

Contents

Introduction	
Getting There	1
Fundamentals of Great Lakes Kayaking & Camping	3
Kayaking Equipment Suitable for Great Lakes Kayaking	4
Paddling Skills	6
Camping	7
Trip 1: Mainland Sea Caves, Meyers Beach	8
Trip 2: Western Island Loop	12
Trip 3: Eastern Island Loop	17
Resources: General Contacts, Public Safety, Suggested Maps & Charts, Local Kayak Launch Points, Outfitters, Other Area Activities and Attractions	21



TRIP 1: BASIC Mainland Sea Caves, Meyers Beach

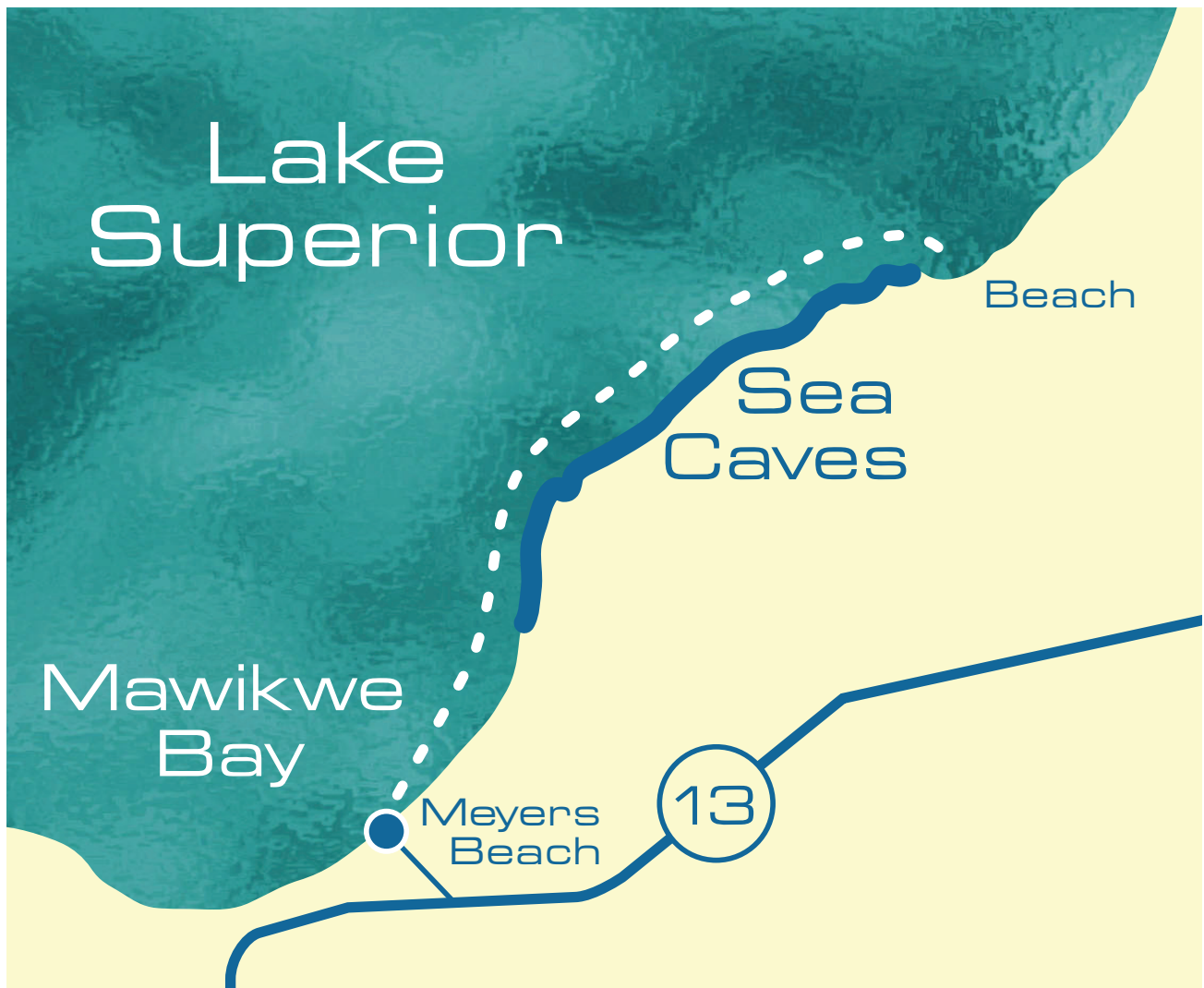
Of all the intricately carved sea caves found in the Apostle Islands, those found near Meyers Beach are some of the most scenic and certainly the most accessible. Red sandstone cliffs rise a hundred feet from the aquamarine waters of Lake Superior, sculpted and shaped by thousands of years of weathering by water, wind, and ice.

Highlights

Picturesquely broad and sandy beaches, tall red sandstone cliffs and sea caves.

Rating

Basic; 3.5-mile section of shore (7 miles roundtrip), including sandy beach, rugged cliffs, and dramatic sea caves.



Launch Point

Meyers Beach, 17 miles west of Bayfield, WI, and 4 miles east of Cornucopia, on Hwy 13 (see "Local Kayak Launch Points," Page 21). There is a 40-vehicle parking lot here with restrooms, picnic facilities, information kiosk, and often a ranger. There is a short carry from the parking lot, down a wide, gently sloped staircase to the beach.



Hitting the Water

If conditions allow, launch onto the bay and paddle east along the shore. A beautiful sandy beach comprises the first mile or so, abruptly ending with the distinctive red sandstone cliffs. The namesake sea caves begin soon thereafter, and continue eastward for the next 2 miles.

Take your time and dawdle to fully appreciate the intricately sculpted cliffs and caves. If the water is calm

during your visit, you can paddle close to the vertical walls, beneath the overhanging cathedral arches, and perhaps even into the larger caves themselves.

Run your hand over the wet sandstone to feel how easily abraded it is, and imagine the thousands of years of erosion by the elements necessary to form these beautiful shapes. Float motionless and listen to the gentle gurgles and drips as the cold waters of Lake Superior quietly continue their work here.

About Mile 3.5, the cliffs drop away and another long, narrow beach begins; this is a good place to pause for a break and to turn around for the return trip.

7 miles roundtrip.

Alternative Basic Trips

If you find rough waters at Meyers Beach and the west side of the Bayfield Peninsula, travel a few miles to the sheltered east shore.

Trip 1: Bayfield Shore

Launch from any number of small public beaches in the city of Bayfield (see "Local Kayak Launch Points," Page 21), and paddle along the scenic waterfront of sailboats, historic brownstone buildings, and picturesque hillside mansions.