

Jim DuFresne

Isle Royale National Park: Lake Superior's Crowning Jewel



Jim DuFresne, author of *Isle Royale National Park: Foot Trails & Water Routes*, will present his latest program that focuses on the wide variety of recreational opportunities available on this Lake Superior island. The 210-square mile wilderness is the destination for backpackers, kayakers, people who like to portage canoes, backcountry anglers and visitors who want to enjoy a hike during the day and a soft bed at night.

DuFresne will also touch on how to get there, when to go, how long to stay and the latest status of the park's effort to reestablish a viable wolf population. Often referred to as the Backpacker's Bible at the park, *Isle Royale National Park: Foot Trails & Water Routes* has been out in various editions for more than 35 years. DuFresne is also the author of *50 Hikes in Michigan*, *The Trails of M-22*, *Backpacking in Michigan*, *Hiking & Tramping in New Zealand* and a frequent contributor to MichiganTrailMaps.com

Jim DuFresne has a deep-rooted passion for two things: sunsets and shoreline, no doubt the result of living his entire life in the two states that have more coastline than any other, Alaska and Michigan. After graduating from Michigan State University with a journalism degree, DuFresne soon headed to Juneau, Alaska as the outdoors and sports editor of the *Juneau Empire*. In 1980, he became the first Alaskan sportswriter to win a national award from Associated Press. More significant than the award or

even receiving a letter of congratulations from Governor Jay Hammond, he discovered his passion for the mountains and wilderness travel while living in Alaska's capital city. Soon after that, DuFresne spent a winter in New Zealand to backpack and write his first book. Seven editions and almost 40 years later, "Hiking & Tramping in New Zealand" is the world's bestselling guidebook to backpacking in that country.

That longevity is true with several of his other books. "Isle Royale National Park: Foot Trails & Water Routes", which he wrote soon after returning to Michigan, has been in publication in various editions for more than 35 years. Today DuFresne lives in Clarkston, Michigan where he's never more than an hour's drive from the shoreline of the Great Lakes. He is the main contributor to www.MichiganTrailMaps.com, a resource web site devoted to trail users and the promotion of trails in his home state.