



Scott & Ariane's Isle Royale

September 10th – 14th 2019

- Things to know and how to plan
- Gear Check
- Itinerary

Scott & Ariane's

Isle Royale Trip Info

A trip to Isle Royale is sure to be one you'll never forget, however a large part of having lots of fun is being well prepared!

A trip to Isle Royale is something you may never experience again. It is remote, wild, and the terrain is rough.

*Only applies to the 7 day trip when available

Thing to know and how to plan:

You will be closer to Canada than the US, though Isle Royale is a part of Michigan.

Temps will average in the low to mid 60's during the day, and mid to low 40's at night. So plan accordingly for cool nights.

Weather conditions on the island can range from sun, rain, fog and high wind. It's not uncommon for gail force winds to whip the island at any given time. Rain gear will be a MUST for this trip.

Each shelter on the Island can accommodate up to 8people – there are multiple shelters available at each campground that we will be staying at. If we find that we are alone at the campground, you may have the option to have a shelter to yourself. Though we do prefer to stay together whenever possible. You also have the option to bring your own tent.

The Dockside Store is located on the main dock of the Island, close to the Rock Harbor Lodge. There they offer standard though limited groceries as well as freeze dried foods, fishing tackle, camping and hiking accessories, camping fuel, photo supplies, boating accessories, post cards, apparel, souvenirs, and sundries. Shower and laundry facilities are also available.

You will NOT BE ALLOWED to carry fuel on either the commercial flight into/out of Green Bay nor on the Sea Plane onto the Island. You will have to purchase your fuel and lighter at the Rock Harbor Lodge Store. They have MSR Fuel there. They DO NOT carry Denatured Alcohol. We suggest you share your fuel. This will make your packs lighter and become more efficient to use.

On Saturday morning we will be returning to Rock Harbor Lodge. Please pack a SMALL lightweight bag with a clean pair of clothes for the Ranger III ride home. Rock Harbor Lodge will hold our bags for the duration of our backpacking trip. The bag must NOT exceed 25lbs The cost for this is \$3.50 per bag, per night. This cost will be incurred by you. Cash is preferred.

*Total carrying weight of all items onto the Island must be less than 50lbs. This is due to Sea Plane restrictions.

*For our stay at the Island's Cottage on Friday night, each room has a double bed and a bunk bed. Additional Roll Beds will be available for us, per our request.

*We will all eat dinner together at the Greenstone Grill at the Lodge at approximately 6:00 PM, depending on Sunset times.

*On Friday evening, this is your individual time to do as you wish. Do whatever you want independantly. We have one Canoe free of charge on Friday.



There are Moose, Fox and Wolves on the Island. DO NOT GET CLOSE TO THE MOOSE. The Male Moose can become very aggressive. It will be RUT season for them...*they are looking for love...*

GEAR CHECK

This is a suggested list of gear that can make your trip successful

*Priority

**Suggested

BASE:

*A fitted backpack than can carry 5 days worth of food - 65 liters is a good gauge

*Pack Cover (covers your backpack if it rains)

*Sleeping Bag – at least a 30 degree bag (expect chilly nights)

*Sleeping Pad

TENT is OPTIONAL (we are planning the trip around shelter use)

*Headlamp (extra batteries)

**Hiking Poles are encouraged

*Good Hiking Boots or shoes with good traction

*Water filtration system (we will be getting our water from Lake Superior) *includes a “dirty” water bag

*2-3 Liter Water Platy

*First Aid Kit – primarily for blisters, burns, cuts, and aching muscles

*Whistle

COOKING SYSTEM:

*Cooking Stove MSR Pocket Rocket or stove that uses Isobutane Fuel

*Cooking Pot to boil water/ and eat in

*Drinking cup

*Lighter - purchased AFTER flights

*Utensils

*Food Storage Bag (we will NOT have to hang food via “bear bag” system)

All of these can be shared if you have a partner.

****CLOTHING:** *this does NOT include clothing for the trip home*

SLEEPING:

Base Layer

Long sleeve shirt (merino wool is a good option)

Long underwear

Wool hat

Wool Socks

CAMPING or Sitting by the Fire

A lightweight Goose down jacket is highly recommended and / or long sleeve Fleece jacket

Long sleeve shirt

Rain Jacket or Wind Breaker (should be same thing)

HIKING: (NO COTTON)

Base Layer Short sleeve or lightweight long sleeve
Long Pants that can unzip into shorts
Hiking socks
Hat or Bandanna

****ALL CLOTHING LIST:**

- (3) pair of socks
- (2-6) pair of underwear
- (1) pair of hiking pants
- (3) shirts (1) Long sleeve (2) Short Sleeves
- (1) pair of long underwear to sleep in
- (1) pair of shorts *Unless your pants unzip into shorts
- (1) rain Jacket
- (1) hat or bandanna
- (1) sandals or lightweight shoes for camp
- (1) Fleece and / or lightweight Goose Down Jacket

**Rain pants are optional. However plan in case it downpours and what you will hike in the rain in.

*ALWAYS KEEP ONE LONG SLEEVE SHIRT AND ONE PAIR OF LONG JOHNS DRY.

Miscellaneous Gear:

Compression sack for sleeping bag **Sea to Summit eVac Dry Sack Recommended
Compression sack for ALL clothing **Sea to Summit eVac Dry Sack Recommended
Food Bag **Sea to Summit Stuff Sack Recommended
Plastic Zip Lock Bags for Food and Garbage
Toilet paper
Camera and waterproof camera case (iPhones should be protected incase it rains)
small pad to sit on

Scott & Ariane's Isle Royale Trip Itinerary Summary

Day 1 (Tuesday):

Leave on the Ranger III at approximately at 9:00 AM from the National Park Service dock in Houghton, MI. (800 E. Lakeshore Dr. Houghton, Michigan) The Ranger III has all the comforts you need. They have indoor/outdoor seating along with a small diner down in the galley. We will arrive at Rock Harbor on Isle Royale at 3:00 PM.

After we unload. You will be required to take a Leave No Trace Awareness (short) discussion to get your permit. We then pack up, get our fuel and hike 2.7 miles to our first destination with a short exploration of a cave right on the shore of our trail into 3 mile.

After arriving at 3 Mile. We will pick our shelter and unpack. Each shelter can sleep 8 people. They are very clean and have screens with a spring door. Priv's are very close to the shelters.

We'll all sit on the 3 mile dock and have dinner together. After dinner we'll watch for the Foxes to come down and try and steal stuff. Moose like this area also.

Day 2 (Wednesday):

We will backpack 8.1 miles to Moskey Basin. Moskey Basin is very unique and right in the bay. We will be hiking in some thick forest and on top of bogs in some areas. Watch for Moose tracks on this route. If you like sleeping under the stars this is the place to do it. We will show you a great spot and watch for the Northern Lights that might come out and make an appearance. Otters often come up right on the dock at Moskey.

Sunrise will be available to watch pending weather conditions

Day 3 (Thursday):

We will get an early start around 9:00 AM backpack from Moskey Basin to McGaroe Cove – a total of 8.3 miles. We will hike over the Greenstone Ridge and stop at a beautiful inland lake to have lunch.

After we reach McGaroe Cove and unpack we will have an option to go swimming (depending on weather). But rest up, we still have some hiking to do. We will explore a ancient copper mine that was cut by hand. Ancient explorers dating back to China carved this mine using only stones. We will guide you through some of the oldest copper mines in the U.S.

Day 4 (Friday):

This will be our earliest “wake up time”. Starting at 8:00 AM we make our way back to 3 Mile along the Greenstone Ridge Trail for 12.4 miles. This is the highest point on the Island. We will guide you to a special outlook where you can see Canada and the whole Island. This is where we'll have lunch.

Once we unpack and put our feet up, we'll have one heck of a shin dig on the dock where dinner will be provided along with some libations. This is our reward for a hike well done.

Day 5 (Saturday):

We have an early start to get back to Rock Harbor by 8:00 AM. We will hike only 2.7 miles to the Island's COTTAGE OR Rock Harbor SHELTER. Everyone can take showers in the Cottage, clean up, and rest.

Day 5 (Saturday): 9:00 AM

LEAVE THE ISLAND BY BOAT - RANGER III.

We will need to wake up and leave the Island early. **The Ranger III leaves Rock Harbor at 9:00 AM.**

It is approximately a 6 hour boat ride back to Houghton, MI

Saturday Night is optional to have a group dinner. Trip is over at this point.