



The Rendezvous *Your Guide to Voyageurs National Park* 2020



Photo: Robert Yone,
VNPA Photo Contest Entry

A Place Like No Other

Voyageurs National Park was set aside for 3 important reasons, its geological resources, its inspiring scenery comprised of water, forest, rocks, and wildlife, and its historic waterways.

These waterways include an important segment of a 3,000 - mile fur trade route of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

The driving force behind the fur trade was a demand for hats - beaver hats desired by fashionable Europeans.

As the fur trade expanded, it relied on the voyageurs, or French-Canadian canoe men, to muscle trade goods and furs between Montreal and the Canadian northwest.

The voyageurs in turn, relied on native people for fur, guide services, clothing, food, and medicine.

The route of these voyageurs shaped the international boundary between the U.S. and Canada, and the legacy of these voyageurs inspired the naming of this national park.

From supporting the life and culture of Native Americans, to supplying resources for the fur trade, commercial fishing, gold mining, and timber and tourism industries, the interconnected waterway system of this area has influenced the movement of people for thousands of years.

Today, for the modern travelers who visit this land, Voyageurs National Park preserves the geology, scenery, and a segment of the historic voyageurs waterway route for all to enjoy.
www.nps.gov/voya

How Much Time Do You Have? *Come and explore your National Park*

Voyageurs is more than 218,000 acres and over one-third of the surface of the park is covered with water. While a watercraft is desired to explore the park, it is not the only way to experience this ecosystem rich in culture and natural history. Here are some tips to help you get the most out of your visit.

If you have an hour....

Visit any of the park's visitor centers. Watch the 12 minute-long park movie and view the exhibits. Enjoy the scenery across Rainy, Kabetogama, and Sand Point Lakes from any of the park's three boat launches or ranger contact station. Browse the Jefferson National Parks Association bookstores for that perfect keepsake of your visit to Voyageurs National Park.

If you have 2 hours....

Consider a hike on either the 1.2 mile round-trip Sullivan Bay Trail near the Ash River Visitor Center or the 1.7 mile round-trip Oberholtzer Trail near the Rainy Lake Visitor Center. Both are unique and beautiful.

If you have 1/2 day....

This is your chance to experience Voyageurs National Park from the water. Watch for wildlife on a ranger-led boat tour. If you're feeling especially adventurous, consider seeing the park the way the voyageurs did, while paddling a 26-foot North Canoe. In winter, check-out skis or snowshoes at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center or take a drive on the park's two ice roads.

If you have a full day....

Consider the Life on the Lake cruise. This tour can be reserved in advance at www.Recreation.gov. It explores the waters and islands of Namakan Lake. Participants may disembark at two locations; I.W. Stevens Island and Kettle Falls Hotel to explore the rich history, explore the area, and enjoy lunch at the historic hotel.

If you have 2 or more days....

The possibilities are nearly endless. Sign up for a ranger-led boat tour, check-out a Discovery Pack, start the park's Hike to Health Passport program or go camping overnight. Check-out the remaining short trails along the Ash River Visitor Center entrance road. Consider hiring a fishing guide to help you land a lunker walleye or maybe rent a canoe or kayak from a gateway area resort to paddle park waters on your own.



Your 2020 Guide to Voyageurs National Park

Summer Ranger-Led Program Schedule

Rainy Lake Visitor Center

Reservations can be made at www.Recreation.gov or by calling (877) 444-6777.

Call ahead; all programs are subject-to-change. (218) 286-5258

Program	Date	Day	Time	Fee
Gold Mine Tour This tour takes you to Little American Island where you may depart from the tour boat with a park ranger for a 1/4 mile (accessible) walk with glimpses of the areas mining past. (4-passenger minimum)	June 21 - Aug. 28	Sun, W, F	11 - 12:30 pm	Adult: \$20 Child: \$15 Toddler: \$3
Discover Rainy Lake Cruise Discover the wonders and beauty of Voyageurs National Park. The captain will navigate Rainy Lake in search of abandoned gold mines, abundant wildlife, and a historic commercial fish camp. (4-passenger minimum)	June 27 - Aug. 29	Sat	10:30 am - 12:30 pm	Adult: \$25 Child: \$15 Toddler: \$3
Grand Tour This tour is a combination of the Discover Rainy and Gold Mine Tours. (4-passenger minimum)	June 14 - Aug. 29	Sun, W, F, Sat	1 - 3:30 pm	Adult: \$30 Child: 15 Toddler: \$3
Night Ranger Cruise Discover and view the night sky aboard the <i>Voyageur</i> Tour Boat. A park ranger will share the wonders of the sky, impacts of light pollution, and assist in star gazing. (4-passenger minimum)	June 26 July 10 & 24, Aug. 7 & 21	F	10:30 pm - 12:30 am	Adult: \$25 Child: \$15 Toddler: \$3
North Canoe Voyage Paddle back in history aboard a 26-foot North Canoe. Learn the voyageur paddle salute and explore the life of a voyageur. Minimum age is 5. We recommend participants know how to swim. Weather dependent. Reservations recommended.	June 25 - Aug. 27	Th	10 - 11:30 & 1 - 2:30 pm	Free
Ethno-botanical Garden Tour Join a park volunteer on a tour through a native plant garden. At the heart of the garden is an Ojibwe encampment.	June 15 - Aug.28	M, T, W, Th, F, Sat	12 - 12:30 pm	Free

Kabetogama Lake Visitor Center

Call ahead; all programs are subject-to-change. (218) 875-2111

Program	Date	Day	Time	Fee
Life on Namakan Lake Tour Explore the rich natural and cultural history of life on Namakan Lake. Join a park ranger and experience an old logging camp, disembark to wander through I.W. Stevens Island and the historic Kettle Falls Hotel. Spend 2-hours on land to dine at the hotel or enjoy a picnic lunch. Tour fees do not include meals. (6-passenger minimum)	June 15 - Aug. 24	M	10:00 am - 3:30 pm	Adult: \$40 Child: \$20 Toddler: \$3

Ash River Visitor Center

Call ahead; all programs are subject-to-change. (218) 374-3221

Program	Date	Day	Time	Fee
Life on Namakan Lake Tour Explore the rich natural and cultural history of life on Namakan Lake. Join a park ranger and experience an old logging camp and the historic Kettle Falls Hotel. Spend 2-hours on land to dine at the hotel or enjoy a picnic lunch. Tour fees do not include meals. (6-passenger minimum)	June 16 - Aug. 28	Tu, Th, F	10:00 am - 3:30 pm	Adult: \$40 Child: \$20 Toddler: \$3
Night Ranger Campfire Join park staff for an evening around a campfire to learn about light pollution, and star gazing.	June 27 - Aug. 29	Sat	9 - 10 pm	Free

Ranger Tips!



Here are some park ranger recommendations to assist you in having the best experience possible while visiting the park.

Tour Boat and Camping Reservations

Reservations for boat tours are highly recommended and are required for camping and houseboating. They can be made through Recreation.gov, or by calling (877) 444-6777.



Tour Information

If space is available, walk-in tickets may be purchased but end 30-minutes prior to departure.



Camping Information

Ensure you print your permit from home. Displayed permits are required at all campsites.

Pack-out What You Pack-in

Firewood brought into the park must be approved by a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) firewood vendor. There are multiple vendors just outside the park.



Burning trash at campfires is prohibited. We ask that you pack-out what you pack-in and leave the campsite, houseboat site, or day use site better than when you came.

Pets

Pets are allowed on the 1.7-mile (one-way) Rainy Lake Recreation Trail. Dogs may be at campsites if they are leashed and attended.

Please don't leave your pet in your vehicle and they are not allowed on tours.



How Can You Help The Park

Voyageurs National Park Association (VNPA) is the official charitable partner of Minnesota's National Park. They represent a community of Friends of Voyageurs who are committed to the ongoing stewardship of this amazing place.

In partnership with the National Park Service, VNPA works to

preserve the wild character and unique experience of Voyageurs by funding projects and programs that will sustain the park for generations to come.

From land acquisition work and newly launched Dark Sky Initiative, to programs like Teen Ambassadors and Love Your Park — these projects are all made possible through people

who love Voyageurs National Park - like you.

Learn more and give back at www.voyageurs.org

