

Exploring Pictured Rocks

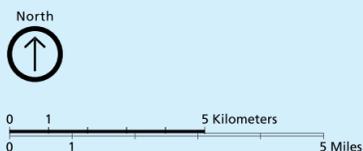
Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore consists of two zones. The Lakeshore Zone is federal land managed by the National Park Service (NPS). The Inland Buffer Zone is a mixture of federal, state, and private ownership. Please respect the rights of private landowners.

- Lakeshore Zone (NPS)
- Inland Buffer Zone (mixed ownership)
- Wilderness within Lakeshore Zone (NPS)

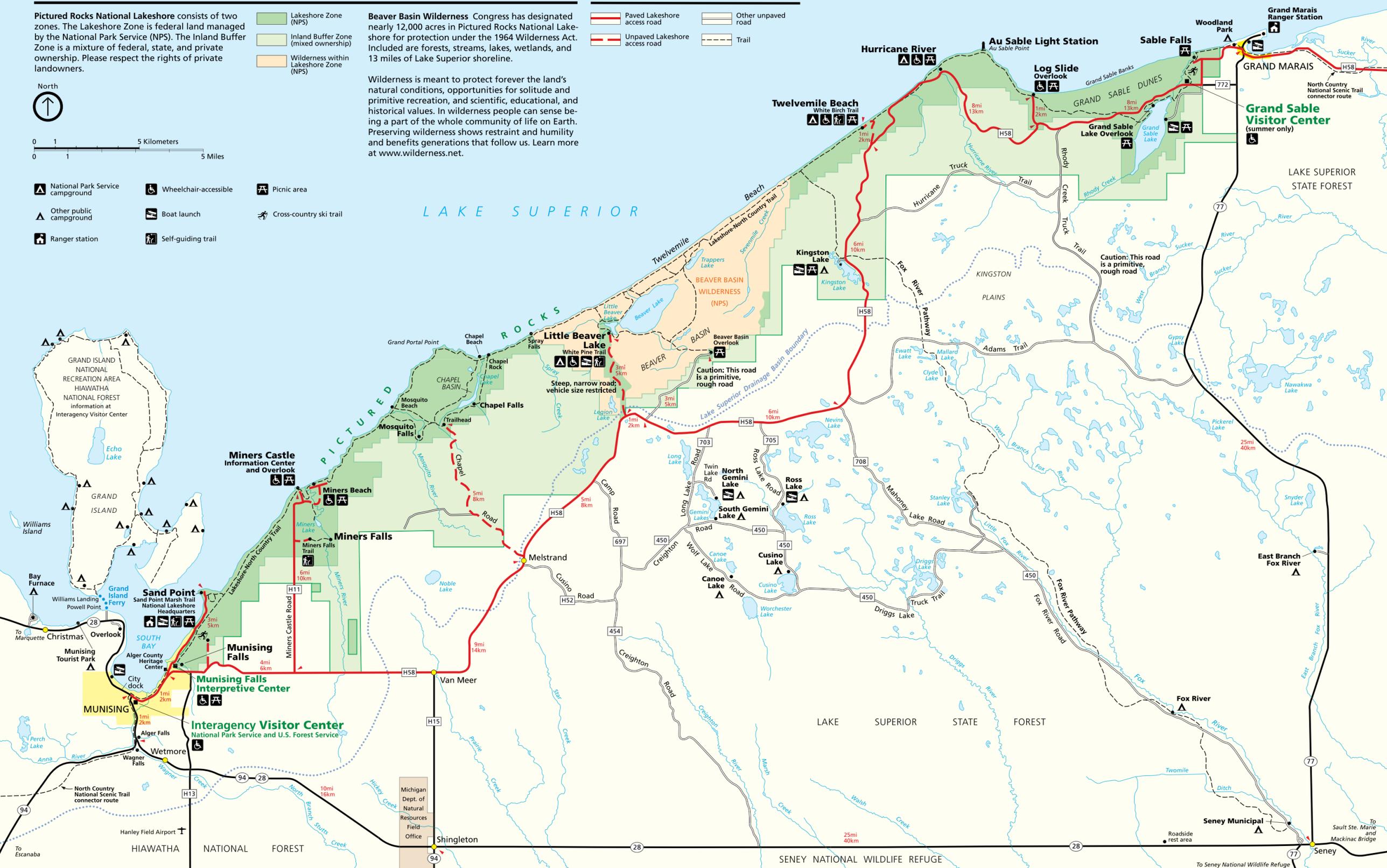
Beaver Basin Wilderness Congress has designated nearly 12,000 acres in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore for protection under the 1964 Wilderness Act. Included are forests, streams, lakes, wetlands, and 13 miles of Lake Superior shoreline.

Wilderness is meant to protect forever the land's natural conditions, opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, and scientific, educational, and historical values. In wilderness people can sense being a part of the whole community of life on Earth. Preserving wilderness shows restraint and humility and benefits generations that follow us. Learn more at www.wilderness.net.

- Paved Lakeshore access road
- Unpaved Lakeshore access road
- Other unpaved road
- Trail



- National Park Service campground
- Other public campground
- Ranger station
- Wheelchair-accessible
- Boat launch
- Self-guiding trail
- Picnic area
- Cross-country ski trail



Planning Your Visit

Interagency Visitor Center This visitor center serves Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and Hiawatha National Forest. Start here for information, exhibits, a video, backcountry permits, maps, and a bookstore. It is open daily except Thanksgiving Day, December 25, and January 1. Closed on Sundays in winter. Seasonal hours vary. For details about activities and programs visit www.nps.gov/piro.

Munising Falls Interpretive Center Stop here for information, brochures, and a bookstore. Exhibits explain ironmaking, logging, wildlife, and how the cliffs were formed. Open seasonally.

Miners Castle Information Center This center has information, a bookstore, and exhibits about Lake Superior. Open seasonally.

Grand Sable Visitor Center Here at the foot of Grand Sable Dunes you will find information, backcountry permits, exhibits, and a bookstore. Open in summer; hours vary.

Hiking and Walking Pictured Rocks has some of the best trails around. You can choose short or long, easy or strenuous. The Lakeshore-North Country Trail (part of the North Country National Scenic Trail) and other trails provide spectacular vistas of the lake, cliffs, dunes, and waterfalls. Plan your hiking trip beforehand. Let someone know where you are going, carry plenty of water and food, and be prepared for rain and sudden weather changes. Wear layered clothing and sturdy footwear. Get trail maps at visitor centers.

Camping You can drive to Little Beaver Lake, Twelvemile Beach, and Hurricane River campgrounds. All have water, tables, grills, and toilets but NO showers. Campsites (fee) are first-come, first-served. Register at the campground; stays are limited. Camping is also available in state forests and parks, private campgrounds, and in the Hiawatha National Forest.

Backcountry Camping There are 13 hike-in campgrounds and one boat-in site; seven group

sites are spaced every two to five miles along the Lakeshore-North Country Trail (fees). Permits are required. Use stoves at Chapel Beach and Mosquito Beach campgrounds; fires prohibited. At other sites fires are allowed only in metal fire rings. Ground and beach fires are prohibited. There is no potable water; use a water filter. Camping allowed only in designated sites.

Hunting/Fishing Hunting and fishing are allowed in season under federal and state regulations. Michigan hunting or fishing licenses required. Ice fishing is popular on South Bay and most inland lakes. Trapping and target practice are prohibited. Some park areas are closed to hunting for safety reasons. For details about fishing check the *Michigan Fishing Guide*. Check bait restrictions posted at the lake where you are fishing. For firearms regulations check the park website www.nps.gov/piro.

Boating, Canoeing, and Sea Kayaking Beaver Lake, Little Beaver Lake, and Grand Sable Lake are favorites for small boats, kayaks, and

canoes. Most rivers are too shallow for canoeing. Lake Superior can be rough and small craft are easily swamped. Canoeing and Grand Marais have launch ramps for motor boats. Backcountry permits are required for overnight sea kayakers and boaters (fee). Only electric motors are permitted on Beaver and Little Beaver lakes.

Private Tours Concession cruise boats leave South Bay daily from Memorial Day to mid-October. Guides can lead you on a variety of recreational opportunities. Get information at the Alger Chamber of Commerce. Contact: 906-387-2138; www.algercounty.org.

Winter Activities You can cross-country ski on miles of groomed trails. If your fancy is snowmobiling, try one of the designated park roads. Also popular are ice fishing on inland lakes and South Bay, snowshoeing, ice climbing, and winter camping. For details see the park website.

Special Considerations Weather and bugs—you can't ignore either. Your visit will be more enjoy-

able if you prepare for extremes. The proximity of Lake Superior moderates the climate, but sudden storms can develop year-round and hypothermia is always a threat. Bring rain gear and layers of warm clothing. Black flies and mosquitoes can be aggravating from mid-May to mid-July. Stable flies are common during warm, humid weather. Wear light-colored, long pants and long-sleeved shirts. Use insect repellent, and wear a hat.

Accessibility For information visit www.nps.gov/piro/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm. Service animals are welcome.

Safety First Please be alert and observe these regulations. *Remember, your safety is your responsibility.* • Do not climb or slide on cliffs, and stay back from the top edges; they can suddenly give way. • Stay on trails and boardwalks and use the overlooks. • Do not climb on rocks near waterfalls. • Bicycles are prohibited on all lakeshore trails. • Sudden storms and the lake's ice-cold water make water sports treacherous.

Use extreme caution when wading, swimming, fishing, scuba diving, or boating. • Motorized or wheeled vehicles are prohibited in the backcountry. • Pets must be leashed and attended; pets and domestic pack animals are not allowed in the backcountry. See the *Pets Brochure* for details • Use caution while bicycling on park roads and H-58. • Off-road vehicles (ORVs) are prohibited in the lakeshore. • Natural and historic features are protected by federal and state law. Do not disturb shipwreck remains on the shore or in the water. **Emergencies call 911.**

More Information
Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
P.O. Box 40,
Munising, MI 49862-0040
906-387-3700
www.nps.gov/piro

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is one of over 390 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about national parks visit www.nps.gov.