

## Hello from Ebel's!

Our 2023 season is ahead of us, and we have a few new policies and reminders that we would like to make our guests aware of. Please read and share this with your party prior to arrival to make any plans that may affect your vacation.

### MOORING

***\*\*\* We recommend having at least two able-bodied people to help moor the houseboat onto shoreline.***

### OVERNIGHT PERMITS

Please be sure to have your overnight permits printed for the check in process. We will need to place them on the houseboat for you. If you have not purchased them visit <http://recreation.gov>. ***You will choose the Kabetogama, Namakan, Sand Point basin.*** Rainy Lake is not accessible by houseboat.

### PET POLICY

Ebel's is 100% pet friendly! We have a \$100.00 per pet charge for the stay and have a two-pet maximum per houseboat. You will need to pay this at check-in.

### EXTRA RENTALS

A small boat is included with your houseboat, you may bring your own boat or your own motor for our small boat. You can also rent from us. You must have a boat and motor in tow. ***Motor rentals are \$55/day or \$250/weekly.***

### PILLOWS/BLANKETS

There are no pillows or blankets provided on ANY houseboat. Please bring your own.

## SMOKING

*All houseboats are non-smoking.* Please smoke outside. There will be a \$500 cleaning fee for smoking inside the houseboat cabin.

## CELL PHONES

AT&T provides the best cell phone coverage. You will have business band radio coverage 24/7 in case of emergencies.

## NAVIGATION

We highly recommend you download the Navionics application to your smart device. This is a useful secondary tool in navigation, with the provided maps being the first tool in navigation. You cannot navigate with google maps.

## CPAP BATTERY RENTALS DISCOUNTUED

We are experiencing difficulties with CPAP battery setups. Machines have changed and our setups are not able to handle new technology. Therefore, we are going to discontinue rental of battery packs and ask that you make arrangements with your health provider for battery use. ***Remember that generators ARE NOT ALLOWED to run at night!*** Your provider or Amazon sell battery set ups!

## CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS

We will add a 3% surcharge for all credit/debit card use. Alternate forms of payment can be check or cash.

Thank you and see you soon!

Justin & Heather Ebel

# Ebel's Houseboat Planning Guide

## Welcome Aboard!



Thank you for reserving your houseboat vacation with Ebel's Voyageur Houseboats! The Ebel's and staff would like to prepare you for your upcoming voyage in beautiful Voyageurs National Park. We have prepared this "houseboat planning guide" to assist you in planning your houseboat vacation and be sure that you are aware of the procedures that need to be done to make this an unforgettable vacation. Please take the time to read this entire planner and be sure to share with all members of your "crew".



Don't forget your fishing pole!

### Special Points of Interest

- Kettle Falls Hotel
- Ellsworth Rock Gardens
- Namakan Narrows  
Pictographs
- Hiking trails
- Wildlife watching



## Houseboat Overnight Permit

All houseboats are required to get a permit to stay overnight in the park. Fees will apply. Visitors may name a reservation by visiting [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling the national call center at 877-444-6777. You will choose the Kabetogama, Namakan, and Sand Point Basin.

Escape to the wilderness without leaving anything behind!

### Passenger Manifest

A passenger manifest will be sent to you electronically to fill out and sign. You will notice that rental houseboats are NOT allowed to have more than 12 passengers. This includes children. This is a U.S. Coast Guard regulation and is a result of the Passenger Vessel Act of 1993. Fines are in the thousands of dollars and are your responsibility.

### Charter Agreement

A charter agreement will also be sent to you electronically to sign. This is the agreement between you and Ebel's for the rental of the houseboat. You will not be allowed to board the houseboat until the signed agreement has been returned.

### Extra Rental Equipment

Please let us know in advance if you will be needing any extra rental equipment. This may include small boats (one is included, no motor), small motors, generators, canoes, kayaks, etc.



## What to expect upon arrival.....

1. Plan on arriving AFTER 1:00 PM and PRIOR to 4:00 PM.
2. Check in with office. Bring your signed overnight permit with you!
3. Pay for your houseboat and any "extra" rental equipment.
4. Your houseboat will be assigned to you.
5. An Ebel's crew member will accompany you to your houseboat.
6. Inspect your houseboat with a crew member.
7. A "crew" member will help you load your belongings.
8. Put your own boats in the water on our boat ramp.
9. Ask your crew member where to park. This is very important, as we have limited parking and need to make good use of the parking area that we have. You may be asked to disconnect your trailer. This trailer will need to be marked by our crew.
10. Order ice, bait, firewood and any items that you may want to purchase from Ebel's. A running tab will be held for you and will be paid at the end of your trip for payment with the fuel that you used.
11. When all the above items have been done, your instructions will begin.
12. Please be sure to LISTEN to all instructions. SAVE your questions until the instructions are done.
13. Once your crew instructor is sure that you fully understand the instructions you will set sail!
14. Our crew member will accompany you for a short cruise (they will tow a boat to return to our base) and you will be on your own to venture in our beautiful National Park.
15. Please have fun!

# Policies

- In the 2023 season, we will be sending out all documents pertaining to rentals via HelloSign approximately 2-3 weeks prior to arrival. Please follow the instructions within the email. This includes the Passenger Manifest, Charter Agreement, Optional Insurance Agreement and Pet Policy. You will need to purchase your Overnight Permit and bring a signed copy with you for check-in. If you are unsure of how to do any of this, please email us [info@ebels.com](mailto:info@ebels.com). We will be happy to assist.
- Payment must be made prior to boarding. 6.875% state tax, .05% county tax and a 3% service charge will apply to all houseboat rentals. Extra rental equipment will be taxed 7.37%.
- Any damages to the houseboat and its parts will be your responsibility. We offer optional damage insurance for \$40.00/day.
- Check in time is between 1:00-4:00 pm. Check out time is 9:00 am. Arrivals after 4:00 must moor overnight at the dock.
- All deposits are non-refundable. Payment in full 45 days in advance is required on the Vista and 65's Series.
- Fishing licenses should be obtained prior to your arrival. They can be purchased online via <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/fishing/index.html>
- We will assign one staff member to assist in loading your houseboat, parking your vehicle and questions prior to instructions.
- We are 100% pet friendly. No more than two pets will be allowed on a houseboat. \$100.00 per pet charge will be added.

- A boat and motor in tow is required. You may bring your own. We will provide a 14' rental boat (no oars) as part of your houseboat rental that you may bring or rent a motor for. The provided boat is rated for up to a short shaft 20HP.
- Linens are provided on the Vistas and 65' Series at no additional charge. This includes sheet and towels. The Voyageur and Voyageur Plus Series require you to bring your own linens. *There are no pillows or blankets provided on ANY houseboat.*
- All houseboats will be thoroughly cleaned as they have been, with the addition of paying particular attention to frequently touched surfaces such as tables, doorknobs, light switches, remote controls, countertops, handles, toilets, faucets, sinks and other nonporous surfaces. Bleach and disinfectants will be used for normal cleaning.
- We will have contact with you via marine radio or cell phone. Please know your location prior to calling us if assistance is needed. Plan on stocking up on all your ice, bait, and firewood prior to departure. Mechanical assistance will be available if needed.
- Plan on coming into the office to pay remaining balance. Ice, bait, firewood and fuel will be tallied at the end of your trip.
- We have the right to refuse or terminate any trip if determined.

We want to provide the safest possible trip you can have during these unprecedented times. By helping Ebel's with these policies, we will continue to provide you with trouble-free houseboat vacations, as we have for over 50 years!

Thank you and be well!

Justin & Heather Ebel & the Ebel's Crew