

Voyageurs National Park

National Park Service
Department of the Interior



Scenic Resources



Voyageurs National Park has all the wildness and scenic grandeur associated with the northern Great Lakes region. It is a seemingly endless system of waterways ranging from narrows less than 100 feet wide to lakes several miles across, dotted with islands, and accented with rock points and promontories. The forest mantle of the Kabetogama Peninsula consists of dense stands of spruce, fir, pine, cedar, aspen, and birch, broken occasionally by beaver ponds, streams, bogs, sand beaches, and rocky cliffs and knolls. The outstanding

scenic land and water environment witnessed by the early voyageurs and experienced by contemporary travelers is commemorated in the legislation creating the park, “. . . to preserve . . . the outstanding scenery.”

The sensory splendor of the far north extends beyond the visual – it is the call of the loon that resonates in the traveler’s soul. For the camper, it is the howl of the wolves on a clear, clam night beneath the full moon. And for the canoeist on a still evening, it is the slap of the beaver tail on lake waters giving warning to intruders. And early vacationers to the north woods thought that the scent of pine and balsam fir held healing powers for the body, mind, and soul.



The seasonal display and metamorphosis of flora and fauna indelibly leave their mark on the traveler. Summertime heat and refreshing lake water envelop the lake/forest interface in a blue/green colorama. Vacationers revel in the tantalizing taste of blueberries during mid- summer excursions.

Autumnal colors dynamically paint the landscape into a portrait of brilliant reds and yellows and muted tans and browns. Winter blankets the ancient landscape with a sea of white. Snow cover lays down a white road into the innermost haunts of the park. Spring replenishes the waters and begins the cycle again

Voyageurs National Park awaits the intrepid traveler . . . the reflection of northern lights on the lake waters portends a mystical visit into one of this country’s greatest natural wonders.

Scenic Highlights

- kaleidoscope of water, rock, and forest
- long vistas
- hundreds of small scenic islands
- broad glistening winter landscapes
- northern lights
- diverse wildflowers, lichens, and other plants
- soaring eagles
- moose
- eastern timber wolf
- sheer cliffs
- rocky shorelines
- brilliant sunsets