



Pukaskwa  
National Park

# Visitor Guide

## Welcome! Boozhoo!

What is now Pukaskwa National Park (pronounced puck-a-saw) lies on the traditional territory of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg and Netmitzaaggamig Nishnaabeg. It also falls within the Robinson-Superior Treaty Area and has been travelled for thousands of years by Indigenous peoples of the North Shore of Lake Superior. We recognise and honour the historic and ongoing connections of Indigenous peoples to these lands and waters.



Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada

Canada

# 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.



## Hours of operations

Pukaskwa National Park is open seasonally from May 15 to October 15. See below for other operational specifics.

	DATE(S)	TIME(S)
<b>ADMINISTRATION BUILDING</b>	Year-round	Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
<b>CAMPGROUND HOSTS (CAMPSITE 6)</b>	May 15 to October 15	Daily, 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
<b>COMFORT STATIONS &amp; LAUNDRY</b>	May 15 to October 15	Daily
<b>HATTIE COVE CAMPGROUND NORTH LOOP</b>	June 15 to September 15	Check in and check out time is 11:00 a.m.
<b>HATTIE COVE CAMPGROUND SOUTH LOOP</b>	May 15 to October 14	Check in and check out time is 11:00 a.m.
<b>KIOSK</b>	May 15 to June 14 June 15 to September 15 September 16 to October 15	Daily, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Daily, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Daily, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
<b>OTENTIK SITES</b>	May 15 to October 14	Check in time is 3:00 p.m. and check out time is 11:00 a.m.
<b>INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMMING</b>	July 1 to first weekend in September	Daily, see posted schedules
<b>VISITOR CENTRE &amp; CANOE RENTALS</b>	June 15 to September 15	Daily, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## Fees

A full list of applicable fees can be found on the parks website or scan the QR code to the right.



### PARK STORE

Looking for a souvenir? Head down to the Visitor Centre to check out cool collectibles and amazing apparel. Park merchandise is also available at the Park Kiosk.

# Things to know while visiting the park...

## ACCESSIBLE CAMPSITES

When possible, please leave campsites 3 and 5 in the South Loop empty for those who require an accessible site.

## 'BARE' CAMPSITE PROGRAM

It is important to ensure that wildlife attractants are never left unattended. 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.

## CAMPGROUND HOSTS

Located at site 6, campground hosts are friendly, experienced campers who volunteer in the park to help make your trip more enjoyable. From 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. they sell firewood, answer questions and can call for emergency assistance. Interested in becoming a campground host? Talk to staff at the Park Kiosk.

## 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 Park Kiosk, Visitor Centre or comfort station.

## LAUNDRY

Located at the South Loop comfort station. Change for laundry is available at the Park Kiosk.

## DUMPING STATION

A trailer dumping station is located near the Administration Building for registered overnight visitors. The trailer dumping station does not accept chemically treated waste.

## FIREWOOD

Can be purchased at the Park Kiosk or campground host. 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 Park Kiosk.

## GARBAGE & RECYCLING

Located at the comfort stations. Ensure all containers are washed thoroughly to reduce the potential of attracting wildlife. Paper, plastics, glass and metal cans are accepted for recycling.

## 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 bottles, a fill station is available at each comfort station.

## SUPPLIES AND NEARBY COMMUNITIES

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg is the nearest community and it has 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.

## WILDLIFE CAMERAS & 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.

# Activities in the park

## 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. Bbaawijwshinaang (join us) for special events, programs and to simply enjoy the space.

## CANOE RENTALS AND RACKS

Canoe rentals (for use in Hattie Cove use only) are available at the Visitor Centre. The canoe launch and racks are accessed through the South Loop, between sites 11 and 12.

## COASTIES

Become a citizen scientist! Parks Canada is pleased to support a University of Windsor research initiative to monitor our changing coastlines. Pukaskwa National Park has 2 stations, Horseshoe Beach and Middle Beach. Take photos at these locations and submit them to: [coastiecanada.ca](http://coastiecanada.ca) or scan the QR to the right.



## INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMMING

Our knowledgeable interpretation team is here to help deepen your knowledge and appreciation of Pukaskwa's natural and cultural heritage. We offer a variety of activities during the summer. You can find the program schedule posted throughout the park. Our interpreters also love to answer your questions at the Visitor Centre outside of program times. (Really, we do!)

## VISITOR CENTRE

Located beside 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.

## XPLORERS

For children ages 6-11, the Xplorer booklets provide a great way to find adventure and learn about Pukaskwa National Park. Bring your completed booklet to the Visitor Centre to receive a cool collectible!

# Frontcountry trails



## EASY TRAILS

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### BOARDWALK BEACH TRAIL

1.2km with 0.2km of boardwalk / 30 minute hike / 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 / 20 minute hike / 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.

## MODERATE TRAILS

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### BEACH TRAIL

2km / 1 hour hike / 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 KINOOMAGEWNAW (*Bim-moh-say Kin-oh-mah-geh-wa-nun*)

3.7km / 2 hour hike / Natural surface with built stairs; some obstacles, loose rocks and tree roots

Learn the Seven Grandfather Teachings from Anishinaabe Elders and youth on Bimose Kinoomagewnaw, 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.

### MANITO MIIKANA (*Man-ih-to Mee-kan-ah*)

2km / 1 hour hike / 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 / 1 hour 15 minute hike • 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 shielded amongst the rock formations.

## DIFFICULT TRAIL - BACKCOUNTRY

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### WHITE RIVER SUSPENSION BRIDGE

18km / 15m elevation gain/loss / 8 hour hike return from Visitor Centre / Natural surface; 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 above Chigamiwiniqum Falls. We strongly recommend wearing appropriate footwear and taking food, water, sunscreen, and bug protection. **Printed trail maps are available at the Kiosk or Visitor Centre or can be found on the park website, using the QR code to the right.**

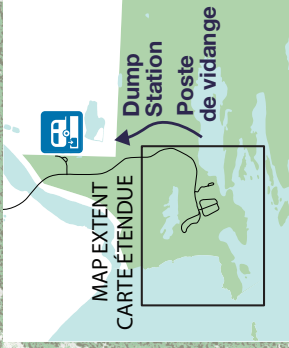


## SHOW OFF YOUR RUGGED ADVENTURE !

Did you hike to the White River 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!

# Hattie Cove Anse Hattie Bii to bii gong

- Parking/Stationnement
- Toilet/Toilette
- Telephone/Téléphone
- Fee Station/Poste de péage des droits
- Picnic Area/Aire de pique-nique
- Campground/Terrain de camping
- Hiking Trail/Sentier de randonnée pédestre
- Interpretive programming/Programmation interprétative
- Anishinaabe Camp/Camp Anishinaabe
- Park Store/Boutique du parc
- WIFI
- Canoe Launch/Rampe de mise à l'eau des canots
- Accessible
- Information/Renseignements
- Firewood/Bois à brûlage
- Composting Toilet/Toilette à compostage
- Shower/Douche
- Lookout/Belvédère
- Dump Station/Poste de vidange



**Bimose**  
Kinomagewman

**Park Kiosk**  
Kiosque du parc

**Fire Walk via Coastal Hiking Trail**  
Randonnée du feu via la Piste côtière

Hattie Cove / L'anse Hattie /  
Bii to bii gong

**Visitor Centre & Day Use**  
Centre d'accueil et aire diurne

**Southern Headland Trail**  
Sentier de la Pointe Sud

**Boardwalk Beach Trail**  
Sentier de la plage sur promenade de bois

**Beach Trail**  
Sentier de la plage

**North Loop**  
Boucle Nord

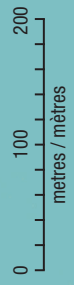
**South Loop**  
Boucle Sud

**Manito Miikana**

Lake Superior  
Lac Supérieur  
Chigaam

Pulpwood Harbour  
Havre Pulpwood  
Gaa bij tawopka

- Road/Route
- Trail/Sentier
- Building/Bâtiment



# Lake Sturgeon

Visitors to Pukaskwa National Park might recognize White River as a destination to traverse an epic suspension bridge but it is also an important spawning area for fish – especially Lake sturgeon!

Lake sturgeon are torpedo-shaped, bottom feeding, freshwater fish. Some females can live more than 100 years, measure over 2 m and even weigh up to 180 kg. Sturgeon have existed in the Great Lakes for about 10,000 years but the species is thought to have existed for at least 65 million years. Unfortunately, due to historic overfishing and habitat loss, Lake sturgeon are now a threatened species.



In 2023, Parks Canada team members collected Lake sturgeon from the White River to implant them with acoustic transmitters. Their movements will be tracked so that it can be better understood what areas of shoreline they frequent and at what times of the year. The team tagged 20 fish, with the largest one being 159 cm long, weighing 26.75 kg!

Visitors are asked to report any sightings of Lake sturgeon to park staff. Conservation efforts like these will help to restore the Lake sturgeon population.

## Help preserve the past!

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.

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](mailto: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!

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



# 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, trees, driftwood 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 or cannabis outside of your campsite and at any other location in the park.
- 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.
- Use speeds excessive enough to cause a wake while navigating Hattie Cove, Halfway Lake and the White River by boat.
- 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 a permit from the Park Superintendent.
- 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.
- Distrurb or remove archaeological objects or cultural features (i.e. Pukaskwa Pits).



## WHILE VISITING OVERNIGHT CAMPING AREAS, IN ADDITION TO THE PARK, 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 6 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 or firepits provided.
- Leave a fire unattended while away from the site.
- 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.
- Not register for overnight backcountry excursions.
- Store food or gear long-term (greater than registered stay) in food lockers.
- Access Otter Island beyond the lighthouse and light keeper dwellings.

Rules and regulations can also be found on the park website at <https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/on/pukaskwa/visit/reglement-rules-and-regulations> or scan QR code to the right.

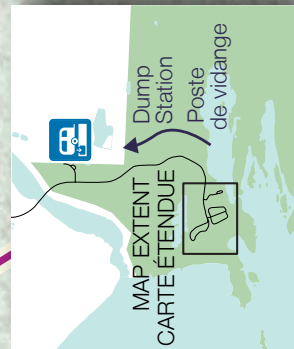


## EMERGENCIES

For emergencies, bear sightings, maintenance issues or campground disturbances, contact Park staff, the Campground Host or call the Parks Canada dispatch service at: **1-877-852-3100 or 1-780-852-3100**

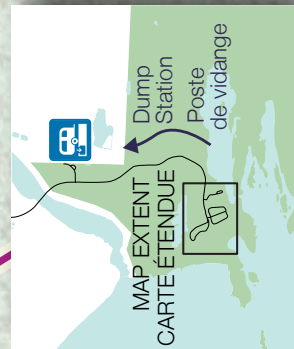
An AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) is at the South Loop Comfort Station, beside the bulletin boards, facing the road.





MAP EXTENT  
CARTE ETENDUE

Dump Station  
Poste de vidange



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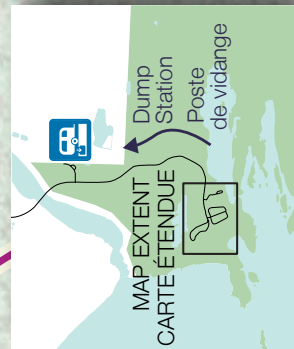
Non-electrical campsite /  
Emplacement sans électricité

Electrical campsite /  
Emplacement avec électricité

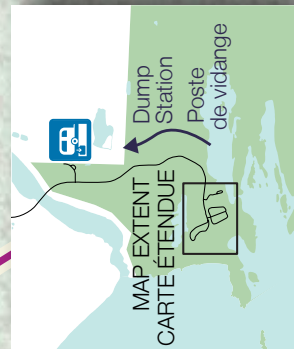
Road/Route

Trail/Sentier

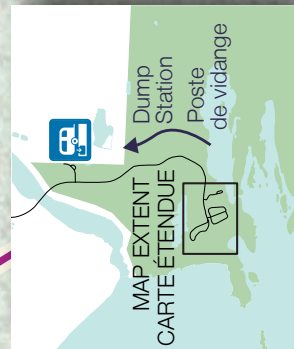
Building/Bâtiment



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metres / mètres



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Hwy. / Rte 627

Dump Station/ Poste de vidange

Park Kiosk  
Kiosque du parc

Fire Walk via  
Coastal Hiking Trail  
Randonnée du feu  
via la Piste côtière

Visitor Centre & Day Use  
Centre d'accueil et aire diurne

Hattie Cove  
L'anse Hattie  
Bli to bii gong

Southern Headland Trail  
Sentier de la Pointe Sud

Boardwalk Beach Trail  
Sentier de la plage sur  
promenade de bois

North Loop  
Boucle Nord

South Loop  
Boucle Sud

Bimose  
Kinoomagewnan

Food locker/casiers de nourriture

Laundry/ La lessive

Parking/Stationnement

Toilet/Toilette

Telephone/Téléphone

Fee Station/Poste de péage des droits

Picnic Area/Aire de pique-nique

Dump Station/Poste de vidange

Hiking Trail/Sentier de randonnée pédestre

Park Store/Boutique du parc

Anishinaabe Camp/Camp Anishinaabe

Interpretive programming/Programmation interprétative

Composting Toilet/Toilette à compostage

Canoe Launch/Rampe de mise à l'eau des canots

Accessible

Information/Renseignements

Firewood/Bois à brûlage

WiFi

Shower/Douche

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72

Horseshoe Bay

Baie Horseshoe