-public areas within Grand Portage Reservation, without permission, is prohibited.

162.6 Grand Portage Marina, Lodge and Casino. Owned and operated by Grand Portage Indian Reservation. Parking fee. Trailer camping. Facilities. [47° 57.353' N / 89° 41.370' W]

162.8 Grand Portage National Monument. Day time use area. Parking. No camping. Grand Portage information at contact station in parking lot near stockade. [47° 57.694' N / 89° 41.070' W]

164.2 Voyageur Marina. Owned and operated by Grand Portage Indian Reservation. Parking fee. Camping. Facilities. Ferry for Isle Royale departs from this location. [47° 57.747' N / 89° 39.126' W]

177.0 Tip of Pigeon Point. Emergency rest area. No camping. No facilities. Landing may be difficult. This entire area is ecologically sensitive. The Bureau of Land Management currently administers this area on Pigeon Point.

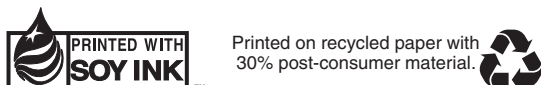
174.0 Pigeon River and Customs. The Highway 61 border-crossing bridge is located approximately one mile up from the mouth of the river. The main entrance of Grand Portage State Park is located just north of the highway near boarder crossing. This park is a day use park only.

End of Route

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
 Waters of Superior
 395 S. Lake Avenue
 Duluth, MN 55802



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.

