



Lake Superior
National Marine
Conservation Area

Visitor Guide



Rosspoint Islands/ Dale Wilson



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

Welcome to Lake Superior

How to Reach Us



Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area
22 Third St. Nipigon, ON, P0T 2J0



Nipigon
807-887-5467 – Year round

Terrace Bay
807-889-1102 – Seasonal - June to October



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www.pc.gc.ca/superior



@LakeSuperiorNMCA



Battle Island

Welcome to Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) home to rich Indigenous cultures, Euro-Canadian heritage, amazing biodiversity, and rugged shorelines. Stretching over 10,000 km², Lake Superior NMCA is a place with so much to see and do – are you ready to dive in and explore?



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How to Use this Guide:

Oriented from West to East, this guide highlights each of the North Shore's diverse regions. Whether you're seeking to feel the waves, or hear the distant call of a loon on a sunset paddle, we'll help you chart your visit.



Rosspoint Islands/ Dale Wilson

Refer to the **Top of Superior Hiking brochure** for information on area trails and safety.



Trail Classification Summary

Decide which trails are right for you.

● Easy

- Suitable for all visitors including those with no trail experience
- Hard packed surface with no obstacles and minimal stairs

■ Moderate

- Suitable for most visitors who have some basic trail experience
- Mostly stable surface with infrequent obstacles, stairs may be present

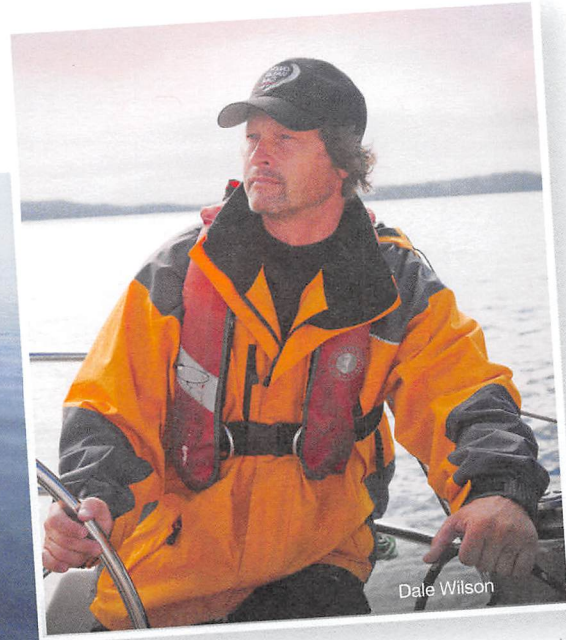
◆ Difficult

- Suitable for visitors who have trail experience
- Variety of surface types including non-established surface
- May experience major elevation gain with long steep sections



Bring proper footwear, clothing, and plenty of water on whatever adventure you choose!

Think Safety for Your Superior Adventure



Lake Superior is a paddler's dream destination and one of the most awe-inspiring places in Canada.



Wave and water conditions are comparable to an ocean and should not be underestimated.

- It is always a good idea to speak to a local guide while planning your trip

- Even for short trips, carry the appropriate marine safety equipment as required by the Canadian Coast Guard

- Check weather reports and be aware that conditions on Lake Superior can change without notice

- Open canoes are not advised on Lake Superior



**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY
CALL 911**



Cellular phone signal may not be available in some areas. It's recommended to bring a GPS signalling device.

Contact the Canadian Coast Guard by pressing *16 on your cell phone.

Marine Radio: Go to VHF channel 16 to send distress and safety calls to Canadian Coast Guard.

AdventureSmart



Get informed & go outdoors!

No matter what activity you plan to do, be prepared.

Visit www.adventuresmart.ca for more information.

Why a National Marine Conservation Area?

Canada is truly a maritime nation with the longest coastline in the world with over 243,000 km along three oceans and another 9500 km along the Great Lakes.

Parks Canada has the privilege and responsibility of caring for over 5 million km² of aquatic environment. The long term goal is to establish at least one National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) in each of the 29 distinct marine regions for

the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Parks Canada is working with Indigenous partners, local communities, and stakeholders to manage and promote suitable recreational and commercial activities and to share the stories of the land, waters and the people who call this place home.



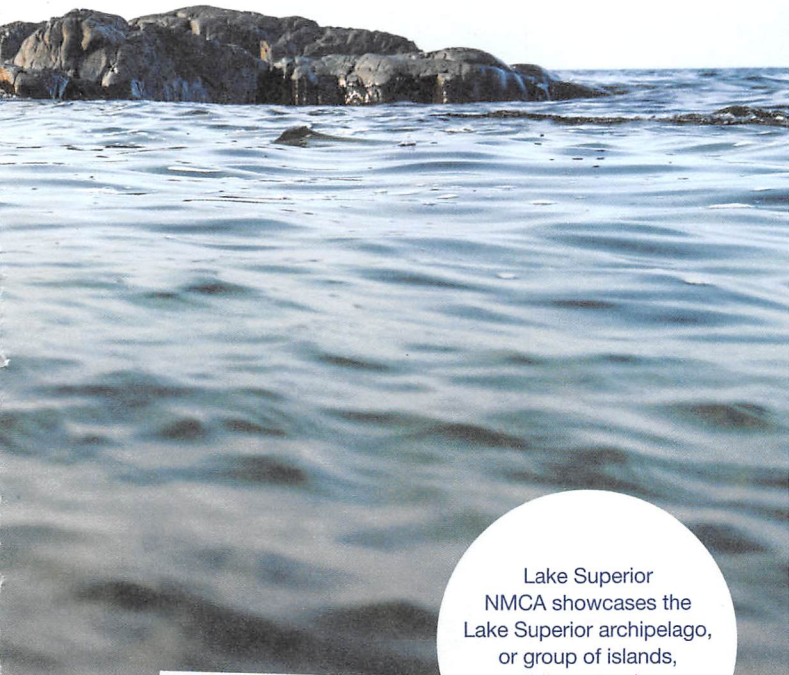
American Bittern/ J. Graham

Want to find out more about Parks Canada's system of National Marine Conservation Areas?

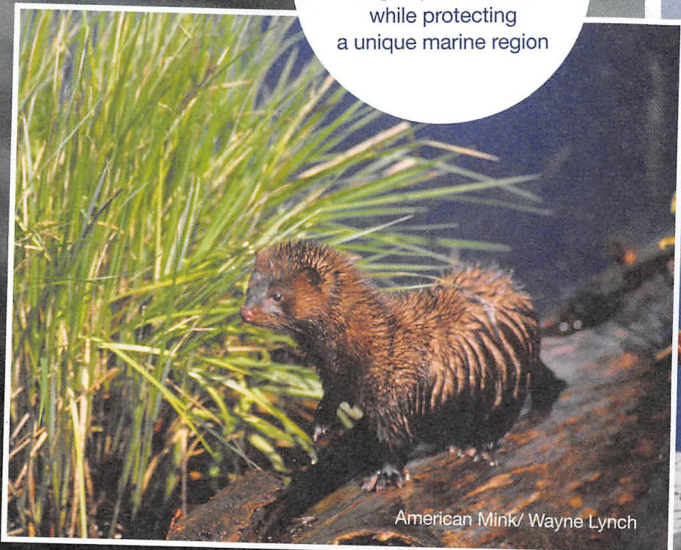
Visit: www.pc.gc.ca/en/amnc-nmca



Lehtinens Bay



Lake Superior NMCA showcases the Lake Superior archipelago, or group of islands, while protecting a unique marine region



American Mink/ Wayne Lynch

National Marine Conservation Areas are outstanding examples of the marine region they represent.

The Lake Superior NMCA lies within the Lake Superior Marine Region, safeguarding heritage and geological features including:

- Unique stromatolites (fossilized blue-green algae)
- Seventy known archaeological sites
- Over 50 species of fish



The Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area is one of the largest protected freshwater areas in the world.

Visit with Care

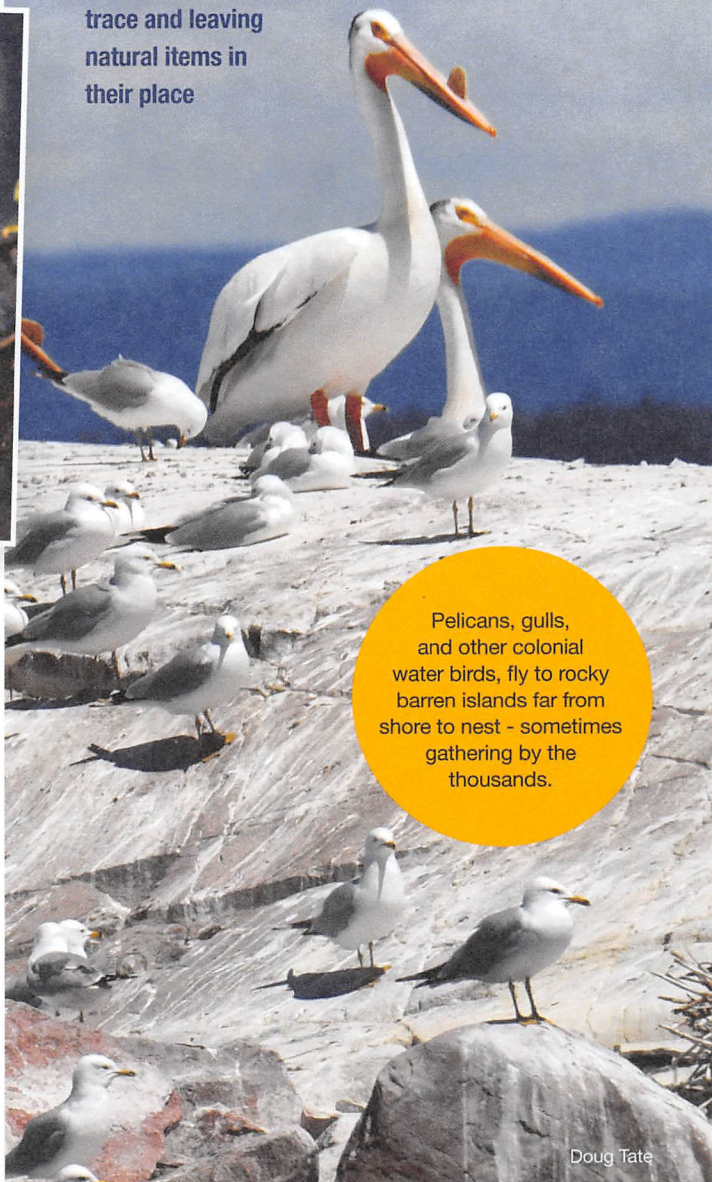
As we all enjoy the beauty and legacy of Lake Superior's north shore, be mindful of our shared responsibility to protect the natural spaces and cultural heritage that is so important to Canadians.

Pets on leashes help minimize wildlife conflicts

Responsible angling helps conserve fish

Minimizing impact means leaving no trace and leaving natural items in their place

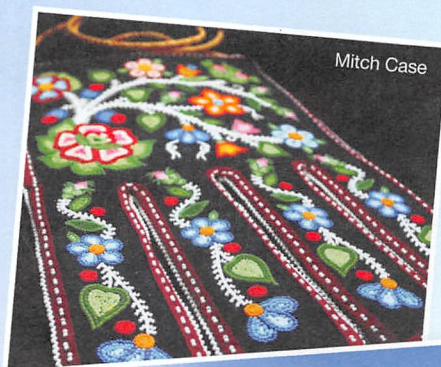
Attend Parks Canada programs or community events to learn more about Lake Superior



Pelicans, gulls, and other colonial water birds, fly to rocky barren islands far from shore to nest - sometimes gathering by the thousands.

Doug Tate

Indigenous People of the North Shore



Welcome to the Region!

As Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area works towards formal establishment, the site is dedicated to working with Indigenous people in the region, so that visitors to the area can participate in authentic opportunities to experience Indigenous culture in memorable ways.

Bear carving at Pays Plat First Nation (Pawgwasheeng)

Welcome to the north shore of gichigaaming, the Big Lake, Lake Superior. Rich in history and culture, archaeological evidence shows that people have inhabited this shore and islands for 9,500 years.

First Nations

The First Nations in this region lived in a harmonious relationship with the lands and waters. They intimately understood the cyclical nature of the seasons and often robust weather patterns of the area. Careful and continuous preparation - through harvesting and preserving materials - was needed to ensure they would survive and thrive for millennia. Their relationship to, and stewardship of, the land is reflected in ceremony, songs, craft and language.

As you travel along the highway corridor, you will see place names that are rooted in the Ojibwe language. Examples include: Shuniah, Nipigon, Opwaaganasiniing, Mazukama Falls, Kama Cliffs, Wabasta Lake, Pawgwasheeng, and Aguasabon Falls.

The Métis

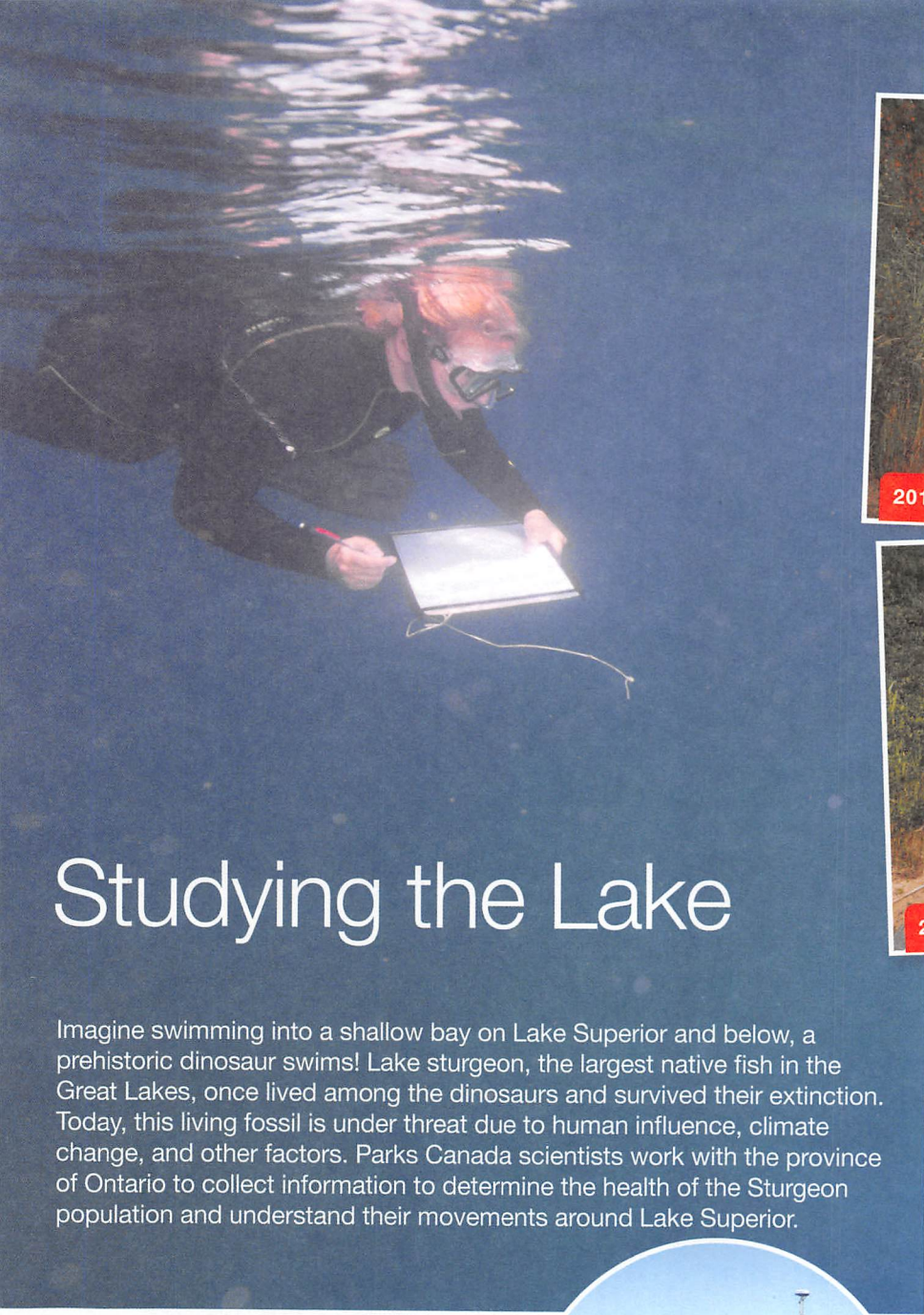
The Métis are a distinct Indigenous people with a unique history, culture, language, and territory that includes the waterways of Ontario, surrounds the Great Lakes and spans what was known as the historic Northwest.

The Métis Nation is made up of descendants of people of mixed ancestry born from Indigenous women and European men. A new Indigenous people called the Métis resulted from the subsequent intermarriage of these mixed ancestry individuals.

Métis settlements emerged as an outgrowth of the fur trade, along freighting waterways and watersheds. In Ontario, these settlements were part of larger regional communities, interconnected by the highly mobile lifestyle of the Métis, the fur trade network, seasonal activities, extensive kinship connections, and a shared collective history and identity.

Eagle Carving at Pays Plat First Nation
(Pawgwasheeng)





Studying the Lake

Imagine swimming into a shallow bay on Lake Superior and below, a prehistoric dinosaur swims! Lake sturgeon, the largest native fish in the Great Lakes, once lived among the dinosaurs and survived their extinction. Today, this living fossil is under threat due to human influence, climate change, and other factors. Parks Canada scientists work with the province of Ontario to collect information to determine the health of the Sturgeon population and understand their movements around Lake Superior.



Have you seen Phragmites?

Phragmites is an invasive plant that is threatening Lake Superior's ecosystem. This tall grass is aggressive and outcompetes other species.

Scientists cut and removed invasive Phragmites at Cebina Island for the third consecutive summer in 2021, with the assistance of Pays Plat First Nation (Pawgwasheeng). These actions have greatly reduced the amount of Phragmites on site, and native vegetation is re-establishing well.

HOW TO IDENTIFY:

- Grows up to 5m (15ft)
- Found in taller/denser stands than native phragmites
- Beige stems with blue-green leaves
- Large feathery tops after flowering



Marissa Wegher



We also monitor shipwrecks, ancient fishing grounds and other cultural resources. Working with local Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and other experts, we help protect and where appropriate, share the story of human history on Lake Superior.



THINK YOU'VE SEEN THIS INVASIVE PLANT?

Report your sightings to Parks Canada staff at amnlacsuperieur-lakesuperiormca@pc.gc.ca.

Explore Lake Superior

Ask Us

Hear the stories about this ancient lake when you connect with Parks Canada staff in Terrace Bay, Nipigon and other North Shore communities.

We'll help you plan your trip and inspire you to visit some of the most surprising and breathtaking landscapes in Canada.

THE TERRACE BAY BEACH IS A HUB FOR ACTIVITIES ON THE LAKE.

Ask staff about available guided kayak, boat, or fishing tours.



Lake Superior National Marine Conserva

Western Edge

- 1 Thunder Cape Bird Observatory
- 2 Silver Islet
- 3 Sleeping Giant Provincial Park Campground and Visitor Centre
- 4 Porphyry Island Lighthouse and sauna
- 5 Hurkett Cove Conservation Area - picnic area and trail





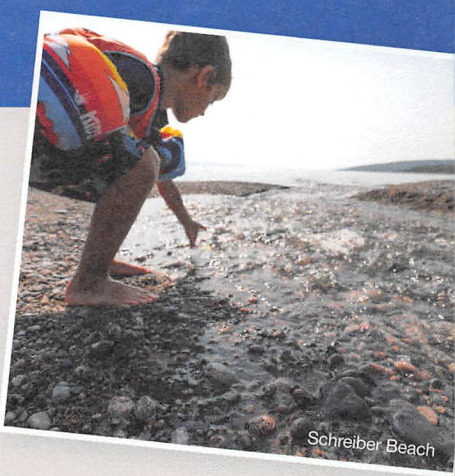
Northern Edge

- 6 Red Rock Mountain Trail
- 7 Red Rock Marina and Interpretation Centre
- 8 Bridgeview Lookout Tower
- 9 Nipigon Marina and Paddle to the Sea Park & splash pad
- 10 Nipigon River Recreational Trail
- 11 Kama Cliffs Trail



LEGEND

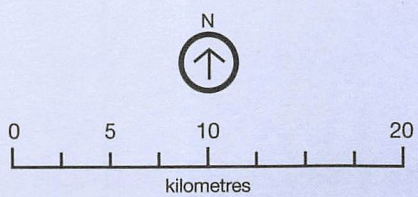
-  Highway
-  Red Chairs
-  Lighthouses
-  Parks Canada Information Centre



Talbot Island Lighthouse (decommissioned)

Battle Island Lighthouse

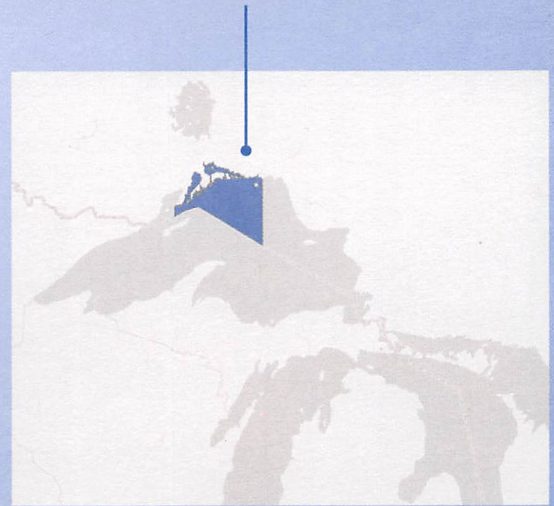
Slate Islands Lighthouse
Slate Islands Provincial Park



Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area

Eastern Edge

- 12 Rossport Island Archipelago and Battle Island Lighthouse
- 13 Rossport Coastal Trail & Red Chairs
- 14 The Schreiber Discovery Centre
- 15 Terrace Bay Beach / Pavilion
- 16 Slate Islands Provincial Park



Zip up your wetsuit,
grab your board and
clear your mind on
the waves



Your Next Adventure

There is something for everyone at Lake Superior NMCA.

Schreiber Beach

Rosspoint



Book an On-Water Adventure

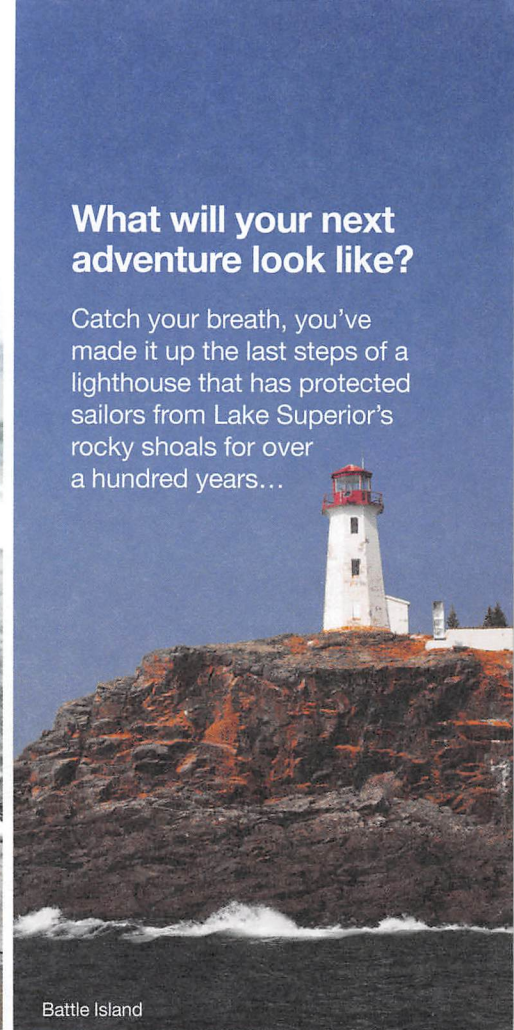
Hire local guides to experience:

- An island tour by motorboat
- A sunset cruise by sailboat
- A fishing trip on the big water
- A paddling expedition by sea kayak

Drop into a Parks Canada
Visitor Centre to find out more!



Hydro Bay



Battle Island

What will your next adventure look like?

Catch your breath, you've made it up the last steps of a lighthouse that has protected sailors from Lake Superior's rocky shoals for over a hundred years...



Enjoy the NMCA in winter too!

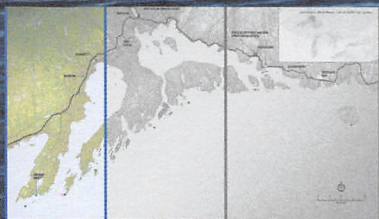


Dale Wilson



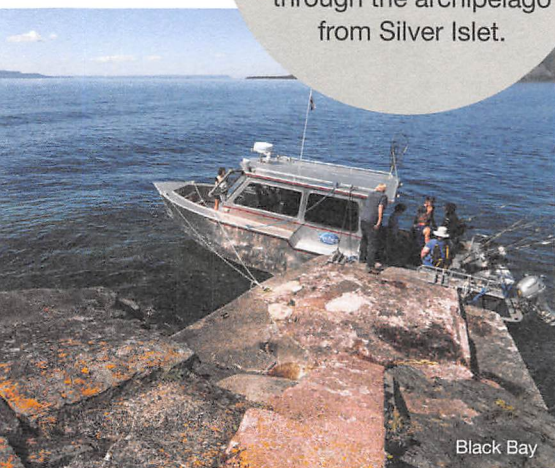
Silver Islet/ Liam Giffin

Western Edge: Silver Islet/Dorion/Hurkett

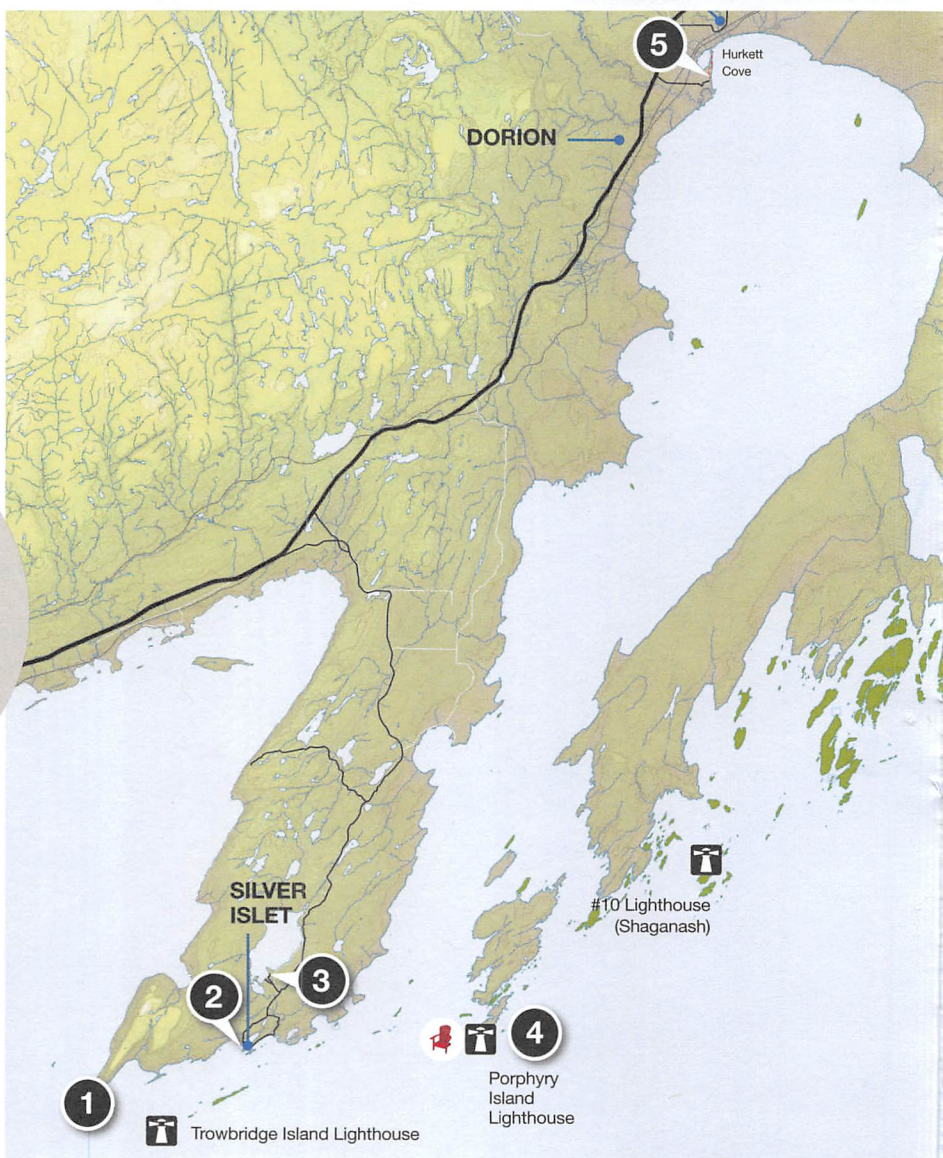


The shallow warmer waters and wetlands of Black Bay nourish biodiverse ecosystems and make for great fishing, swimming, and bird-watching.

Discover an ancient volcanic range as you explore the lake on a sailing or fishing charter or embark on a guided sea kayak trip through the archipelago from Silver Islet.



Black Bay



Wildlife Spotlight



Thunder Cape Bird Observatory/
Mirabai Alexander



Jason Headley

AMERICAN PELICAN

One of the biggest white birds on the north shore. We don't often think about birds as working together to hunt for food like a wolf pack, but pelicans separate into teams to catch fish.

1 THUNDER CAPE BIRD OBSERVATORY

Experience bird banding nestled at the tip of Sibley Peninsula. Visitors are given tours of the observatory, if staff are available, and are welcome to camp on the grounds. The observatory operates from May 1 to June 6 and August 1 to October 31.



Silver Islet mine

2 SILVER ISLET

View the underwater remains of the mine by boat from the historic village of Silver Islet. Silver Islet was one of the richest silver mines in the world operating from 1870 - 1883 until a missed coal delivery led to the flooding of the mine.

3 SLEEPING GIANT PROVINCIAL PARK CAMPGROUND AND VISITOR CENTRE

Over 115 km of hiking trails, 70 km of which are groomed for cross-country skiing in winter. Breathtaking views of Lake Superior and special geological features such as the 'Sea Lion' – enjoy boreal biodiversity, cabin rentals, campground, and an interpretation centre.



Top of the Giant Trail / Luke Ruberto

4 PORPHYRY ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

Walk in the footsteps of a lighthouse keeper. Charter a boat from Silver Islet to tour, enjoy a sauna, and/or stay overnight on this remote island.

5 HURKETT COVE CONSERVATION AREA

One of the best birding spots in Northwestern Ontario for songbirds, raptors, waterfowl, and shorebirds.

● Easy – Walk the 2 km one-way trail (1-2 hours) and discover a naturalist's treasure that offers unique views of Black Bay and rare wetland plants and amphibians.



Porphyry Island Lighthouse/ Dale Wilson



Grab your binoculars and join the crowds of the Dorion Birding Festival to identify over a hundred bird species each spring.

Northern Edge: Red Rock/Nipigon/Red Rock Indian Band



Nipigon River Recreational Trail/ Colin Crowell

Cast a line for world-renowned fishing on Nipigon River and Nipigon Bay year-round. Charter a guide or fish from shore.



Red Rock Marina/ Interpretation Centre

- 6 RED ROCK MOUNTAIN TRAIL:** Stellar views of Lake Superior. Great spot to sit back, relax and enjoy from any of the three platform lookouts.
◆ Difficult rating – 4.9 km loop (2-3 hours with 183m elevation gain).
- 7 RED ROCK MARINA AND INTERPRETATION CENTRE:** Take a chartered fishing boat, camp, play in the splash pad, walk the boardwalk, and explore the interpretation centre. Fees may apply.

i An Ontario fishing licence is required.

The northern boundary of the NMCA is an important fish sanctuary and spawning habitat for Brook Trout.



Esme Whalen

Special Events

OPWAAGANISINING TRADITIONAL GATHERING

July – 2.5-day event hosted by Red Rock Indian Band, offering cultural crafts, cuisine, traditional dancing and music.
For more info: www.rrib.ca

LIVE FROM THE ROCK FOLK FESTIVAL

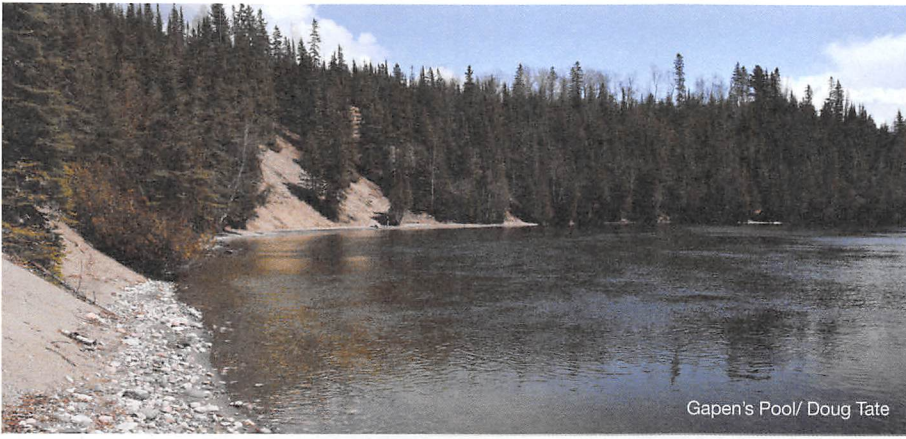
August – 3-day music and arts festival at the Red Rock Marina

NIPIGON FALL FISHING FESTIVAL

September – Fishing derby, food, prizes, and entertainment every Labour Day weekend.

HIKE FOR HEALTH

September – Annual 10 km fundraising hike along the Nipigon River Recreation Trail.



Gapen's Pool/ Doug Tate



Brook Trout/ Cohen Lewis

8 BRIDGEVIEW LOOKOUT TOWER:

Want to see spectacular views but don't have time for a full hike? Take 5 minutes to climb the steps of the lookout tower inspired by the Nipigon Bridge. The view is especially worthwhile at sunset. Located on Railway St. off HWY 17 in Nipigon.

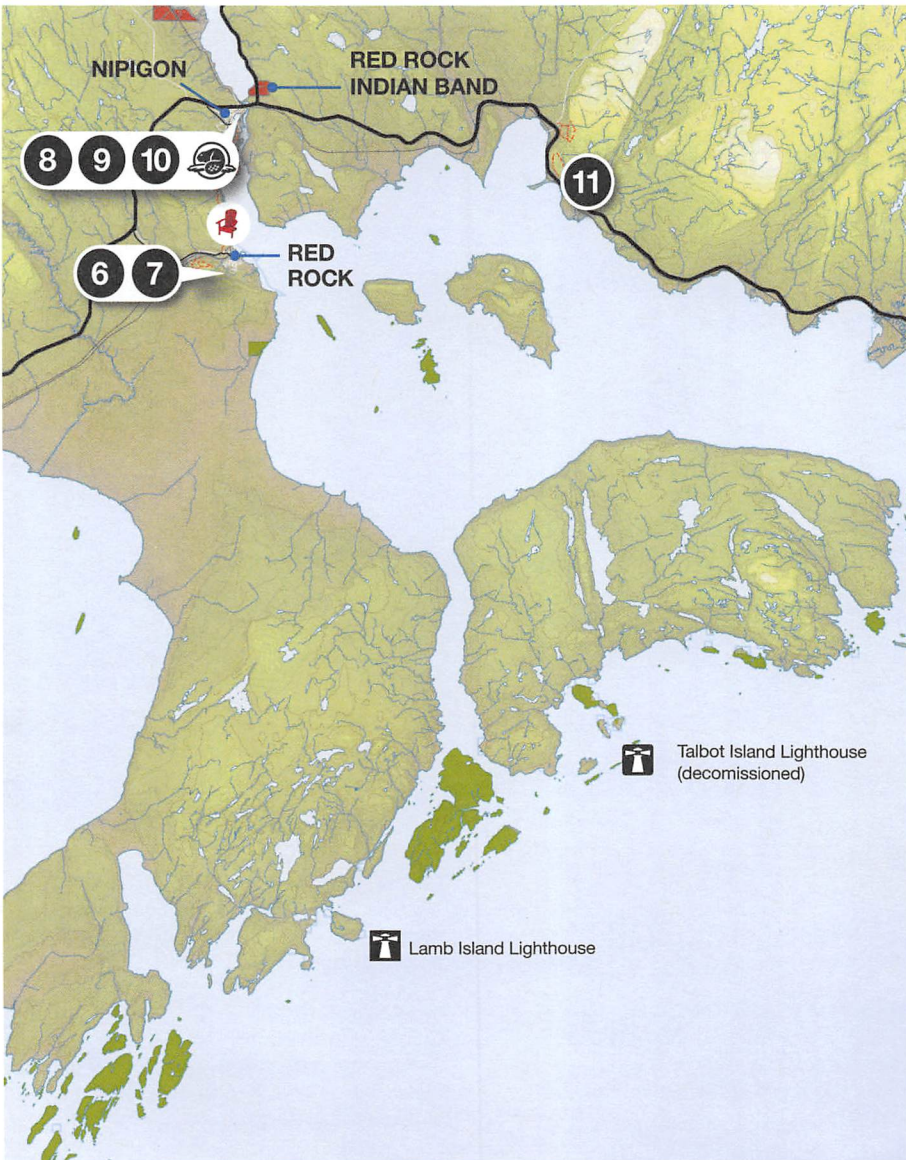
9 NIPIGON MARINA

Explore the northernmost freshwater port in North America. Whether you're exploring by water or land, there is something for everyone. Enjoy scenic views, boat-launch, interpretive Paddle-to-the-Sea playground, trailhead, and full service marina.

10 NIPIGON RIVER RECREATIONAL TRAIL

Panoramic views from two cliff-top lookout platforms. See peregrine falcons, bald eagles, Otters.

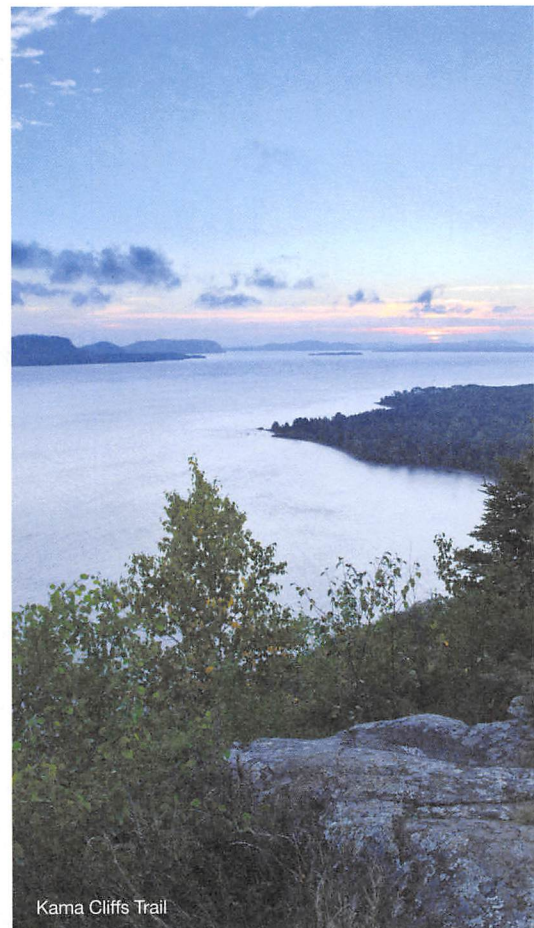
◆ Difficult rated 10.1 km one way (3-5 hours with 154 m elevation gain).



11 KAMA CLIFFS TRAIL

Looking for a challenge? Hike to the top of the Kama Cliffs on this breathtaking trail – the view is well worth the climb! Bring a picnic to enjoy at the lookout.

◆ Difficult rated 7.3 km loop (3-4 hours with 152 m elevation gain).



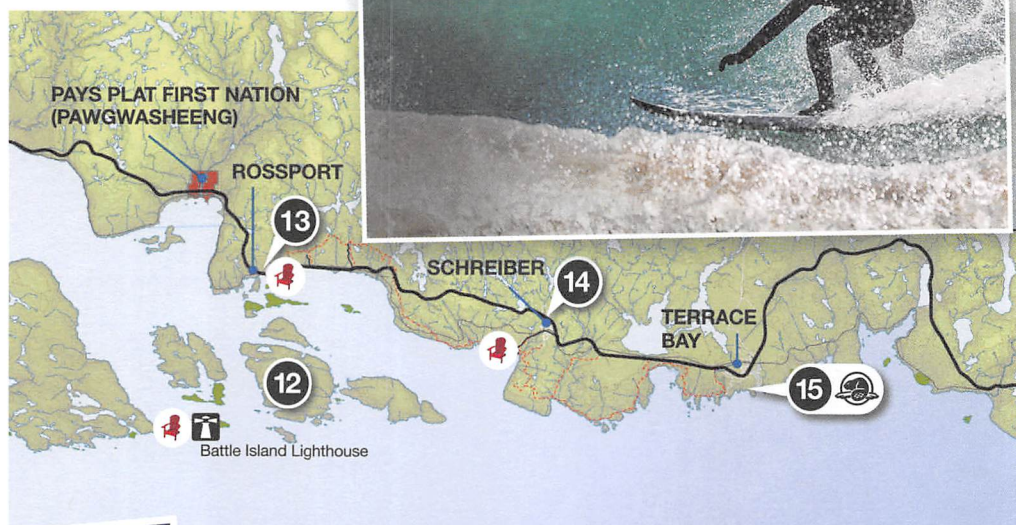
Kama Cliffs Trail

Eastern Edge: Pays Plat First Nation (Pawgwasheeng), Rosspport, Schreiber, Terrace Bay



A paddler's haven and island playground await you on the eastern edge of the NMCA.

- Explore the shoreline following the 53 km Casque Isles Trail
- Picnic at one of the sheltered beaches
- Discover the unique North Shore communities.



Jessa Kostecki

Special Events

PAYS PLAT FIRST NATION (PAWGWSHEENG) POW WOW:

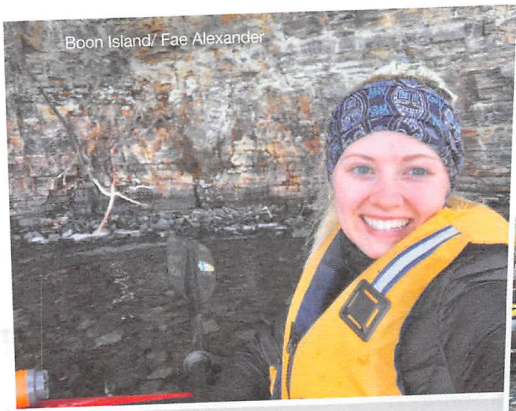
July – Experience traditional songs, dance, food, and crafts at the community Pow Wow.

LIGHTHOUSE STREET FESTIVAL:

August – Terrace Bay knows how to throw a party! Street fair with vendors, musicians, and regional artisans.

WAASAASHKAA:

October – The Gathering of the Great Lakes Surfers - grab your board and wetsuit and ride the waves at the annual surfing festival at Terrace Bay Beach.



Only have a couple hours?

Hike from Terrace Bay Beach and explore the secluded Danny's Cove. Ask for directions from Parks Canada Staff at the Terrace Bay Beach Pavilion.

POSSIBLE DAY HIKES:

- Schreiber Picnic Table Lookout
- Worthington Bay
- Mount Gywnn

12 ROSSPORT ISLAND ARCHIPELAGO & BATTLE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

One of the best ways to access the big water is through the sheltered Rosspport islands. Jump on a boat tour or explore the islands through a guided sea kayak trip to see nesting peregrine falcons, otters, and the iconic Battle Island Lighthouse.

14 THE SCHREIBER DISCOVERY CENTRE

Climb aboard for an unforgettable experience. Indulge your inner history buff to discover Schreiber's heritage and the importance of the history behind the railway industry with a new visitor centre, museum car, and video railcar experience.

13 ROSSPORT COASTAL TRAIL & RED CHAIRS

Hike along beaches, creeks, and the rocky shore towards the Parks Canada Red Chairs. Enjoy plenty of opportunities to dip your feet in Superior along the way!
 ♦ Difficult – 1.5 km one way (1-2 hours, elevation gain 2m).

15 TERRACE BAY BEACH & PAVILION

Sandy beach with boardwalk and pavilion with Parks Canada visitor centre. Perfect for stargazing, picnics, swimming – bring your wetsuit and board to surf the big waves year-round! Access to the Casque Isles trail.



16 SLATE ISLANDS PROVINCIAL PARK

Believed to be the remains of an ancient meteorite strike, the Slate Islands are not to be missed! Take a chartered boat from Terrace Bay and get to know the boreal forest with its Woodland Caribou, plants with arctic and alpine origins, and shatter cone rock formations.



Slate Island Lighthouse/ Lausanne Price

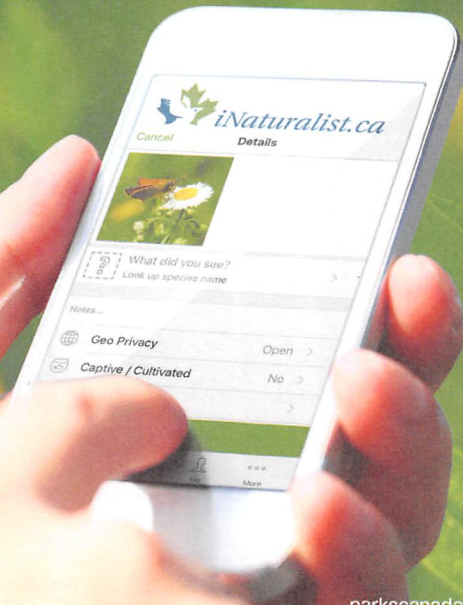
Nature at your fingertips

Help Parks Canada conserve species by recording what you see in iNaturalist.ca

Join the Lake Superior
National Marine Conservation
iNaturalist project



Photo: Amanda Bichel



parksCanada.gc.ca/app

parksCanada.gc.ca/appli



Official Parks Canada merchandise

Available at
Parks Canada
locations in Nipigon
and Terrace Bay.





Geocaching HERITAGE HIDE'N'SEEK GEOTOUR

Explore Northern Ontario and discover how its people, places and events shaped Canada. Find the caches, complete the passport, and collect 100+ points to earn a geocoin.

ParksCanada.gc.ca/Superior/HHS

XPLORERS

PARKS CANADA

GET THE **BOOKLET**.
DO THE **CHALLENGES**.
GET THE **REWARD!**



AVAILABLE AT MORE THAN 100 PARKS CANADA PLACES.

Booklets available
at Parks Canada
locations!

Explore with Parka!

Discover our places
with your family and



Learn about Parka's activities;
her videos, her song and more by
visiting one of our places or online:
www.parksCanada.gc.ca/Parka.

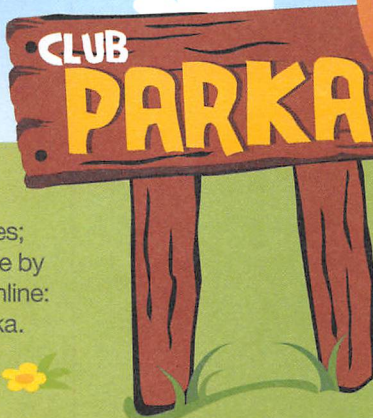


PHOTO
MISSIONS

Don't forget to download Parka's free app at
the App Store or Google Play before your visit!





Visit Parks Canada places in Northern Ontario

- 1 Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area**
Canada's largest freshwater marine protected area.
- 2 Pukaskwa National Park**
A wildlife-filled boreal forest along the shores of Lake Superior and home of the Anishinaabe people.
- 3 Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site**
Historic canal built in 1895 that was the last link in the navigation chain linking Lake Superior to the Atlantic.
- 4 Fort St. Joseph National Historic Site**
Ruins of a British fort rich with the history of the War of 1812 and the alliance between British and First Nations people.



We saved you a seat!

Seek out Parks Canada's Red Chairs
Find them all! www.pc.gc.ca/superior

