

# Isle Royale Info

## Section 5: Campgrounds



### Overview:

All of the campgrounds are very well marked and the sites have shelters and or tent pads. Shelters are typically available at campgrounds on Lake Superior, but not all of the them. The tent pads are usually very well defined except in campgrounds that do not get a lot of use.

### Section Layout:

The campgrounds are described in alphabetical order. At the beginning of each campground description is a chart with details of the campground as described on the next page. There is a complete chart listing details of all of the campgrounds in Section 12: Reference Charts.

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## About my Notes and Descriptions:

Sites / Site Types: The number of sites and the type of sites available at the campground, are based on the National Park Service "Greenstone" newspaper and my last visit to the campground.

Fires: A listing of whether or not fires are allowed, are based on the National Park Service "Greenstone" newspaper and my last visit to the campground. If listed as "Y", there are fire rings at each site. Listed as "S", means there are Standing Grills at each site. Listed as "C", indicates there is a Community Ring" there, which is a ring centrally located for a fire. If both "S" and "C" are listed, there are typically standing grills at the individual sites and a ring at the group sites.

Tables: Lists whether or not there are picnic tables at the campground. They are generally available at sites that have a dock on Lake Superior, but not always.

TP: Some outhouses have extra pegs for storage of TP in them and these are usually stocked. The ones without the pegs typically do not have any in them. Typically, the stocked ones are the campgrounds on Lake Superior with docks. I typically go during the "off" season, so during the busy season, this may be different. There is no guarantee at any campground.

Generators (Gen): Some water campgrounds allow boaters to use generators while docked. This indicates whether they can be used or not.

Dock: If there is a dock, the depth in feet is listed according to the National Park Service "The Greenstone" paper.

Wilderness (Wild): This is my rating for wilderness feel. Campgrounds vary in how isolated they feel based on how close you are to drop-off points and general park operations. For instance, Three Mile Campground is close to Rock Harbor and between there and Mott Island (Park Headquarters), so there is a lot of activity around and through the campground, whereas other campgrounds are not close to any major drop-off point and not on a main trail (i.e. not easy to get to).

Elevation (Elev): General elevation of the campground.

Side Trips: If listed, gives a description of areas or things near the campground.

Consecutive Nights: Between June 1st and Labor Day there are limits on the nights you can stay in a campground. After this many days you are required to move to another campground.

Hammock: Hammock camping can be difficult on the island due to the rules regarding their use and the nature of the island's trees. For details on the rules, see the "Overview" section. This listing will give you an idea of whether the campground is hammock friendly.

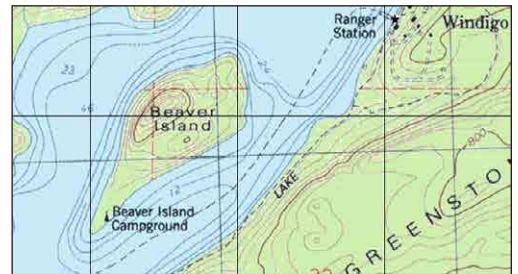
Google Earth™ View: If listed, will link to a picture captured from Google Earth™. These are only put there if the picture captures something of note (i.e. location, shelters, water).

[Date]: If listed after a campsite, indicates the date I stayed in the site.

## Beaver Island Campground

Shelters	Tent	Group	Fires	Tables	TP	Gen.	Dock	Wild	Elev.
3	0	0	N	Y	Y	Y	2-5'	3	607'

**The Campground** is located on the southwest corner of Beaver Island, in Washington Harbor. It is a nice campground, but it attracts many boaters and you may hear generators running at the dock here, plus the sounds of Windigo. Walking to the west point of the island, past Shelter #1, there are rocks along the shore that make for a great place to sit and offers views up and down the harbor and north of the island.

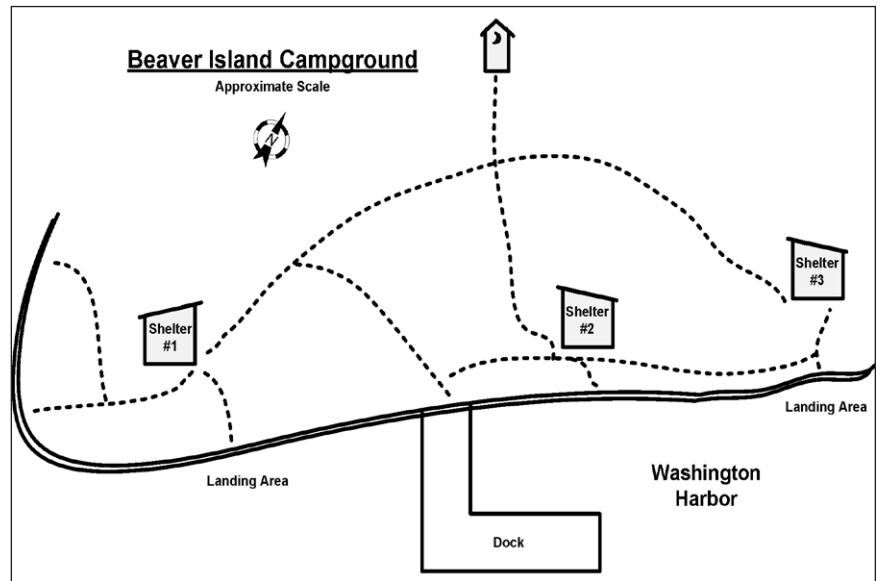


**The Shelters** all sit just a few feet from shore. They all have a nice view and offer good privacy.

**Shelter #1** sits west of the dock on the western most end of the island, with a wonderful view down Washington Harbor. It offers the most privacy. It is also the most prone to wind. [Fall, 2012]

**Shelter #2** sits almost directly back from the dock. It is farther from the water than the others shelters and the views and water access is not as good. However, it is well protected from the wind.

**Shelter #3** sits east of the dock down a lovely shoreline trail, right on the shoreline. It has a peaceful view of the water and forest on the other side, and with just a few steps, a view up and down the harbor. It is well protected and also private.



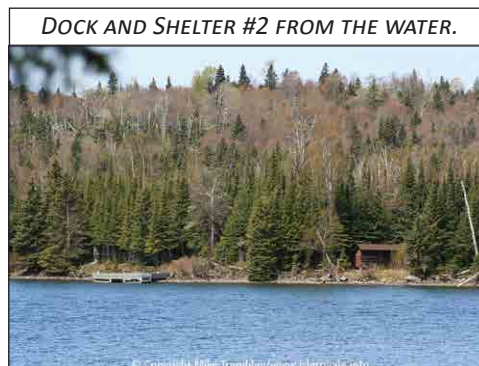
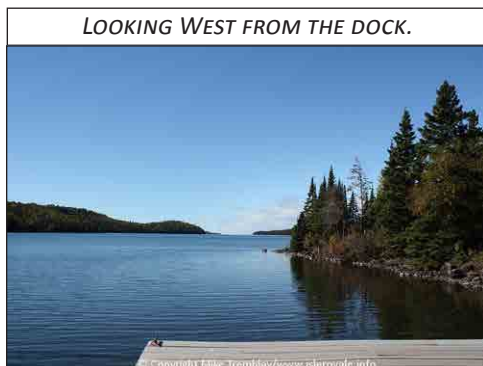
**Site Ratings:** Shelter #1, Shelter #3, Shelter #2

**Side Trips:** A short paddle directly across from the dock is Feldtmann Ridge Trail. From this point on the trail, it is 0.64 miles up to a scenic view on a ridge.

**Consecutive Nights:** 3

**Hammock:** No tent sites available

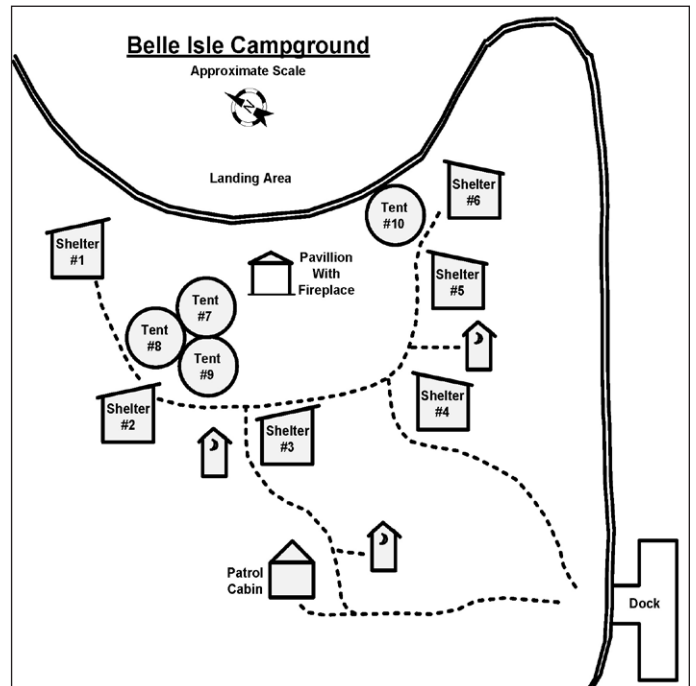
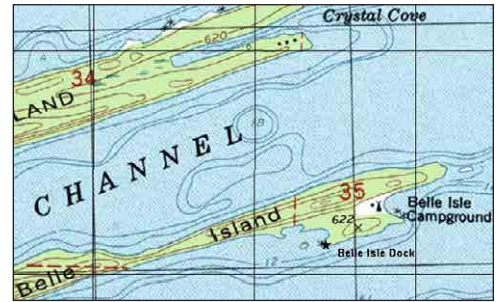
[Google Earth™ View](#)



## Belle Isle Campground

Shelters	Tent	Group	Fires	Tables	TP	Gen.	Dock	Wild	Elev.
6	4?	0	S	Y	Y	Y	13'	6	611'

**The Campground** is located on the east side of Belle Isle Island, which is on the northeast side of the main island, on the south side of Amygdaloid Channel. The Voyageur will stop here when doing its north side trip, if scheduled. This campground is popular with boaters, and generators are allowed at the dock, but the dock is about 500 feet away from the nearest shelter, so it is far enough away where you should not hear them. This campground truly lives up to its name “beautiful island”, it is a lovely place to stay and makes for a nice trip with canoes or kayaks to go from here to other places nearby. There is a “Patrol Cabin” at the campground that is occupied by a “campground host” and sometimes rangers during the peak season. The fact that there is a campground host and it is popular with boaters, takes away from the wilderness aspect of it. However, in the early and late season it would have a higher wilderness rating. I had the pleasure of spending three whole days there in early May without seeing another soul. By the dock, there is a clearing with a picnic table and standing grill for use if docked. This campground seems very similar to Daisy farm in that it is situated on the water with the meadow and well-worn trails cut in it. There is pavilion in the center of the meadow between the shelters to the far east right near the bay, with picnic tables, a fireplace with a cook stove and all kinds of things people have found and piled up on the mantel.



**The Shelters** and sites are all located in a half circle around Robinson Bay north and east of the dock. They are somewhat spread out and most offer some privacy. Shelter #1 is absolutely wonderful! It has a spectacular view and privacy at the same time. The only things that can be a drawback to it are, it is a long way to the outhouse and it is exposed to wind coming off the bay. [Spring, 2012]

Shelter #2 is semi-close to #3 with an okay view, but no view of the lake. Shelter #3 is somewhat close to #4 and the so-called tent sites. It is dark and there is no view of the lake. It is closest to an outhouse which can be a plus (or a minus).

Shelter #4 is right at the entrance to the campground and closest to the dock, so will get the most traffic. It is also a long way from the lake. There is a nice meadow in front of it and it gets good sun.

Shelter #5 is semi-private for being along the main trail and very pretty. However, there is no view of the lake and it gets limited sun.

Shelter #6 has the second best view next to #1, but is a bit more protected from the wind than #1. On first glance, it looks like a picture postcard site. However, it is right on the main campground trail and close to tent site #10.

**The Tent Sites** leave something to be desired except for #10.

Note: When I was last here in 2012, there were four tent sites shown, but in the Greenstone 2017 it only shows one tent site.

Tent #7, 8, & 9 are somewhere in a meadow. Actually, I could not even tell where they were. There are just some worn spots with no identifiable pads. There are no tables, no furniture and no grills. It is simply in the middle of nothing between Shelters #2 and #3.

Tent #10 is by far the best tent site and may be the best site in the campground besides Shelter #1. It is kind of secluded and right on Robinson Bay, which it has a very nice view of. It has two pads which can fit two tents or, maybe squeeze three. When last here, there was no picnic table. I imagine it was moved to under the pavilion and I would grab one from there to use at the site. This site has a standing grill. The side trail listed under "Side Trips" is very accessible from here.

**Site Ratings:** Shelters= #1, #6, #4 / Tent= #10 / Overall= Shelter #1, Tent #10, Shelter #6

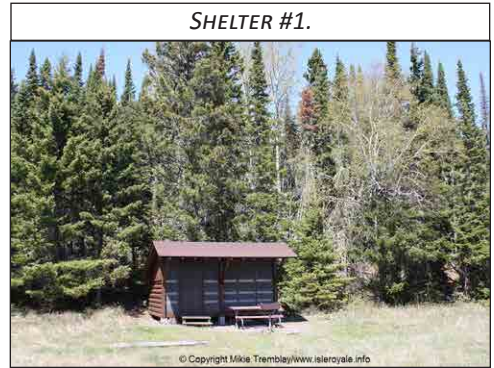
**Side Trips:** This Island has a long history which is discussed in "Points of Interest" under Belle Isle. There are signs of it around the campground. There is trail in between shelter #6 and tent site #10 with some very old stone steps leading up to a bluff on the south side of the island I would guess to be from the lodge that was there. Crystal Cove is a short paddle away and worth the trip.

**Consecutive Nights:** 5

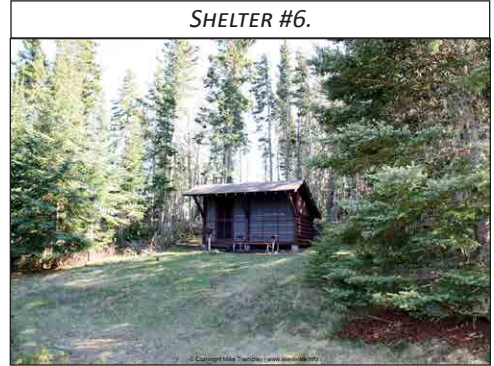
**Hammock:** Yes

[Google Earth™ View](#)

SHELTER #1.



SHELTER #6.



TENT #7-9 AREA.



TENT #10.



## Birch Island Campground

Shelters	Tent	Group	Fires	Tables	TP	Gen.	Dock	Wild	Elev.
1	1	0	N	Y	Y	N	5'	7	610'

**The Campground** is located on a small island, just inside the entrance to McCargoe Cove. The first half of the name, "Birch" is no longer true as most of the Birch is gone and the remainder is dying for the most part. It is a very quiet campground, except when the Voyageur passes by every other day or less, and when boats come in and out of the cove. Boaters will sometimes use it, but with a depth of 5' or less, it cannot be a big boat and generators are not allowed. It is a beautiful campground to spend an afternoon, but I do not think I would want to spend a lot of time there as you are limited on things to do. The last time I was there, there was a picnic table just behind the dock in addition to the tables at the shelter and tent pad. There was once a fishing camp here, for details look under "Points of Interest".

**The Shelter** is located right above the dock in a clearing. It offers a beautiful view down the cove and of the water all around. It does not offer a view of the entrance to McCargoe Cove right from the site, but it is in view a few steps away. [Spring, 2012]

**The Tent Site** is located about 80' behind the shelter. It can fit 3 tents easily and might be able to fit 4. It is somewhat close to the shelter, but offers some privacy. Access to the lake is not real easy, but once you are down there, there are wonderful views of the entrance to McCargoe Cove.

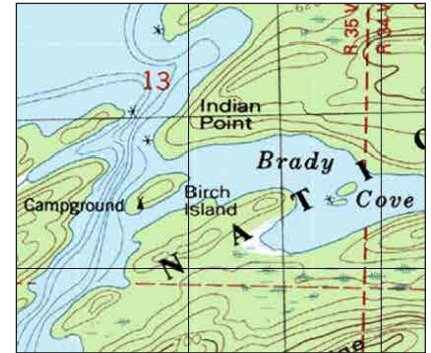
**Site Ratings:** The Shelter is the first choice however, if someone is at the shelter, the tent site is very nice and far enough away to be semi-private.

**Side Trips:** Brady Cove is east of the campground and makes for a nice paddle. There is a little cove just beyond Indian Point that is nice to paddle to and sit in to watch the lake.

**Consecutive Nights:** 3

**Hammock:** Yes

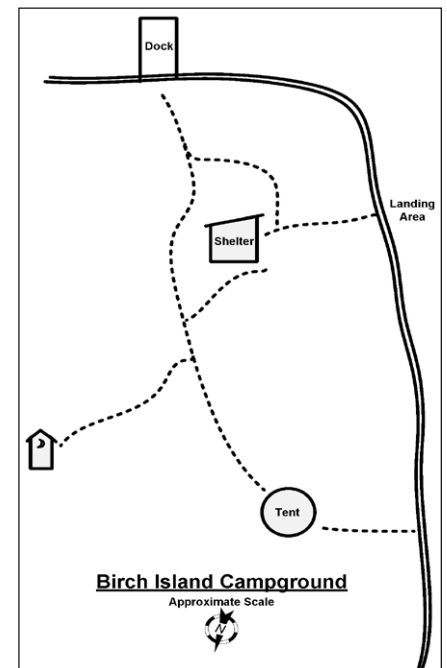
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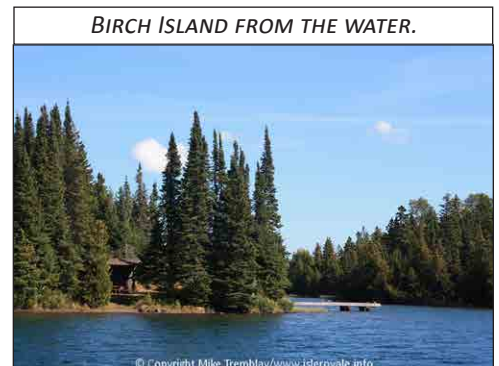
*BIRCH ISLAND SHELTER.*



*BIRCH ISLAND TENT SITE.*



**Birch Island Campground**  
Approximate Scale



*BIRCH ISLAND FROM THE WATER.*