



Miles of colorful sandstone cliffs from 50-200 feet high rise from Lake Superior's rugged shoreline and long stretches of white sand beach invite kayakers to explore the beautiful Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

## Camping Via Kayak

Permits are required to camp in the backcountry at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Permits are available at the Pictured Rocks/Hiawatha National Forest Visitor Center in Munising or the Grand Sable Visitor Center in Grand Marais. There is a fee for backcountry camping.

Permits may be obtained in person only within one day of your trip. *Camping on the beach is not permitted* — camp only in designated campgrounds. Up to six people and two tents are allowed at regular campsites. Groups of 7-20 must stay at designated group sites. See Backcountry Camping brochure for reservation information.

Campgrounds easiest to identify from the lake are **Mosquito, Chapel, Beaver Creek, and Sevenmile Creek**. All other campgrounds (**Coves, Lowney Creek [Beaver Lake], Pine Bluff, Benchmark, and Au Sable Point East**), have special white markers for the Hiawatha Water Trail at the beach / vegetation transition with the site name and campsite

symbol to identify them from the water (see photo on reverse side.) Backcountry campgrounds not accessible from Lake Superior are **Cliffs, Potato Patch, Coves group site, Trappers Lake, and Masse Homestead**. Please refer to the Pictured Rocks Backcountry Camping brochure for additional backcountry rules, regulations and fees.

Front country or vehicle accessible campgrounds also accessible by kayak from Lake Superior are Twelvemile Beach and lower Hurricane River. Specific fees and regulations apply to these campgrounds.

Lakeshore kayak put-in points are Sand Point, Miners Beach, Twelvemile Beach and Hurricane River. Additional put-in points in the Munising area include Grand Island Landing, Munising city marina, Munising/Brown's Addition boat ramp, and the Anna River. In Grand Marais you may launch at the Grand Marais harbor beach and marina.

## Weather and Safety

Lake Superior is unpredictable! Kayakers must be prepared for cold temperatures, high winds, fog and rough seas at any time. You should be ready for changing conditions. Consult the current marine forecast before starting any trip (NOAA 1-906-475-5212 or Marine Band Radio Channel 16).

Hypothermia occurs when your body's core temperature is reduced below normal levels. Cold water conducts heat away from your body 25 times faster than cold air. Uncontrollable shaking, slurred speech, or difficulty moving are all warning signs - you must be warmed immediately. If submerged in Lake Superior, it is important to conserve body heat to increase your chances for survival. Wear your floatation device, huddle with others or pull legs together and up to your chest to help conserve heat. Do not attempt to swim long distances.

Sea kayaks ride low in the water and are difficult for other boaters to see. It is best to paddle brightly colored kayaks in red, orange, or yellow.

Fifteen miles of Pictured Rocks cliffs including sheer walls all the way to the water line offer no escape if wind and waves increase.

Be aware of tour boats that leave Munising on a regular basis during the summer months; they run fairly close to the shoreline with a turnaround point at Chapel Beach.

Most storms come from the northwest exposing you to Lake Superior winds when paddling. There are no protected anchorages at any backcountry or front country campgrounds.

It is recommended that kayakers wear wet or dry suits due to Lake Superior's cold water. U.S. Coast Guard approved Personal Floatation Devices (PFD) are required for each person.

Be prepared with provisions for at least one extra day. In your gear, include a first aid kit, emergency signal device, self-contained stove, an extra paddle, compass, maps, insect repellent, tow line, rain gear, waterproof matches, and dry storage containers.

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