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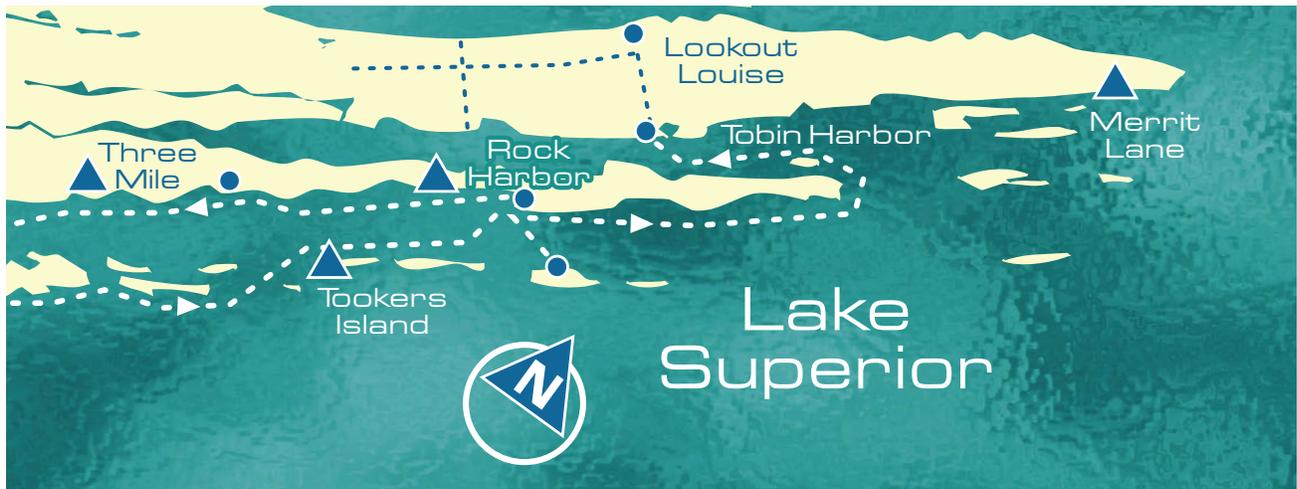
## TRIP 1: BASIC Rock Harbor and Moskey Basin

One needn't venture very far on Isle Royale to be immersed in a Superior wilderness. From the main dock, a paddler can easily explore the entire ten-mile length of Rock Harbor and adjacent Moskey Basin, with time for a few easy hikes and to take in the sights, smells, and sensations of this remote wilderness destination. Rock Harbor can be a great place to explore if you have only a couple of paddling days to spend on Isle Royale, or to fill those half-days before or after your ferry crossings.

Shoreside camping is available at several campgrounds along the way: Three Mile, Daisy Farm, Moskey Basin, Caribou Island, and Tookers Island.

### Rating

Basic; 5- to 20-mile tour of the mainland shore and numerous offshore islets. Suitable for shorter day-paddles or two or three leisurely days of paddling and camping.



### Highlights

This tour of Rock Harbor includes an inland sea cave, a prehistoric copper mine, site of the world's longest-running wolf-moose research study, an historic family fishery and lighthouse, and the site of the most deadly shipwreck on Lake Superior.

### Warnings & Potential Hazards

Aside from the usual cautions when paddling on the waters of the upper Great Lakes (see "Great Lakes Sea Kayaking Safety," Page 3), this inner harbor nearly always offers safe flatwater kayaking, with the mainland and the string of offshore islands providing excellent protection

from the open-water conditions of Lake Superior. Only a couple of optional open-water crossings of less than .5 mile.

## Launch Point

Whether embarking on a daytrip or a weeklong voyage, the best place from which to set out from Rock Harbor is the small beach between the marina docks and the Rock Harbor Lodge, and which is only a short carry from the large main dock at the ranger station.

## Hitting the Water

From the main dock area, paddle southwest along the mainland shoreline (steering clear of any boats entering or leaving the dock area). The Rock Harbor Trail parallels the shore from here all the way to Moskey Basin Campground, so you may see hikers and backpackers tromping the rocky trail as you glide along the silver waters.

You'll soon see a couple of lakeside residences for Park Service staff, and at about Mile 2 you will find a tiny cove with a small cobble beach. A trail leads from here about .25 miles to Suzys Cave, a small cavern excavated by the wave action of the ancient Lake Minong, predecessor to modern Lake Superior, about ten thousand years ago when water levels were much higher.

At about Mile 3, you will see the dock for—no surprise—Three Mile Campground.

There are four tent sites and eight shelters here, but these mainline campgrounds can often be crowded with the aforementioned backpackers.

At Mile 4 on the north shore, directly across from the NPS Park Headquarters clearly visible across the Harbor, is the Siskowit Mine, a copper mine dug in 1845. The mine produced nearly 100 tons of copper before operations ceased, and today is a tumbledown ruin of stone foundations, the main shaft now filled with water.

Daisy Farm Campground is located right on the shore at Mile 6.5, apparent by the dock there. There are 6 tent sites and 16 shelters, a veritable village.

