

Visitor guide



Welcome! Boozhoo!

What is now Pukaskwa National Park lies on the traditional territory of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg and Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg. It also falls within the Robinson-Superior Treaty Area and has been travelled for thousands of years by Indigenous peoples of the North Shore of Lake Superior. We recognize and honour the historic and ongoing connections of Indigenous peoples to these lands and waters.

Culture, tradition, language

Meet Garland Moses - Elder, Knowledge Keeper and highly respected member of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg. When asked to share a few words with visitors, Garland was quick to highlight how important it is to “grab onto and live your culture,” and fill your spirit as often as you can. For him, this looks like spending time in the bush, in prayer and taking time to ponder and appreciate the small things in life. Sitting in the Visitor Centre, he shared many stories of how Creator has shown up in his life, by gifting him the ability to speak Ojibway in ceremony despite his struggle to speak it in his everyday life, for example. When he was younger, Garland and his shomis (grandfather) used to paddle the Pic River and walk into what is now known as Pukaskwa National Park to hunt, fish, and spend time on the land. By continuing to visit Bimose Kinoomagewnan and the places he calls home, Garland continues to refill his spirit when it's needed most. If there is one thing Garland would like Pukaskwa visitors to take away, it is this:

“Culture, tradition, language. Don't just talk about it, live it.”



Photo: Garland (right) and his wife, Rose (left).

Cultural resources

Parks Canada protects many types of cultural resources including stone projectile points and ceramic fragments that have been found in the park. If you find what you believe to be an archaeological object (artifact) during your visit to Pukaskwa, please:

- **Do not touch or disturb it.** Regardless of the object's size, moving it may harm it.
- **Record the object's location.** Be as detailed as possible and use GPS coordinates if you can. The exact location an artifact is found can help uncover its story.
- **Take photos.** Photos help start the evaluation process and will help re-locate the object.
- **Report what you found to Park Staff.** Send a detailed email to pukaskwaont@pc.gc.ca.



Photo: A ceramic fragment found in Pukaskwa from the terminal woodland period (AD 700-1650).

Anishinaabe camp

Handcrafted by local Knowledge Keepers, the Anishinaabe Camp is nestled in a protected cove, surrounded by clear water and lush forest. It is a meeting place to remember and honour Anishinaabe culture, history and stories. Built for both local communities and visitors alike, *bbaawijiwshinaang* (join us) for special events, programs or to simply enjoy the space.



Photo: Pukaskwa summer student, Clifford, delivering his 'Regalia Program' at the Anishinaabe Camp.

Things to know while visiting the park

BARE Campsite program

A special effort is being made by both Park Staff and campers to ensure that wildlife attractants are never left unattended at any sites in this campground. To aid these efforts, please make sure you:

- Store all food and food-related items in a hard-sided vehicle or food storage locker when not in use.
- Never leave food or food-related items unattended.
- Clean and store your barbecue in a hard-sided vehicle when not in use, if possible.

This policy applies whenever you are sleeping or when your site is unattended for any length of time.



Accessible campsites

When possible, please leave campsites 3 and 5 in the South Loop empty for those who require an accessible site.

Dumping station

A trailer dumping station is located near the Administration Building for registered overnight visitors. The trailer dumping station does not accept chemically treated waste.

Potable water

Park water is tested regularly. For RVs, a water fill-up station is located at the South Loop Comfort Station. For water bottles, a fill station is available at each comfort station.

Firewood

Can be purchased at the Kiosk or campground host site. To avoid the risk of introducing harmful invasive species to Pukaskwa, please only use firewood obtained within an 80 km radius of the park. Reusable firewood bags can be purchased at the Kiosk.

Laundry

Located at the South Loop Comfort Station. Change for laundry is available at the Kiosk and the Visitor Centre.

Garbage & recycling

Located at the comfort stations. Ensure all containers are washed thoroughly to reduce the potential of attracting wildlife. Paper, plastics, glass, and metal cans are accepted for recycling.

Campground host

Located at campsite 6, campground hosts are friendly, experienced campers who volunteer in the park to make your trip more enjoyable. From 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., they sell firewood, answer questions and can call for emergency assistance.



Visitor Centre & Park Store

Located next to Hattie Cove, the Visitor Centre offers refuge from the elements, 24-hour WiFi and a place to buy all things Pukaskwa. Pop in and chat with our friendly and knowledgeable staff!

Canoe & sit-on-top kayaks

Canoes and sit-on-top kayaks are available for rental at the Visitor Centre for use in Hattie Cove.

Xplorer booklets

For children ages 6-11, Xplorer booklets provide a great way to find adventure and learn about Pukaskwa National Park. Bring your completed booklet to the Visitor Centre to receive a cool collectible!

Supplies & nearby communities

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg is the nearest community to the park. It has two convenience stores and a gas station that can serve you. The Town of Marathon is the closest full-service community, located approximately 25 km from the park.

Show off your rugged adventure!

Did you complete the 18 km hike to the White River Suspension Bridge? Drop by the Kiosk or Visitor Centre to pick up your reward sticker!



Show off your rugged adventure!

Did you complete the **entire** Coastal Hiking Trail or Paddling Route? Drop by the Kiosk or Visitor Centre to pick up your reward patch!

Species at risk conservation

Did you know that Pukaskwa National Park provides habitat for over 27 species at risk? Species at risk are plants, animals and fungi that are at risk of becoming extinct in Canada due to loss of habitat, climate change, or other factors that limit population stability or growth. National Parks and other protected areas provide important refuge for these species to survive and thrive. As a world leader in conservation, Parks Canada uses a multi-species approach to develop a strategy for Pukaskwa National Park. We collaborate with partners and focus our efforts on making a tangible contribution to the recovery of species at risk, and building Canadians' awareness, appreciation, and support for species at risk conservation. **Interested in exploring species at risk conservation efforts during your visit to Pukaskwa?** Check out the acoustic bat recording station on Bimose Kinoomagewnan, the Pitcher's Thistle information panel on Middle Beach and the wildlife exhibits in the Visitor Centre!



Photo: Parks Canada Ecology Team assembling a bat microphone.

Citizen science

#Coastie

The Coastie initiative is a citizen science program led by the University of Windsor in collaboration with Parks Canada. It uses photos taken at participating locations to monitor coastal change in Canada over time. Visit our Coastie stations at Horseshoe Bay and Middle Beach or coastiecanada.ca to learn more!

iNaturalist

The chance to observe wildlife as they go about their natural lives is one of the most fascinating experiences that Pukaskwa has to offer. Record your plant and wildlife observations alongside experts and other park visitors using the iNaturalist app - every observation can contribute to biodiversity science! Visit inaturalist.org for more information.

Looking for additional ways to participate in citizen science nationwide?
Scan the QR code!



Photo: #Coastie taken at Horseshoe Bay on June 1, 2024.



Photo: Encrusted saxifrage photographed on Southern Headland Trail.

How was your visit?

We want to know! Help us serve you better by filling out a comment card. They can be found at the Kiosk, Visitor Centre or at one of the comfort stations.

Rules and regulations



Federal, provincial and municipal laws apply while on lands and waters administered by Parks Canada. Rules and regulations are in place to protect the ecological and commemorative integrity of Pukaskwa National Park, and to ensure the enjoyment of all visitors. Contravention of laws or Pukaskwa National Park rules may result in fines and/or your removal from the park. **These rules do not alter or diminish any Indigenous or Treaty Rights.**

While visiting the park, it is prohibited to:

- Collect or disturb berries, bark, plants, trees, driftwood, animals, rocks, shells, artifacts, archaeological objects, or cultural features.
- Fish without a valid Ontario fishing license. Anglers must follow all applicable Ontario fishing regulations for Zone 7 and 9, including no use of live baitfish in Zone 7. Barbless hooks, lead-free weights and artificial lures are encouraged everywhere.
- Possess or use firewood that has not been sourced from within an 80 km radius of the park.
- Possess or release exotic species into the park.
- Consume alcohol or cannabis outside of your campsite.
- Drive or park in non-designated areas.
- Use recreational vehicles (i.e. ATVs, jet skis, over-snow vehicles).
- Use motorized vessels in Hattie Cove beyond the Visitor Centre, or in Halfway Lake.
- Use speeds excessive enough to cause a wake while navigating Hattie Cove or the White River by boat.
- Store boats along Hattie Cove shoreline or other shorelines along the Lake Superior coast within the park.
- Moor overnight without a permit in Hattie Cove, unless for safe harbour purposes.
- Disrupt, obstruct, divert or pollute any watercourse in the park.
- Use a drone for filming/recreational purposes without a permit.
- Film and/or take photographs for commercial purposes without a permit.
- Host large-scale and small-scale events in the park without a permit.
- Possess or use firearms or fireworks.
- Allow a pet off-leash, leave a pet unattended on a campsite, or not clean up pet waste.
- Dump dirty dishwater anywhere in the campground except for the comfort station dish sinks.
- Create excessive noise at any time of the day and during quiet hours – 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- Start a fire outside of metal fire boxes or firepits provided.
- Go off-trail or fail to use established hiking/walking trails and roadways.

- Bicycle on hiking trails or anywhere except roadways.
- Use park facilities, like potable water or dumping stations, when not registered to a campsite.
- Store food or gear long-term (greater than registered stay) in food lockers.
- Block access to any park facility, including garbage sheds and food storage lockers.
- Access any "Zone 1 - Preservation Areas" including those in proximity to Middle Beach, Otter Island, Oiseau Bay and all petroform sites.

While visiting overnight camping areas, it is prohibited to:







- Camp in non-designated areas, such as parking areas or the canoe launch.
- Have more than 2 shelters and 6 people per campsite in the frontcountry and more than 6 people per campsite in the backcountry.
- Register for a campsite under the age of 18 and to leave any persons under the age of 18 unsupervised at said campsite.
- Stay at the same campsite longer than 13 nights, 14 days.
- Leave food, garbage or wildlife attractants out when you are away from your campsite for any length of time.
- Leave a fire unattended while away from a campsite for any length of time.
- Not register for overnight backcountry excursions.
- Leave food wrappers, beverage containers or other waste onsite following your departure. All campsites are "Pack In, Pack Out," whereby all garbage brought into the site must be brought out on your person.

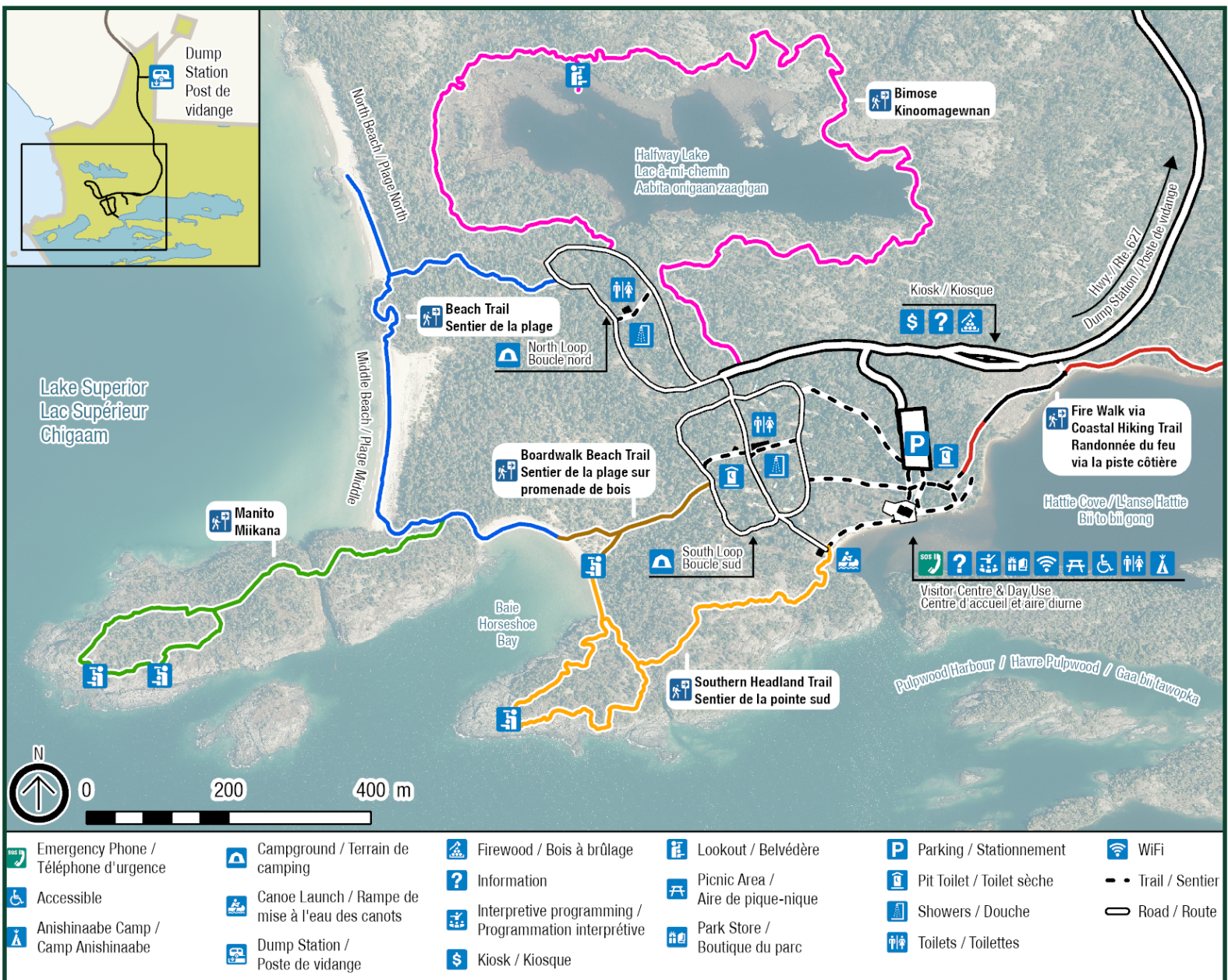






















EMERGENCIES

For emergencies, bear sightings, maintenance issues or campground disturbances, contact Park Staff, the campground host or call the Parks Canada dispatch service at: **1-877-852-3100 or 1-780-852-3100**. An emergency telephone can be found at the Visitor Centre facing the water, and an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) can be found at the South Loop Comfort Station facing the road.



Frontcountry trail information

Trail name	Difficulty	Distance / time	Description
 Southern Headland Trail	Moderate	2.2 km, 1 hour 15 min	Bare rock and uneven natural surfaces with built stairs. Slippery when wet. Minimal signage, wayfinding skills recommended. Hiking boots and poles recommended. Linear trail.
 Boardwalk Beach Trail	Easy	1.2 km, 30 min	Wheelchair accessible. Packed gravel and boardwalk surfaces. Linear trail.
 Beach Trail	Moderate	2 km, 1 hour	Uneven natural surfaces. Frequent sandy sections and driftwood obstacles. Minimal signage, wayfinding skills recommended. Linear trail.
 Manito Miikana (Man-ih-to Mee-kan-ah)	Moderate	2 km, 1 hour	Uneven natural surfaces. Frequent tree roots. Muddy and slippery when wet. Minimal signage, wayfinding skills recommended. Hiking boots and poles recommended. Looped trail.
 Bimose Kinoomagewan (Bim-moh-say Kin-oh-mah-geh-wa-nun)	Moderate	3.7 km, 2 hours	Bare rock and uneven natural surfaces with built stairs. Frequent tree roots. Muddy and slippery when wet. Minimal signage, wayfinding skills necessary. Hiking boots and poles recommended. Looped trail.
 Fire Walk via the Coastal Hiking Trail	Easy	0.7 km, 20 min	Packed and stable natural surface. Some tree roots. Linear trail.



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|  Emergency Phone /
Téléphone d'urgence |  Campground / Terrain de
camping |  Firewood / Bois à brûlage |  Lookout / Belvédère |  Parking / Stationnement |  WiFi |
|  Accessible |  Canoe Launch / Rampe de
mise à l'eau des canots |  Information |  Picnic Area /
Aire de pique-nique |  Pit Toilet / Toilet sèche |  - - - Trail / Sentier |
|  Anishinaabe Camp /
Camp Anishinaabe |  Dump Station /
Poste de vidange |  Interpretive programming /
Programmation interprétive |  Park Store /
Boutique du parc |  Showers / Douche |  = = = Road / Route |
| | |  Kiosk / Kiosque | |  Toilets / Toilettes | |

Backcountry trail information

Trail name	Difficulty	Distance / time	Description
 White River Suspension Bridge via the Coastal Hiking Trail	Difficult	18 km return, 6 to 8 hours	Uneven natural surfaces with some bare rock and built stairs. 15m elevation gain/loss. Slippery and muddy when wet. Minimal signage, wayfinding skills recommended. Hiking boots and poles recommended. Linear trail. Prepare for a full day of hiking.
 Mdaabii Miikna via the Coastal Hiking Trail	Difficult	24 km return	Not recommended as a day hike , terrain is significantly more challenging than White River Suspension Bridge hike. Categorized as a multi-day backpacking trail.

