Isle Royale Backpacking List

A backpacking trip to Isle Royale can be the experience of a lifetime or an experience that takes a lifetime to forget. The deciding factor, which can greatly enhance the quality of any trip, is advance planning.

The following is a suggested list of gear to bring when visiting Isle Royale National Park; use it when planning your trip. If you have any questions, please call the park office at (906) 482-0984, e-mail ISRO_ParkInfo@nps.gov, or visit our website at http://www.nps.gov/ISRO.

Essential Equipment
- well broken-in boots
- good quality backpack that fits
- waterproof backpacking tent
- three season sleeping bag
- raingear (breathable)
- sleeping pad
- water filter
- 2 quart water bottles - minimum
- backpacking stove
- stove fuel in approved containers
- cooking gear
- food
- flashlights/headlamp (plus extra batteries)
- topographic map
- first aid kit
- moleskin and foot powder
- repair kit (pack, stove, filter, etc.)
- plastic spade/toilet paper

- knife
- sunscreen
- insect repellant
- headnet
- empty Zip-Loc bags for trash
- whistle
- compass
- matches/lighter

Clothing
*Cotton poplar and synthetic fibers such as fleece are quick-drying. Wool retains insulating properties even when wet, and polypropylene is easily dried and lightweight. These fabrics are ideal for Isle Royale's changeable climate.
- lightweight pants
- long-sleeved shirt
- T-shirt
- shorts
- hat
- bandana
- lightweight jacket
- sweater/fleece
- socks/underwear
- thermal underwear
- knit hat
- light gloves

Other Gear
- camp shoes/sandals
- plastic groundsheet for tent
- pack rain cover
- sunglasses
- 1 extra day of food

- eating utensils
- trail snacks (trail mix, bars)
- cup

Optional Items
- 20 feet of nylon cord
- lightweight binoculars
- camera and film
- notebook and pencil
- field guides
- fishing gear
- hiking staff/trekking poles

Things NOT to Bring
- radio or cassette/CD player
- perfume/deodorant/cosmetics (attract bugs)
- firecrackers
- sporting equipment/frisbee/kite