



We are excited to share the present plan for an Apostle Islands Rendezvous from August 24-28, 2026, based out of Bayfield, WI. Bayfield is a picturesque town frequently listed in rankings of best coastal towns in the US (<https://lakelandboating.com/two-great-lakes-cities-voted-best-coastal-small-town>). Late August is the ideal time to visit the Islands, due to greatest likelihood of fair weather and lake temperatures rising to swimming-friendly levels. Kayaks and paddleboards will surely add to the fun of a trip. Home base is the East side of the Bayfield City Dock, which comfortably fits eight Rosborough245's end-to-end. **With rafting, this fixes the maximum number of boats in the shared space at sixteen.**

For those not staying on a boat, lodging accommodations are available through the Chamber of Commerce (<https://www.bayfield.org/lodging/>). Among these, very nice rooms can be just a few steps from the City Dock at the Bayfield Inn (<https://bayfieldinn.com>). For those seeking a premium Victorian B&B experience, consider the Rittenhouse Inn at <https://www.rittenhouseinn.com>.

Cost and Registration

We look forward to your attendance and encourage registration by March 1 if possible. Cost for the Rendezvous is \$350. This includes dockage, programming, a banquet for the boat captain and, if needed, boat launch and truck and trailer storage. The number of boats will be capped at 16, but there is no cap on the number of nonboating participants.

Cost per crew member or for each non-boating participant: \$80. Registration and payment will be coordinated by Bill Webster. Please contact Bill through the Rosborough Groups.IO site or Facebook group, and he will send you an acknowledgement along with two options to make payment, either Venmo or mail.

Preliminary Agenda

Leaving from Bayfield's, City Dock, numerous attractive cruising destinations accessible for day trips or overnight from Bayfield ranging from 3 miles to 25 miles each way. On Day 2 (Tuesday, August 25) we will target the jewel of the Islands: Julian Bay on Stockton Island, for an overnight cruise. (NOTE: The Bayfield dock is reserved for the entire Rendezvous, so boaters do have the option of returning to Bayfield for the night.) In case of unfavorable weather, we will shift this trip to

2026 Apostle Islands Rendezvous Preliminary Program. (Updated January 22, 2026)

Wednesday. On other days, the Rendezvous will have a flexible float plan: captains can select day trips suitable to the weather and sea conditions and their own preferences. We will hold captains' meetings at 9:00AM daily to discuss weather, routing options and exchange local knowledge.

Day 1 (Monday, August 24).

NOTE: The launch ramp is open first thing in the morning, and dock space will be available from 10 AM onwards.

Arrival/Launch/Provisioning in Bayfield, WI. Location of Boat Ramp:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/47AKVeapZhiR4DA>

4:00 PM. Gather for owner boat tours and Happy Hour on City Dock.

5:00 PM. Dinner on Balcony of Bayfield Inn.

7:00 PM. Welcome from Jeff Rennecke, Executive Director of Friends of the Apostle Islands.
Location: TBD

Day 2 (Tuesday, Aug 25).

9:00. Captain's meeting. Weather permitting, we will depart at 10:00 AM for a magical day on **Stockton Island's Julian Bay**, with Presque Isle Bay as a back-up site in case of unfavorable winds. There is much to enjoy along the length of the beach and its larger associated ecosystem/landform, known as a tombolo. Our dates fall in peak season to swim on the beach or from the red sandstone ledges at Anderson Point. Depending on shifting sands, the 1872 wreck of the NOQUEBAY can be spotted by paddleboard and visited by snorkelers. This is also wild blueberry season, and it is not out of the question to spot a black bear in this area. Those with kayaks or paddle boards will enjoy paddling the interior waters of the tombolo – look for carnivorous and distinctly beautiful pitcher plants in this water. Interesting hikes include Anderson Point loop (~1 hour) and the Tombolo Loop (~2 hours).

17:00. Gather on the beach for happy hour

Suppertime: Picnics on the beach are great, but many will prefer to dine aboard their boats as cooking is not permitted on the beach.

2026 Apostle Islands Rendezvous Preliminary Program. (Updated January 22, 2026)

Day 3. (Wednesday, August 26)

Peaceful morning at Stockton, with exploration of beach and tombolo. Some may choose to remain in the islands for a second day.

A variety of routes back to Bayfield can include taking the rum line, a meandering route through nearby islands. An easy detour is to visit nearby Michigan Island and a trip up the highest lighthouse in the Apostles. Longer routes can take a meandering counterclockwise cruise through the islands before returning to Bayfield for the evening or if desired, finding anchorage for an additional night out.

6:00. Potluck dinner at the City Dock.

Day 4 (Thursday, August 27)

Cruising: Captain's choice of destinations.

Evening: Banquet at Bate's Art Bar (14 S Broad St, Bayfield), followed by a presentation on the Native American History of the area by Robert Goslin (Elder of Red Cliff Band of Ojibway, and historian)

Day 5 (Friday, August 28).

Haul-out/departure by noon

Boaters wishing to stay longer should make their own docking arrangements by contacting the Bayfield harbormaster at 715-779-1079 or harborNick@cityofbayfield.com.

Weather.

Late August the 'filet' of summer in Bayfield with stabilized weather patterns and warmer water temps. While daytime temperatures are often lovely in august, it is best to be equipped with warmer clothing for evenings. Not all days will be average, however, and weather and sea states will factor into each day's planning via morning captain's meetings.

Marine Weather Channels 7 (Ashland, WI), 5 (Grand Marais, MN) and 1 (Duluth, MN) have the best reception and offer relevant information. While cell phone reception becomes spotty further out

2026 Apostle Islands Rendezvous Preliminary Program. (Updated January 22, 2026)

into the islands, NOAA marine web-based forecasts cover multiple zones around the region, from nearshore (<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/data/raw/fz/fzus53.kdlh.nsh.dlh.txt>), to in the islands (<https://marine.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=lsz150>), to the open waters (<https://www.weather.gov/marine/lsopen>) . Real-time wind and wave data representative of the open lake can be accessed from a buoy located off of Devil's Island (https://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_page.php?station=disw3) and within selected locations in the islands via WaveWatch (<https://friendsoftheapostleislands.org/real-time-wave-watch/>)

Such a large set of weather forecasting inputs doesn't mean that any are correct. The Big Lake makes its own weather and its own rules. Wind and waves can change quickly and vary by surprising degrees throughout the Apostles, depending on location and exposure. As a point of reference, in a Northeasterly wind, the fetch from Canada to Bayfield is over 200 nm, and our approach to leaving the dock is captured by a familiar local saying: "*The Lake is the Boss*". In the event of weather-bound days in Bayfield, time can easily be filled with outings to berry farms, orchards, wineries, cideries, breweries and/or day hikes in several directions.

As water temperature goes, everybody knows that Lake Superior is famous for its cold, clear water. While surface temperature peaks in August at just over 60 degrees across the open the lake, water in protected bays of the South Shore *can* often get considerably warmer. Paula and I usually start our swimming season over the July 4 holiday and extend this through Labor Day whenever possible.

Navigation.

Boats at the City Dock share a harbor entrance with the Madeline Island Ferry and commercial cruise boats, some of which travel faster than one might expect. We typically keep a second set of eyes on watch when piloting anywhere near the harbor entrance.

The shorelines of the Apostle Islands and Lake Superior's South Shore alternate between white sand beaches in the coves to sandstone cliffs. This portion of the lake is generally considered a more 'friendly' shoreline than the North Shore, and anchorage can be found in most protected bays and coves. Besides NOAA charts, the definitive cruising guide to the entire lake is Bonnie Dahl's "The Superior Way". This book is unfortunately of print, but copies may be found on the used market.

Logistics.

The Bayfield boat ramp is located at 14 Wilson Avenue. Ramp fee is included in the Rendezvous package. Instructions will be given at the time of launch for parking and trailer storage, but expect trailers to be placed within 2-3 blocks of the ramp. As a point of reference, walking time from the ramp to the City Dock is about 10 minutes.

Visiting the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore by boat is free, and no registration is needed. Overnight dockage within the islands has a nominal day-use fee, as does camping in designated sites on the islands. The Park Service Visitor Center is located at 415 Washington Ave. See also, their website for more information: <https://www.nps.gov/apis/index.htm> .

2026 Apostle Islands Rendezvous Preliminary Program. (Updated January 22, 2026)

Fuel docks are located at the Bayfield Marina, Roy's Point Marina to the north, and Pike's Bay Marina to the south. Non-oxy fuel can be purchased at most Wisconsin gas stations, including the one in Bayfield.

Popular Destinations and Navigation Routes

Madeline Island. Distance from Bayfield: 3 nm. Madeline is the largest of the Apostle Islands and, being outside of the National Lakeshore, is the only Island that is developed with roads, homes and commercial establishment. Madeline's LaPointe is the oldest town in Wisconsin, founded as a French fur-trading outpost in the 1600's and is the ancestral home of the native Ojibway indigenous tribe. LaPointe has a generous anchorage, with free daytime transient docking off the Pub, just north of the harbor entrance to the Madeline Island Yacht club, or at the Bayfield Beach Club dock, closer to the ferry terminal. A fascinating destination is the Madeline Island Museum. Ice cream and other treats are to be had while walking through the town. For fine dining, eat at "The Pub" and for a one of a kind gritty yet friendly bar experience, visit Tom's Burned Down Bar.

Long Island. Distance from Bayfield: 5 nm. Long Island, located across the South Channel from the south end of Madeline Island, is a sand spit that extends from the entrance of Chequamegon Bay to the Michigan border and houses the ruins of a historic lighthouse. This sandspit has open beach on both sides, making it accessible in nearly any wind. Navigation notes: 1) when piloting the South channel, maintain a course to the south of Red Bouy #4 to avoid a sand bar extending from the south end of Madeline Island; 2) if traveling to the bay-side waters of Long Island, the water is generally shallow with a sand bottom; 3) When visiting shore, it is best to remain closer to shore on the sand. The vegetated portions away from shore have occasional patches of poison ivy.

Basswood Island. Distance from Bayfield: 3 nm. Sure to be passed on any cruise into the islands, Basswood has a dock on the west side facing the North Channel, and a hiking path to historic brownstone quarry. Honeymoon Rock, a sea stack off the northern end, is a popular subject of photographs.

Oak Island. Distance from Bayfield: 7 nm to nearest sandspit. Oak has a fabulous bay on the distant north end, rimmed with sandstone cliffs towards the northwest corner, fun for a swimming picnic at anchor.

Manitou Island. Distance from Bayfield: 11 nm. This island is relatively closer to Bayfield and has a 100-year-old, preserved commercial fishing camp that is open to visitors. When approaching or leaving Manitou Island to or from the northwest, give lots of berth to the offshore rock pile and the shoal that connects it to the island.

Stockton Island. Distance from Bayfield: 16 nm. See previous descriptions of Julian Bay, Presque Isle Bay and the tombolo. The dock at Presque Isle Bay is the most protected harbor within the islands, and there is a second dock at Quarry Bay.

2026 Apostle Islands Rendezvous Preliminary Program. (Updated January 22, 2026)

Michigan Island. Distance from Bayfield: 15 nm. Famous for the Michigan Island Lighthouse, the tallest in Wisconsin at 112 ft high, with panoramic views of the Islands and distant shorelines of Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota. Michigan is in close range for anybody seeking a lighthouse tour on their way too or from Stockton Island. For tours, visitors can dock at the base of the cliff or anchor in the bay and dinghy into the sand beach at the base.

Outer Island. Distance from Bayfield: 24 nm to the lighthouse at the north end. Enticingly visible from Julian Bay, and like most other of the Apostles, Outer has a beautiful sand spit at its south end. The curious visitor can still find the bones of a shipwreck sticking out of the sand. Outer's north end has a spectacular lighthouse.

Rocky Island. Distance from Bayfield: 11 nm. Friendly sand-spit on south end, and cabins from the original fishing families are still operated by lifetime lease on the east side.

Raspberry Island. Distance from Bayfield: 13 nm. Home of what is probably most visited lighthouse in the Islands. Visitors can dock at the base (pay attention to signage and open hours) or anchor at either the bay below the light or on either end of the sand-spit on the east end of the island.

Devil's Island. Distance from Bayfield: 18 nm. Home of the most spectacular sea caves and a scenic lighthouse at the north end. The sea level caves are superb to visit by kayak, paddleboard or dinghy. In perfectly calm weather, boats can anchor just off the cliffs. Note: while the charts show a protected harbor and dock on the south end, this is closed in 2026 due to construction.

Sand Island. Distance from Bayfield: 18 nm. Famous brownstone lighthouse and sandstone cliffs. Fishing village still exists towards the south easterly portion.

Bayfield Organizers

Erik and Paula Scott (Narwhal)

