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Bob Watson Photography

Reflecting The Spirit of Nature

NATURE - LANDSCAPES - WILDLIFE

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PICTURED ROCKS NATIONAL LAKESHORE, MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA

(Click On Any Image To Enlarge)

Sunset at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Lake Superior, Michigan's Upper Peninsula

Sunset at Miner's Castle, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Lake Superior, Michigan

Sunset at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Lake Superior, Michigan's Upper Peninsula

This past spring, I visited and photographed in Michigan's Upper Peninsula ("UP"). I had photographed in the UP before, but I never got the chance to concentrate on one of the most unique and beautiful lakeshores in the U.S., Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore ("Pictured Rocks NL").

Designated by Congress in 1966, Pictured Rocks NL was the first of only four designated National Lakeshores in the U.S. and is managed by the National Park Service. This ancient geological masterpiece stretches for 42-miles along the pristine southeast coast of Lake Superior between the towns of Munising and Grand Marais. Of this 42-mile lakeshore, there are 15-miles of towering 50-200 foot, and amazingly stunning, multicolored sandstone cliffs, from which Pictured Rocks NL gets its name. Pictured Rocks NL's shoreline also has arches, waterfalls and caves. Although the park is fairly narrow, it has 7 waterfalls, sand dunes, 10 inland lakes, deep forests and nearly 100-miles of hiking trails.

The sandstone of Pictured Rocks NL is ancient and is referred to as Jacobsville Sandstone, dating back to over 500-million years. The sandstone is made up of numerous minerals and gets its multicolor from the ground water that seeps through the sandstone, evaporates and leaves colored streaks such as iron (red), manganese (black-white), limonite (yellow-brown) and copper (pink-green).

Although one can hike some of the trails to explore the lake shore of Pictured Rocks NL, most people explore via boat cruises and kayaking. I personally, did some hiking and an early evening boat cruise.

I might mention that there are a couple other significant attractions in this area near Pictured Rocks NL. Off the shore from Munising is the 13,500 acre, Grand Island National Recreation Area, part of the Hiawatha National Forest. There are also lots of waterfalls in and around Pictured Rocks NL. I may have a separate Newsletter in the future featuring some of these waterfalls.

Along with my featured photographs I thought I'd provide the following link to a short YouTube Video:

Pictured Rocks NL (YouTube Video)

As with so many places, the beauty of this rugged lakeshore is hard to capture in photographs. I visited Pictured Rocks NL for a few days and could have easily spent twice the amount of time exploring and photographing. However, once again, I had to move on down the road. Afterall, there were more places on Lake Superior to visit and photograph.

In the United States, it's the Holiday Season. I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving, and I sincerely wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy Peaceful New Year. January 1st's Newsletter will contain a video display of my favorite images from 2023

Three (3) Featured Photographs (20% Off)

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