

Montreal River to Sault Ste. Marie Lake Superior Sea Kayaking Expedition

Fast Facts

Description:	Fully guided and partially outfitted sea kayak trip – six days kayaking, one night lodge accommodations, six nights camping, transportation (drop-off and pick-up), half-day group skills workshop
Skill Level:	Intermediate to advanced paddling skills and backcountry camping experience.
Pace:	Moderate to occasionally demanding
Minimum Age:	18
Trip Distance	120 kilometres (average paddling speed approximately 4.5 to 6 km/hr)
Food:	Prepared for you using locally produced, non-processed, healthy ingredients
Trip Dates:	Saturday August 11, 1 pm to Saturday August 18, 3 pm, 2012
Cost:	\$1,780 including taxes. See special pricing for multiple sections
Includes:	Professional Guiding and group outfitting, all shuttles, meals. (Sea kayaks and tents extra).

Trip Overview



The old fur trade route along the this coastline from Montreal River to Sault Ste. Marie makes up the seventh and final leg of the Lake Superior Sea Kayak Pageant. You can sign up for this trip only or take advantage of special rates by combining it with other legs of our series of trips along the entire Canadian shore.

Launching from Montreal River, we will follow the coastline south, past a mixture of cobblestone beaches, cliffs and conglomerate sea caves. Portions of the coastline are protected by provincial parks and wilderness areas. The region is rarely visited by sea kayak and remains much the same as it was 200 years ago when voyageurs paddled our same route by 36-foot Montreal canoe.

We will camp at beautiful gravel beaches, most of which are adorned by chattering brooks and occasionally frequented by wildlife such as moose, wolf and bald eagle. At Alona Bay sheer, slate-gray granite cliffs connect the water to the sky. From here, we make the transition into the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence forest-type, which is characterized by the sweeping branches of 30-metre-tall white pines and more deciduous tree species.

Approaching Sault Ste. Marie, we cross three large bays—Pancake, Batchawana and Goulais—and spend our last night camped beneath the cliffs of Gros Cap. We then join Lake Superior's only outflowing river, the St. Mary's, and make our way into the city of Sault Ste. Marie via the historic Sault Canal. Paddling through the 150-year-old locks is a highlight of the trip. We end the trip and our sea kayak pageant along Lake Superior's Canadian shore on the waterfront of Sault Ste. Marie.

Daily paddling distances range from 12 to 26 kilometres (average 19 km) with a full 'no paddling day' included to accommodate rough weather or a more relaxed or exploratory group pace. Although time is built in for rough conditions, it is a trip for paddlers in good condition with previous paddling and wilderness camping experience.

The lake is mostly calm in summer, but when it gets rough we enjoy the view from shore. Although each group will travel at its own pace, we tend to spend most of the day on the water leaving lots of time for "covering the distance" and exploring the coast.

You will be responsible for carrying a portion of the group gear in your kayak, as well as your tent, sleeping bag and personal gear. Don't worry about cooking or clean-up – all food preparation is taken care of by our "wilderness chefs"!



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Trip Itinerary

The following is a typical trip itinerary which provides for one to two wind days so actual campsites may differ significantly. *Rough conditions on Lake Superior can prohibit safe boat travel and delay trip start and finish.*

The trip begins with a half-day group sea kayak skills and safety workshop. Lodge accommodations are provided on Saturday night on a first-come, first served basis. Sign up early if you'd like to stay on Lake Superior!

Day	Activity/Campsite	Approx. Distance	Sights
Saturday	Arrive and Rock Island Lodge. Group Kayak Skills/Safety Session, Trip Prep & Whitefish BBQ	N/A	Michipicoten River, Government Dock Beach, Lake Superior's Michipicoten Bay
Sunday	Vehicle shuttle to Montreal River. Paddle from Montreal River to Alona Bay.	15 km	Cobblestone beaches and sheer cliffs, bald eagle nesting sites
Monday	Alona Bay to Mica Bay	15 km	Cliffs and white pine beaches at Cozen's Cove and Mica Bay
Tuesday	Mica Bay to Sawpit Bay	20 km	Conglomerate volcanic (basalt)-metamorphic (granite) cliffs and sea caves, active commercial fishery
Wednesday	Sawpit Bay to Batchawana Point	17 km	Pancake Bay
Thursday	Batchawana Point to Goulais Point	16 km	Sandy Islands, open water crossings
Friday	Goulais Point to Gros Cap	12 km	North Gros Cap cliffs
Saturday	Gros Cap to Sault Ste. Marie	26 km	Canadian Sault Locks and Sault Ste. Marie waterfront

About the Lake Superior Sea Kayak Pageant

The Lake Superior Sea Kayak Pageant evolved from the question "why don't we combine all of our wilderness trips to cover the entire North Shore?" In the spirit of Naturally Superior Adventures' wilderness trips, this adventure doesn't bite off more than it can chew. We've allotted plenty of time to enjoy the experience. Do not be intimidated by the thought of stepping on the toes of "thru paddlers" taking on the entire trip. It isn't a competition. It's designed to be all about celebrating a world class paddling destination in the company of like-minded (soon-to-be) friends. Sign up for the vacation of your dreams and we promise to exceed your expectations.

Equipment and Services

We Provide: Professional instruction and guiding; Accommodations (B&B and/or camping and all meal from Saturday to the following Saturday afternoon; vehicle shuttles; all group safety, camping, cooking, eating and sanitation gear.

You Provide: Fully outfitted expedition sea kayak (minimum 16.5 feet in length with two sealed bulkheads – rudder or skeg are recommended), tent, sleeping bag and pad and all personal equipment and clothing. A detailed recommended list is provided on registration.

Outfitting: We have expedition outfitted sea kayaks (\$20 day) and tents (\$5 day) available at reduced rates for trip guests who prefer to use our equipment.

Celebrate the completion of the Lake Superior Sea Kayak Pageant by joining Naturally Superior Adventures on this amazing wilderness sea kayaking adventure.

