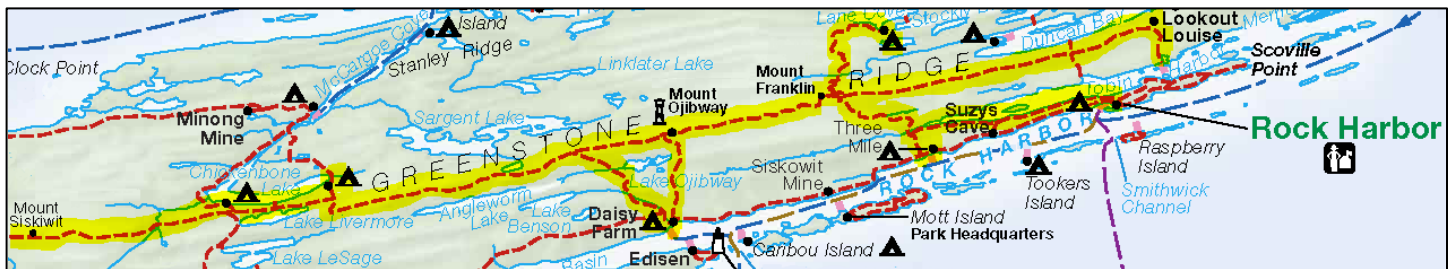


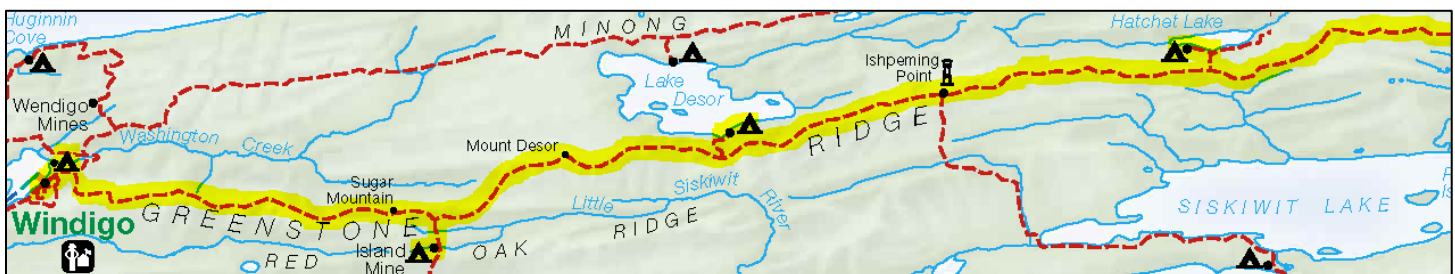


Isle Royale Info – Trip Packages

The Greenstone Ridge Trail



East Section



West Section

Total Miles	42.7
Difficulty East to West	6.884
Difficulty West to East	6.965

[This is based on "7 Day Shorter Miles" sample itinerary. However, difficulty is close to the same for all]

The Greenstone Ridge trail is the longest and perhaps, the most popular trail on the island. It runs almost the entire length of the island on a ridge that forms the backbone of the island. Being that it runs along the highest points on the island, it offers magnificent views of Lake Superior and the island to both the north and south. The time of year you go determines how often, but you can see both shores at various points along the trail. It also features several inland lakes where most of the campgrounds are. It basically follows the ridge then you go off the ridge to go into campgrounds along the way. It is a good trail to do in 5-7 days and can be done when coming on any of the ferries and scheduling a return trip to your arrival point or, scheduling the seaplane at both ends. This description and itinerary starts from Rock Harbor.

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Sample Itineraries

These itineraries are very similar except where are you coming from makes a difference on the first and last day. If you are coming from Grand Portage, you will arrive not arrive at Rock Harbor until 4:00 pm Eastern so, you will have less time to hike on the first day and you may want to use the Three Mile Campground itinerary. If you are coming from Michigan, you lose at least a day coming back around from Windigo to Rock Harbor and you will most likely have to wait for the boat back to either Copper Harbor or Houghton the next day. If you take the seaplane, you can schedule a drop off at Rock Harbor and a pick up at Windigo. These itineraries are all based on hiking east to west.

Based on this, the itineraries listed show only the hiking days with the back and forth to the mainland listed separately and the “extra” days required for boat schedules are not included in the “Itinerary Totals”. Since this is a long trail with many campgrounds, there are also many possible itineraries. These are just various samples and can be adjusted to suit.

Getting There and Back

[Note: ALL boat times are Eastern.]

Grand Portage: Voyageur

- Grand Portage to Rock Harbor: Depart Grand Portage at 8:30 a.m. and arrive Rock Harbor at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday during peak season (5/27 thru 9/16).
- Windigo to Grand Portage: Depart Windigo at 2:00 p.m. and arrive at Grand Portage at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday during peak season (5/27 thru 9/16).

Copper Harbor: Isle Royale Queen

- Copper Harbor to Rock Harbor: Depart Copper Harbor at 8:00 a.m. and arrive at Rock Harbor at 11:15 a.m. every day during peak season (7/31 thru 9/1).
- Rock Harbor to Copper Harbor: Depart Rock Harbor at 2:45 p.m. and arrive at Copper Harbor at 6:00 p.m. every day during peak season (7/31 thru 9/1).

Houghton: Ranger

- Houghton to Rock Harbor: Depart Houghton at 9:00 a.m. and arrive at Rock Harbor at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Friday 5/28 thru 9/14.
- Rock Harbor to Houghton: Depart Rock Harbor at 9:00 a.m. and arrive at Houghton at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Saturday

Windigo to Rock Harbor: Voyageur

- Windigo to Rock Harbor: Depart Windigo at 11:00 a.m. and arrive at Rock Harbor at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday during peak season (5/27 thru 9/16).
- Rock Harbor to Windigo: Depart Rock Harbor at 9:00 a.m. and arrive at Windigo at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday during peak season (5/27 thru 9/16).

[Schedules listed are for “peak” season. There are different days and schedules for “off peak” season. See the individual ferry schedules for details.]

5 Days

Days	Nights	Total Miles	Avg. Miles/Day
5	4	46.5	9.3

Day One:

Rock Harbor to Lane Cove Campground – 6.9 miles

Day Two:

Lane Cove Campground to Chickenbone West Campground – 13.0 miles

Day Three:

Chickenbone West Campground to Desor South Campground – 15.0 miles

Day Four:

Desor South Campground to Washington Creek Campground – 11.3 miles

Day Five:

Washington Creek Campground to Windigo – 0.3 miles

Ferry to Grand Portage or Rock Harbor depending on where you came from.

See "[Getting There and Back](#)" to determine this.

You most likely will have to adjust your days based on return schedules.

("Italics" indicates alternate campground and mileage and are not included in total mileage.)

6 Days

Days	Nights	Total Miles	Avg. Miles/Day
6	5	47.7	7.95

Day One:

Rock Harbor to Lane Cove Campground – 6.9 miles

Day Two:

Lane Cove Campground to Chickenbone West Campground – 13.0 miles

(Lane Cove Campground to Chickenbone East Campground – 11.2 miles)

Day Three:

Chickenbone West Campground to Hatchet Lake Campground – 7.9 miles

(Chickenbone East Campground to Hatchet Lake Campground – 9.3 miles)

Day Four:

Hatchet Lake Campground to Desor South Campground – 8.3 miles

(Hatchet Lake Campground to Island Mine Campground – 13.0 miles)

Day Five:

Desor South Campground to Washington Creek Campground – 11.3 miles

(Island Mine Campground to Washington Creek Campground – 6.6 miles)

Day Six:

Washington Creek Campground to Windigo – 0.3 miles

Ferry to Grand Portage or Rock Harbor depending on where you came from.

See "[Getting There and Back](#)" to determine this.

You most likely will have to adjust your days based on return schedules.

("Italics" indicates alternate campground and mileage and are not included in total mileage.)

6 Days via Three Mile Campground

Days	Nights	Total Miles	Avg. Miles/Day
6	5	43.1	7.18

Day One:

Rock Harbor to Three Mile Campground via Rock Harbor Trail – 2.7 miles

(Rock Harbor to Three Mile Campground via Tobin Harbor Trail – 3.7 miles) [1]

Day Two:

Three Mile Campground to Chickenbone West Campground – 12.6 miles

(Three Mile Campground to Chickenbone East Campground – 10.8 miles)

Day Three:

Chickenbone West Campground to Hatchet Lake Campground – 7.9 miles

(Chickenbone East Campground to Hatchet Lake Campground – 9.3 miles)

Day Four:

Hatchet Lake Campground to Desor South Campground – 8.3 miles
(*Hatchet Lake Campground to Island Mine Campground – 13.0 miles*)

Day Five:

Desor South Campground to Washington Creek Campground – 11.3 miles
(*Island Mine Campground to Washington Creek Campground – 6.6 miles*)

Day Six:

Washington Creek Campground to Windigo – 0.3 miles

Ferry to Grand Portage or Rock Harbor depending on where you came from.

See "[Getting There and Back](#)" to determine this.

You most likely will have to adjust your days based on return schedules.

(*"Italics" indicates alternate campground and mileage and are not included in total mileage.*)

[1] – THE TOBIN HARBOR TRAIL IS LONGER, BUT EASIER THAN THE ROCK HARBOR TRAIL.

7 Days Shorter Miles

Days	Nights	Total Miles	Avg. Miles/Day
7	6	42.7	6.10

Day One:

Rock Harbor to Lane Cove Campground – 6.9 miles

Day Two:

Lane Cove Campground to Daisy Farm Campground – 7.2 miles

Day Three:

Daisy Farm Campground to Chickenbone West Campground – 7.9 miles
(*Daisy Farm Campground to Chickenbone West Campground via Mount Ojibway Trail – 9.2 miles*) [1]

Day Four:

Chickenbone West Campground to Hatchet Lake Campground – 7.9 miles

Day Five:

Hatchet Lake Campground to Desor South Campground – 8.3 miles

Day Six:

Desor South Campground to Island Mine Campground – 5.5 miles
(*Desor South Campground to Washington Creek Campground – 11.3 miles*)

Day Seven:

Island Mine Campground to Windigo – 6.9 miles
(*Washington Creek Campground to Windigo – 0.3 miles*)

Ferry to Grand Portage or Rock Harbor depending on where you came from.

See "[Getting There and Back](#)" to determine this.

You most likely will have to adjust your days based on return schedules.

(*"Italics" indicates alternate campground and mileage and are not included in total mileage.*)

[1] – GOING BACK UP THE MOUNT OJIBWAY TRAIL WILL NOT BYPASS THE 1.5 MILE SECTION OF THE GREENSTONE TRAIL.

10 Days Relaxing

Days	Nights	Total Miles	Avg. Miles/Day
10	9	50.6	5.06

Day One:

Rock Harbor – 0 miles

Day hike to Scoville Point – 4.2 miles round trip

Day Two:

Rock Harbor to Lane Cove Campground – 6.9 miles

Day Three:

Lane Cove Campground to Daisy Farm Campground – 7.2 miles

Day Four:

Daisy Farm Campground to Chickenbone West Campground – 7.9 miles
(*Daisy Farm Campground to Chickenbone West Campground via Mount Ojibway Trail – 9.2 miles*) [1]

Day Five:

Chickenbone West Campground – 0 miles

Day hike to McCargoe Cove – 2.7 miles one way

Day Six:

Chickenbone West Campground to Hatchet Lake Campground – 7.9 miles

Day Seven:

Hatchet Lake Campground to Desor South Campground – 8.3 miles

Day Eight:

Desor South Campground to Island Mine Campground – 5.5 miles

Day Nine:

Island Mine Campground to Washington Creek Campground – 6.6 miles

Day Ten:

Washington Creek Campground to Windigo – 0.3 miles

Ferry to Grand Portage or Rock Harbor depending on where you came from.

See "[Getting There and Back](#)" to determine this.

You most likely will have to adjust your days based on return schedules.

("Italics" indicates alternate campground and mileage and are not included in total mileage.)

[1] – GOING BACK UP THE MOUNT OJIBWAY TRAIL WILL NOT BYPASS THE 1.5 MILE SECTION OF THE GREENSTONE TRAIL.

12 Days Extremely Relaxing

Days	Nights	Total Miles	Avg. Miles/Day
12	10	48.5	4.04

[I did this itinerary one year and found it to be totally relaxing and refreshing]

Day One:

Rock Harbor – 0 miles

Day hike to Scoville Point – 4.2 miles round trip

Day Two:

Rock Harbor to Lane Cove Campground – 6.9 miles

Day Three:

Lane Cove Campground to Backcountry camp – 6.0 miles

Day Four:

Backcountry camp to Chickenbone West Campground – 7.0 miles

Day Five:

Chickenbone West Campground – 0 miles

Day hike to McCargoe Cove – 2.7 miles one way

Day Six:

Chickenbone West Campground to Hatchet Lake Campground – 7.9 miles

Day Seven:

Hatchet Lake Campground – 0 miles

Day Eight:

Hatchet Lake Campground to Desor South Campground – 8.3 miles

Day Nine:

Desor South Campground – 0 miles

Day Ten:

Desor South Campground to Island Mine Campground – 5.5 miles

Day hike to Island Mine Ruins – 1.27 miles one way

Day Eleven:

Island Mine Campground to Washington Creek Campground – 6.6 miles

Day Twelve:

Washington Creek Campground to Windigo – 0.3 miles

Ferry to Grand Portage or Rock Harbor depending on where you came from.

See "[Getting There and Back](#)" to determine this.

You most likely will have to adjust your days based on return schedules.

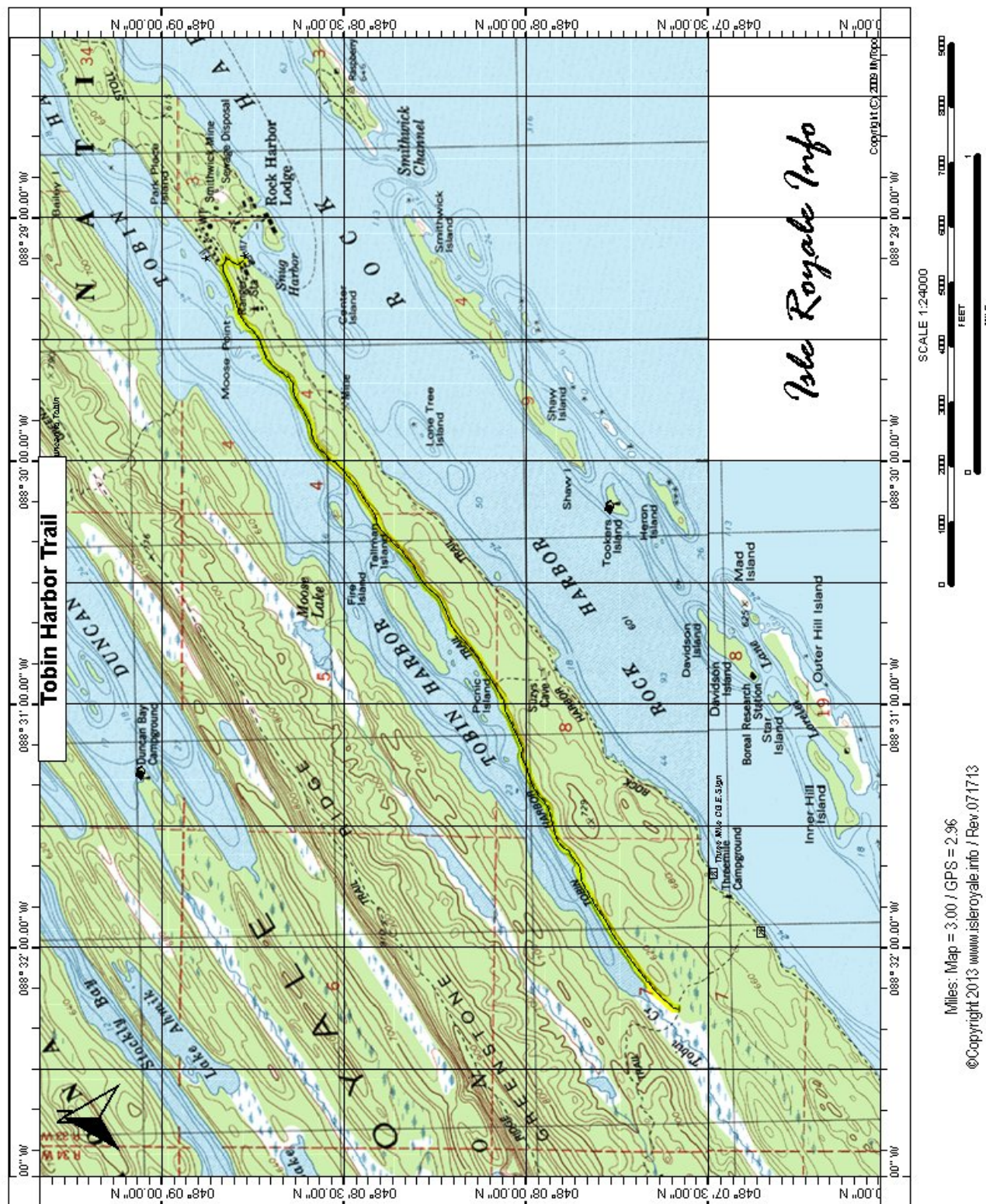
("Italics" indicates possible day hikes and are not included in total mileage.)

The Hidden Lake Option (full Greenstone Trail)

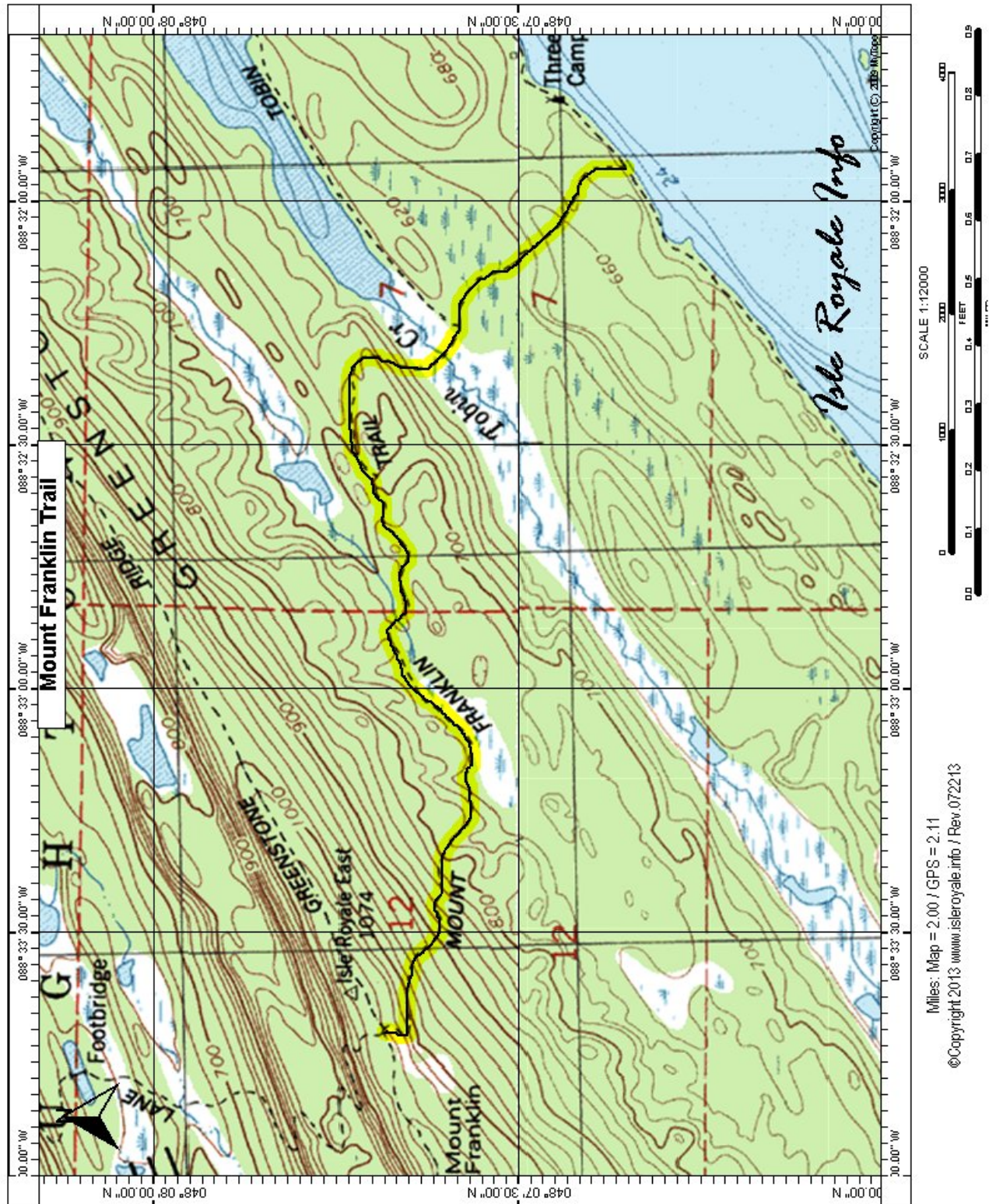
The Greenstone Ridge trail actually starts at Lookout Louise on the eastern end which can be reached from the Hidden Lake dock in Tobin Harbor. The water taxi service in Rock Harbor can be scheduled to drop you off there to begin your trip. This would take the place of walking to Lane Cove via the Tobin Harbor and Mount Franklin trail on the first day. It is 8.1 miles from the Hidden Lake dock to Lane Cove campground.

Trip Maps

Tobin Harbor Trail



Mount Franklin Trail



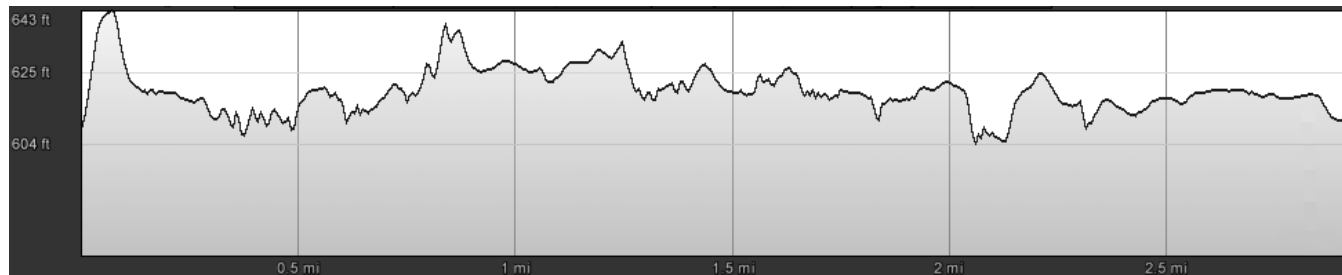
Route Descriptions

Note: The detail maps are captured from maps at 1:24000 scale and reduced to 60% unless indicated different.

Tobin Harbor Trail

East to West

Rating		Miles		Max Elev.	Min Elev.	Gain	Loss	Elev. Diff.	% Max Grade	% Avg. Grade
Direction	Reverse	Map	GPS							
4.25	4.25	3	2.96	643'	604'	247'	-245'	2'	16.4/-16.0	2.6/-2.5

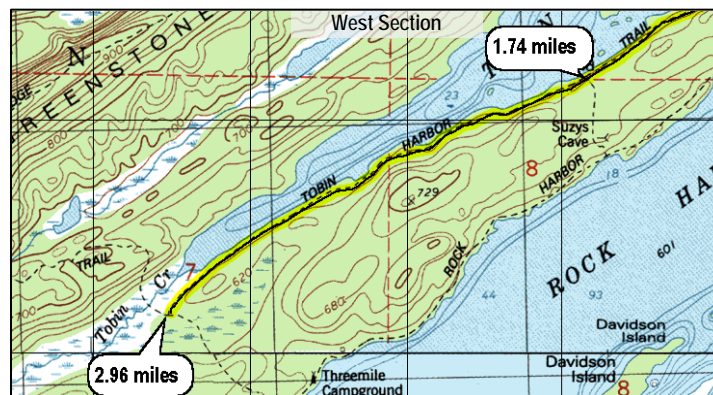


Overview: This trail starts at Rock Harbor and ends at Mount Franklin Trail, where Tobin Creek drains into the harbor. It is a scenic walk, with gentle up and downs its entire length. The harbor is in view most of the time, and features a lot of little islands and the opposite shore. This is an easier alternative to walking the Rock Harbor Trail to Three Mile Campground, as it is easier and not an "ankle-twister".

Key Points:

- 0.00 - Rock Harbor Ranger Station
- 1.74 - Suzy's Cave trail
- 1.40 – West end of Tallman Island
- 2.96 - Mount Franklin trail junction

Details: The trail starts in Rock Harbor, at the visitor center and store, and follows asphalt up 15' towards the efficiency cabins and seaplane dock, reaching a fork with a sign pointing east for the cabins, and west for the dock, and the trail at 0.03 miles. Turning left, the trail leaves the asphalt and turns to gravel until it passes the floatplane dock at 0.1 miles, where it becomes a regular trail and dips down a little and follows the shore until it starts a slight uphill until 0.16 miles, the trail descends 30', and then cuts inland, at 0.19 miles. It stays away from the harbor until cutting towards it and climbing 20' at 0.28 miles, and arriving next to the harbor at 0.34 miles. It then climbs up slightly and away from the harbor until 0.43 miles, where it follows a lovely forest trail until descending 25' towards the shore at 0.65 miles, and begins to be rocky until 0.68 miles, when it climbs 40' and goes away from the harbor until 0.75 miles, when it heads back to the harbor with a 20' steep descent until 0.74 miles, where it comes back to a rocky trail along the harbor at 0.8 miles. It then begins an ascent of 60' until 0.84 miles, while going away from the harbor and levels off at 0.98 miles, before going down 30' back towards the harbor at 1.10 miles, where the trail becomes very rocky with



Looking west from trail to Suzy's Cave.



West end of trail just before Franklin Trail.



Campground Descriptions

(In Alphabetical order)

Chickenbone East Campground

Shelters	Tent	Group	Fires	Tables	TP	Gen	Dock	Wild	Elev.
0	3	1	N	N	N	N	N	7	794'

The Campground is 0.09 miles north from the Greenstone Ridge Trail and is a very easy walk. The trail leaves the post and crosses some boards, then climbs a steep 3-4 step ridge, and seems to come to the campground out of nowhere. The first time I came to the campground in 1999, I wrote "This is the only campground I have stayed in on the island that I did not think was beautiful. It lies on a hill above the lake, in an open area, with small scrub forest and a few trees. There are no real vistas to be seen, except, maybe in the spring, you can see the lake". There still aren't vistas and the water is still a long way away, but the campground has grown up and the sites have become somewhat private. I sort of like it now. It doesn't have a view of the lake, except in the spring.

The water source (lake) is 0.25 miles, down a hill that descends 135' over the distance, which, can be very slippery in the rain. This campground is a good alternative to Chickenbone West during the busy season, or if you just want to avoid people. For good Moose viewing, walk down the trail towards the lake, and follow the lake for a bit, until the trail opens up near some wetlands at the far, east end of the lake.

The Tent Sites are located on the west side of the trail and are all quite open to the sun, and thus, the elements, but they are also spaced out enough to offer a lot of privacy.

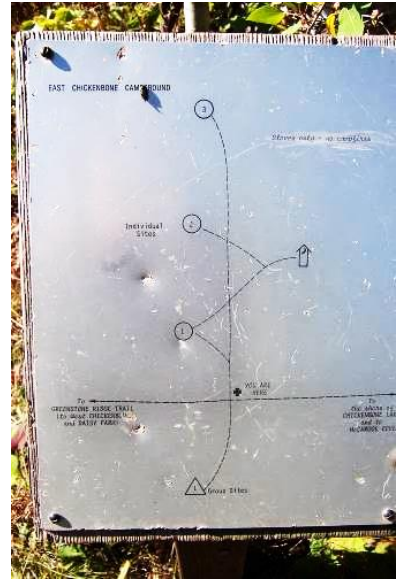
Tent #1 Okay, semi-private, 3 tent pads. It is private from the other campsites, but not from the trail. You are visible to everyone coming down the trail. It has good seating, last time there, in 2011. Someone had made a fire that left a scar on some rocks and the ground sometime before 2010 and in 2011 it was still there, but dissipating.

Tent #2 is o.k., semi-private, 2-3 tent pads.

Tent #3 is located 485' back from the main trail. Okay, more private, 2-3 tent pads. This site is very private, but a long way from the outhouse.

The Group Site is located 263' from the trail on the east side. It is a bit more protected from the elements than the tent sites. It has good seating, is very roomy, private and has 4 maybe 5 good tent sites. It has a better view than the individual sites, but does not get full sun.

Site Ratings: Individual= #3, 2, 1 / Overall= Tent #3 (or 2 if bathroom is a priority)



Tent site #1 in fall, 2005.



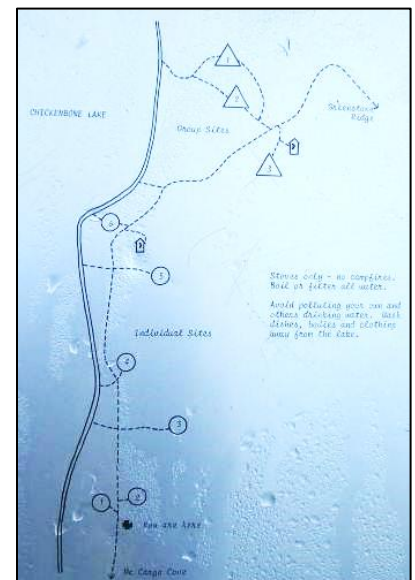
Chickenbone West Campground

Shelters	Tent	Group	Fires	Tables	TP	Gen	Dock	Wild	Elev.
0	6	3	N	N	N	N	N	6	670'

The Campground is 0.11 miles north of the Greenstone Ridge Trail, and 2.5 miles, from McCargoe Cove Campground, along the Indian Portage Trail. It is very nicely located right on the lake, with excellent views. It is also a good area for moose watching. This campground can get a lot of people in the busy season, and seems to be on a lot of itineraries for big groups (i.e. boy scouts, kid camps, etc.). From the north to south campground sign, it is 0.18 miles from end to end.

The Tent Sites are all nice at this campground, and it is hard to rate one over another. I'd pick a site here based on the sites taken already and the weather.

Tent #1 has a good sitting area with 3 good tent pads, possibly 4. It sits right on the lake.



Points of Interest

(In alphabetical order)

Daisy Farm

Daisy Farm was located at the present location of Daisy Farm Campground and was a CCC camp in the 1930's. The location was originally the site of the town of Ransom. It was also the location of the Isle Royale Ohio Mine (Ransom Mine).

There are quite a few remains of the CCC camp still there. As you walk around the campground and the meadow in the center by the dock, you will notice pipes running all around the area. In the meadow, there are two places where there are holes boxed in with a wood cover on them. Inside there are galvanized pipes with unions. Also in the meadow, there are several small holes around a foot deep that do not seem natural. There are 4 cement footings around Shelter #1, that according to the bulletin board located near the dock, were from the CCC camp water tower. There is an old dock footing west of the existing dock, which either was from the CCC camp dock, or the original location of the park dock. At Group Site #1, there are the remains of what I guess to be a cellar, or it could be a mine entrance. There is a ranger station located 0.2 miles west of the dock, along a trail that follows the harbor near shelter #1. Along this trail there are some pipes on the south side. Following this trail all the way back to the station, there is an outhouse on a fork in the trail near the station. If you follow this trail 32' from the outhouse, and 172' from the station, there are two cement foundations for what would appear to be water tanks. There are bolts sticking in them and a worn, round shape of metal on each, with an indentation in the concrete for a drain of some kind. The one to the rear is older than the nearest one, based on the cement and metal remains. This trail continues on past the foundations. I walked it another 500' or so then stopped (because a moose appeared). I believe this is the old trail to Moskey Basin before it was rerouted, and in spring of 2002, there was a paper sign hung up that said "this trail does not lead to Moskey".

***History:** In 1903, Kneut Kneutson bought 40 acres at the heart of the old Ransom Town site, for \$8.38. The Kneutson and Farmer families tried to start a produce farm for the residents and tourists, but the daisies were more successful than the radishes and potatoes. [Source: "Place Names of Isle Royale"]*

Structure at Group Site #1.



Hidden Lake

Hidden Lake is approximately 0.1 miles from the dock. It is attached to Tobin Harbor via a creek. There is a bridge over the creek before you come to the lake. The lake is surrounded by wetlands and is a great place for moose viewing. Supposedly, there is a natural salt lick there. This lake is a good example (among many) of a lake disappearing as the plant material builds up and swallows the lake. The dock is for day use only. There is a picnic table and an outhouse located near the lake. During the busy season, Rock Harbor lodge offers scheduled trips to the Hidden Lake dock with enough time to walk up to Lookout Louis and back. If staying in Rock Harbor, their trip is nice and it is worthwhile to borrow or rent a boat and paddle over to the dock and walk up to Lookout Louis and Monument Rock. There is a cabin with a dock located about 550' east of the Hidden Lake dock along the harbor.

Panorama of Hidden Lake. Spring, 2012.



Contacts

Isle Royale National Park

The headquarters for the park in Houghton, Michigan.

Phone: 906-482-0984 / Fax: 906-482-873 / Emergency: 800-727-5847

Website: www.nps.gov/isro / Email: isro_parkinfo@nps.gov

800 E. Lakeshore Drive, Houghton, MI., 49931-1869

Isle Royale Queen IV

Boat from Copper Harbor, Michigan to Rock Harbor on Isle Royale.

Phone: 906-289-4437 / Fax: 906-289-4952

Website: <http://www.isleroyale.com> / Email: captaink@pasty.net

The Isle Royale Line Inc., P.O. Box 24, Copper Harbor, MI., 49918

Ranger III

Boat from Houghton / Hancock, Michigan to Rock Harbor on Isle Royale.

Phone: 906-482-0984 / Fax: 906-482-8753

Website: www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/fares-and-reservations.htm

Email: isro_ranger3reserve@nps.gov

On-line Reservations: www.pasty.com/~isro/nps3.php

Isle Royale National Park, 800 East Lakeshore Drive, Houghton, MI., 49931-1869

Royale Air Service

Seaplane service from Houghton to Windigo or Rock Harbor.

Phone: 877-FLY- ISLE (359-4753) or 218-721-0405 / Fax: 218-721-0409

Website: www.royaleairservice.com / Email: RoyaleAirService@aol.com

Royale Air Service Inc., P.O. Box 15184, Duluth, MN 55815

Rock Harbor Water Taxi

Boat operated by the Rock Harbor Lodge as a water taxi, between Rock Harbor and Malone Bay, on the south shore, and Rock Harbor and McCargoe Cove on the north shore.

Phone: 906-337-4993 (May-September), 866-644-2003 (October-April)

Website: www.isleroyaleresort.com / Email: isleroyaleresort@starband.net

Summer: P.O. Box 605, Houghton, MI., 49931-0605

Winter: P.O. Box 27, Mammoth Cave, KY., 42259-0027

Voyager II and Sea Hunter III

Boat from Grand Portage, Minnesota to Isle Royale.

Phone: 218-475-0024 (May thru Oct) / 651-653-5872 (Oct thru Apr)

Website: www.isleroyaleboats.com / Email: mailto:reservations@isleroyaleboats.com

(Formerly: www.grand-isle-royale.com)

Grand Portage-Isle Royale Transportation, P.O. Box 10529, White Bear Lake, MN 55110