



Pukaskwa
National Park

Backcountry hiking

Mdaabii Miikna & Coastal Hiking Trail - Trip Planner



Parks
Canada

Parcs
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Using this trip planner

This guide will help you find all the information you need to plan a safe and memorable trip in Pukaskwa National Park's backcountry. Prior to planning your trip, assess your skills and physical fitness level. Do not overestimate your abilities for this challenging, yet rewarding paddling experience. We've designed this guide to help you plan your dream trip. It is NOT intended for navigation.

For navigational purposes, it is strongly recommended that paddlers consult a topographical map or utilize the Chrismar Adventure Map of the park. Chrismar's *The Adventure Map: Pukaskwa National Park* is a great planning resource and the best navigational aid to have while paddling the coast.

Experience level

Backcountry hiking in Pukaskwa National Park is for hikers who have experience with difficult terrain and wilderness navigation. Visitors who wish to hike the Coastal Hiking Trail should have significant experience in overnight backpacking, while visitors hiking Mdaabii Miikna should come prepared with

Order your map by emailing pukaskwaont@pc.gc.ca, or purchase it at the Park Kiosk, Visitor Centre or with your local outfitter.

Topographical maps at a 1:50,000 scale are also available on the Natural Resources Canada website (www.nrcan.gc.ca). Search for maps: 42D/9 Marathon, 42D/8 Oiseau Bay and 42D/1 Otter Island.

Park staff are available to help you plan your trip Monday to Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, by calling 807-229-0801 or emailing pukaskwaont@pc.gc.ca.

Park staff also offer annual online trip planning sessions. Watch the park's social media for dates and times.

backpacking knowledge. Experienced group leaders cannot compensate for inexperienced hikers in their group. Hiking with a partner or in a small group is preferable. Maximum group size is 6 per campsite. Larger groups should book two neighbouring campsites.

Getting here

By Car or Bicycle

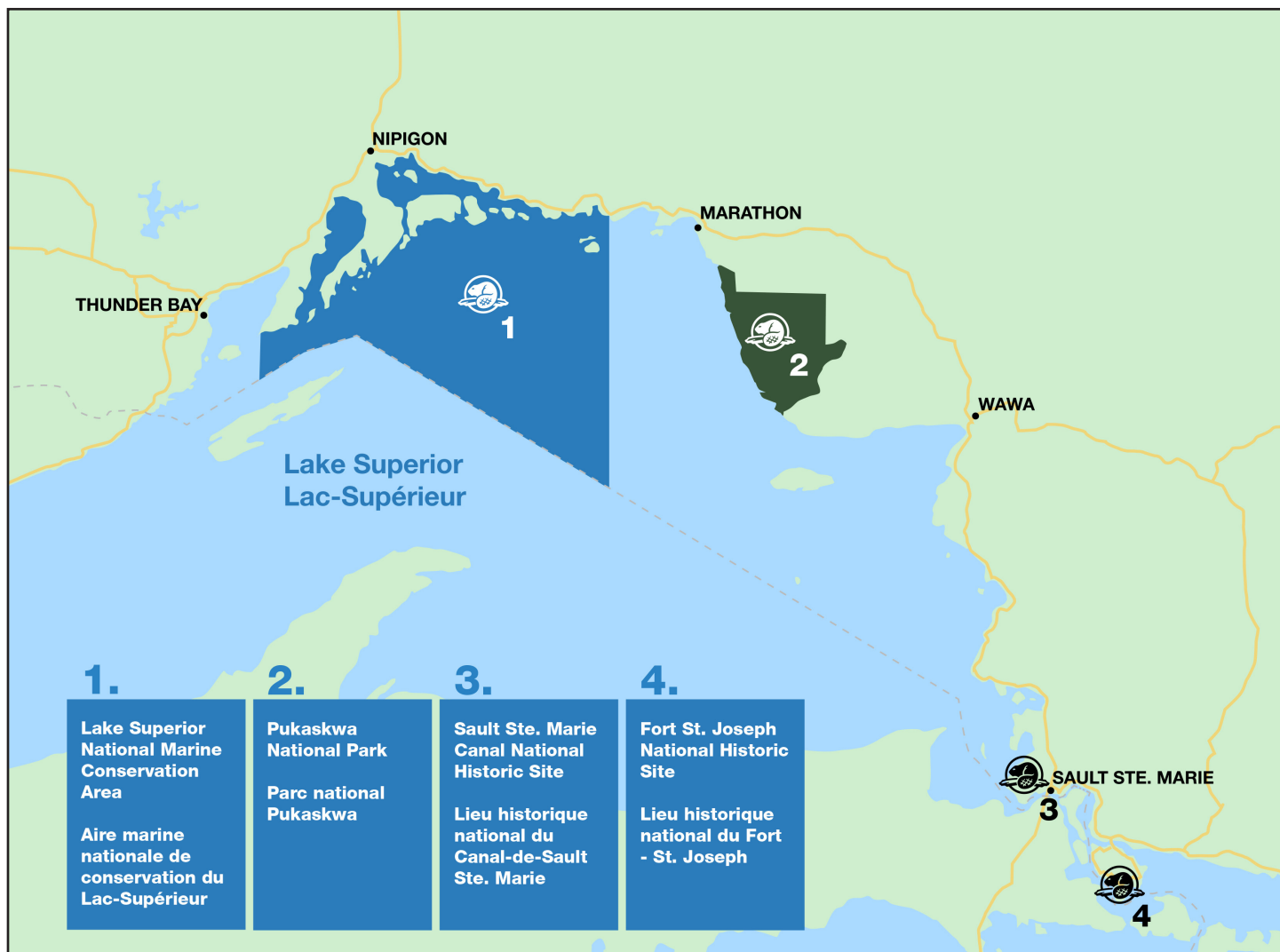
Follow Trans-Canada Highway 17 to Highway 627. Take Highway 627 15 km to Pukaskwa National Park and the Hattie Cove Campground and Day Use Area.

By Bus

Kasper Transportation and Ontario Northland offer bus services to Marathon, ON. Local taxi service is available from Marathon to Pukaskwa National Park.

By Plane

Several major airlines, including Air Canada, Porter, and WestJet, provide service to Thunder Bay, ON (YQT) and Sault Ste Marie, ON (YAM).



Nearby communities

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg

(Formerly known as Ojibways of Pic River)
Biigtigong Nishnaabeg is the nearest community. If there's an item on your list that you've forgotten, you need to fill up with gas, buy ice, or you're just looking for a few snacks, there are two stores in the community to serve you.

Town of Marathon

Marathon is the closest full-service community. Grocery stores, hardware stores, and several other businesses can provide food, fuel, and basic supplies you require for a backcountry trip.

Are you prepared for...

- A multi-day backcountry hike with long distances through rough terrain while carrying a full backpack? Blisters as well as recurring knee, back or ankle injuries are often aggravated on the trail.
- Rock cairns, no trail markers and navigational decisions?
- Slippery conditions on muddy trails, wooden surfaces, boardwalks, stairs, cobble stones, driftwood and rocky shorelines?
- Rugged, uneven ground?
- Wading across creeks and rivers, climbing stairs and steep terrain, following an irregular trail and negotiating steep slopes and earth slumps?
- Damaged trail structures? Trail maintenance is ongoing and the condition of structures can change at any time.
- Accidents and injuries? It may take more than 24 hours for help to arrive.
- A wilderness experience?

What to expect...

→ Narrow slippery bridges.



→ River crossings.



→ Steep climbs over rocky shorelines.



→ Rock cairns to point the way.



→ Cobble stone beaches.



→ Wilderness terrain.



Hazards & minimizing risks

Bears and food lockers

Black bears live in Pukaskwa National Park, and are occasionally seen along the coast. Food lockers for storing food overnight are available at some backcountry paddling campsites (not all). Food or fuel caching is prohibited. Food lockers are not rodent proof; always store food in sturdy, odour resistant containers/bags.

Take precautions and be prepared for an encounter with a black bear. Bring legal bear deterrents (like bear spray). Be informed and ready for their proper use. Firearms are prohibited in Pukaskwa National Park. For more information, read the *You Are In Black Bear Country* pamphlet available at the Park Kiosk or consult with Parks Canada staff.

Bugs

Bring your bug hat, bug jacket, bug spray, or nerves of steel.

Blackflies	Peak late May - June
Mosquitoes	Peak mid June - July
Horse & Deer Flies	Peak July - August
Black legged (deer) Ticks	No known reports. If you do find a deer tick, please notify park staff.

Cell phone service

Cell phone service is unreliable in the park, especially in the backcountry. Visitors are encouraged to bring a personal locator beacon (SPOT, InReach, etc.) or a satellite phone.

Doctors and veterinarians

We hope you won't require medical attention during your trip, however if you do, there is a medical clinic, pharmacies, and a hospital in Marathon.

The closest permanent veterinary service is in Thunder Bay. Mobile services do travel to Marathon regularly. Check with park staff for a current schedule.

Equipment

To enjoy your hiking experience, you must be comfortable. Use quality lightweight equipment and be prepared for cold, warm, dry and wet weather. Your pack should weigh a maximum of 1/4 to 1/3 of your body weight. Reassess the content of your pack if it is heavier than this. Do not break in new boots on this hike. Prepare blister prone areas before the hike and treat blisters immediately.

Lake Superior conditions

Lake Superior is cold and unpredictable. Although water near the shore may be warmer, the lake's average temperature is only 4°C / 39°F year-round. Hypothermia can start within 5-10 minutes. Fog is common and can last for days.

No trail markers

The Coastal Hiking Trail and Mdaabii Miikna have no directional signage, you will need to utilize your map reading, compass skills and look for rock cairns. In coastal, rocky areas or cobblestone beaches, rock cairns will help you stay on track. Always look for the next rock cairn before moving forward. In forested, inland areas the trail is easier to see due to signs of wear. Be prepared to back track to find the correct way.

Pets

Please note that certain animals in the park such as woodland caribou and black bears can be highly sensitive to dogs. If you decide to bring your dog on the trail, it must be leashed at all times.

River crossings

Small creeks and river crossings are a part of the hiking trail. The crossings are usually navigable but can lead through knee to thigh-deep, fast flowing water. You must exercise caution when crossing creeks and rivers, particularly during high-water conditions. Rivers have been impassable at times. At peak flow (usually in the spring), if the water is too high to cross, you may need to wait until water levels drop.

Rugged and remote

Pukaskwa National Parks landscape is spectacular. It is also a remote, rugged place where rescues take time. Remember: you are responsible for your own safety. All hikers must be experienced in backcountry hiking.

Water quality/quantity

Drinking water is available from most rivers, creeks and certainly from Lake Superior. We advise all backcountry hikers to fine filter, treat or boil their drinking water. Some areas of the trail veer inland for some distance. Be sure to stock up on water prior to starting your daily hike.

Temperatures and monthly rainfall

Pukaskwa National Parks cool summer days are perfect for exploring. However, snow can fall in June and September.

Month	Low	High	Rainfall
May	3°C / 37°F	14°C / 57°F	74 mm / 3"
June	6°C / 43°F	17°C / 63°F	90 mm / 3.5"
July	9°C / 48°F	20°C / 68°F	81 mm / 3"
August	10°C / 50°F	20°C / 68°F	87 mm / 3.5"
September	6°C / 43°F	15°C / 59°F	102 mm / 4"
October	1°C / 34°F	9°C / 48°F	87 mm / 3.5"

Sunrise and sunset times

There's plenty of sunshine on the northern shore of Lake Superior. Plan your daily objectives accordingly. Hiking at night is not recommended.

Date	Sunrise	Sunset
May 21	6:00 a.m.	9:25 p.m.
June 21	5:45 a.m.	9:50 p.m.
July 21	6:05 a.m.	9:40 p.m.
August 21	6:45 a.m.	8:50 p.m.
September 21	7:30 a.m.	7:45 p.m.
October 21	8:15 a.m.	6:45 p.m.



What to bring? Here's what we suggest!

Safety gear

- Brain filled with backcountry hiking experience
- Personal location beacon (SPOT, etc.)
- Matches / fire starting kit
- Bear deterrent
- First aid kit
- Extra food (1-2 days)
- Blister kit
- Spare batteries

Navigation

- Chrismar Map/topographic map
- Compass
- Global Positioning System (GPS)

Camp gear

- Tarp or tent footprint
- Tent
- Water filter/purification system
- Stove and fuel
- Cooking pot
- Stuff sacks
- Toilet paper
- Food
- Dry sacks
- Knife
- Duct tape
- General repair kits (tent, stove, etc.)

Personal gear

- Backpack
- Sleep pad
- Water bottle
- Bowl and utensil
- Mug
- Towel
- Sunscreen/sunglasses
- Sleeping bag
- Headlamp and/or flashlight
- Watch

Personal clothing

- Warm hat/sun hat
- Rain gear with hood
- Pants/shorts
- Jacket
- Sweater
- Shirt/t-shirt
- Long underwear
- Gloves
- Camp shoes
- River crossing shoes
- Bug hat, jacket, and/or repellent
- Hiking boots
- Socks

Protection of natural and cultural resources

Parks Canada is tasked with ensuring the protection of natural and cultural resources on the lands under its care. Pukaskwa National Park asks that everyone does their part to minimize their footprint while visiting so that future generations of Canadians can

continue to enjoy all aspect of the park's wilderness character. Specific ways you can help in the protection of natural and cultural resources within Pukaskwa National Park are available in the "Leave no trace" section on the next page.



Photo: Pitcher's Thistle plant photographed near Oiseau Bay.

Wildlife cameras & privacy

Wildlife cameras are used in Pukaskwa National Park for wildlife conservation purposes. Concerned about your privacy? So are we. That's why we delete images of visitors captured on our cameras.

However, images that show illegal activities that may have serious impacts on wildlife, or put the safety of visitors at risk may be used for law enforcement purposes.



Leave no trace



Plan ahead and prepare:

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Visit in small groups.

Travel and camp on durable surfaces:

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, or dry grasses.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.

In popular areas:

- Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites.
- Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy.
- Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.

In pristine areas:

- Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.
- Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

Dispose of waste properly:

- Pack it in, pack it out. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter.
- Use pit privies where available. When unavailable, deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 15 to 20 cm deep at least 70 metres from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 70 metres away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

Leave what you find:

- If you find an archaeological artifact, record the location, take photos and report it when you return. Do not touch it.
- Leave rocks, plants, berries, bark and other natural objects as you find them.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

Minimize campfire impacts:

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.

Respect wildlife:

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviours, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.
- Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

Be considerate of others:

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

Zone 1: Special preservation - Hattie Cove



Pukaskwa Pits · Maandawaab-kinganan

Pukaskwa National Park lies on the traditional territory of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg and Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg, and falls within the Robinson-Superior Treaty Area. This region has been home to the Indigenous Peoples of the North Shore of Lake Superior since time immemorial, and continues to be a special place for traditional practices like harvesting and connecting to the land and spirit.

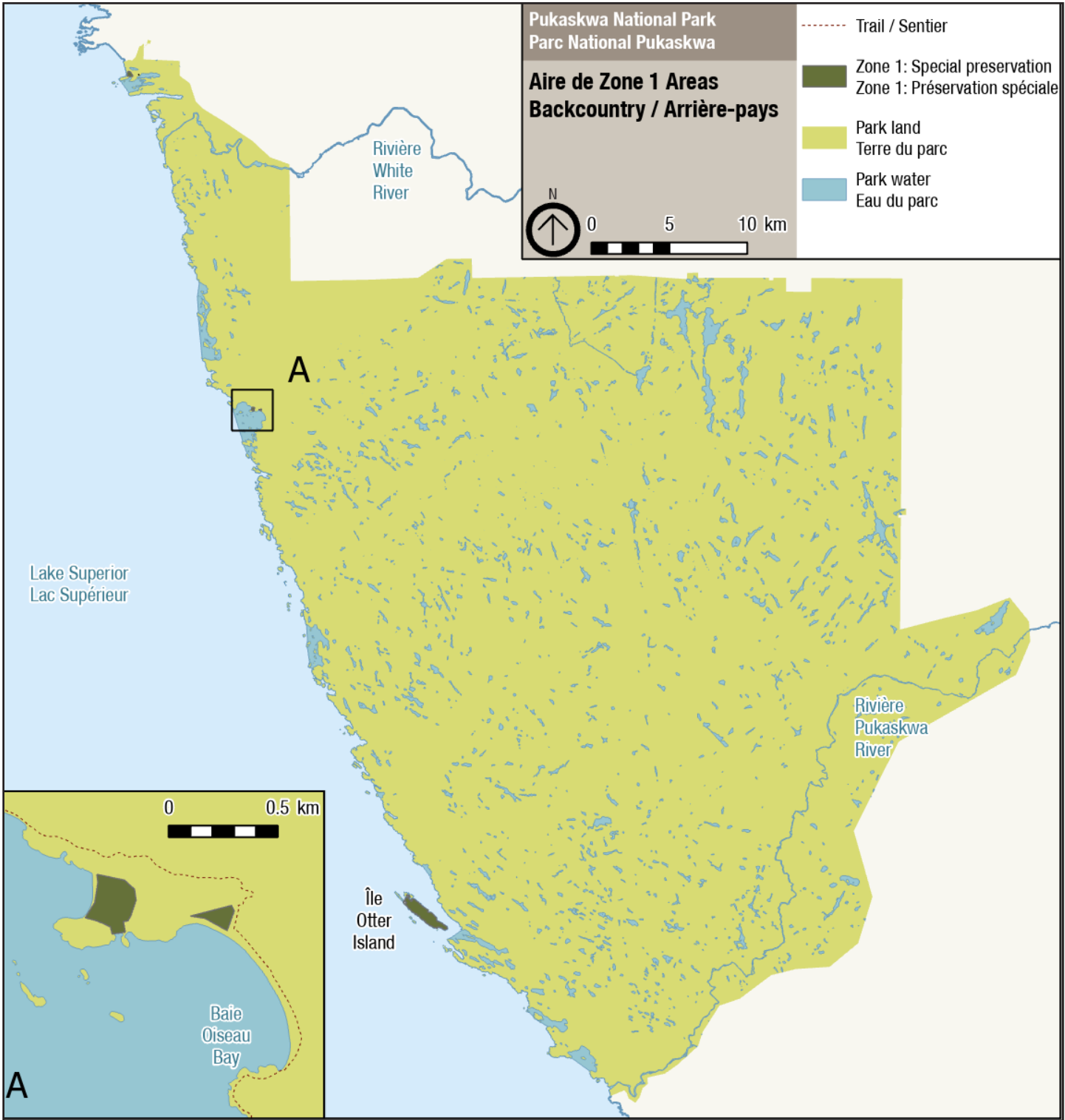
Pukaskwa pits, or *Maandawaab-kinganan*, are constructed depressions found on the cobble beaches along the shores of Pukaskwa National Park. These pits vary in size, ranging from centimetres to several metres long and based on past lake water levels, some pits could be thousands of years old.

As the late Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Elder Proddy Goodchild said, “No one knows for sure what the Pukaskwa Pits were used for. We only know that some are very old, and some are not so old.”

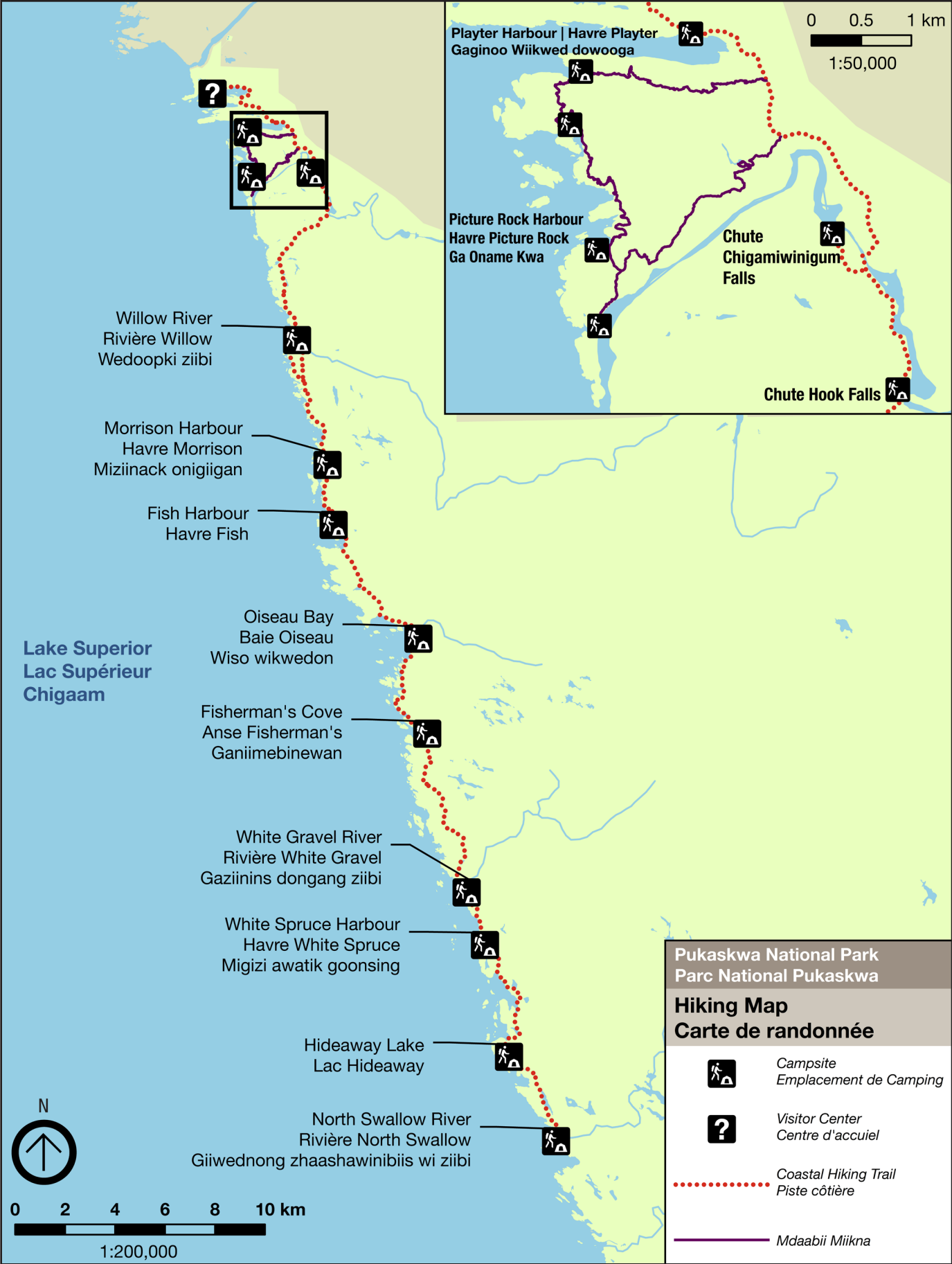
These unique structures are an important record of the historical activity within the park and they demonstrate the longevity of the First People’s connection to the land and Lake Superior.

Help protect these ancient and culturally significant structures. If you happen to come across one during your coastal adventure, **do not enter, move rocks, disturb or alter the pits in any way.** At the request of local First Nation communities, locations are intentionally not advertised. **Please do not post photos or share locations of these sacred places.**

Zone 1: Special preservation - Backcountry



Mdaabii Miikna & Coastal Hiking Trail maps



*Map not intended for navigational use.

Campsite descriptions



Hattie Cove · Bii to bii gong

Water between two rocks

67 Campsites, 5 oTENTik tents

Hattie Cove is a protected inlet that features a road accessible campground and is open from May 15 through October 15. During peak season, the campground includes flush toilets, hot showers, electrical campsites, free WIFI, interpretive programs, and more. Hattie Cove is the most popular access point for backcountry visitors.

Parking

Parking for backcountry visitors is available in the Visitor Centre parking lot.

Distance:

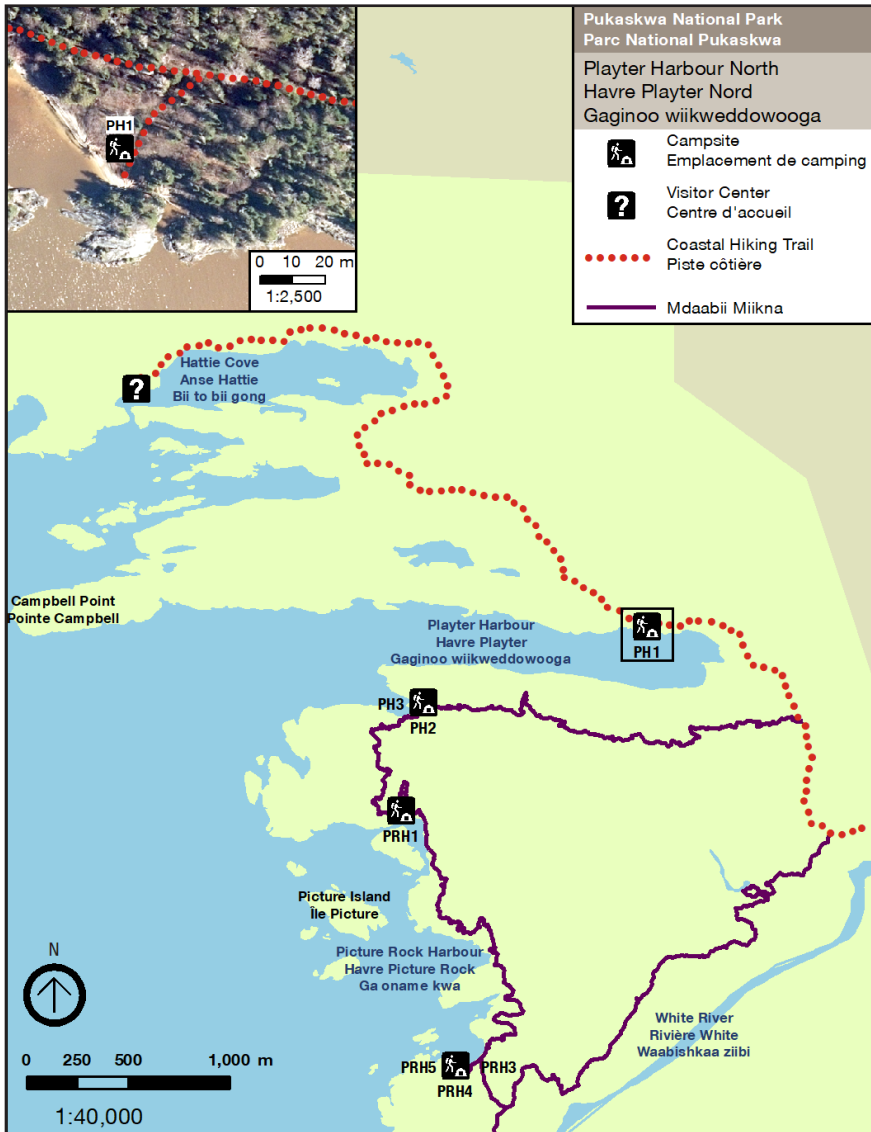
- To Playter Harbour North: 4.5 km ↓

Kiosk, Visitor Centre and Park Store

Want a little token to remember your backcountry adventure? Looking for more information? Want to pick up your free Coastal Hiking Trail achievement patch? Drop by the Visitor Centre or the Kiosk!

Playter Harbour North · Gaginoo wiikwed dowooga

Long harbour



Campsite (s): PH1

So close to Hattie Cove, yet so far from away from it all! Enjoy the peaceful seclusion of the longest harbour along Pukaskwa National Park's coast.

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, food locker and firepit.

What to expect hiking to site (North to South):

- Wetland with floating boardwalk.
- Wooden structures that can be slippery.
- Steep climbs.

Distances:

- To Hattie Cove: 4.5 km ↑
- To Playter Harbour South: 5.25 km ↓
- To Chigaamiwinigum Falls: 3.3 km ↓

Insiders' tip:

- This site is located between Hattie Cove and the White River Suspension Bridge, so expect to see day hikers passing through, stopping to see the scenery or using the pit privy.

Playter Harbour South · Gaginoo wiikwed dowooga

Long harbour



Campsite(s): PH2, PH3

Stay overnight at one of the two sites at this location - choose a private pebble beach view (PH2) or a rocky outcrop with wooden tent platforms (PH3).

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, food locker and firepit.

What to expect hiking to site (North to South):

- Rock cairns.
- Low wet areas.
- The incline/decline north of this site reaches 300m above sea level in about 1km stretch of trail.

Distances:

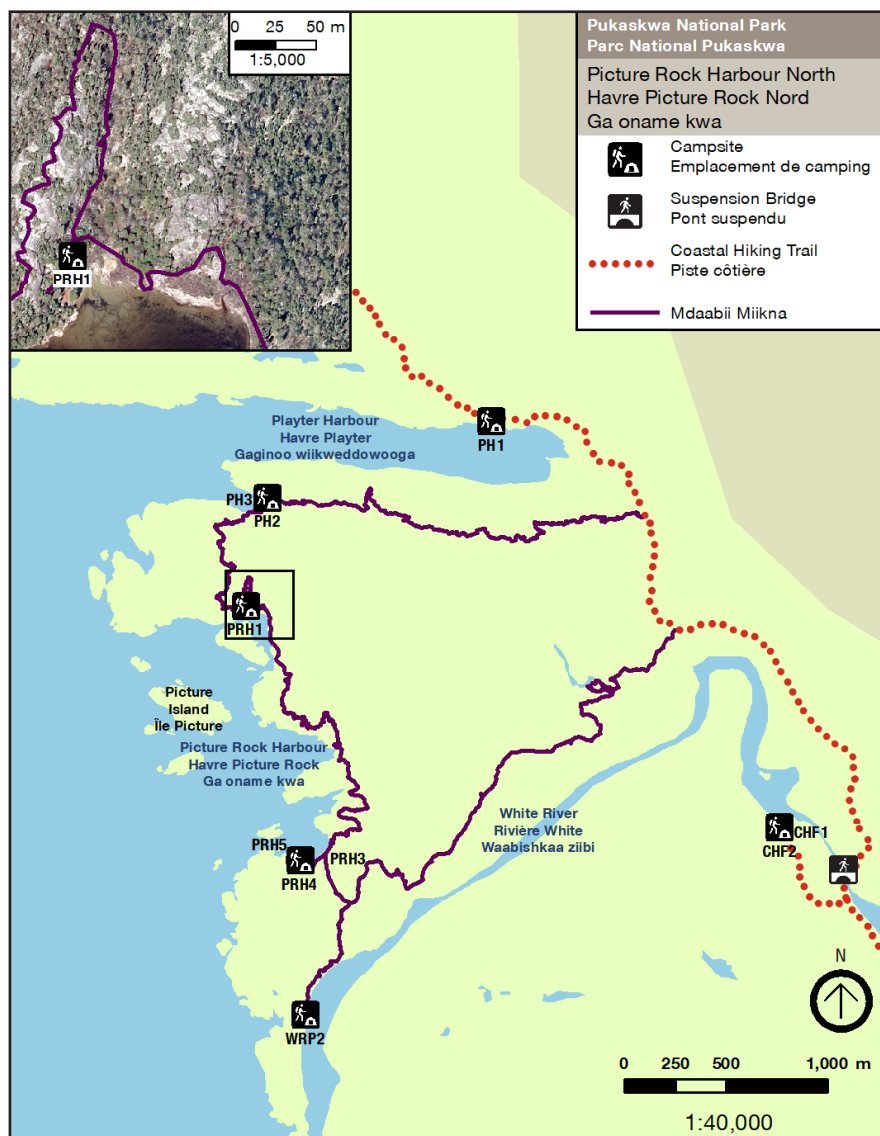
- To Playter Harbour North: 5.25 km ↑
- To Picture Rock Harbour North: 1 km ↓

Insiders' tips:

- If you are camping site PH3, make sure to bring rope to tie down your tent.
- When heading south from this site, watch out for the first 100 metres of steep rocky shoreline; it's slippery when wet!

Picture Rock Harbour North · Ga oname kwa

Where the sturgeons are



Campsite(s): PRH1

Enjoy being nestled in this harbour protected by an island to the front and cliff to the back. Wave 'hello' to your potential paddling neighbours.

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, food locker and firepit.

What to expect hiking to site (North to South):

- High elevation and rocky terrain.
- Rock cairns.
- Natural rock tunnel

Distances:

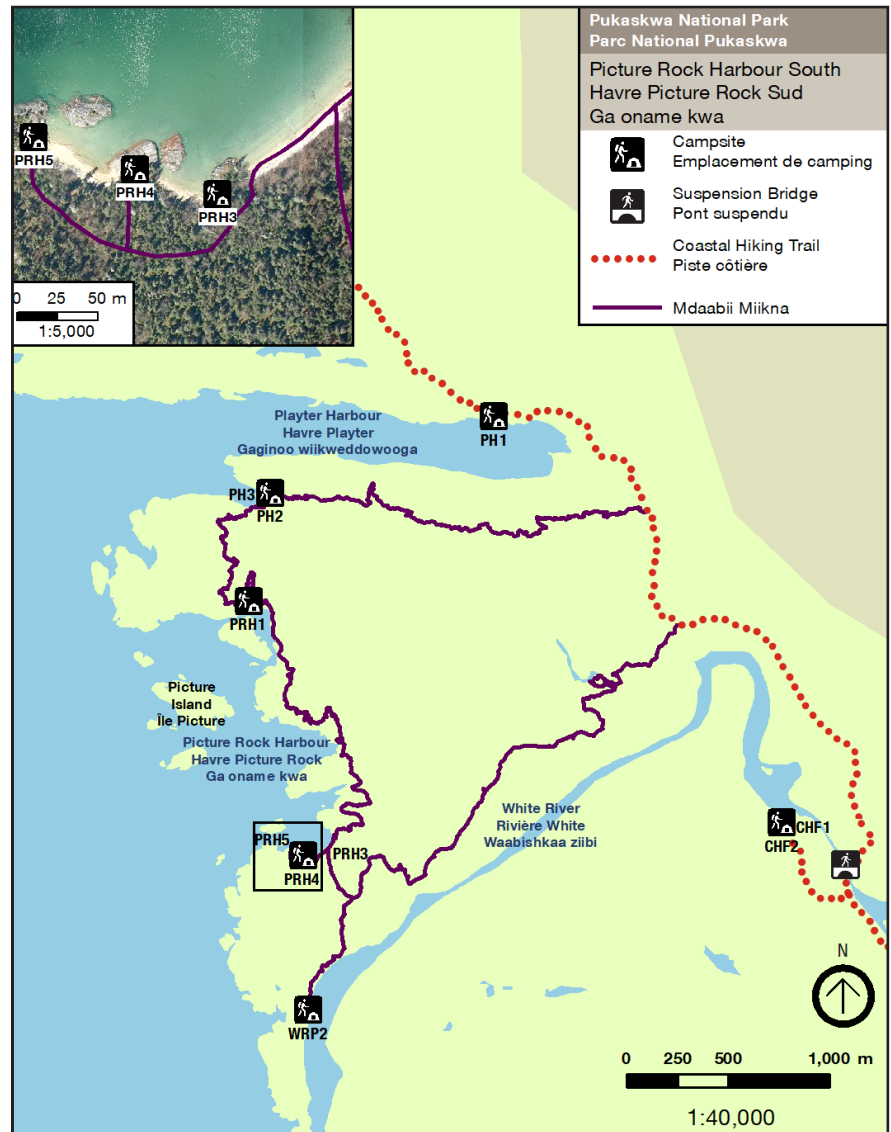
- To Playter Harbour South: 1 km ↑
- To Picture Rock Harbour South: 3.25 km ↓

Insiders' tip:

- Get the camera ready as you hike through a unique rock feature just north of the site. This is an added challenge for the vertically gifted hikers!

Picture Rock Harbour South · Ga oname kwa

Where the sturgeons are



Campsite(s): PRH3, PRH4, PRH5

This pocket of campsites features a beautiful sandy beach, perfect for sunbathing. The sites are sheltered by distant islands and they showcase great sunsets.

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, food locker and firepit.

What to expect hiking to site (North to South):

- Rock cairns.
- Driftwood log jams.
- Coastal views.
- Narrow, rocky climbs.
- Some low lying, wet areas.

Distances:

- To Picture Rock Harbour North: 3.25 km ↑
- To White River Portage: 1.5 km ↓

Insiders' tips:

- You will be testing your balance just north of this site as you maneuver through driftwood log jams. Watch out for rotten logs and slippery surfaces.

White River Portage · Waabishkaa ziibi

White river



Campsite(s): WRP2

Enjoy the smell of cedar as you set up your tent and feel the comfort of the forest as you are hugged by nature's canopy. Keep an eye out for historical tree blazes along the spur trail to the site.

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, food locker and firepit.

What to expect hiking to site (North to South):

- Rock cairns.
- Inland hiking.
- Moss covered rocks.

Distances:

- To Picture Rock Harbour South: 1.5 km ↑
- To Chigaamiwinigum Falls: 5.25 km ↓

Insiders' tip:

- Did you bring your fishing rod? Cast into the White River for awesome fishing!

Chigaamiwinigum Falls

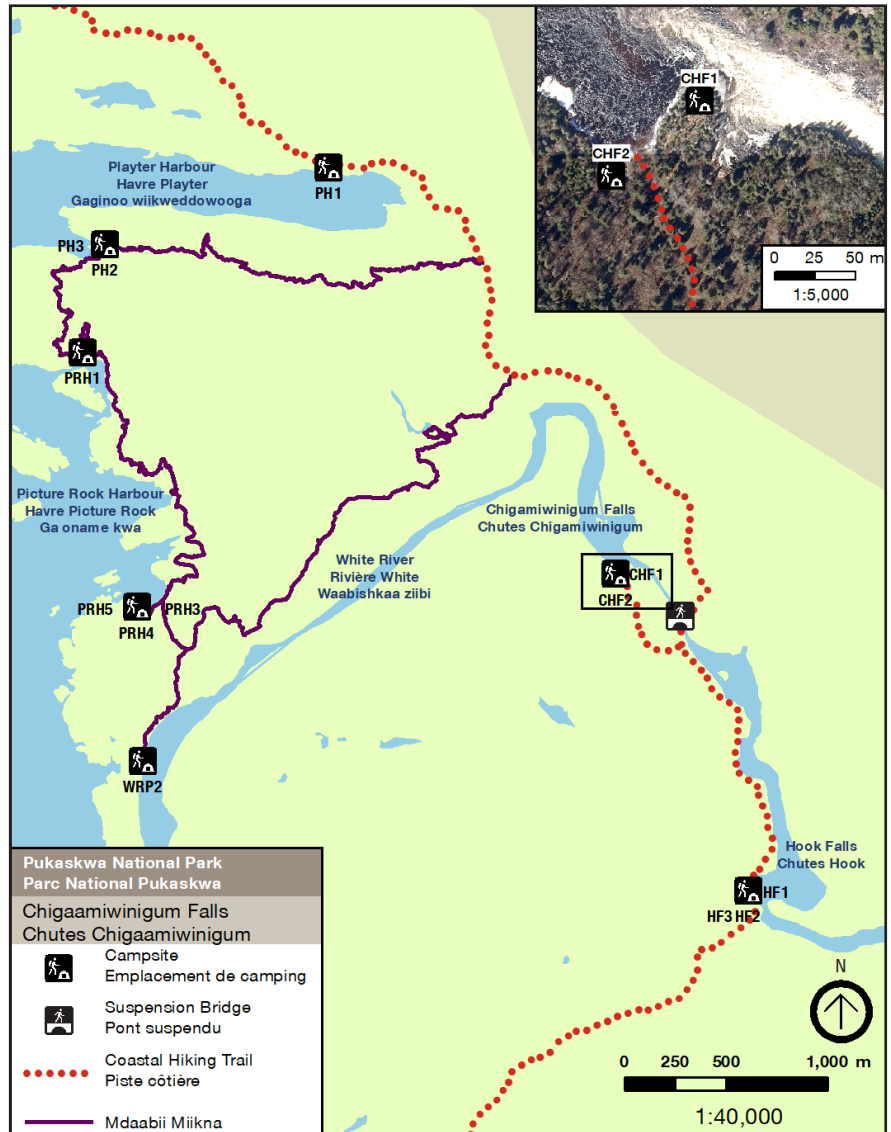
First portage from the lake



CHF1



CHF2



Campsite(s): CHF1, CHF2

Enjoy nature's sound track of rushing water as you cross the suspension bridge which spans over a 30 metre gorge. At Chigaamiwinigum Falls you will feel the "awe" of nature's power! Please note this a shared double site - so your neighbours will be close by.

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, food locker and firepit.

What to expect hiking to site (North to South):

- Suspension bridge.
- Jack pine flats, inland hiking.

Distances:

- To Playter Harbour North: 3.3 km ↑
- To White River Portage: 5.25 km ↓
- To Hook Falls: 1 km ↓

Insiders' tip:

- Quench your thirst by heading to the White River's calm pool of water below the main falls - getting water from the rushing falls can be tricky.
- Campsites are off a spur trail, south of the bridge.

Hook Falls



Campsite(s): HF1, HF2, HF3

Riverside camping at its finest! HF1 campsite at this location is small, perfect for 1 tent, two people and it has a rocky outcrop with a great falls view. Larger groups should move down the trail to the next two sites which have plenty of room to play in the forest!

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, food locker and firepit.

What to expect hiking to site (North to South):

- River driftwood obstacles.
- Inland hiking.

Distances:

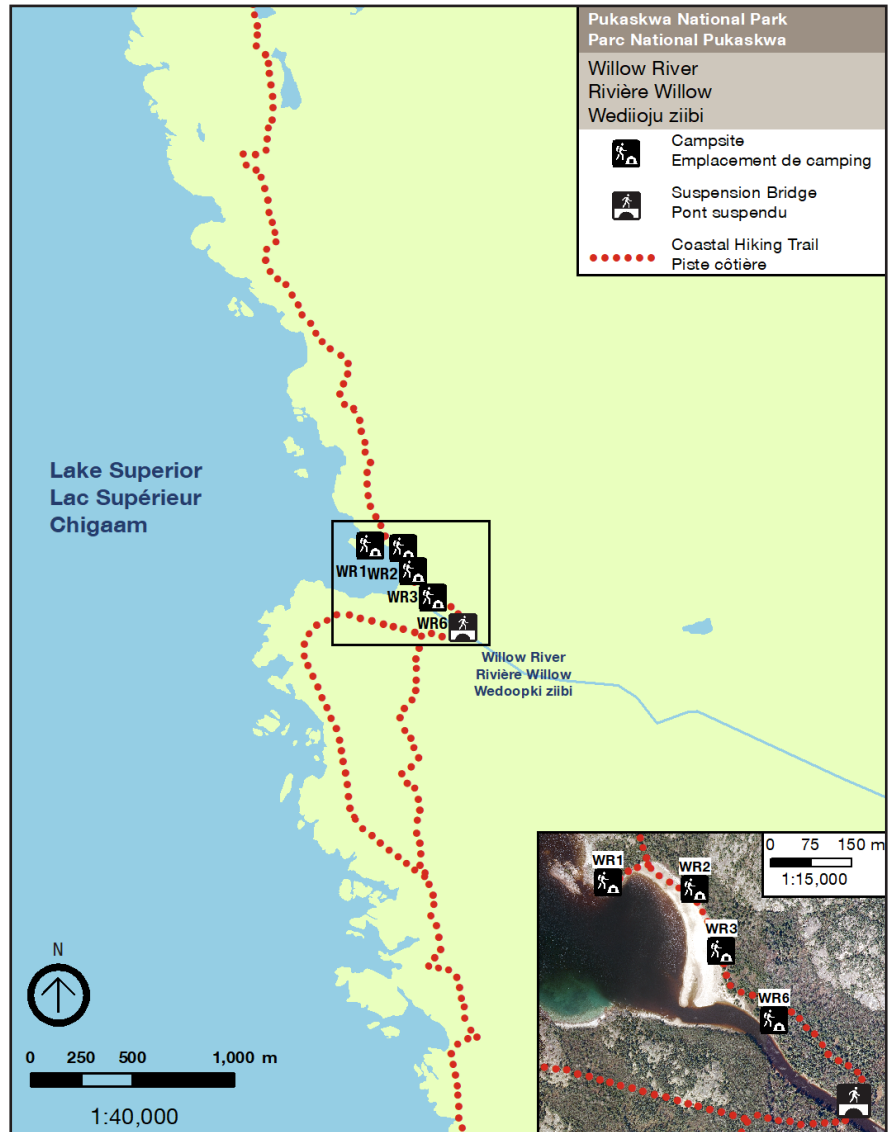
- To Chigaamiwinigum Falls: 1 km ↑
- To Willow River: 7.6 km ↓

Insiders' tip:

- Get ready to be creative when hydrating. Due to the higher elevation of this area, getting water from the White River can be challenging. Be cautious along this rushing river.

Willow River · Wedoopki ziibi

Willow river



Campsite(s): WR1, WR2, WR3, WR6

This busy site, used by hikers and paddlers, features a playful beach and a relaxing sunset view. Get ready to cross the Willow River using one of two suspension bridges along the Coastal Hiking Trail, just south of the campsites.

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, food locker and firepit.

What to expect hiking to site (North to South):

- Muddy areas.
- Weathered structures.
- Inland hiking.
- Steep terrain

Distances:

- To Hook Falls: 7.6 km ↑
- To Morrison Harbour (inland): 5.6 km ↓
- To Morrison Harbour (coastal): 6.6 km ↓

Insiders' tip:

- Feeling social? Take an evening stroll and visit with other hikers/paddlers at this site. Sharing backpacking stories around a fire is always a treat!

Morrison Harbour · Miziinack onigiigan

Wood carving



Campsite(s): MH1, MH2

Take a quick dip in this harbour's shallow, sheltered waters. Enjoy the site's sandy beach and picturesque horizon of many islands.

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, food locker and firepit.

What to expect hiking to site (North to South):

- Rock cairns.
- Cobble stone beaches.
- Decision: Head inland or take the coastal detour.

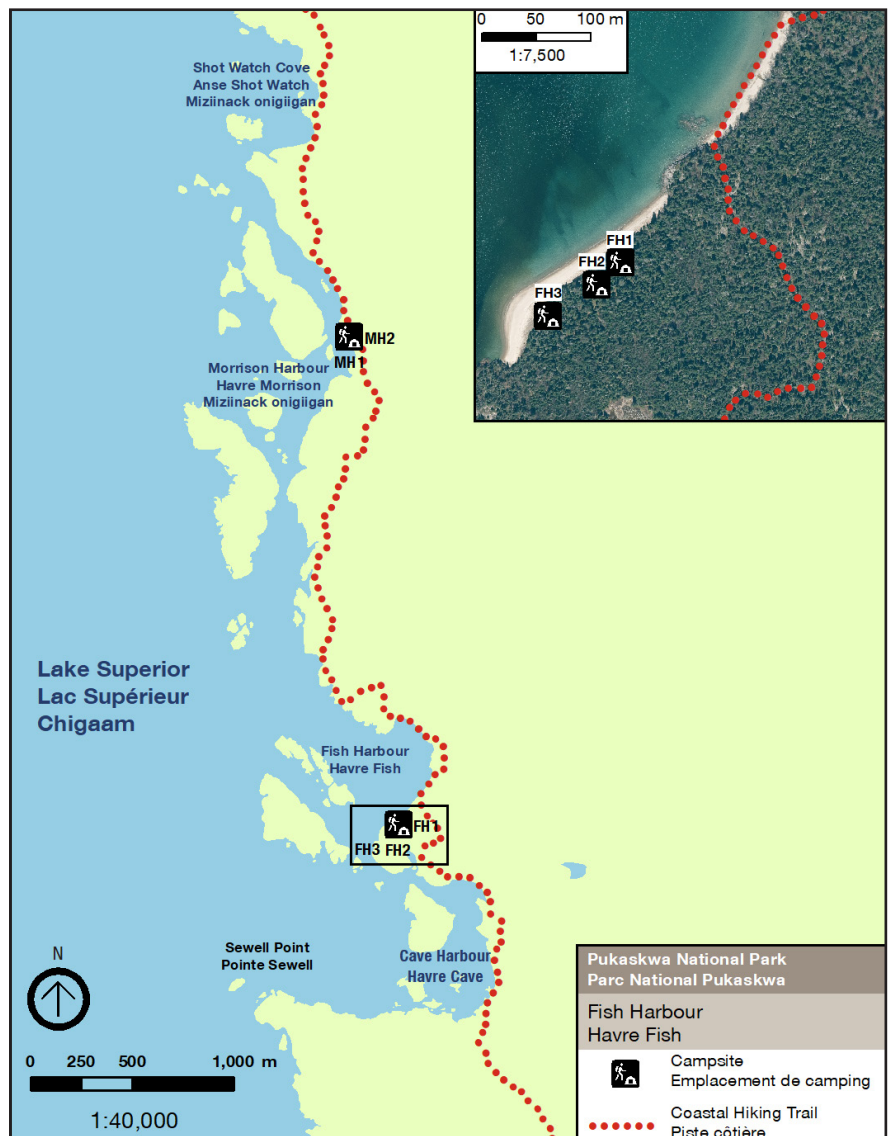
Distances:

- To Willow River (inland): 5.6 km ↑
- To Willow River (coastal): 6.6 km ↑
- To Fish Harbour: 3.4 km ↓

Insiders' tip:

- You will notice Pukaskwa National Park's ever plentiful cobble stone beaches, especially in this area. Be kind to your ankles and knees and take your time!

Fish Harbour



Campsite(s): FH1, FH2, FH3

The scenery of this location will have you thinking that you are looking at a painting in an art gallery. Sites here are large and inviting.

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, food locker and firepit.

What to expect hiking to site (North to South):

- Coastal views.
- Cobble stone beaches.

Distances:

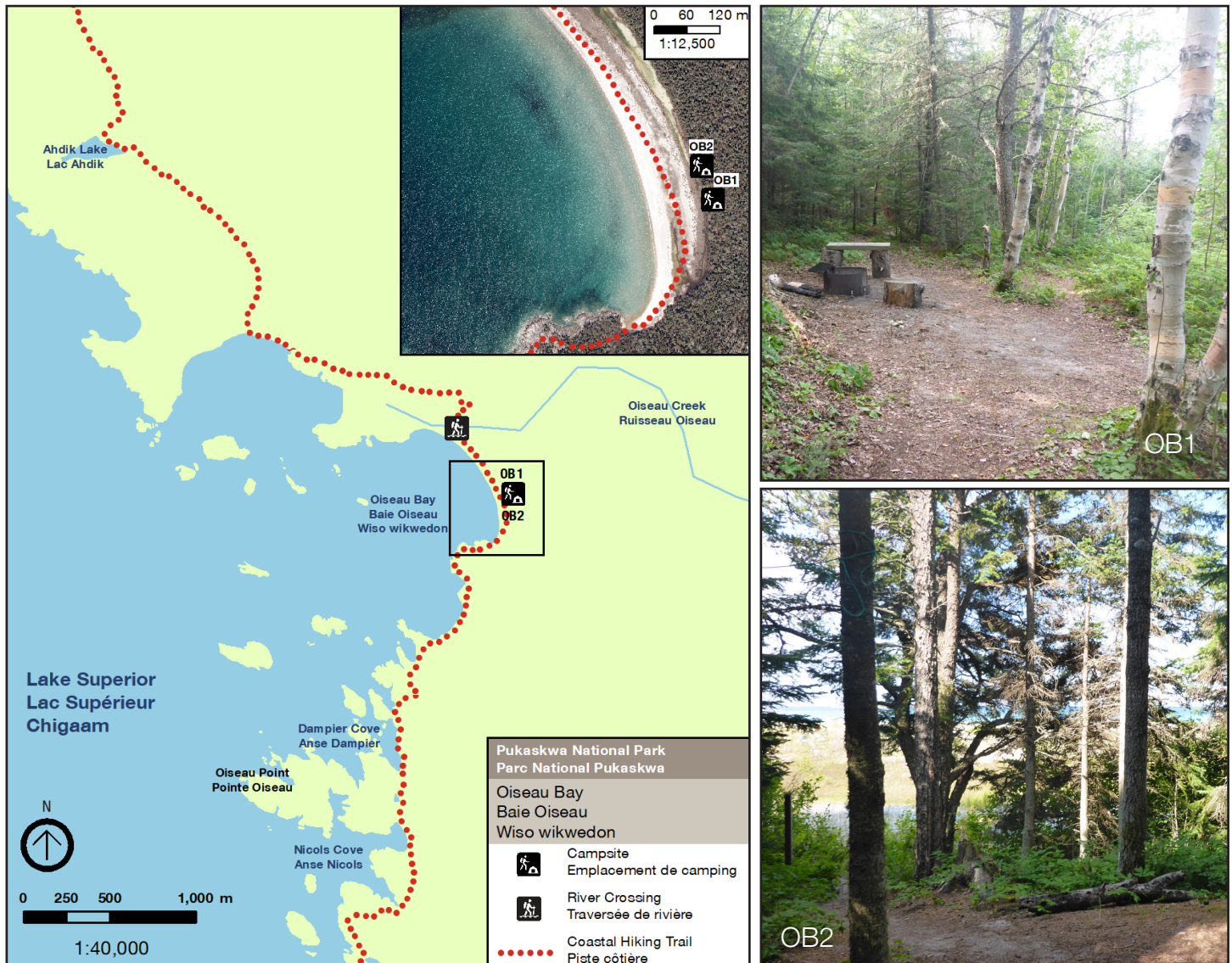
- To Morrison Harbour: 3.4 km ↑
- To Oiseau Bay: 5.1 km ↓

Insiders' tip:

- Sturdy hiking boots go a long way in Pukaskwa National Park's rocky backcountry. Look for boots that have good ankle support and soft rubber soles for better traction.

Oiseau Bay · Wiso wikwedon

Naming bay



Campsite(s): OB1, OB2

At the end of your hiking day, remove your boots and sink your feet in the endless, warm sand. Oiseau Bay features one of the longest sandy beaches in the park and is home to a healthy Pitcher's thistle colony, a species at risk that the park is helping to restore (watch your step!).

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, food locker and firepit.

What to expect hiking to site (North to South):

- Narrow bridges.
- Dry river bed.
- Weathered structures.
- River crossing.

Distances:

- To Fish Harbour: 5.1 km ↑
- To Fisherman's Cove: 7.2 km ↓

Insiders' tip:

- Campsites are located toward the centre of the beach at the treeline. There is often standing water at this location. Hikers should consider using water shoes.

Fisherman's Cove · Ganiimebinewan

Where the suckers are



Campsite(s): FC1, FC2

Enjoy your own private beach as both sites at this location. The campsites are separated by a narrow peninsula.

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, food locker and firepit.

What to expect hiking to site (North to South):

- Technical hiking.
- Steep inclines.
- Panoramic views.

Distances:

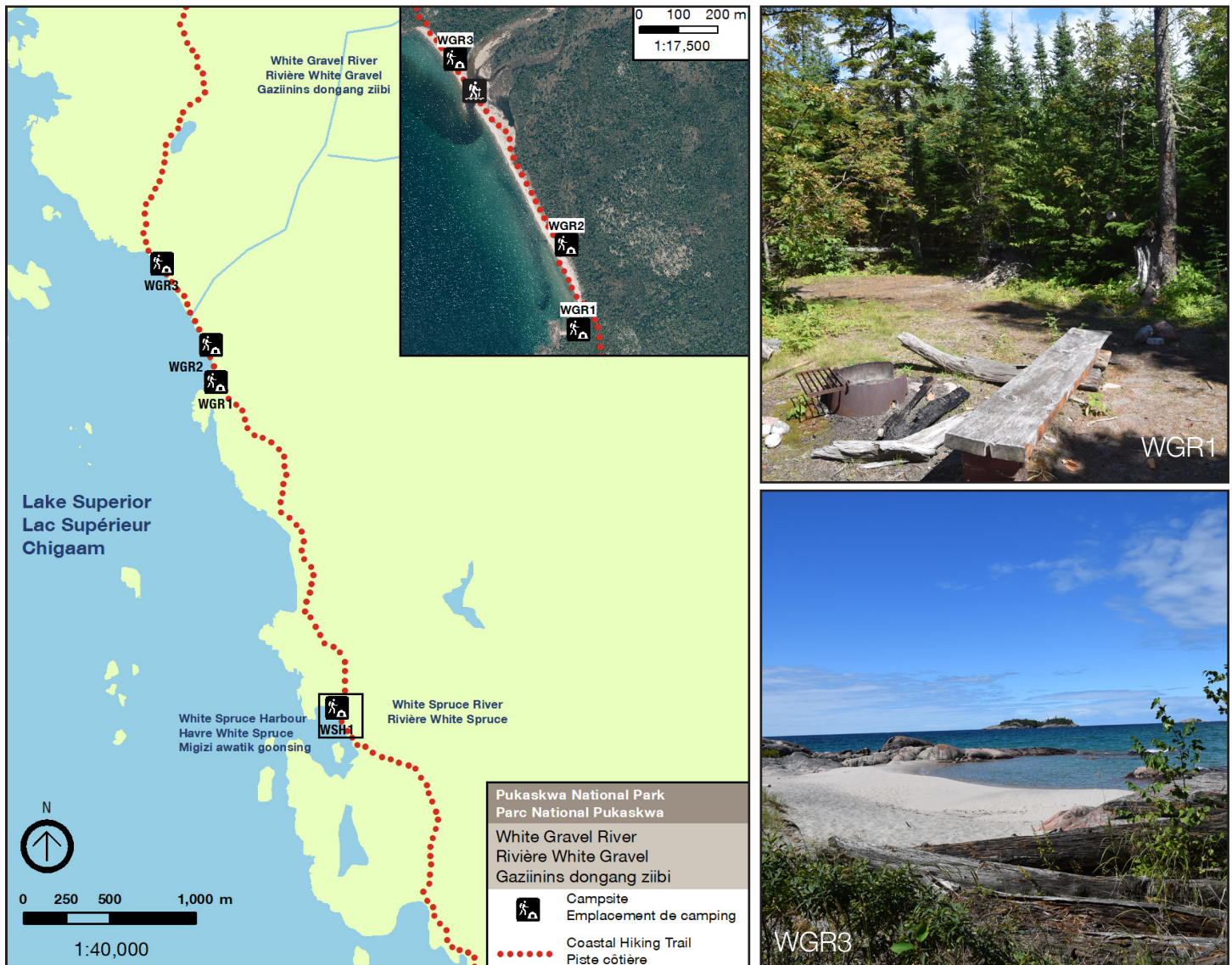
- To Oiseau Bay: 7.2 km ↑
- To White Gravel River: 7.1 km ↓

Insiders' tips:

- Get ready for panoramic views but remember, Oiseau bay to Fisherman's Cove involves technical hiking.
- When leaving this site, if you are headed to White Gravel River, top up your water bottle, as you won't have easy access to water en route.

White Gravel River · Gaziinins dongang ziibi

Gravel river



Campsite(s): WGR1, WGR2, WGR3

This area is known for its large, smooth pebble beach. Each campsite features its own private food locker and privy.

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, food locker and firepit.

What to expect hiking to site (North to South):

- No reliable water source.
- High elevations.
- Panoramic views.
- River crossing.

Distances:

- To Fisherman's Cove: 7.1 km ↑
- To White Spruce Harbour: 3.1 km ↓

Insiders' tip:

- The White Gravel River separates one campsite from the others. Set yourself up to have a river crossing at the end of your day not the beginning.

White Spruce Harbour · Migizi awatik goonsing

Small eagle log



Campsite(s): WSH1

A private beach, large tent space and beautiful scenery... Sounds wonderful right?

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, food locker and firepit.

What to expect hiking to site (North to South):

- Inland hiking.
- Flatter terrain.

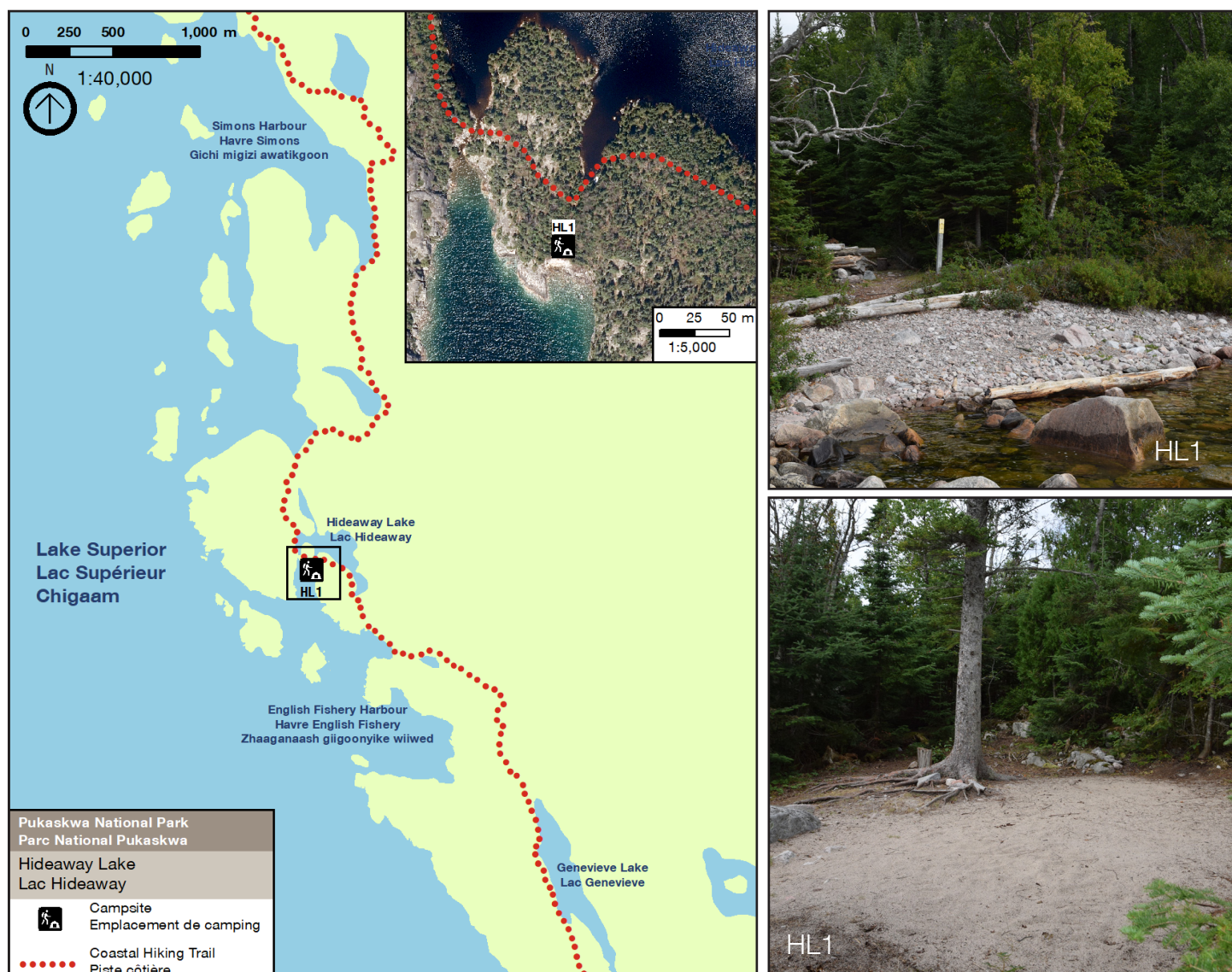
Distances:

- To White Gravel River: 3.1 km ↑
- To Hideaway Lake: 6.8 km ↓

Insiders' tip:

- This site is a hiker's favourite - make sure to reserve your site early!

Hideaway Lake



Campsite(s): HL1

A smaller site but features epic sunset views. This cozy site will win your heart with its personality!

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, food locker and firepit.

What to expect hiking to site (North to South):

- Rocky and steep, coastal hiking.
- If conditions are wet, the trail will be slippery.
- Panoramic views.
- Tree blow downs are common.

Distances:

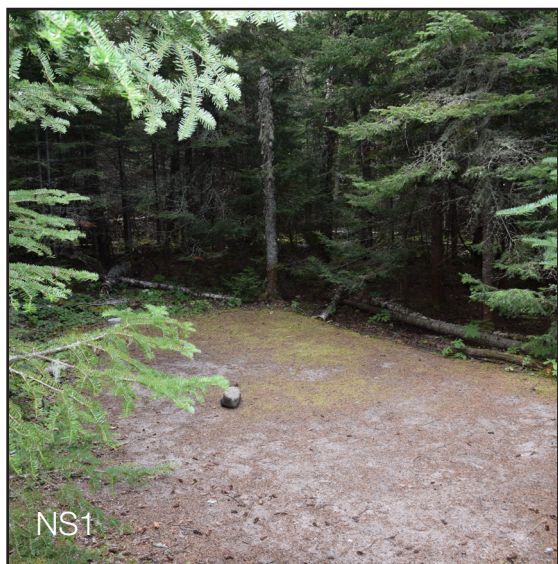
- To White Spruce Harbour: 6.8 km ↑
- To North Swallow River: 4 km ↓

Insiders' tip:

- Escape the bugs and have your snack/meal on the smooth rocky outcrop adjacent to the campsite.

North Swallow River · Giiwednong zhaashawinibiis wi ziibi

North swallow river



Campsite(s): NS1

This is it! This is where your adventure begins, meets its halfway point or ends. This sheltered little cove is a great place to soak in some sun and to share an evening fire.

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, food locker and firepit.

What to expect hiking to site (North to South):

- River crossing.
- Inland hiking.
- Tree blow downs are common.

Distance:

- To Hideaway Lake: 4 km ↑

Insiders' tip:

- The river crossing just north of the site is the most challenging along the trail. Pull out your trekking poles, protect your feet with river shoes and don't forget to un-clip your pack!

Online planning sessions

Pukaskwa National Park hosts online planning sessions for hikers. These sessions are presented by Parks Canada staff and aim to provide visitors with information and tips for the best experience possible in the park's backcountry. Watch the parks social media for upcoming dates and times.

Boat shuttle information

Boat shuttle services down the coast are operated by private businesses who have business license agreements with the park. These businesses set their own schedules, policies and fees. Please connect with them directly to discuss trip options.

It is important to understand that boat shuttle services can be delayed or cancelled based on the weather and Lake Superior wave conditions. Lake Superior is calmest in May, June and July.

Once August comes, the wind direction starts to change in the area as the fall season arrives. **It is common for boat shuttles to be cancelled in September and October.**

Visitors are encouraged have a back up plan ready should their boat shuttle be cancelled due to weather conditions. Park Kiosk staff can help visitors rearrange their hiking routes but options may be limited and are subject to availability.

Boat shuttle providers

North Shore Adventures

Marathon, ON P0T 2E0

Phone: 807-228-0709

Email: contact@northshoreadventures.ca

Facebook: <https://www.northshoreadventures.ca/>

Michano Marine and Company

Heron Bay, ON P0T 1R0

Phone: 807-228-1490 or 807-228-0399

Email: michanomarine.co@gmail.com



Photo: North Shore Adventures



Photo: Michano Marine and Company

Ready to book? Here's how...

1. Schedule a boat shuttle (optional):

If you need a boat shuttle, contact the provider(s) listed in this planner to confirm their availability first. Please note, there are limited providers the area.

2. Make a backcountry reservation:

Backcountry campsites are open (weather permitting) from May 15 - October 14. Reservation open dates will be posted on the park's website and social media.

Reserve your backcountry camping permit:

- Online 24/7 at: www.reservations.pc.gc.ca or;
- By calling: **1-877-RESERVE (1-877-737-3783)**

Are you confident in your trip itinerary? There are fees for each reservation as well as for cancellations and modifications

3. Mandatory safety orientation and emergency information:

Park staff will contact you via email to set up an in-person or online backcountry safety orientation. The safety orientation must take place before leaving the frontcountry.

They will also ask for additional emergency information to help speed up the on-site registration process. This information will include:

- Group member names
- Emergency contact information
- Health concerns related to activity
- Equipment description(s) (tents, canoes, kayaks, etc.)
- Emergency communication device(s)
- Vehicle descriptions

4. Check in and pay your fees:

Upon your arrival, stop at the Park Kiosk to register and check-in. At the time of booking, a backcountry overnight camping fee per person per night is applied. Please note that daily admission is *not* applied at the time of booking. This additional entry fee will be processed upon arrival. For current daily entry fees, visit the park's website - parks.canada.ca/pn-np/on/pukaskwa/visit/tarifs-fees.

5. Go! Let your adventure begin!



Mdaabii Miikna distance chart

Hattie Cove to Mdaabii Miikna north entrance: 6.0 km

Hattie Cove to Mdaabii Miikna south entrance: 6.7 km

Mdaabii Miikna	North Entrance	Playter Harbour South PH2, PH3	Picture Rock Harbour North PRH1	Picture Rock Harbour South PRH3, PRH4, PRH5	White River Portage WRP2	South Entrance
North Entrance		3.75 km	4.75 km	8.0 km	9.5 km	11.5 km
Playter Harbour South PH2, PH3	3.75 km		1.0 km	4.25 km	5.75 km	7.7 km
Picture Rock Harbour North PRH1	4.75 km	1.0 km		3.25 km	4.75 km	6.7 km
Picture Rock Harbour South PRH3, PRH4, PRH5	8.0 km	4.25 km	3.25 km		1.5 km	3.45 km
White River Portage WRP2	9.5 km	5.75 km	4.75 km	1.5 km		3.95 km
South Entrance	11.5 km	7.7 km	6.7 km	3.45 km	3.95 km	



Coastal Hiking Trail distance chart

Coastal Hiking Trail	Hattie Cove	Playter Harbour North PH1	Chigaaminwinigum Falls CHF1, CHF2	Hook Falls HF1, HF2, HF3	Willow River WR1, WR2, WR3, WH6	Morrison Harbour MH1, MH2	Fish Harbour FH1, FH2, FH3	Oiseau Bay OB1, OB2	Fisherman's Cove FC1, FC2	White Gravel River WGR1, WGR2, WGR3	White Spruce Harbour WSH1	Hideaway Lake HL1	North Swallow River NS1
Hattie Cove		4.5 km	7.8 km	8.8 km	16.4 km	22 km	25.4 km	30.5 km	37.7 km	44.8 km	47.9 km	54.7 km	58.7 km
Playter Harbour North PH1	4.5 km		3.3 km	4.3 km	11.9 km	17.5 km	20.9 km	26.0 km	33.2 km	40.3 km	43.4 km	50.2 km	54.2 km
Chigaaminwinigum Falls CHF1, CHF2	7.8 km	3.3 km		1.0 km	8.6 km	14.2 km	17.6 km	22.7 km	29.9 km	37.0 km	40.1 km	46.9 km	50.9 km
Hook Falls HF1, HF2, HF3	8.8 km	4.3 km	1.0 km		7.6 km	13.2 km	16.6 km	21.7 km	28.9 km	36.0 km	39.1 km	45.9 km	49.9 km
Willow River WR1, WR2, WR3, WH6	16.4 km	11.9 km	8.6 km	7.6 km		5.6 km	9.0 km	14.1 km	21.3 km	28.4 km	31.5 km	38.3 km	42.3 km
Morrison Harbour MH1, MH2	22.0 km	17.5 km	14.2 km	13.2 km	5.6 km		3.4 km	8.5 km	15.7 km	22.8 km	25.9 km	32.7 km	36.7 km
Fish Harbour FH1, FH2, FH3	25.4 km	20.9 km	17.6 km	16.6 km	9.0 km	3.4 km		5.1 km	12.3 km	19.4 km	22.5 km	29.3 km	33.3 km
Oiseau Bay OB1, OB2	30.5 km	26.0 km	22.7 km	21.7 km	14.1 km	8.5 km	5.1 km		7.2 km	14.3 km	17.4 km	24.2 km	28.2 km
Fisherman's Cove FC1, FC2	37.7 km	33.2 km	29.9 km	28.9 km	21.3 km	15.7 km	12.3 km	7.2 km		7.1 km	10.2 km	17.0 km	21.0 km
White Gravel River WGR1, WGR2, WGR3	44.8 km	40.3 km	37.0 km	36.0 km	28.4 km	22.8 km	19.4 km	14.3 km	7.1 km		3.1 km	9.9 km	13.9 km
White Spruce Harbour WSH1	47.9 km	43.4 km	40.1 km	39.1 km	31.5 km	25.9 km	22.5 km	17.4 km	10.2 km	3.1 km		6.8 km	10.8 km
Hideaway Lake HL1	54.7 km	50.2 km	46.9 km	45.9 km	38.3 km	32.7 km	29.3 km	24.2 km	17.0 km	9.9 km	6.8 km		4.0 km
North Swallow River NS1	58.7 km	54.2 km	50.9 km	49.9 km	42.3 km	36.7 km	33.3 km	28.2 km	21.0 km	13.9 km	10.8 km	4.0 km	



Send us your comments, photos and stories!
#pukaskwanationalpark

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www.facebook.com/PukaskwaNP



www.instagram.com/parks.canada/



Updated in 04/2025.
Aussi disponible en français.