



SAMPLE Isle Royale Itinerary

PLEASE NOTE: This is just a SAMPLE itinerary and not a guaranteed agenda – for instance, not all of our trips have a base camp and often will involve multiple camping spots. All trips are customized to best meet the ambitions, physical abilities and paddling experience of every group, while the trip duration and current marine forecast have an impact on where we will visit. In general, we tend to highlight both the southeast and northeast areas of the Island, as its finger-bays and barrier islands host an area of truly world-class sea kayaking opportunities. It may be possible to schedule a point-to-point tour to other areas of the Island utilizing the water taxi, although additional fees would apply.

4-day Trip - Base Camp at East Caribou Island

Pre-trip Prep Day:

Orientation is scheduled for 3pm the day prior to your departure to the isle. This is a great opportunity to meet other participants, get to know your guide, and make sure you have any last-minute questions answered. The weather forecast, map and a paddle plan will be scrutinized together. We'll also review what gear is essential for the trip, will get everyone fitted to the appropriately sized boat and make sure everyone has what they need. Lastly, we'll partake in a "mini" water safety course for a few hours to make sure everyone has the skills needed to deal with whatever Lake Superior throws our way.

Day One:

The first day starts bright and early, with everyone meeting together at 7:00 a.m. We'll get all of our gear together and ready to load onto the ferry, and get into line to make sure we get a great spot. While we wait to board everyone will have a chance to grab some coffee and bakery from Jansen's, Copper Harbor's renown waterside fish market/bakery. With breakfast in hand and gear loaded up we will board the Isle Royale Queen for the 3 ½ hour ride to Isle Royale National Park.

Upon arrival we will unload, receive our park safety briefing, and have lunch on the shore of Rock Harbor before we begin our day's paddle. A short but fantastically scenic paddle will take us past a series of barrier islands to East Caribou Island, where we will set up a base camp that will be our home for the rest of the trip. Everyone will have time to get settled in and explore the island a bit, checking out the remnants of past settlements, hidden pebbly beaches, and prolific berry patches that are abundant on the island.

Day Two:

The beauty of a base camp style trip is that we don't have to break camp every morning. While your guide will likely be up before the sun, making coffee and getting breakfast going, you'll have the option to have a nice relaxing morning, or get up early to watch the sunrise over the expansive fresh water horizon.

Having a base camp also allows us to store our gear at camp, leaving us unencumbered for the day's adventures. We have only just begun to scratch the surface of the world class paddling that this National Park

has to offer, so the rest of the morning and afternoon will be spent largely in our kayaks. We will circumnavigate East and West Caribou islands, exploring the myriad of ancient basalt channels and coves that define these unique barrier islands. From there we'll head over towards Conglomerate Bay, to experience a completely different type of geology and coastline. Here we will take our lunch on the cliffs overlooking the bay, perhaps taking some time to pick wild blueberries or do some cliff jumping for those looking for a bit of adrenaline.

Our relaxing evening paddle will take us back to our base camp, past the bell buoy and the Rock Harbor Lighthouse that will be one of our destinations tomorrow. Once back at base your guide will get dinner going and light a campfire for guests to warm themselves and rest after a great day on the water.

Day Three:

This will be a slightly earlier morning than the previous day. Wildlife rarely sleeps in, and if we want to have the best chances of an exciting encounter, we want to be up with the sun. While Day Two we explored from the water, on Day Three we will venture inland onto the famous hiking trails of Isle Royale National Park.

An early rise and a quick breakfast will be followed by a short paddle to Daisy Farm Campground. From here we will embark on a half day hiking adventure, covering a 5-6 mile loop up the Greenstone Ridge and back to Daisy Farm. We will pass through a wide variety of ecosystems with your guide providing an interpretive naturalist narrative, while helping you to spot all the interesting wildlife that we may see. At the end of our climb up the ridge, we will reach the Ojibwe Tower. Here we will eat our lunch, enjoying the spectacular panoramic views stretching across Isle Royale, out to Thunder Bay and the Sibley Peninsula of Ontario.

After hiking back down to our boats we will have a short paddle across Moskey Basin to the Rock Harbor Lighthouse. Here we will have the opportunity to explore the lighthouse and the fantastic interpretive display about the maritime history of Isle Royale and climb the tower to take in the expansive views of the harbor. If everyone is still feeling up for some adventure we can take a short hike from there to check out a historic fish camp, or just a bit further to stop by Rolf and Candy Peterson's wolf/moose research station to learn about the longest running predator/prey study ever conducted.

A few minutes in the kayaks will bring us back to our base on East Caribou where we will have another delicious meal around the campfire.

Day Four:

On the fourth and final day we will again rise early to make the most of our last moments in this spectacular park. After breakfast and breaking camp we will begin our paddle back to the ferry dock in Rock Harbor. We will take a different route this time, ensuring that we see as much of this stunning coastline as possible. Our new route will take us past Suzie's Cave, where we can hop out of our boats to stretch our legs and explore this unique geologic formation. From there it's a straight shot along the shore back to the Rock Harbor campground.

At Rock Harbor we will have the option of another final lunch on the shore, or you may choose to dine at the restaurant if you're craving a nice hot meal with an ice-cold beverage after roughing it for a few days. After lunch we will board the ferry at 2pm for another 3 ½ hour ferry ride back to Copper Harbor where the adventure began.