

Isle Royale Backpack
Isle Royale National Park, MI
September 7- 15, 2008 (Sunday-Monday)

A recent national park usage study reported that Isle Royale National Park is one of our 10 least used national parks. And no wonder: located in the middle of Lake Superior, between Minnesota and Michigan, accessible only by ferry, it remains a favorite destination for backpackers, hikers, and research scientists but few if any casual tourists. The park is comprised of a large, isolated land mass covered with giant yellow birch, aspen, hemlock, and yew trees, roamed by majestic moose and wolves, and surrounded by a rocky shoreline. From the forests to the unique ecological interaction of the animals, Isle Royale provides wilderness travelers with a variety of natural treasures to learn about and explore. If the idea of backpacking in a remote and unique ecosystem appeals to you, one where you are as likely to see a moose as another person, please join us for a week of backpacking in this fascinating place!

Our trip starts when we meet at 4 p.m. on Friday at our lodging in Grand Portage, Minnesota, just five miles south of the Canadian border. If you are flying in, we'll pick you up at the Duluth airport at 12pm. After meeting we will review what we need to bring and how to pack, and share a welcome dinner. The next morning we will rise early in order to catch our ferry at 8 a.m. We will take the *Voyager II* for the trip to Rock Harbor on the island, a 6.5 hour ferry ride. The first day we camp overnight in Rock Harbor and depending on time and our energy can do a short day hike from there. During the next seven days we hike anywhere from seven to eleven miles a day, taking us between four to eight hours each day. Our route will traverse the entire island of Isle Royale, starting at Rock Harbor and ending at Windigo. We camp and hike in a variety of settings—sometimes near inland lakes, sometimes along the shore of Lake Superior, and sometimes in the forest. We hope to encounter moose and perhaps catch a fleeting glimpse of a wolf; we'll surely hear or see signs of these animals. Red fox, loons, and other wildlife also make their home here. As we travel, we have opportunities to learn or practice map and compass skills, backpacking and camping techniques, and wildflower identification. If you want to fish, a Michigan license is required for fishing in Lake Superior and no license is required for the inland lakes. On Sunday we ferry back on the *Voyager II*, arriving in Grand Portage about 4 p.m. We will spend the night at a motel in Grand Marais, and share a final dinner at one of the local restaurants. We will leave Grand Marais after breakfast the final day. If you are flying out, you can plan to leave after 1 p.m. on Monday.

This journey is suitable for experienced backpackers and adventurous beginners who want to explore this solitary wilderness environment. Participants should be in very good physical condition; there is a significant amount of up and down hiking and our packs, particularly at the beginning, will weigh between 40 and 45 pounds. Meals on our wilderness journey are hearty and delicious—women often tell us they eat better on our trips than they do at home. If you have a dietary restriction or food allergy, please let us know at least three weeks in advance.

To reserve a place on this backpacking excursion, please send a deposit of \$300 or the full trip fee of \$1125 (deduct \$50 if you register by 5/7/07) to the Adventures in Good Company office, register on our web site, or call to register by phone. The trip fee includes guide services, permits and reservations, ferry fees, two nights lodging in hotels and 6 nights camping, group camping and cooking equipment, group maps, and all meals from Sunday dinner through the last Monday breakfast. You need a comfortable backpack that fits you well, sturdy boots that are well broken-in, and personal gear and clothing. Roundtrip transportation from Duluth to Grand Portage is available for \$75.

Three months before the trip, we'll send you detailed pre-trip information, including a packing list and travel suggestions to help you prepare for your excursion. Please call the Adventures in Good Company office if we can be of assistance in any way. We'd be delighted to welcome you to the early fall beauty of Isle Royale!

A d v e n t u r e s i n G o o d C o m p a n y

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