

15th-17th Century

c. 1500: Ojibwe migrate to Great Lakes from East Coast
1600s: Europeans arrive
1622-23: Etienne Brule circumnavigates the Lake, probably visits the Islands

1663-69: Father Allouez founds La Pointe de Saint Esprit mission. Father Marquette arrives.
1693-1698: Island established as center of Ojibwe Nation. French fort & trading post established

18th-19th Century

1759: Chief Buffalo born, future chief of La Pointe Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
1793-1824: Michel Cadotte founds first European settlement with wife Madeline (Equaysayway) daughter of Chief White Crane. Founds trading post for NW Fur Co.

1831-35: Missions established
1834-35: La Pointe moves from Grant's Point to present location. Island population approx. 600
c. 1836: Ojibwe Cemetery established. Chief Buffalo & Michel Cadotte burial site

1842, 1854: First & 2nd Treaties of La Pointe
1848: Wisconsin is 30th State
1855: Chief Buffalo dies at estimated age of 96.
1861-65: Civil War

1860s: Brownstone quarries, lumbering
1890s-early 1900s: Nebraska Row begins
1897: Mission transformed into Old Mission Inn

20th Century

1902: St. Joseph's Church built
1905-14: Tourism growth brings mail and ferry improvements
1909: Town Hall built
1915: Telephone service arrives
1925: St. John's Church dedicated

1929: Electricity arrives on Island
1958: Leo & Bella Capser and Al Galazen open Historical Museum
1963: Big Bay State Park established
1970: Nichevo Ferry Line and A.I. Ferry Service merge to form Madeline Island Ferry Line

CAPSER TRAIL ROUTE *Approx. 1.5 miles*

START AT THE FERRY DOCK

- 1 Begin at Ferry Landing.** The Post Office is half of the original Old Mission dining room, which was added to the Old Mission Inn in 1900. *Walk up Colonel Woods Ave.*
- 2 Madeline Island Museum:** Cedar post stockade and log architecture. Treasured objects illustrate island history. Exhibits & lectures. *Left on Whitefish Street*
- 3 La Pointe School:** Quintessential two-room school house with 12 students in 2021. *Right on Big Bay Road. Sidewalk leads to Trailhead.*
- 4 La Pointe Town Hall** designed in 1909
- 5 Trailhead** is at your right. Trail is 1.2 miles.

CAPSER TRAIL ROUTE OPTION *Approx. one mile*

- 1 Begin at Ferry Dock** *Endazhi-aazhawa'ooniding. Right on Main Street. Left on Middle Road. Walk one mile on road shoulder.*
- 6 Trailhead** starts on your left.

TRAIL NOTE: The wooden bridge was designed by Rick Erickson's Bayfield High School Advanced Science Class with help from Jim Berry. **Nucy Meech Trail**, within the Trail walk, is not maintained. Observation Deck with interpretive sign is a great place to view wildlife. **Sitting areas, benches, and storytelling spot** are compliments of the Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve. Parking is available at each Trailhead. No ATVs, or motorized vehicles allowed. Trails accommodate wheelchairs, however please note that trails are gravel.

GRANTS POINT ROUTE - WALK OR BIKE *Approx. 2.1 miles one way*

- 1 Madeline Island Museum** *Gete-gegoo endazhi-waabanda'idning:* Established in 1958, the museum was the dream of Leo and Bella Capser. Explore the Island's rich history. Operated by the Wisconsin Historical Society. Admission fee
- 2 St. John's Church, Parsonage, and Woods Hall:** Tudor Revival church built in 1925 for Evangelical and Reform Church. Protestant missions began in 1831.
- 3 Joni's Beach:** (public) picnic, playground, restrooms



4 The Inn and Pub are .5 miles from Ferry Dock.

5 Ojibwe Cemetery *Anishinaabe jibayaki:* Please view respectfully from outside the fence. *Miigwech ... Thank you.*

6 Rock/brass plate: Site of the first Catholic Mission, established by Reverend Fredric Baraga, 1835

7 Ojibwe National Prayer Pole/Memorial Park: Sacred cedar and other trees surrounding a peaceful pond honors Ojibwe Island history and culture.

8 Madeline Island Chamber Music Clubhouse: Chamber Music performance venue
1 mile from Ferry Dock
Walk or ride single file to share the road safely.

9 Mission Hill area: Hill with a moderate grade

10 Michel Cadotte Fur Trade Post 1792 (stone & brass plate): *2 miles from Ferry Dock.* Michel Cadotte married Equaysayway (Madeline) daughter of Waubijekauk (Chief White Crane). The Cadotte family traded, farmed and welcomed visitors here for half a century. *(Private property)*

11 Grant's Point: Grant's Point sand beach (*NOT public*) provided safe landing in early times. Much early Island history took place here and on nearby Long Island. *Please respect the private property on each side of the 60' wide access.*

Funding for bilingual signs was provided by a grant from the Apostle Islands Area Community Fund and Town of La Pointe.



Map courtesy of
Madeline Island Ferry Line
© 2021 Map not to scale.

FERRY SCHEDULE:

715-747-2051
www.madferry.com
ferryinfo@madferry.com

Madeline Island Chamber of Commerce:
715-747-2801
www.madelineisland.com
Area information:
www.bayfield.org
www.visitashland.com