

Illuminating the archipelago

Lighthouses reflect maritime history of the Apostle Islands

SAND ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

- Where: Sand Island
- Built in: 1881
- Enlightening: The brownstone used to construct this lighthouse was locally quarried. The light was automated in 1921, moved to a steel tower around 1933 and then moved back to the lighthouse in 1985.
- Status: Still in service
- Tours: Guided tours available



RASPBERRY ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

- Where: Raspberry Island
- Built in: 1862 (placed in service in 1863)
- Enlightening: In 1887, Raspberry keeper Francis Jacker was blown off course while moving the station's small sailboat during a rising storm. He spent three days shipwrecked on nearby Oak Island before being rescued.
- Status: Battery-powered beacon outside the lighthouse still operates
- Tours: Guided tours available



CAMPING AND HIKING

The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore offers camping on 19 of its 21 islands (not Eagle or Gull), as well as one mainland spot. Permits are required and fees apply. Backcountry camping is available at 16 of the islands. Hiking is found on more than 50 miles of maintained trails plus numerous beaches throughout the islands — with lighthouse views and access from several locations. For details on camping, hiking and many other activities in the Apostle Islands, check nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/things2do.htm.

ILLUSTRATION: TOM SEVATORE
SOURCE AND PHOTOS: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DEVILS ISLAND LIGHT TOWER

- Where: Devils Island
- Built in: Various stages during the 1890s and early 1900s
- Enlightening: This was the last of the Apostle Islands lights to be put into service, with a temporary tower built in 1891. It also was the last in the Apostles to be automated, in 1978.
- Status: Still in service
- Tours: Offered during the summer season



OUTER ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

- Where: Outer Island
- Built in: 1874
- Enlightening: The remoteness of this lighthouse caused plenty of keeper headaches decades ago when the station was still staffed. It was fully automated in 1961 and today, solar panels supply the energy to keep the light burning.
- Status: Active
- Tours: Closed to public access

MICHIGAN ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE (OLD)

- Where: Michigan Island
- Built in: 1856
- Enlightening: This was the first lighthouse built in the Apostle Islands but was closed after only one year of service. It was relit in 1869 and used for the next 60 years.
- Status: Retired
- Tours: Guided tours available



MICHIGAN ISLAND LIGHT TOWER (NEW)

- Where: Michigan Island
- Built in: 1880 in Pennsylvania
- Enlightening: This 112-foot lighthouse, the tallest in Wisconsin, was built 1,200 miles away and originally located on the Delaware River near Philadelphia before being moved to the Apostle Islands in 1929.
- Status: Still in service
- Tours: Guided tours available



INFORMATION

Here are online resources related to the landscapes and lighthouses of the Apostle Islands.

- Apostle Islands National Lakeshore: nps.gov/apis
- Apostle Islands Cruises: apostleisland.com
- Apostle Islands Lighthouse Celebration: lighthousecelebration.com
- Madeline Island Ferry Line: madferry.com
- Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center: nglvc.org
- Ashland tourism: visitashland.com
- Bayfield tourism: bayfield.org
- Bayfield Maritime Museum: bayfieldmaritimemuseum.org
- State Natural Areas: dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/naturalareas

CHEQUAMEGON POINT LIGHT TOWER

- Where: Long Island
- Built in: 1897
- Enlightening: Because of erosion concerns in 1987, the tower was lifted by U.S. Coast Guard helicopter and moved about 100 feet back from the shoreline.
- Status: Retired
- Tours: Not open to the public



LAPOINTE LIGHT TOWER

- Where: Long Island
- Built in: 1897
- Enlightening: Foundation ruins of the Old LaPointe Lighthouse, dating to 1858, are visible nearby.
- Status: Still in service
- Tours: Not open to the public

