



Pukaskwa
National Park

Backcountry paddling

Trip planner - Coastal Paddling Route



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Bii saan go biishan endaaing: Welcome to our home

"We the Anishinaabe, are the people of the north shore of Chigaam. We have known this land and water, which is now called Pukaskwa National Park and Lake Superior, for generations." -Collette Goodchild, late elder of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg.

Pukaskwa National Park lies on the traditional territory of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg and Netmizaaggamig



Nishnaabeg, which also falls within the Robinson-Superior Treaty Area.

We recognize the cultural significance of the lands and waters within the park, and value and honour the historical and ongoing connections Indigenous people have within this territory.



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 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. Chrismar's *The Adventure Map: Pukaskwa National Park* can be pre-ordered by emailing pukaskwaont@pc.gc.ca, or

purchased at the Kiosk or Visitor Centre. Check with your local outfitter for recommended maps outside of park boundaries. Topographical maps at 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.

Experience level

The Coastal Paddling Route is for paddlers who are experienced in ocean or large open-water paddling. Experienced group leaders cannot compensate for inexperienced paddlers in their group. We recommend paddlers have Sea Kayak Level 3 skills. Paddling with a partner or in a small group is preferable.

Maximum group size is 6 per campsite. Larger groups should book two neighbouring campsites. *Looking to paddle Pukaskwa's coast alongside an experienced guide?* Consider paddling with one of our business license holders! See page 26 for more information.

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.

Nearby communities

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg (<10 km)

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. Continue straight out of the park onto Highway 627 and take the fifth right after the Pic River bridge to access the gas station.

Town of Marathon (25 km N)

Marathon is the closest full-service community, located approximately 25 km from Pukaskwa via Highway 17 North. Grocery stores, hardware stores, and several

By Bus

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

other businesses can provide food, fuel, and basic supplies you require for a backcountry trip.

Rosspport (130 km N)

A common starting point for individuals paddling east to Hattie Cove, Rosspport is located approximately 130 km from Pukaskwa via Highway 17 North.

Michipicoten First Nation (200 km S)

A common ending point for paddlers starting in Hattie Cove and ending beyond the southern border of the park, Michipicoten First Nation is located approximately 230 km from Pukaskwa via Highway 17 South.



Are you prepared for...

- A multi-day backcountry paddling trip with long distances through rough waters?
- Primitive campsites? Most paddling campsites in Pukaskwa National Park do not have tent pads, food lockers, privies or fire pits. Many sites are designated on sandy beach areas along the coast.
- Being wind bound for multiple days?
- Rugged, uneven ground and slippery conditions en route to campsites on muddy trails, wooden surfaces, boardwalks, stairs, cobble stones and rocky shorelines?
- Thick fog that can last for days and compass navigation?
- Paddling across river mouths with large waves and strong currents?
- Paddling through dangerous reflection wave zones?
- High waves and spray? Paddlers are strongly advised to wear a spray skirt.
- Accidents and injuries? It may take more than 24 hours for help to arrive.
- An unforgettable wilderness experience?



Fog and ice cold water.



1/5 windbound days in June - July, 3/5 windbound days in August - September.



Stormy Lake Superior & waves.



Long stretches of rocky shorelines with no place to stop.

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 *Bear Wise* pamphlet available at the Kiosk or consult with 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.

Equipment

To enjoy your paddling experience, you must be comfortable. Use our list of suggested items on page 6 to help plan what to bring on your trip!

Water quality

Drinking water is available from most rivers, creeks and certainly from Lake Superior. We advise all backcountry paddlers to fine filter, treat or boil their drinking water.

Bugs

Bring your bug hat, bug jacket or bug spray!

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.

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.

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 if you not wearing a wetsuit or dry suit. Fog is common and can last for days. Be prepared to navigate using a compass. If you're paddling in May, June or July, be prepared to be windbound for 1 out of every 5 days. If you're paddling in August or September, prepare to be windbound for 3 out of 5 days.

Limited campsite markers

The Coastal Paddling Route has limited campsite markers/signs, you will need to utilize your map reading and compass skills. Be prepared to back track to find the correct locations.

Private property

Paddlers passing the Pukaskwa River will see a small cabin tucked into the bushes on the shoreline; this cabin is private property and access is prohibited.



Rugged and remote

Pukaskwa National Park is spectacular. It is also a remote, rugged place where rescues take time. Remember: you are responsible for your own safety. All paddlers must be experienced in backcountry, ocean-like paddling.

Rivers and reflection waves

Exercise caution when crossing river mouths, particularly during high-water conditions. Crossing the White River can be particularly tricky and requires high level paddling skill. Be wary of large waves and strong currents at this and other river mouths. Paddling around most exposed points (Campbell's Point and Sewell Point in particular) can be hazardous due to reflection waves. Be prepared to turn back if conditions are too hazardous.

Sunrise and sunset times

Plan your daily objectives accordingly, paddling 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.

Temperatures and monthly rainfall

Pukaskwa's cool, sunny summer days are perfect for exploring, or a quick swim.

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

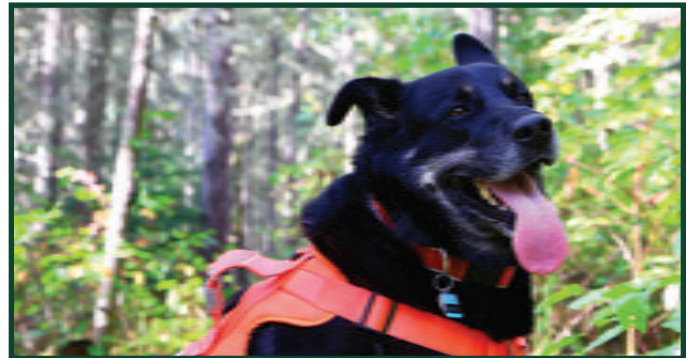
Wildlife cameras and privacy

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.

Pets

Bringing pets into the backcountry requires extensive planning, specialized gear, and high-level training to ensure safety for your animal and wildlife. Be prepared to have your pet leashed at all times, regardless of their recall abilities. Before attempting this rugged backcountry journey, be sure to physically condition your pet with shorter paddles/hikes to build stamina and ensure their food/water packs fit properly to maximize their comfort. Remember: your pet should not carry more than 25% of its body weight! Being aware that your pet can attract predators like bears, consider carrying deterrents like bear spray and bangers. Packing gear like paw protection, pet-specific first-aid kits, medicines and an emergency harness or sling can be crucial in an emergency. Park emergency services are intended for human illness/injury – your pet is your responsibility.

Please share an evacuation plan for your pet with Park staff prior to entering the backcountry. Veterinary services are limited to unavailable in this area, be prepared to travel long distances to find services!



What to bring? Here's what we suggest!

Safety gear

- PFD/Life jacket
- Personal location beacon (SPOT, etc.)
- Matches/fire starting kit
- Bear deterrent
- Weather radio
- First aid kit
- Extra food (1-2 days)
- Spare paddle
- Self-rescue aids
- 15m buoyant throw rope
- Bailer
- Spray skirt
- Wetsuit/drysuit
- Whistle/signalling device

Navigation

- Chrismar Map/nautical maps
- Compass
- Binoculars
- Global Positioning System (GPS)
- Watch

Camp gear

- Tarp or tent footprint
- Tent
- Water filter/purification system
- Stove and fuel
- 15m rope/pulley system for hanging food
- Cooking pot
- Stuff sacks
- Dry sacks
- Toilet paper
- Trowel
- Food
- Dry sacks

- Knife
- Spare batteries
- Silicon sealant
- Duct tape and general repair kits (tent, stove, etc.)

Personal gear

- Backpack
- Sleep pad
- Water bottle
- Bowl and utensils
- Mug
- Towel
- Daypack
- Sunscreen/sunglasses
- Sleeping bag
- Head lamp and/or flashlight
- Paddling gloves
- Paddling top
- Kneeling pads

Personal clothing

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

Leave no trace

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 and leave no trace while visiting so that future generations of Canadians can continue to enjoy all aspects of the park's wilderness character. To help protect natural and cultural resources within the park, consider the following:



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 a 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:

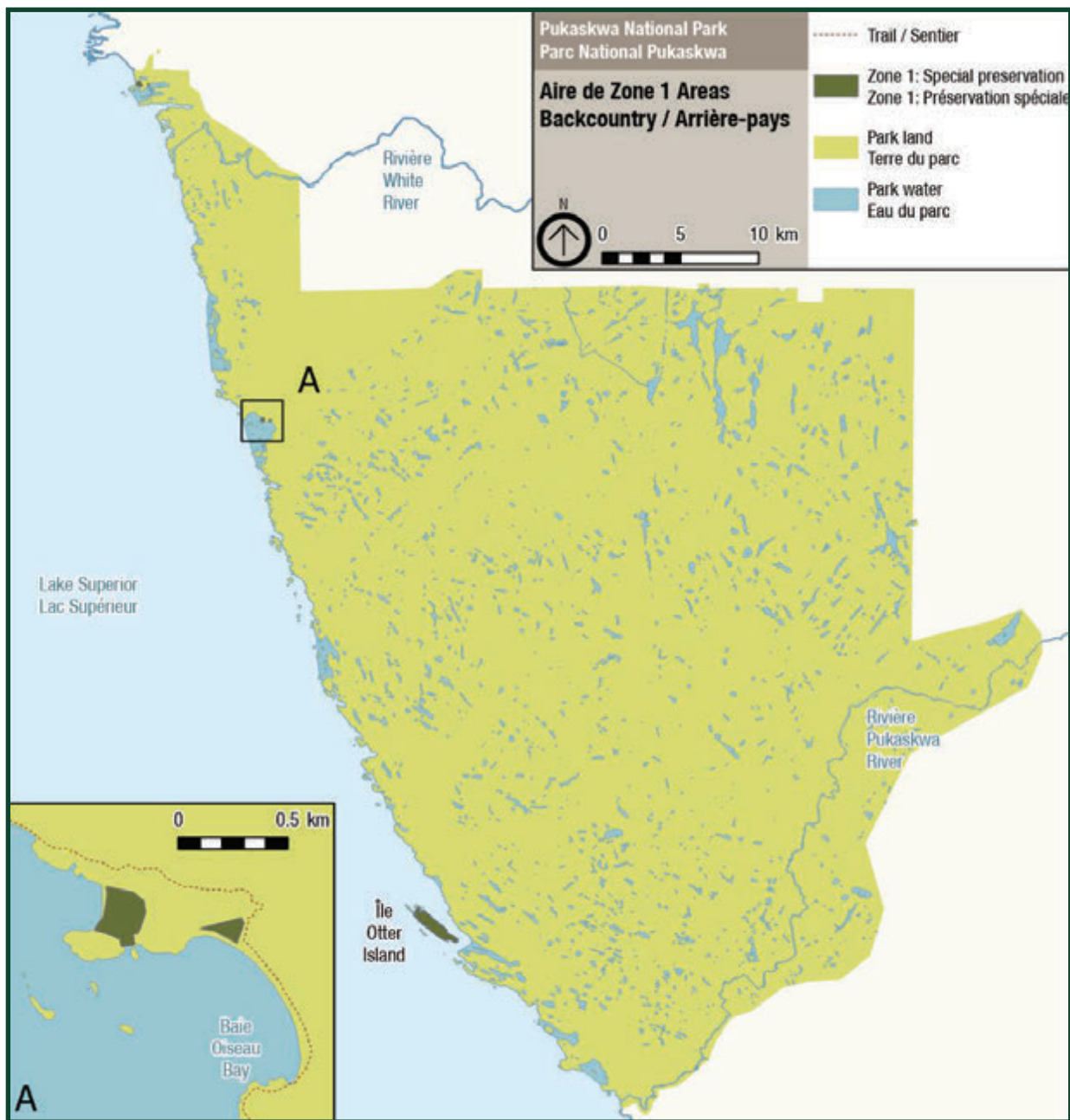
- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviours, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.
- Control pets at all times, 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.

Special Preservation areas

There are several areas of the park that are considered Special Preservation areas, including Otter Island and parts of Oiseau Bay (pictured here) and all Pukaskwa Pit sites (not pictured). These areas protect species at risk and/or culturally sensitive petroforms. Visitor access to any Special Preservation area is prohibited.



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 come across something you feel resembles one of these structures, 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.

Coastal Paddling Route map



*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 Picture Rock Harbour North: 10 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!

Picture Rock Harbour North

Ga oname kwa (*where the sturgeon are*)



Campsite (s): PRH2

Enjoy being nestled in this harbour protected by an island to the front and cliff to the north. Stretch your legs and explore Mdaabii Miikna. Follow the trail north to an exciting rock feature and panoramic cliff-top views.

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, food locker and firepit.

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

- Pulpwood Harbour.
- Reflection waves at Campbell Point.
- Picture Rock Harbour.

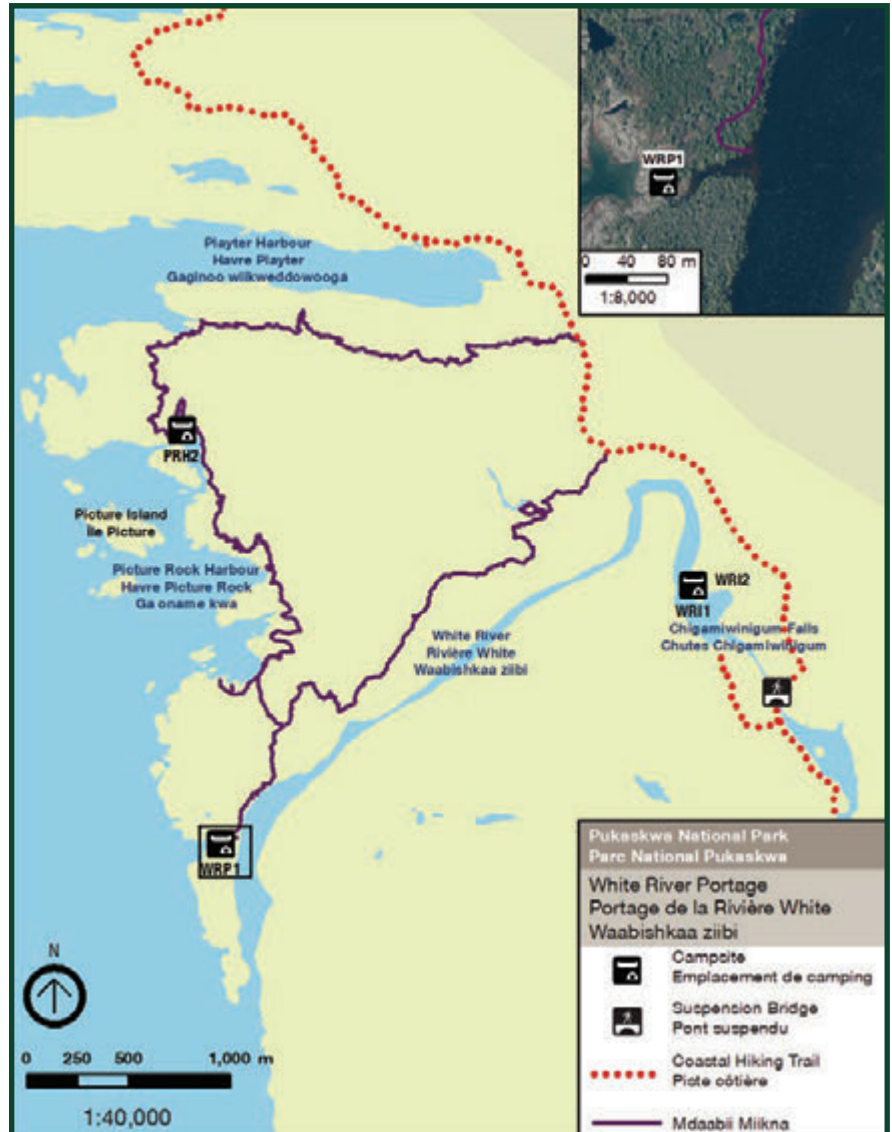
Distances:

- To Hattie Cove: 10 km
- To White River Portage: 1 km

Insiders' tip:

- For generations, Picture Rock Harbour was a place to seek protection from Lake Superior's rough waters. It is still a good place to wait for the lake to calm down, especially if you are planning to paddle north past Campbell Point where reflection waves can create choppy waters.

White River Portage Waabishkaa ziibi (*white river*)



Campsite(s): WRP1

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. Watch the sunset while relaxing (and drying out) on the large smooth boulders at the campsite entry point.

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, food locker and firepit.

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

- Picture Rock Harbour.
- Access the portage past the WRP1 campsite to reach the White River interior campsite.
- Strong outflow from the White River.

Distances:

- To Picture Rock Harbour North: 1 km
- To White River Interior: 4 km
- To Willow River: 6 km

Insiders' tips:

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

White River Interior Chigaamiwinigum (*first portage from the lake*)



Campsite(s): WRI1, WRI2

Treat yourself to nature's soundtrack of Chigaamiwinigum Falls. Paddle to the south side of the river, at the bottom of the falls and hike 2km to the suspension bridge which spans over a 30 m gorge with a 23 m drop at Chigaamiwinigum Falls.

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, food locker and firepit.

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

- Up stream/down stream paddling.
- Access the portage past the WRP1 campsite to reach the White River interior campsite.

Distances:

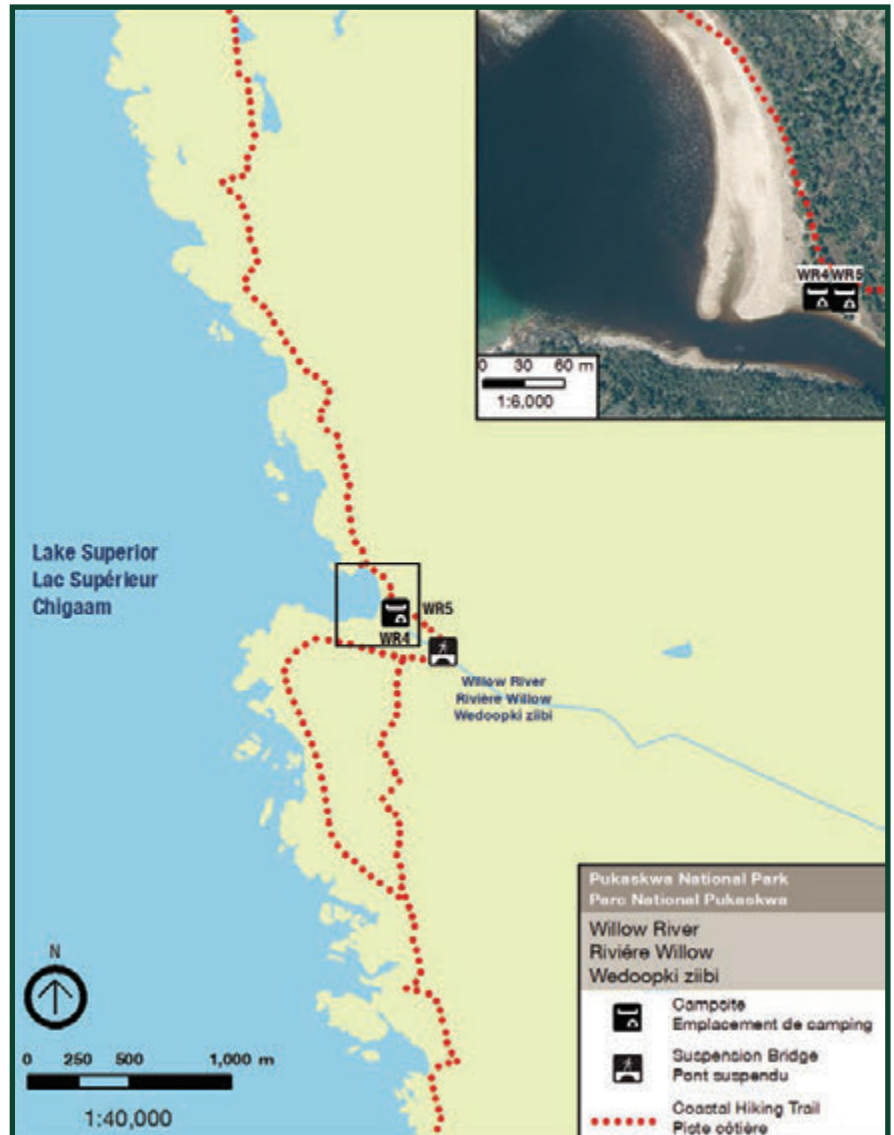
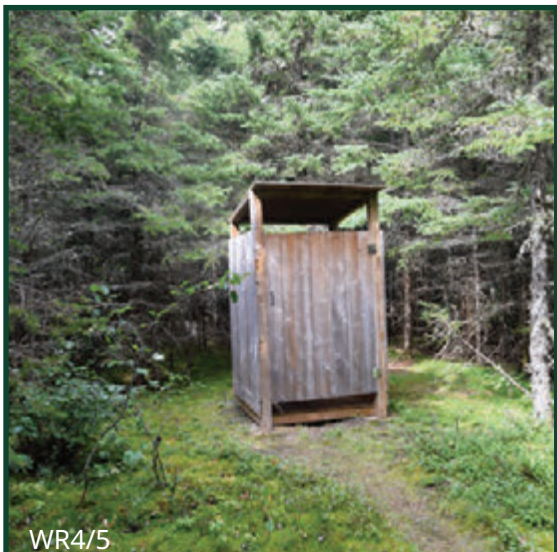
- To White River Portage: 4 km
- To Willow River: 10 km

Insiders' tip:

- Quench your thirst by filling up at the White River's calm pool of water below the main falls. Be cautious along this rushing river.

Willow River

Wedoopki ziibi (*willow river*)



Campsite(s): WR4, WR5

This site features a playful beach and a relaxing sunset view. Paddle up the Willow River to float under one of two suspension bridges that are part of the Coastal Hiking Trail.

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, food locker and firepit.

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

- Strong current and reflection waves at the White River.
- Rocky coastline.

Distances:

- To White River Portage: 6 km
- To White River Interior: 10 km
- To Oiseau Bay North: 18 km

Insiders' tips:

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

Oiseau Bay North

Wisowikwedon (*naming bay*)



Campsite(s): OBN1, OBN2

Large sandy beach, with towering cliffs to the east - a wonderful site for sunbathing and sunset enthusiasts alike.

Shared site amenities:

None, beach camping, shared location.

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

- Small islands.
- Shotwatch Cove.
- Morrison Harbour.
- Fish Harbour.
- Cave Harbour.
- Long paddle from closest site to the north.

Distances:

- To Willow River: 18 km
- To Nicols Cove: 7 km

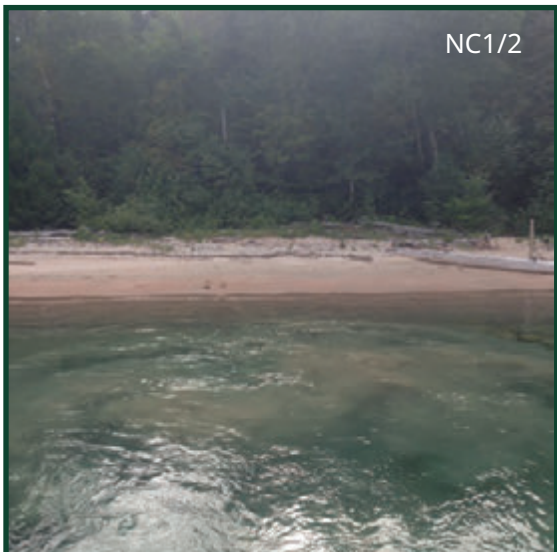
Insiders' tip:

- Plan a break at Fish Harbour and take advantage of the location's pit privy.
- Paddle by Cave Harbour to check out the cave that can be seen from the water. Admire this feature from afar and do not enter. Entering caves can disturb bat habitats and cause the spread of White Nose Syndrome.

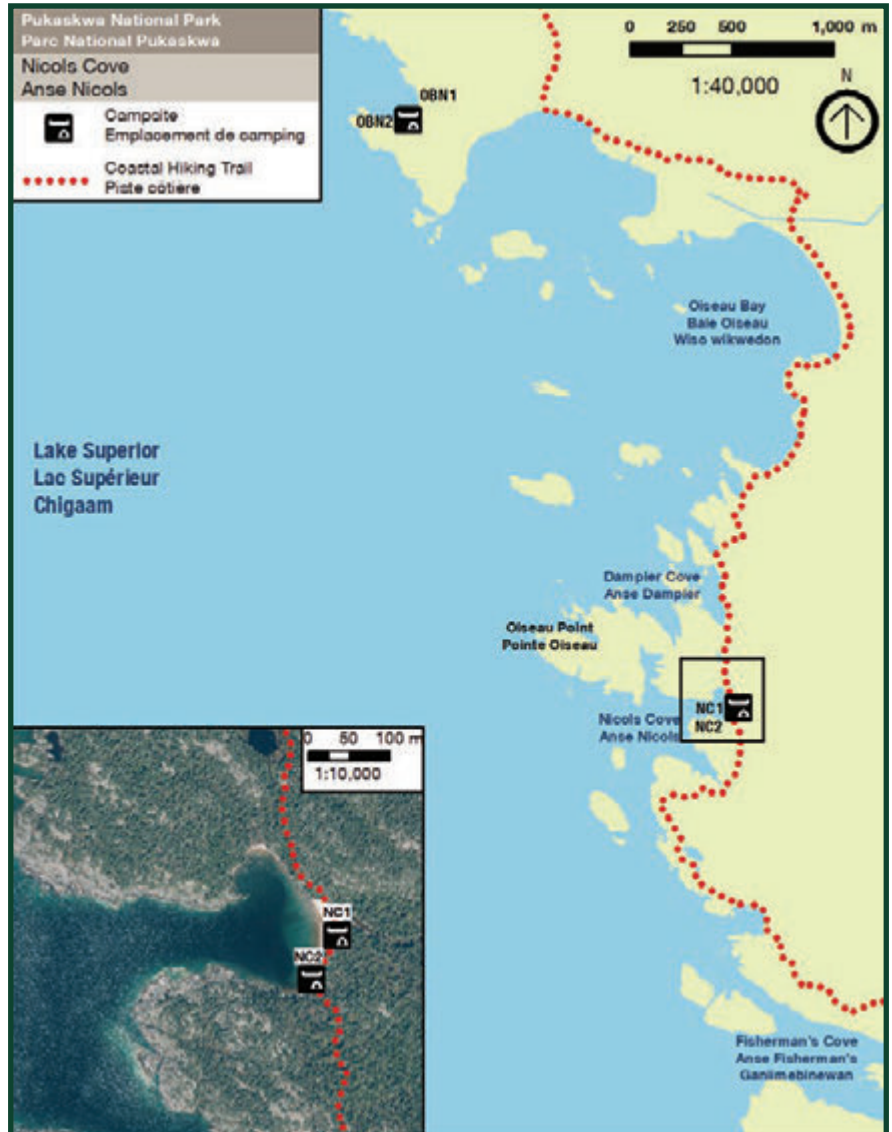
Nicols Cove



NC1/2



NC1/2



Campsite(s): NC1, NC2

This well protect site is a welcome sight to paddlers who are experiencing one of Lake Superior's moody days. Set up camp, make yourself a hot beverage, take a soft seat on the site's sandy beach and give your muscles a well-deserved rest.

Shared site amenities:

None, beach camping, shared location.

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

- Oiseau Bay.
- Rocky shoreline with nooks and crannies.

Distances:

- To Oiseau Bay North: 7 km
- To White Spruce Harbour North: 13 km

Insiders' tip:

- Lake Superior is notorious for its thick, enveloping fog. When the fog rolls in, stick to the coastline and wait until it clears out to do any open water crossings.

Fishermans Cove North

Ganiimebinewan (*where the suckers are*)



Fishermans Cove



FCN1/2



Campsite(s): FCN1, FCN2

A protected, sandy beach location with warmer waters to splash in.

Shared site amenities:

None, beach camping, shared location.

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

- Long paddle from closest site to the north.
- Rocky shoreline with nooks and crannies.

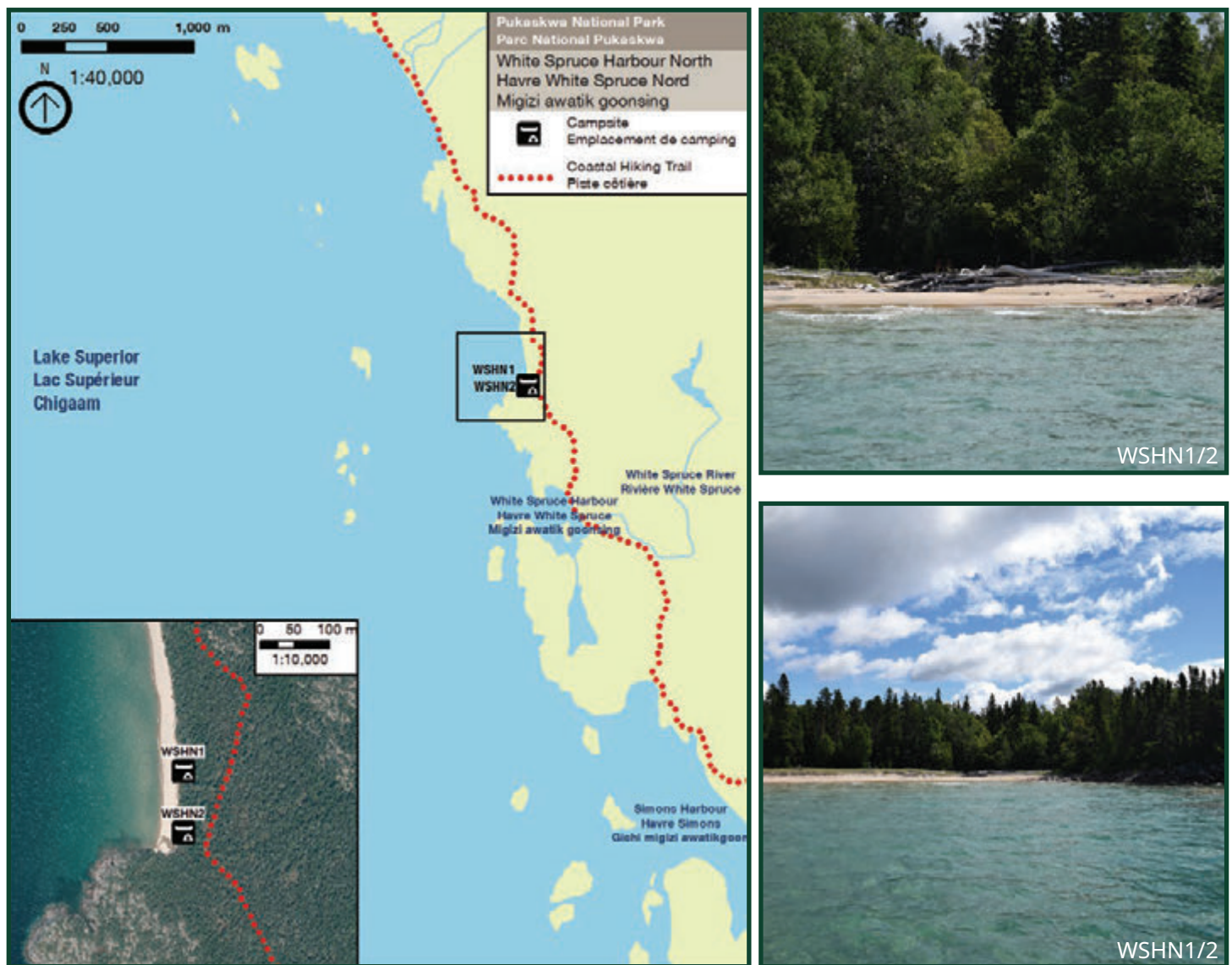
Distances:

- To Nicols Cove: 3 km
- To White Spruce Harbour: 10 km

Insiders' tip:

- The paddling sites are in the northern area of this cove while the southern part is dedicated to hikers.
- The Coastal Hiking Trail is routed near these sites. Take advantage of the close proximity and hike north to see epic coastal views.

White Spruce Harbour North



Campsite(s): WSHN1, WSHN2

A beautiful, sandy beach campsite that backs on to a charming forest tree line. One of the largest paddling sites along the Pukaskwa coast.

Shared site amenities:

None, beach camping, shared location.

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

- Long paddle from closest site to the north.
- Rocky shoreline with nooks and crannies.

Distances:

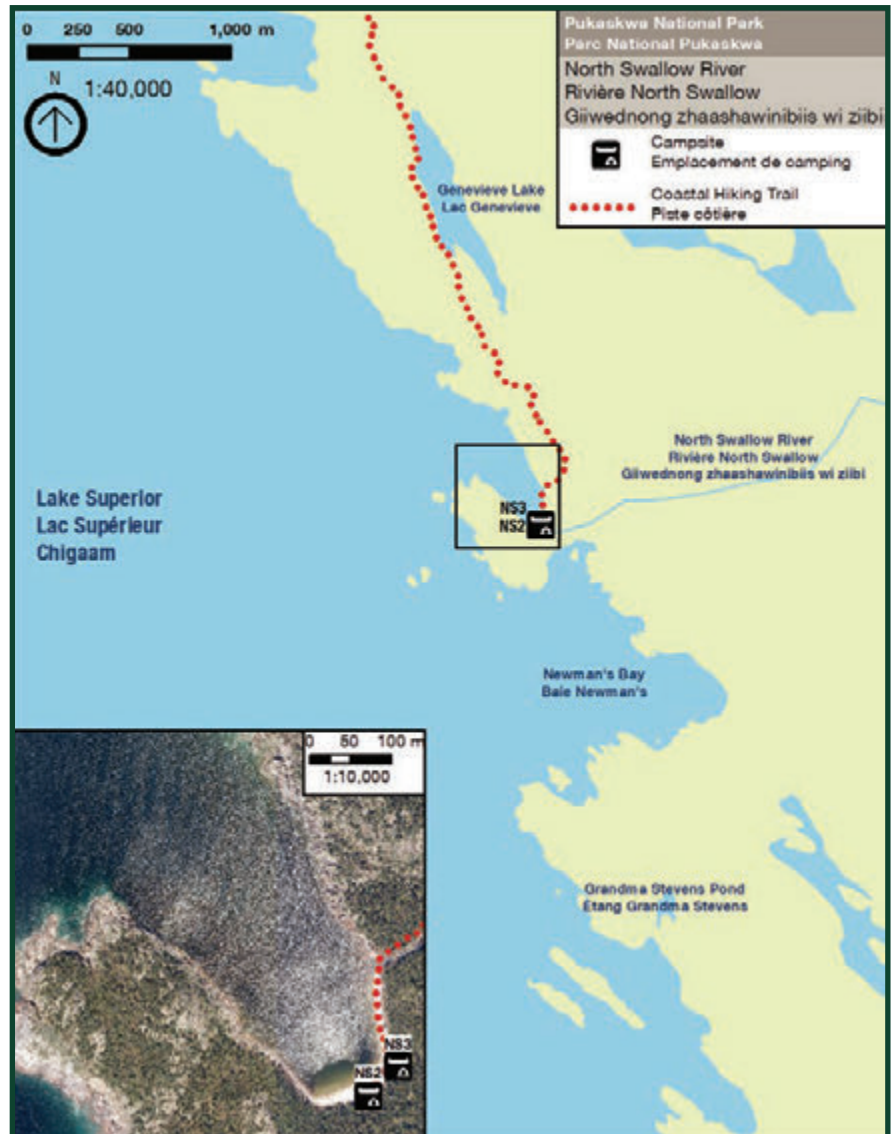
- To Nicols Cove: 13 km
- To North Swallow River: 15 km

Insiders' tip:

- Get an early start to your day when paddling south from Nicols Cove. In bad weather, take advantage of the plentiful little coves along the way.

North Swallow River

Giiwednong zhaashawinibiis wi ziibi (*north swallow river*)



Campsite(s): NS2, NS3

Wave 'hello' to the hikers who often begin their trip at this scenic location. 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. Shared location.

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

- English Fish Harbour.
- Islands.
- Steep rocky shoreline.
- "The Ramparts" reflection wave danger.

Distance:

- To White Spruce Harbour: 15 km
- To Trappers Harbour: 7 km

Insiders' tip:

- Plan your paddling trip for June or July. Once August/September rolls around, the winds change and you will have about 3/5 wind-bound days on average. Don't wager against Mother Nature!

Trappers Harbour

Nandawenjige nini wiikwed (*trapper harbour*)



Campsite(s): TH1, TH2

This site sits at the most eastern point of this inlet-like harbour. It features smooth rocks and flat tent pad areas.

Shared site amenities:

None, shared location.

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

- Newmans Bay.
- "The Cigars" islands.

Distances:

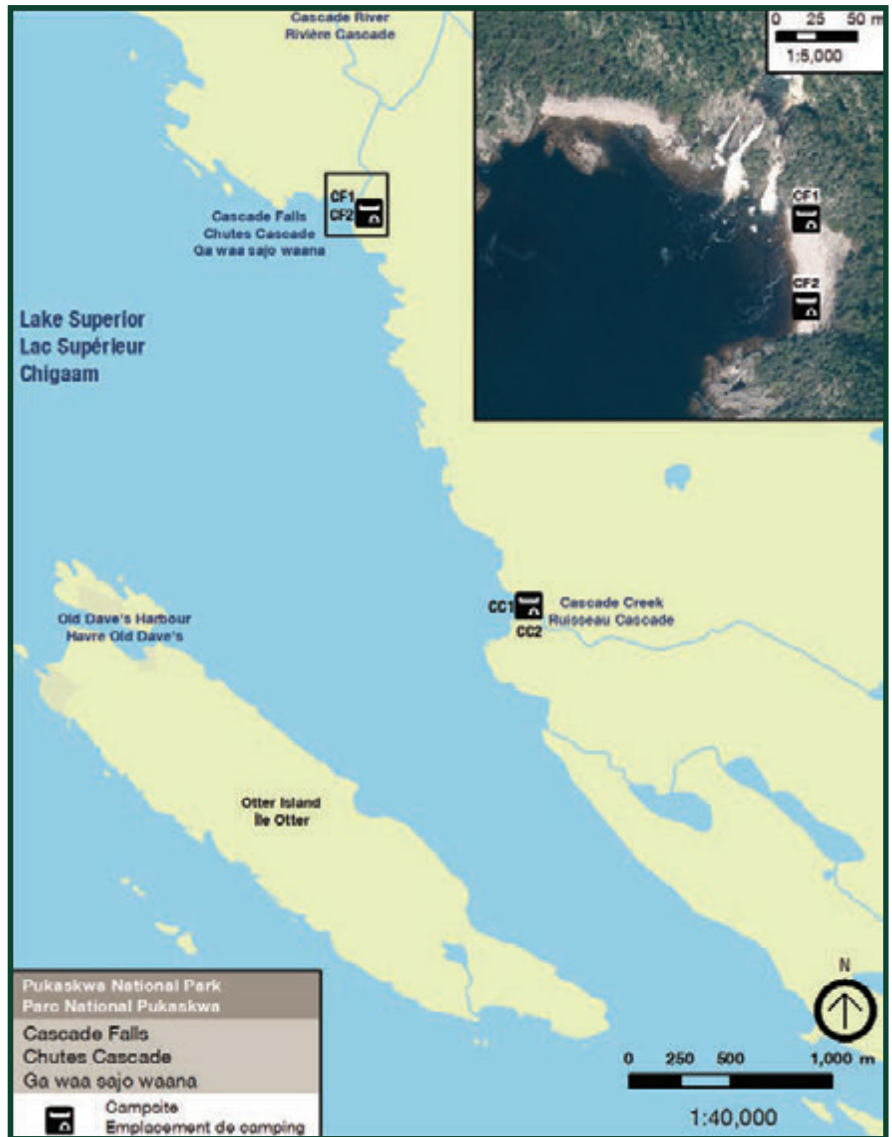
- To North Swallow River: 7 km
- To Cascade Falls: 10 km

Insiders' tip:

- In high wave conditions, the narrow entrance to Trappers Harbour can be difficult to enter and exit.

Cascade Falls

Ga waa sajo waana (*white water falls*)



Campsite(s): CF1, CF2

The famous Cascade Falls! This iconic Pukaskwa feature struts its stuff year-round but for the biggest show visit it in late spring/early summer when runoff is at its peak!

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, beach camping, shared location.

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

- Possible open water areas.
- Cascade Falls.

Distances:

- To Trappers Harbour: 10 km
- To Cascade Creek: 3 km

Insiders' tip:

- This site is a beauty! But its beach is known for driftwood and pebbles. For a good night's sleep make sure to bring a quality sleeping pad!
- Otter Island is a Special Preservation area in Pukaskwa. Visitor access is prohibited.

Cascade Creek



Campsite(s): CC1, CC2

This gorgeous, large site features a large sandy beach and awesome sunset views. It is a great site for larger groups and is a great base camp for those who wish to paddle around Otter Island.

Shared site amenities:

None, beach camping, shared location.

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

- Otter Island.
- Old Daves Harbour.
- Otter Island Lighthouse.
- Lighthouse Keeper's and assistant's house.

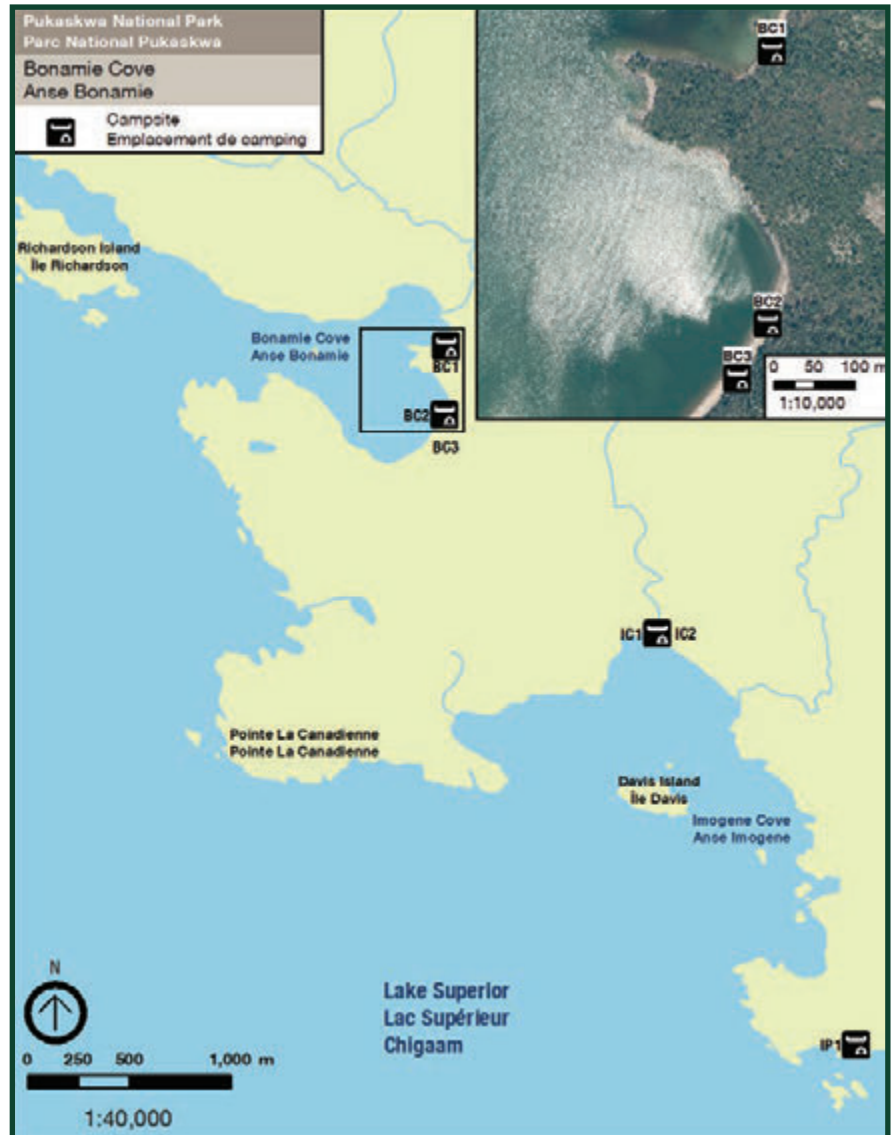
Distances:

- To Cascade Falls: 3 km
- To Bonamie Cove: 31.5 km

Insiders' tip:

- Otter Island is a Special Preservation area in Pukaskwa. Visitor access is prohibited.

Bonamie Cove



Campsite(s): BC1, BC2, BC3

This cove is a 'good friend' to many paddlers! Enjoy this protected site by digging your feet into the warm sandy beach and gazing at the awe-inspiring views.

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, beach camping, shared location.

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

- Possible open water paddling.
- Rocky Shoreline.
- Richardson Island.
- Tug Harbour.

Distances:

- To Cascade Creek: 31.5 km
- To Imogene Cove: 7 km

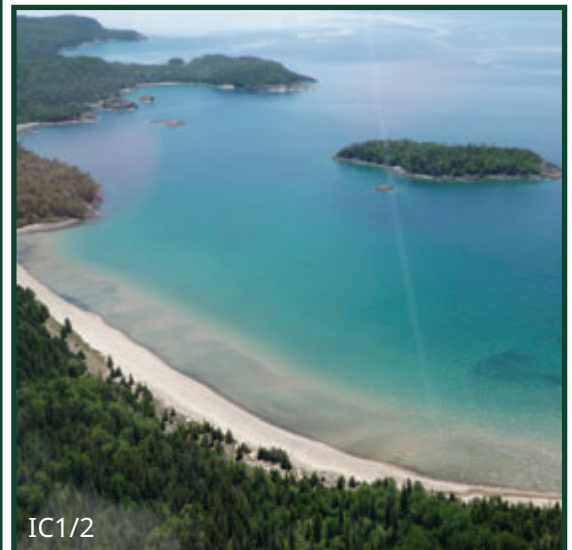
Insiders' tips:

- Pointe La Canadienne is just south of Bonamie Cove - be careful in this area, it is known for reflection waves. Remember, safety first, itinerary second - if it's not safe to leave your campsite, stay another night!

Imogene Cove



IC1/2



IC1/2

Campsite(s): IC1, IC2

Until the 1930s, Imogene Cove was home to the Pukaskwa Depot, a logging community of over 300 people. Campsites at this location can be found at the cove's sandy, northern side. Camping is not permitted at the former town site.

Shared site amenities:

Pit privy, beach camping, shared location.

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

- Pointe La Canadienne - Reflection wave danger.
- Davis Island.

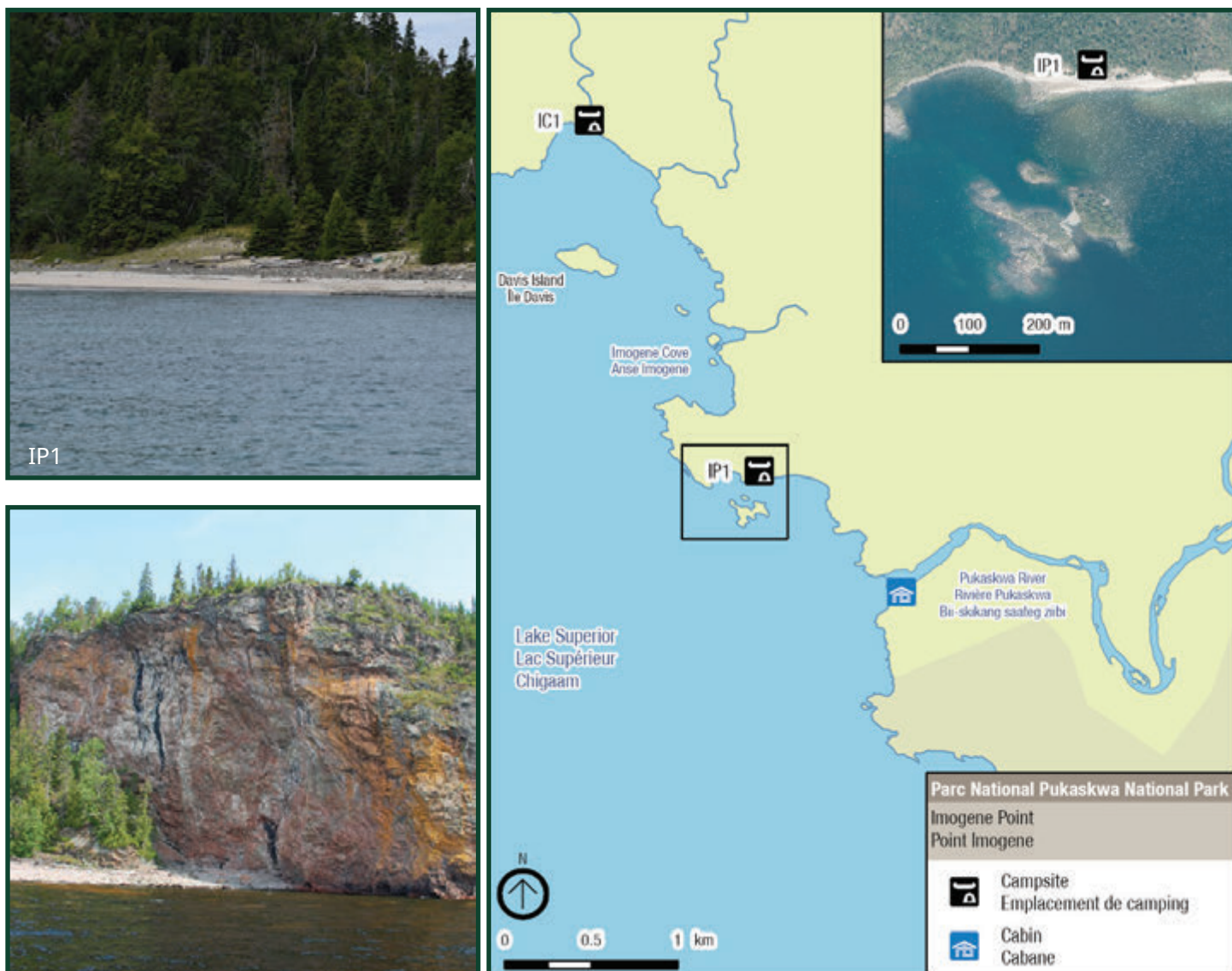
Distances:

- To Bonamie Cove: 7 km
- To Imogene Point: 3 km

Insiders' tip:

- Be more bear aware at Imogene Cove. The old depot town site is now a large open area, perfect for bears who love digging for grubs and eating grass!

Imogene Point



Campsite(s): IP1

Private sandy beach with breathtaking southwest views - a great place to take a break and explore the mouth of the Pukaskwa River.

Shared site amenities:

None, beach camping, shared location.

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

- Imogene Point.
- Possible open water areas.

Distances:

- To Imogene Cove: 3 km

Insiders' tip:

- The cool breeze from Lake Superior can be deceiving, always wear sunscreen and a hat even on cloudy, foggy days.
- There is a cabin located at the mouth of the Pukaskwa River - it is private property. Visitor access is prohibited.

Boat shuttle information

Boat shuttle services down the coast are operated by private businesses who have business licence agreements with the park. These businesses set their own schedules, policies and fees. 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, and it is common for boat shuttles to be cancelled in September and October. Visitors are encouraged have a backup plan ready should their boat shuttle be cancelled due to weather conditions. Kiosk staff can help visitors rearrange their paddling routes but options may be limited and are subject to availability.

Interested in scheduling a boat shuttle for your backcountry adventure? Visit our Business Licence webpage or contact Park staff at 807-229-0801 or pukaskwaont@pc.gc.ca for an up-to-date list of shuttle providers operating in the Park.



Paddling guides

Paddle guide services down the coast are offered by private businesses who have business licence agreements with the park. These businesses set their own schedules, policies and fees, offering one or more guided experiences to visitors throughout the season. It is important to note that not all paddle guides offer the same services (i.e. some guides provide meals or sea-kayak rentals for their clients, while others do not.)

Interested in paddling Pukaskwa's coast alongside an experienced guide? Visit our Business Licence webpage or contact Park staff at 807-229-0801 or pukaskwaont@pc.gc.ca for an up-to-date list of paddle guides operating in the Park.



Ready to book? Here's how...

1. Schedule a boat shuttle or paddling guide (optional):

If you need a boat shuttle or are looking to paddle with an experienced guide, contact the provider(s) listed on the Business Licence webpage 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 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 our Fees webpage.

5. Go! Let your adventure begin!



Coastal Paddling Route distance chart

Coastal Paddling Route (approximately)	Hattie Cove	Picture Rock Harbour North PRH2	White River Portage WRP1	White River Interior WRI1, WRI2	Willow River WR4, WR5	Oiseau Bay North OBN1, OBN2	Nicols Cove NC1, NC2
Hattie Cove		10 km	11 km	15 km	17 km	35 km	42 km
Picture Rock Harbour North PRH2	10 km		1 km	5 km	7 km	25 km	32 km
White River Portage WRP1	11 km	1 km		4 km	6 km	24 km	31 km
White River Interior WRI1, WRI2	15 km	5 km	4 km		10 km	28 km	35 km
Willow River WR4, WR5	17 km	7 km	6 km	10 km		18 km	25 km
Oiseau Bay North OBN1, OBN2	35 km	25 km	24 km	28 km	18 km		7 km
Nicols Cove NC1, NC2	42 km	32 km	31 km	35 km	25 km	7 km	
Fishermans Cove North FCN1, FCN2	45 km	35 km	34 km	38 km	28 km	10 km	3 km
White Spruce Harbour North WSHN1, WSHN2	55 km	45 km	44 km	48 km	38 km	20 km	13 km
North Swallow NS2, NS3	70 km	60 km	59 km	63 km	53 km	35 km	28 km
Trappers Harbour TH1, TH2	77 km	67 km	66 km	70 km	60 km	42 km	35 km
Cascade Falls CF1, CF2	87 km	77 km	76 km	80 km	70 km	52 km	45 km
Cascade Creek CC1, CC2	90 km	80 km	79 km	83 km	73 km	55 km	48 km
Bonamie Cove BC1, BC2, BC3	121.5 km	111.5 km	110.5 km	114.5 km	104.5 km	86.5 km	79.5 km
Imogene Cove IC1, IC2	128.5 km	118.5 km	117.5 km	121.5 km	111.5 km	93.5 km	86.5 km

Fishermans Cove North FCN1, FCN2	White Spruce Harbour North WSHN1, WSHN2	North Swallow NS2, NS3	Trappers Harbour TH1, TH2	Cascade Falls CF1, CF2	Cascade Creek CC1, CC2	Bonamie Cove BC1, BC2, BC3	Imogene Cove IC1, IC2	Imogene Point IP1
45 km	55 km	70 km	77 km	87 km	90 km	121.5 km	128.5 km	131.5 km
35 km	45 km	60 km	67 km	77 km	80 km	111.5 km	118.5 km	121.5 km
34 km	44 km	59 km	66 km	76 km	79 km	110.5 km	117.5 km	120.5 km
38 km	48 km	63 km	70 km	80 km	83 km	114.5 km	121.5 km	124.5 km
28 km	38 km	53 km	60 km	70 km	73 km	104.5 km	111.5 km	114.5 km
10 km	20 km	35 km	42 km	52 km	55 km	86.5 km	93.5 km	96.5 km
3 km	13 km	28 km	35 km	45 km	48 km	79.5 km	86.5 km	89.5 km
	10 km	25 km	32 km	42 km	45 km	76.5 km	83.5 km	86.5 km
10 km		15 km	22 km	32 km	35 km	66.5 km	73.5 km	76.5 km
25 km	15 km		7 km	17 km	20 km	51.5 km	58.5 km	61.5 km
32 km	22 km	7 km		10 km	13 km	44.5 km	51.5 km	54.5 km
42 km	32 km	17 km	10 km		3 km	34.5 km	41.5 km	44.5 km
45 km	35 km	20 km	13 km	3 km		31.5 km	38.5 km	41.5 km
76.5 km	66.5 km	51.5 km	44.5 km	34.5 km	31.5 km		7 km	10 km
83.5 km	73.5 km	58.5 km	51.5 km	41.5 km	38.5 km	7 km		3 km



Send us your comments, photos and stories!
#pukaskwanationalpark

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www.facebook.com/PukaskwaNP



www.instagram.com/parks.canada/



Updated in 05/2026
Aussi disponible en français.