

Seven Ponds Nature Center's
**Copper Harbor &
Isle Royale Experience**
Sunday, June 16 through Saturday, June 22, 2024



Isle Royale and Copper Harbor, the Keweenaw Peninsula, are spectacular, mirror images separated by the deep, blue waters of the world's largest inland lake, Lake Superior. Timeworn land formations, made up of Precambrian volcanic rock, are responsible for the dramatic scenery of both areas. High ridges of sugar maples contrast greatly with lowlands of deep green spruce festooned with old man's beard lichen. Hiking trails are carpeted with sphagnum moss, and abundant wildflowers add bright colors to the mystical landscape, while songs of nesting, northern songbirds fill the air. Isle Royale and Copper Harbor are also rich in human history, from the Indigenous peoples who mined copper 2,000 years ago, to fishermen and miners who harvested the resources. The history is also one of lighthouses and light keepers who lived in these rugged outposts, and the stories of the ships that ran into trouble in the rocky waters of Lake Superior. Copper Harbor, the northern-most town in Michigan is our destination for the first leg of this trip. We will explore many exceptional sites, such as the ancient Estivant Pines sanctuary, with its 500 year old-growth forest. Hunter's Point, with a shoreline of 4,800 feet, is a rock hound's and wildflower lover's dream. Fort Wilkins will

provide a window to the past and photographers will love the vistas of Lake Superior from Brockway Mountain Drive. Our trip continues over Lake Superior via the Copper Harbor Queen IV, to a national treasure, Isle Royale National Park. It is not the best known national park, in fact, because of its remoteness, it is the least visited. Over one half million acres of land and lake provide the perfect setting, as we explore the natural and cultural history of this ancient island.

Wildflowers are abundant, with many species of orchids waiting to be found. Evidence may be seen of moose, beaver, loons, eagles, and occasionally gray wolves, which make the island their home. Participants will also have the opportunity to see first-hand the research of world renowned wolf biologist, Rolf Peterson. Be sure to sign up early to ensure your place on this popular trip.



Trip Itinerary

Sunday, June 16

This trip starts at the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge in Copper Harbor where folks can check in after 3:00 p.m. Dinner is on your own, as people will be arriving at many different times. In the evening, we will gather at 8:00 p.m. for a short meeting, at which participants will have a chance to meet the leaders and other participants. You will also receive tickets for the Copper Harbor Queen IV; get instructions for handling baggage, and for parking vehicles on Tuesday morning. You will also receive a packet containing maps of lodge areas, and Copper Harbor destinations, checklists for birds, mammals, and more. We hope you can make this meeting. If you cannot, please contact the trip leaders ahead of time. Following the meeting, we will venture out into the night to view the amazing night sky during a stargazing program at the Keweenaw Dark Sky Park, which is headquartered at the lodge.

Monday, June 17

We will meet at 8:00 a.m. in the lodge for a breakfast before heading out for a day of exploring the Copper Harbor area. Be prepared to pack all the things you may need for the day. Our first activity of the day will be a visit to Central, Michigan. This noteworthy historical site was once home to 1,200 people, but is now a ghost town. It is also the site of the Keweenaw's most successful mines, producing nearly 52 million pounds of copper before closing. There are two short hiking trails for us to explore the site and see old miners' homes and buildings as well as an interpretative building to help us understand the history of this ghost town. From there we'll go to Delaware Copper Mine. Operating from 1847 to 1887, this historical mine offers a chance

to go 100 feet below the ground to explore one of the earliest mines to operate during the first major mining boom. Before heading off to our next destination we will have our picnic lunch. From there we will head north through Copper Harbor to the Michigan Nature Association's Estivant Pines, a 377 acre sanctuary. A two-mile walk will lead us through this living museum of old-growth white pines, some nearly 600 years old. Birdwatching is good, as some 85 species are found nesting in this area. We will make a stop at Manganese Falls before heading back to our lodging to clean up before dinner. After dinner in Copper Harbor, we will head out on another road trip, along Brockway Mountain Drive, a truly spectacular road. This road follows a ridge, which overlooks the entire area and is noted for its rich photo opportunities.

Tuesday, June 18 – An early day awaits us with 6:00 a.m. breakfast at the lodge. At 7:00 a.m. participants will meet to park their vehicles in the lot of the Isle Royale Ferry Dock and to place their luggage on carts for loading on the Copper Harbor Queen IV, with departure scheduled for 8:00 a.m. sharp! The Copper Harbor Queen IV will arrive at Rock Harbor at approximately 11:00 a.m. After getting settled into our rooms, we will have lunch in the dining room. The afternoon's activity will include a trip to the Edison Fishery, the Isle Royale Lighthouse, and Rolf Peterson's Isle Royale home site. We will visit the fishery, a historic fishing camp operated by Pete and Laura Edisen in the early 1900's, and also explore the Rock Harbor Lighthouse, the oldest of the four Isle

Royale lighthouses. The light keeper's house is now a museum and participants will be able to climb the tower for a spectacular view. A secluded little beach near the lighthouse always has examples of famous Isle Royale Greenstones. There will also be an opportunity to walk, approximately 1/2 mile, through the woods to the Rolf Peterson cabin to see interpretation of how and why the wolf research is conducted. An amazing collection of bull moose



antlers is a sight one doesn't easily forget. We may luck out and meet up with Rolf and his wife, Candy if they are at the camp. The M.V. Sandy will pick us up at the dock for our return trip and dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. in the lodge dining room. The evening is yours to attend a park program or relax.

Wednesday, June 19

After breakfast, participants should pick up their box lunch, get their hiking gear, and be ready to board the M.V. Sandy at 9:00 a.m. for a morning adventure to Passage Island. We will cruise across one of Lake Superior's popular shipping lanes to the northeastern-most island in Isle Royale National Park. This uninhabited, rugged island has never known grazing effects of the

moose. We will see many interesting and beautiful plants including the rare devils club and a picturesque 1881 lighthouse, Passage Island Light. Be prepared to hike 1 mile each way on a trail with several steep inclines. This trail is *rated strenuous*. We will finish our adventurous day with a hike before dinner.

Option #1 Hike to Suzy's Cave - This hike travels over the Rock Harbor Trail very close to the shoreline. Aside from the usual roots and rocks, this trail affords the hiker a lovely walk through beautiful wooded areas and over various rock outcroppings with minimal climbing. Our destination is an ancient sea



arch called Suzy's Cave. Formed when the water was much higher, this is a fine example of what the power of water can do to carve solid rock. The return trip is via the Tobin Harbor Trail. Being sheltered from Lake Superior, this trail has many lovely examples of the rich flora of the island. This trip is *rated moderate*.

Option #2 Hike the Stoll Trail - The trail starts from the lodge area and follows the Lake Superior shoreline over rocky outcrops and into majestic forest. The trail offers glimpses of ancient copper mines and leads to a breathtaking view of the northeast tip of the island. Many fine examples of wildflowers, including orchids, are represented on this outstanding trail, and many times we have spied moose. This trail is *rated moderate* with stepping over roots and rocks.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. in the lodge dining room.

Thursday, June 20
Breakfast will be served at 7:00 a.m.



in the dining room. After breakfast participants should pick up their box lunch and grab what they need for one of the two morning activity options.

Option #1 Canoe and Hike to Lookout Louise - This group will board canoes at the seaplane dock and paddle one mile down Tobin Harbor to the dock at Hidden Lake. Hidden Lake is a great place to spy moose and pink lady slippers often cover the hillside. We will hike on the Lookout Louise Trail up to the Greenstone Ridge for lunch and a spectacular, panoramic view. This is a short hike, only one mile to the top, but there are steep inclines in places. After lunch we will return down the trail, completing our two mile hike. A leisurely paddle will return us to the seaplane dock where participants may wish to continue their exploration of Tobin Harbor, or return to the lodge area and relax. Because of the climbing near the top of this trail, it is rated moderately strenuous.

Option #2 Hike to Mt. Franklin - This will be an all day hike to Mt. Franklin via the Rock Harbor, Mt. Franklin, and Tobin Harbor Trails. This is an 11-12 mile hike with about one half mile of knee bending climbing. Many opportunities to see wildlife and enjoy wildflowers will make hardy hikers happy. We'll top it off with lunch on the apex of Mt. Franklin (1073 feet) with an excellent view of the geologic formations of the Isle Royale archipelago from the Greenstone Ridge. Participants will be afforded a different perspective on the downhill trip, with spectacular sights overlooking Lake Superior. This is a long, demanding hike and *rated strenuous*. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. in the lodge dining room.

Friday, June 21 -

Breakfast is served at 7:00 a.m. in the dining room. After breakfast, participants should pick up their box lunch, get their hiking gear, and meet outside the dining hall at 9:00 a.m. Please be prompt!



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an excellent view of the geologic formations of the Isle Royale archipelago from the Greenstone Ridge. Participants will be afforded a different perspective on the downhill trip, with spectacular sights overlooking Lake Superior. This is a long, demanding hike and *rated strenuous*. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. in the lodge dining room.

Option #2 Hike to Scoville Point - (This is a great option for those that did not hike Stoll Trail on Wednesday.) We will leave for a 4.3 mile round trip walk out to Scoville Point and back via

the Stoll Trail. The trail starts from the lodge area and follows the Lake Superior shoreline over rocky outcrops and into majestic forests. The trail offers glimpses of ancient copper mines and leads to a breathtaking view of the northeast tip of the island. There, we will have lunch before returning to the lodge via the Tobin Harbor Trail. Many fine examples of wildflowers, including orchids, are represented on this outstanding trail, and many times we have spied moose. We return mid-afternoon with time to enjoy a leisurely afternoon around the lodge. This trip is *rated moderate* with stepping over roots and rocks. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. in the dining room.

At 8:30 p.m. you are invited to a farewell gathering for the group in the guest house. Bring along favorite memories of our days spent together and be ready to share some stories and enjoy some refreshments, including local beer, wine and soft drinks.

Saturday June 22- Participants should be packed and their bags ready in their rooms for the bell hop to pick up before breakfast. Packed items will be stored in locked storage. Any carry on items that participants do not want to take on the trail for the day should be brought to the lodge office for safe keeping. Following a 7:00 a.m. breakfast, participants should pay their bar tab, make final purchases from the gift shop, and be ready participate for one more tour of the island with one of the following options:

Option #1 Hike to Suzy's Cave - Starting out at 9:30 a.m. in the morning, this hike travels over the Rock Harbor Trail very close to the shoreline. Aside from the usual roots and rocks, this trail affords the hiker a lovely walk through beautiful wooded areas and over various rock outcroppings with minimal climbing. Our destination is an ancient sea arch called Suzy's Cave. Formed when the water was much higher, this is a fine example of what the power of water can do to carve solid rock. The return trip is via the Tobin Harbor Trail. Being sheltered from Lake Superior, this trail has many lovely examples of the rich flora of the island. *This trip is rated moderate.*

Option # 2 Bird watching at Tobin Harbor-Starting in front of the dining hall, this will be a great morning of birding around Tobin Harbor. There are many different birds that could be seen from the common loon to winter wrens to vireos to warblers. Let's see what we can find on this leisurely walk. Lunch will be in the dining hall at 12:30 p.m.

The boat departs at 2:45 p.m. and arrives in Copper Harbor at approximately 6:00 p.m. Participants should retrieve their baggage and have a safe trip home.

Trip Leaders

Seven Ponds Nature Center's Isle Royale - Copper Harbor Experience will be led by Seven Ponds' Director of Environmental Education and Chief Naturalist Carrie Spencer, and Naturalist Madison Christol.

Accommodations

The trip includes two nights at the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge, 14252 US-41, Copper Harbor, MI



49918 and phone number: (906) 289-4403, close to downtown Copper Harbor. Four nights of accommodations on Isle Royale at the Rock Harbor Lodge, 800 E Lakeshore Dr, Houghton, MI 49931 phone number: (906) 337-4993. Both lodges overlook magnificent Lake Superior. Seventeen delicious meals are included in the trip, starting with breakfast on Monday and ending with lunch on Saturday. Beer, wine, and soft drinks will be provided at the gathering on Friday evening. Participants are responsible for any alcoholic beverages they may wish to consume during the rest of the trip. Box lunches are provided for the days that we are out hiking. The emergency-only phone number for the lodge is 906-337-4993, plan on your mobile phone not getting any service while on Isle Royale.

Transportation

Transportation to and from Isle Royale via the Copper Harbor Queen IV, boat trips on the M.V. Sandy, and canoes are all included in the trip. Transportation to and from Copper Harbor, Michigan is the responsibility of individual participants and is not included in the trip fee. Participants may want to car pool to Copper Harbor with other members of the group. A list will be provided for those who wish to arrange transportation with someone.

Equipment

One suitcase per person should suffice, plus one day bag for carrying your lunch, field guides, rain gear, and other items on hikes. You must put your name on a tag on your suitcase for the bell hop on the island. Remember to pack warm clothes for the crossing of Lake Superior, as it can be sometimes very frigid. A checklist of gear will be sent out with the pre-trip packet. Limited refreshments are available on the boat; you may want to pack water and snacks.

Trip Fee

The fee for the Isle Royale - Copper Harbor Experience is \$2,032.00. This includes transportation to and from Isle Royale aboard the Copper Harbor Queen IV, six nights lodging (based on double occupancy), seventeen meals, all park fees, parking fees, several boat trips on the island, canoes, farewell gathering refreshments, naturalist services, trip information, and most gratuities. For those wishing their own room, the single supplement fee is \$800.00. To register for this trip, please visit sevenponds.org or send your name, address, phone number, and a \$300.00 deposit to Seven Ponds Nature Center, 3854 Crawford Road, Dryden, Michigan 48428. **Full payment is due May 1, 2024.**

Cancellation Policy

In the event of cancellation, refunds will be made according to the following schedule. If cancellation occurs by April 16, a full refund including the deposit will be made. If cancellation occurs before May 16, the deposit is not refundable, but any payments covering the balance of the trip fee will be refunded. If cancellation occurs after May 16, we will only be able to provide a refund for the portion of the trip fee which is recoverable by Seven Ponds.

Additional Information If you have questions or need additional information about the Isle Royale - Copper Harbor Experience, visit www.sevenponds.org.