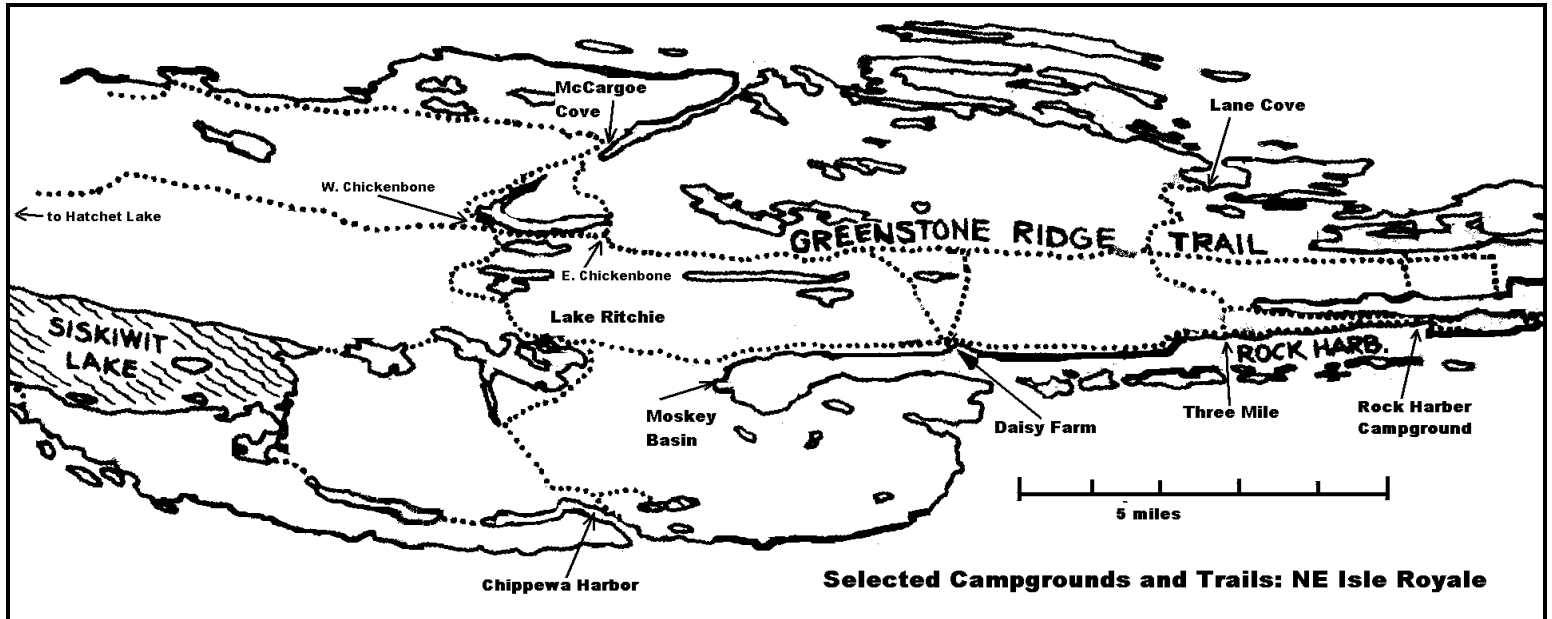


# Trails and Hiking Routes: Northeast Isle Royale

By Captain Ben Kilpela, © Bennett W. Kilpela, 2011

*A brief guide to hiking the northeast end of Isle Royale National Park.*



Consult these sources for photos, trip information, links and official information:

Isle Royale Queen IV Web Site: [www.isleroyale.com](http://www.isleroyale.com)

The NPS Isle Royale National Park Web Site: [www.nps.gov/isro/](http://www.nps.gov/isro/)

## Selected TRAIL SUMMARIES

My subjective difficulty scale: *1 = easy with a 40-pound pack, 5 = tough with a 40-pound pack*. For more information on trails and campgrounds, consult the latest official Isle Royale National Park camping brochures, National Geographic's Isle Royale Topographic map, the Isle Royale Queen IV Offices, and rangers at the Isle Royale National Park Headquarters and Rock Harbor Information Center.

**Ben's opinion on hiking the Greenstone Ridge Trail:** I strongly recommend a loop route on the northeast trails, especially for first-time visitors. Many visitors think they will "miss" Isle Royale if they don't hike the entire Greenstone Ridge from Rock Harbor to Windigo. One of suggested loop routes will be at least as good as the Greenstone Ridge Trail, if not better in most cases. All trails have abundant possibilities for wildlife viewing.

TRAIL	APPROX. MILEAGE	NOTES	DIFFICULTY
Rock Harbor to Daisy Farm	7	Nice trail - roots and rocks - runs close to harborside - moose often seen	2
Daisy Farm to Moskey Basin	4	A bit higher up the ridge than Rock to Daisy - roots and rocks - wildlife	3
Moskey Basin to Lake Ritchie	2	Wide, flat trail - beautiful, forested path - good shore fishing at Ritchie	1
Lake Ritchie to Chippewa Harbor	4	Up and down gently sloping ridges - through deep forests - shore fishing at some locations	3
Tobin Harbor Trail (Rock Harbor to Three Mile)	3	Very fine trail - through dense forests and along the harbor all the way - moose seen	2
Three Mile to Mount Franklin	2	Winds up the Greenstone Ridge through open forests - across swamps - great views at top - moose seen	3
Mt Franklin to Chickenbone Lake (Greenstone Ridge Trail)	7	Many rock outcroppings - rocky open places - up and down ridges - tends up to Ojibway, down to Chickenbone - ridge-top views - hot at times - great views, especially from Ojibway and its fire tower	3
Mount Franklin to Lane Cove	4	Diverse trail from ridge top to Lake Superior on Isle Royale's north coast - through broad swamps - one steep, high ridge - 2 difficulty going north, 4 difficulty going south	3
Chickenbone Lake area to McCargoe Cove	3	Lovely trails near water and through dense forests - more difficult going south and up the north sides of ridges - many shore fishing possibilities	2
Lake Ritchie to Lake LeSage, Lake Livermore, and other lakes	4	A series of lovely trails going up gently sloping ridges - through broad swamps - along lakes - shore fishing at many locations - occasional moose	2
Chickenbone Lake area to Hatchet Lake (Greenstone Ridge Trail)	7	Open ridge tops - rock outcroppings - trail winds up and down ridges - some steep - hot at times - one section of trail is a steep switchback	3
McCargoe Cove to Todd Harbor	7	From lakeside to ridge-tops - up and down ridges - many rock outcroppings - through some dense forests - nice views along ridge	3

## SUGGESTED TRAIL LOOPS, Isle Royale's Northeast Trails

There are many more loop routes. Follow one of these exactly or use them to get ideas for your route. Consult with the latest official Isle Royale brochures and the rangers at the Rock Harbor Information Center for current and official information on campgrounds, trail conditions, hiking routes, fishing, wildlife, restrictions, and regulations.

### Length of stay: 3 Days 2 Nights (Distances in Miles)

1 <sup>st</sup> Camp + distance from Rock Harbor	2 <sup>nd</sup> Camp + distance from last camp	Return distance to Rock Harbor	Total Hike
Three Mile 2.7	Daisy Farm 4.4	7.1	14.2
Daisy Farm 7.1	Lane Cove 7.2	6.9	21.2
Daisy Farm 7.1	Moskey 3.9	11.0	22.0
Moskey 11.0	McCargoe 8.6	15.4	35.0

### Length of stay: 4 Days 3 Nights (Distances in Miles)

1 <sup>st</sup> Camp + distance from Rock Harbor	2 <sup>nd</sup> Camp + distance from last camp	3 <sup>rd</sup> Camp + distance from last camp	Return distance to Rock Harbor	Total Hike
3 Mile 2.7	Daisy 4.4	Lane Cove 7.2	6.9	18.2
3 Mile 2.7	Moskey 8.3	Daisy 3.9	7.1	22.0
Lane Cove 6.9	Moskey 11.1	3 Mile 8.3	2.7	28.0
Daisy Farm 7.1	Chippewa 9.7	Moskey 6.2	11.0	34.0
Moskey 11.0	McCargoe 8.6	Lane Cove 13.3	6.9	39.8
Lane Cove 6.9	McCargoe 13.3	Hatchet Lake 10.5	22.5	51.2

### Length of stay: 5 Days 4 Nights (Distances in Miles)

1 <sup>st</sup> Camp + distance from Rock Harbor	2 <sup>nd</sup> Camp + distance from last camp	3 <sup>rd</sup> Camp + distance from last camp	4 <sup>th</sup> Camp + distance from last camp	Return distance to Rock Harbor	Total Hike
Three Mile 2.7	Lane Cove 4.6	Daisy Farm 7.2	Three Mile 4.4	2.7	21.6
Daisy Farm 7.1	Chickenbone 7.9	Chippewa 7.9	Moskey 6.2	11.0	40.1
Lane Cove 6.9	Moskey 11.1	McCargoe 8.6	Daisy Farm 8.2	7.1	41.9
Daisy Farm 7.1	McCargoe 8.2	Chippewa 10.6	Moskey 6.2	11.0	43.1
Moskey 11.0	Chippewa 6.2	Hatchet Lake 15.2	Daisy Farm 15.4	7.1	54.9
Lane Cove 6.9	Chippewa 17.1	Todd Harbor 17.3	Daisy Farm 14.9	7.1	63.3

Isle Royale Trail Mileages	Chicken E.	Chicken W.	Chippewa	Daisy Farm	Desor North	Desor South	Feldtmann Hatchet Lake	Huginnin	Island Mine	Lake Richie	Lane Cove	Little Todd	Malone Bay	McCargoe	Moskey	Rock Harbor	Siskiwit Bay	Three-Mile Todd Harbor	Wash. Creek	Windigo		
Chickenbone East		1.8	9.3	6.1	19.9	16.4	35.8	9.3	33.3	21.3	5.0	11.2	15.4	19.6	2.1	7.8	13.3	25.7	10.5	8.7	27.1	27.4
Chickenbone West	1.8		7.9	7.9	20.5	15.0	34.4	7.9	30.9	19.9	3.6	13.0	16.0	18.2	2.7	6.4	15.1	24.3	12.3	9.3	25.7	26.0
Chippewa Harbor	9.3	7.9		9.7	28.4	22.5	42.9	15.2	40.7	27.2	4.3	17.1	23.9	25.7	10.6	6.2	16.8	31.8	14.1	17.3	23.2	23.5
Daisy Farm	6.1	7.9	9.7		26.0	22.5	41.9	15.4	37.3	27.4	5.7	7.2	21.5	25.7	8.2	3.9	7.1	31.8	4.4	14.9	23.2	23.5
Desor North	19.9	20.5	28.4	26.0		18.0	21.7	12.3	14.4	18.6	24.1	31.7	5.7	23.2	17.8	26.4	33.2	23.0	30.4	11.2	12.6	12.9
Desor South	16.4	15.0	22.5	22.5	18.0		20.0	8.1	14.7	5.5	18.2	27.6	15.5	10.8	18.2	20.5	22.7	9.9	27.1	11.6	11.3	11.6
Feldtmann Lake	35.8	34.4	42.9	41.9	21.7	20.0		27.3	12.8	14.6	37.6	50.0	26.4	31.2	37.7	39.9	40.1	10.2	46.5	30.9	9.1	8.8
Hatchet Lake	9.3	7.9	15.2	15.4	12.3	8.1	27.3		22.7	12.8	11.1	20.3	7.8	11.3	10.5	13.2	22.5	17.4	19.8	3.9	18.8	19.1
Huginnin Cove	33.3	30.9	40.7	37.3	14.4	14.7	12.8	22.7		10.0	37.2	42.4	19.1	24.9	26.8	38.7	46.6	14.4	41.7	24.7	4.0	4.3
Island Mine	21.3	19.9	27.2	27.4	18.6	5.5	14.6	12.8	10.0		23.1	32.5	20.4	16.7	23.1	25.4	27.6	4.4	32.0	15.5	6.6	6.9
Lake Richie	5.0	3.6	4.3	5.7	24.1	18.2	37.6	11.1	37.2	23.1		13.0	19.6	21.4	6.3	2.3	12.8	27.5	10.1	13.0	28.9	29.2
Lane Cove	11.2	13.0	17.1	7.2	31.7	27.6	50.0	20.3	42.4	32.5	13.0		36.7	30.8	22.4	11.1	6.9	39.9	4.6	29.1	38.3	38.6
Little Todd Harbor	15.4	16.0	23.9	21.5	5.7	15.5	26.4	7.8	19.1	20.4	19.6	36.7		18.7	13.3	21.9	28.7	24.8	25.9	6.7	17.3	17.6
Malone Bay	19.6	18.2	25.7	25.7	23.2	10.8	31.2	11.3	24.9	16.7	21.4	30.8	18.7		21.4	23.7	25.9	21.1	30.1	14.8	22.0	21.8
McCargoe Cove	2.1	2.7	10.6	8.2	17.8	18.2	37.7	10.5	26.8	23.1	6.3	22.4	13.3	21.4		8.6	15.4	27.5	12.6	6.6	29.4	29.7
Moskey Basin	7.8	6.4	6.2	3.9	26.4	20.5	39.9	13.2	38.7	25.4	2.3	11.1	21.9	23.7	8.6		11.0	29.8	8.3	15.3	21.2	21.5
Rock Harbor	13.3	15.1	16.8	7.1	33.2	22.7	40.1	15.4	46.6	27.6	12.8	6.9	28.7	25.9	15.4	11.0		32.0	2.7	22.1	33.4	33.7
Siskiwit Bay	25.7	24.3	31.8	31.8	23.0	9.9	10.2	17.4	14.4	4.4	27.5	39.9	24.8	21.1	27.5	29.8	32.0		36.4	19.9	11.0	11.3
Three Mile	10.5	12.3	14.1	4.4	30.4	27.1	46.5	19.8	41.7	32.0	10.1	4.6	25.9	30.1	12.6	8.3	2.7	36.4		19.3	37.8	38.1
Todd Harbor	8.7	9.3	17.3	14.9	11.2	11.6	30.9	3.9	24.7	15.5	13.0	29.1	6.7	14.8	6.6	15.3	22.1	19.9	19.3		22.9	23.2
Washington Creek	27.1	25.7	23.2	23.2	12.6	11.3	9.1	18.8	4.0	6.6	28.9	38.3	17.3	21.5	29.4	21.2	33.4	11.0	37.8	22.9		0.3
Windigo	27.4	26.0	23.5	23.5	12.9	11.6	8.8	19.1	4.3	6.9	29.2	38.6	17.6	21.8	29.7	21.5	33.7	11.3	38.1	23.2		0.3