



Pukaskwa
National Park

Visitor Guide



PUKASKWA NATIONAL PARK

Pukaskwa National Park (pronounced puck-a-saw) is a vast, wild, natural playground found on the edge of the world's largest freshwater lake. It's a place where powerful waves collide with rugged, towering coastlines; a place of endless sunsets over sandy driftwood beaches. A place where you can see and feel the rich traditions of the Anishinaabe peoples who call this land home today and yesterday. Pukaskwa National Park is a place where Lake Superior's untouched beauty can be seen, experienced and remembered by all who visit.

Please note: the content of this visitor guide is subject to change. It is meant for general information purposes. For up-to-date information, please refer to the park's bulletin boards or speak with a Parks Canada team member.

ELDER TEACHINGS

"As a past employee of this great park, I have been privileged to walk the trails and study many archaeological features of our ancestors on this vast untouched land, we must do everything we can to protect and preserve for our future generations...
Miigwetch creator!"

- Stan Nabigon,
an Elder and Knowledge Keeper of
Biigtigong Nishnaabeg



FOLLOW & LIKE US

We want to connect with you!

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 [instagram.com/parks.canada/](https://www.instagram.com/parks.canada/)

CONTACT US

Pukaskwa National Park
PO Box 212, Heron Bay, ON P0T 1R0
<https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/on/pukaskwa>
807-229-0801 • pukaskwaont@pc.gc.ca



Parks
Canada

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Canada

Canada

Things to know while visiting the park...

VISITOR CENTRE

Located in Hattie Cove, the Visitor Centre offers you refuge from the elements, as well as free WiFi, trail and tourism information. Meet our friendly and knowledgeable park staff to learn all about the unique features of Pukaskwa National Park.

GARBAGE & RECYCLING

Garbage and recycling facilities are located at the comfort stations. Please ensure all containers are washed thoroughly to reduce the potential of attracting wildlife. Paper, plastics, glass and metal cans are accepted for recycling.

LAKE SUPERIOR

Superior in size and adventure, but also superior in unpredictability. Often storms and fog will come out of nowhere so be prepared when out exploring the park. Bring extra clothing and watch out for wet, slippery rocks. Lake Superior is also known for its “refreshing” swims, the average water temperature year-round being about 4°C. When swimming stay closer to the shallow areas near the shoreline where the water is a little warmer, or wear a wet suit.

WILDLIFE CAMERAS AND PRIVACY

Wildlife cameras are used in Pukaskwa National Park for wildlife conservation purposes. Concerned about your privacy? So are we. That’s why we delete images of visitors captured on our cameras. However, images that show illegal activities that may have serious impacts on wildlife, or put the safety of visitors at risk may be used for law enforcement purposes.

SUNRISE AND SUNSET TIMES

Pukaskwa has plenty of daylight hours! Give yourself a safe and sensible amount of daylight time when planning your activities.

| Date: | Sunrise: | Sunset: |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| May 21 | 6:00 a.m. | 9:25 p.m. |
| June 21 | 5:45 a.m. | 9:50 p.m. |
| July 21 | 6:05 a.m. | 9:40 p.m. |
| August 21 | 6:45 a.m. | 8:50 p.m. |
| September 21 | 7:30 a.m. | 7:45 p.m. |

SUPPLIES AND NEARBY COMMUNITIES

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg is the nearest community to the park. If you’ve forgotten an item, need to fill up with gas, buy ice, or you’re just looking for snacks, there are two convenience stores that can serve you.

The Town of Marathon is the closest full-service community. A large grocery store, hardware store, laundromat, and several other businesses can provide all the food, fuel and supplies you will need for your stay.

PARK STORE

Looking for a souvenir? The park store will have what you are looking for! Head down to the Visitor Centre to check out cool collectibles and amazing apparel. Park merchandise is also available at the park Kiosk.

EMERGENCIES

During posted hours, for emergencies, bear sightings, maintenance issues or campground disturbances, contact a Parks Canada team member. For **after hour** emergencies, bear sightings, maintenance issues or campground disturbances, contact the Campground Host or call the Parks Canada dispatch service at:

1-877-852-3100 or 1-780-852-3100

The dispatch service will engage all necessary emergency services, including police, ambulance, fire control and Park Wardens. An **AED (Automatic External Defibrillator)** is available for emergency public use at the South Loop Comfort Station. It is located beside the bulletin boards, facing the road.

Things to know while camping...

ACCESSIBLE CAMPSITES

Campsites 3 and 5 in the South Loop are accessible sites. When possible, if you don’t require an accessible site, please leave these empty for those who do.

FIREWOOD

Firewood can be purchased at the Kiosk. To avoid the risk of introducing and spreading harmful invasive species only use wood sold in the park. Please return empty re-useable firewood bags to the Kiosk.

COMFORT STATIONS & LAUNDRY

Comfort stations with flush toilets, hot showers and dish washing stations are open from May 15 to October 15, weather permitting. Change for laundry is available at the park Kiosk.

CAMPGROUND HOSTS

Campground hosts are friendly, experienced campers who volunteer in the park to help make your trip more enjoyable. They are available from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on site 6 in the South Loop to help you purchase firewood, answer questions or to call for emergency assistance. If you are interested in becoming a campground host at Pukaskwa National Park, let us know by talking to staff at the Park Kiosk. We are always looking for enthusiastic people to join our volunteer team!

POTABLE WATER

Park water is tested regularly. For RVs, a water fill-up station is located at the comfort station in the South Loop. For water bottle, a fill station is available at each comfort station.

DUMPING STATION

A trailer dumping station is available at the park entry, near the administration building for registered overnight visitors. The trailer dumping station does not accept chemically treated waste. Please use only biological odor control products in your holding tank.

CHECK IN AND CHECK OUT TIMES

Campground campsite check in and out time is 11:00 a.m. oTENTik check-in time is 3:00 p.m. oTENTik check-out time is 11:00 a.m.



You are in Black bear country



A special effort is being made by both park staff and campers to ensure that wildlife attractants are never left unattended at any sites in this campground.

HOW TO KEEP A 'BARE' CAMPSITE:

- Store all food and food-related items in a hard-sided vehicle/trailer/motor home or in the campground food storage lockers (not in a tent or tent-trailer) when not in use.
- Keep your stove and BBQ clean when not in use. Store them securely if you can.
- This policy applies whenever these items are not in use, at night while you are sleeping or when your site is unattended for any length of time.
- When away from your site, you may leave out your camping furniture (e.g. lawn chairs, lanterns, and tents).

Fees

ADMISSION

| | Daily Pass | Seasonal Pass | Parks Canada Discovery Pass |
|--|------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Adult | \$6.25 | \$31.50 | \$72.75 |
| Senior | \$5.25 | \$26.25 | \$61.75 |
| Youth (17 and under) | Free | Free | Free |
| Family/Group (up to 7 people in one vehicle) | \$12.75 | \$62.75 | \$145.25 |

CAMPING/NIGHT

| | Peak Season (May 15 - September 14) | Off-Season (May 15-June 14, September 15 - October 15) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Electrical site | \$31.50 | \$21.00 |
| Non-electrical site | \$27.25 | \$16.75 |
| oTENTik site* | \$128.00 | \$106.50 |
| Backcountry site (per person)** | \$12.75 | \$12.75 |

*2 night minimum when reserving oTENTik site in advance



Words Matter.

Words are powerful. Words can energize you, they can comfort you and they can hurt you. This is why we always need to be mindful of what we say, especially when addressing the original caretakers of this land.

What is the most appropriate term to describe First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples? There isn't a 'one-size fits all' answer to this question because each community has their own preferred name. If you don't know the name that a person would like to be called, it is okay to ask in a respectful way. Or, you can start by using the term "Indigenous Peoples."

In 2015, the Government of Canada adopted the use of the term "Indigenous" to better align with its commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In Canada, Indigenous is an umbrella term referring to three distinct groups of people: First Nations, Métis and Inuit. This change in terminology marked an important milestone in the journey towards reconciliation.



Frontcountry trails

EASY TRAILS

Boardwalk Beach Trail

1.2km with 0.2km of boardwalk • 2m elevation gain/loss • 30 minute hike return from Visitor Centre • Accessible trail; boardwalk and stable gravel surfaces

Enjoy a boardwalk stroll to Pukaskwa's famous Horseshoe Bay and discover the delicate beauty of the nearby sand dunes. Experience a sunset at Horseshoe Beach and embrace the sounds of the rolling waves.

Hattie Cove Fire Walk via the Coastal Hiking Trail

0.7km • 2m elevation gain/loss • 20 minute hike return from Visitor Centre • Natural surface; few tree roots

Wander through the 2012 Hattie Cove Prescribed Fire area and learn about the role of fire in a boreal ecosystem! Roughly one hectare in size, see for yourself how quickly regeneration occurs in the boreal forest.

Manito Miikana (Man-ih-to Mee-kan-ah)

2km • 17m elevation gain/loss • 1 hour hike return from Visitor Centre • Natural surface with built stairs; some obstacles, loose rocks and tree roots

Want to slip away for a moment of peace and relaxation? Hike Manito Miikana, "the Spirit Trail." Peek through a rocky ravine as you climb up for panoramic views of Lake Superior and the Pic River Dunes. Rest and enjoy the beauty from two viewing decks along the trail.

Southern Headland Trail

2.2km • 15m elevation gain/loss • 1 hour 15 minute hike return from Visitor Centre • Natural surface with built stairs; some obstacles, loose rock and tree roots

Experience the wild shore of an inland sea. This rugged trail juts into Lake Superior with views of Hattie Cove, Pulpwood Harbour, and Horseshoe Bay. Look for tiny arctic-alpine plants, lichens and other unique life forms sheltered amongst the rock formations.

MODERATE TRAILS

Beach Trail

2km • 5m elevation gain/loss • 1 hour hike return from Visitor Centre • Natural surface with sandy sections; frequent driftwood obstacles

Meander along Pukaskwa's sandy, driftwood beaches that are nestled amongst Lake Superior's coves and harbours. Middle Beach is the perfect place to splash around or simply sit and play in the sand.

Bimose Kinoomagewnan (Bim-moh-say Kin-oh-mah-geh-wa-nun)

3.7km • 12m elevation gain/loss • 2 hour hike return from Visitor Centre • Natural surface with built stairs; some obstacles, loose rocks and tree roots

Learn the Seven Grandfather Teachings from Anishinaabe elders and youth on Bimose Kinoomagewnan, the "Walk of Teachings". Read Elders' stories about love, honesty, respect, wisdom, truth, humility, and courage in local culture. See how the next generation understands these teachings through their accompanying artwork as you hike peacefully around Halfway Lake.

BACKCOUNTRY - DIFFICULT TRAILS

White River Suspension Bridge via the Coastal Hiking Trail

18km • 15m elevation gain/loss • 8-9 hour hike return from Visitor Centre • Natural surface; some obstacles, loose rock and tree roots

Craving adventure? This full-day hike to the White River Suspension Bridge is not for the faint of heart. Part of the rugged and beautiful Coastal Hiking Trail, the White River Suspension Bridge crosses 23m high above Chigamiw Falls. Check in with park staff for current trail conditions. We strongly recommend wearing appropriate footwear and taking food, water, sun protection, bug protection, and consulting a topographic map.



SHOW OFF YOUR RUGGED ADVENTURE!

Did you hike to the White Suspension Bridge? Drop by the park Kiosk to pick up your reward sticker!

Did you hike or paddle the ENTIRE Coastal Hiking Trail or Coastal Paddling Route? Drop by the park Kiosk to pick up your achievement patch!



Mdaabii Miikna & White River Suspension Bridge Mdaabii Miikna et Pont suspendu de la rivière White



Help preserve the past!



Photo: A ceramic fragment found in Pukaskwa from the terminal woodland period (AD 700-1650).

The land that you are on is the Traditional Territory of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg. The Anishinaabe people are the original caretakers of this land and have called this area home since time immemorial. Collette Goodchild, late Elder of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg, once commented “We the Anishinaabe, are the people of the north shore of Chigaam. We have known this land and water, which is now called Pukaskwa National Park and Lake Superior, for generations.”

Parks Canada protects many types of cultural resources. A cultural resource is any human work, object or place that has a heritage value. Archaeological objects (artifacts) are cultural resources and many have been found in the park including stone projectile points, ceramic fragments and Pukaskwa Pits. Archaeological objects are part of the record of human activity at Pukaskwa National Park and have significant cultural importance to Indigenous peoples. Archaeological objects found within the park can date as far back as 9,000 years! Parks Canada needs your help to protect these irreplaceable resources. If you happen to find an archaeological object within the park, follow these steps:

- **Do not touch or disturb it!** Regardless of the object's size, moving it may harm it and the exact location it's found can help uncover some of its story.
- **Record the object's location.** Be as detailed as possible and use GPS coordinates if you can.
- **Take photos.** Photos are very useful to park staff. They help start the evaluation process and will help with re-locating the object.
- **Report what you found to park staff.** Or send a detailed email to pukaskwaont@pc.gc.ca.

Before retrieving an object, park staff work collaboratively with representatives from Biigtigong Nishnaabeg, to access the site and if and when appropriate, will collect, and care for these sacred objects in a mutually agreed manor that acknowledges and respects their significance. Do you want to know more? Ask our friendly Visitor Centre staff!

Help prevent the spread of invasive species!

You have the power to protect our park! Invasive species are plants, animal and micro-organisms that cause harm when they establish in new ecosystems beyond their native range. Pukaskwa National Park is lucky – very few of its 42 documented newcomers are considered invasive (harmful). Many of these newcomers are widespread plants, such as the Common Dandelion, Ox-eye Daisy and White Clover; first brought to North America by humans for their medicinal properties and other uses. These non-native species thrive in areas disturbed by humans such as along roadsides, in the campground and on some trails - fortunately not in the undisturbed boreal forest. **There are two**

invasive species that could be very damaging to Pukaskwa National Park's undisturbed ecosystems:



Invasive Phragmites

INVASIVE PHRAGMITES: Also known as European Common Reed, this large wetland grass spreads quickly, outcompeting native species and reducing overall habitat quality. This plant is already growing along Highway 17, only a short distance from the park! Phragmites moves into new habitats with the help of wind and water, and by hitching a ride on humans. Just one mischievous root fragment or seed on the bottom of a hiking boot could be enough to establish a new patch!

EMERALD ASH BORER: This beetle feeds on native ash trees, such as Black Ash, eventually killing them. Their eggs and larvae hide under the bark layer and are hard to detect. Humans help them establish in new habitats by moving firewood to new areas.

So far, these two species have not been found in Pukaskwa National Park and to keep it this way, the **Parks Canada team needs your help.**

- **Burn it where you buy it!** Buy your firewood at the Kiosk to help protect the local ecosystem. Please do not bring outside firewood to the park.
- **Clean** your boots, clothing, gear, pets, vehicles, and boating equipment before entering and leaving the park.
- **Stay on designated roads and trails.**
- **Learn to identify** common invasive species.
- **Report any sightings** of invasive species on the iNaturalist mobile app; or to Parks Canada staff. Remember to take pictures and note the location.

To learn more about invasive species, visit: PlayCleanGo.ca.



Emerald Ash Borer tree damage



Emerald Ash Borer



Share all your findings over the iNaturalist app or talk to Park staff. For more information, scan the QR code.



Activities in the park

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMMING

Curious about the plants that cling to the rocks, or how our wiigwaam was made? Our knowledgeable interpretation team is here to help deepen your knowledge and appreciation of Pukaskwa's natural and cultural heritage. We offer free educational activities throughout the months of July and August. You can find our program schedule posted at the comfort stations, the Visitor Centre, and the park Kiosk. Our interpreters also love to answer your questions at the Visitor Centre outside of program times. (Really, we do!)

CANOE RENTALS AND RACKS

Hattie Cove is the place to use our canoe & stand-up paddleboard rentals. Pack a picnic lunch and explore the Hattie Cove wetlands, or simply float around for an afternoon! The park's canoe launch and racks are conveniently located at Hattie Cove, a great location for calm paddles. Rentals are available at the Park Kiosk. Access to the canoe launch and racks can be found in the South Loop of the campground, between sites 11 and 12.

ANISHINAABE CAMP: OUR HOME

Handcrafted by local Knowledge Keepers, the Anishinaabe Camp is nestled in a protected cove, surrounded by clear water and lush forest. It serves as an incredible illustration of a life lived before us and holds space for those traditions to live on. It is a meeting place to remember and honour, built for both local communities and visitors alike. Bbaawijiwshinaang (join us) for special events, programs and to simply enjoy the space.

XPLORER AND CLUB PARKA

For children ages 6-11, the Xplorer booklets provide a great way to find adventure and learn about Pukaskwa National Park on your own or with a friend. For ages 6 and under, the Club Parka booklets provide puzzles and other activities to learn about nature and camping. For both booklets, you can show your progress at the Visitor Centre to receive a cool collectible!



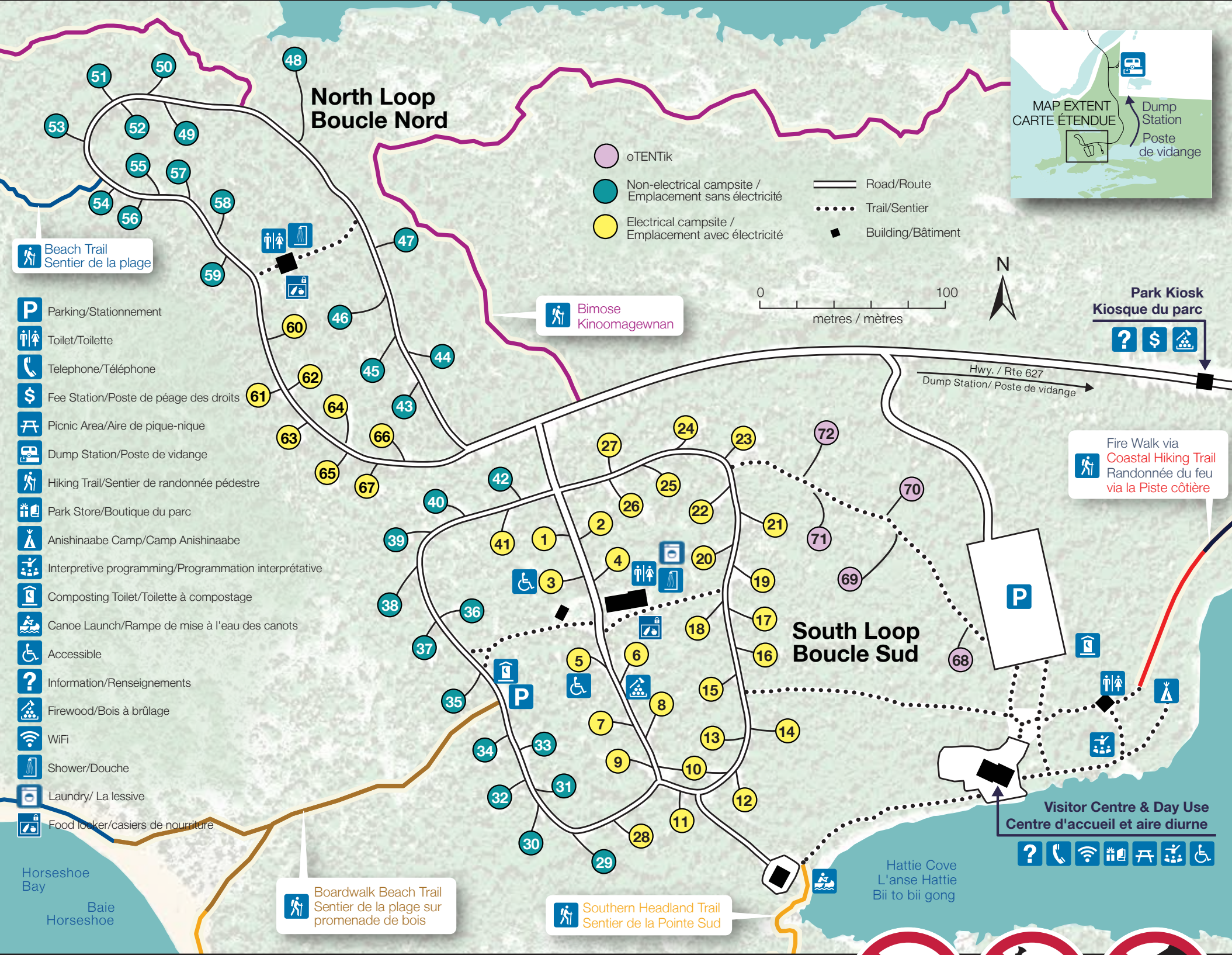
DID YOU KNOW...

improperly removing birch bark from trees harms them, and can even kill them?

Bark is like the tree's skin. It protects the tree from threats like disease, fungi or insects. Peeling tree bark also affects the flow of nutrients and water from roots to branches. Over time, that can starve the tree and it will die. Instead of using birch bark to start your campfire, use paper or buy a firestarter (available at the Kiosk and Park Store).

COMMENT CARDS

How was your visit to Pukaskwa National Park? We want to know! Help us serve you better by filling out a comment card. Pick one up at the Kiosk, Visitor Centre or comfort station.



Rules and regulations



Rules and regulations are in place to protect the ecological and commemorative integrity of Pukaskwa National Park, as well as ensure the enjoyment of all visitors. It is your responsibility to be aware of these rules. Failure to comply may result in fines and/or permit cancellations.

WHILE VISITING THE PARK, IS PROHIBITED TO:

- Collect or disturb berries, bark, plants, animals, rocks, shells or artifacts.
- Fish without a valid Ontario fishing license, use or possess lead fishing sinkers or jigs, or live bait. Barbless hooks are encouraged.
- Bring or move firewood into the park from regulated areas known to have invasive species.
- Consume alcohol outside of your campsite and at any other location in the park.
- Consume cannabis at the Anishinaabe camp and fire circle areas or outside of your campsite while in the campground.
- Drive or park in non-designated areas.
- Use recreational vehicles (for example, ATVs, jet skis, over-snow vehicles).
- Use motorized vessels in Hattie Cove beyond the Visitor Centre or in Halfway Lake.
- Store boats along Hattie Cove shoreline or other shorelines along the Lake Superior coast within the park.
- Moor overnight without a permit in Hattie Cove, unless for safe harbour purposes.
- Use a drone for filming/recreational purposes without proper permits.
- Film and/or take photographs for commercial purposes without a permit..
- Use, sell, or purchase fireworks, or any other type of explosive.
- Allow a pet off-leash, leave a pet unattended on a campsite, or not clean up pet waste.

WHILE VISITING FRONT-COUNTRY AREAS, IT IS PROHIBITED TO:

- Camp in non-designated areas, such as parking areas, canoe launch, etc.
- Have more than two shelters (tents, RVs, etc.) and six people per campsite.
- Register for a campsite under the age of 18 and to leave any persons under the age of 18 unsupervised at said campsite.

- Stay at the same campsite longer than 13 nights, 14 days.
- Leave food, garbage or wildlife attractants out when you are away from your campsite (for any length of time).
- Dump dirty dishwater anywhere in the campground except for the comfort station dish sinks.
- Create excessive noise at any time of the day and during quiet hours – 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- Start a fire outside of metal fire boxes provided.
- Leave a fire unattended while away from the site.
- Create a fire during restricted fire periods/bans.
- Gather woody material from live or dead trees and plants (bark, twigs, or any type of green wood) for fires.
- Go off-trail or fail to use established hiking/walking trails and roadways.
- Bicycle on hiking trails or anywhere except roadways.
- Use park facilities, like potable water or dumping stations, when not registered to a campsite.
- Remove driftwood from or create/leave driftwood structures on beaches.

WHILE VISITING BACKCOUNTRY AREAS, IT IS PROHIBITED TO:

- Not register for overnight excursions.
- Have more than 8 people per campsite.
- Leave any garbage (food wrappers, beverage containers, etc.) or gear at campsites or along the trail/water route.
- Store food or gear long-term (greater than registered stay) in food lockers.
- Start a fire outside of the provided metal fire box or in locations not previously used for fires.
- Gather woody material from live trees and plants (bark, twigs, or any type of green wood) for fires.
- Create a fire during restricted fire periods/bans.
- Camp outside of designated campsite (except in the case of an emergency).
- Use speeds excessive enough to cause a wake while navigating the White River by boat.
- Access Otter Island beyond the lighthouse and light keeper dwellings.
- Distrurb or remove archaeological objects or cultural features (i.e. Pukaskwa Pits).