



Turnip Rock (Point aux Barques) Water Trail

One of America’s most amazing natural landmarks, Turnip Rock stands in stunning defiance to the elements at the very tip of Michigan’s thumb. The land surrounding Turnip Rock is privately owned, so the only way to view it is by water – and the best way is by kayak. You have your choice of two scenic paddle routes: the 7-mile “out-and-back route” from Port Austin Harbor, and the 6.5-mile “continuous route” starting at Grindstone City Harbor.

The out-and-back route is recommended and by far the most popular. We paddled it in about 4 hours at a leisurely pace on a beautiful summer day with calm seas and a light breeze. A fun, safe route for paddlers of most skill levels, the water is so shallow for most of the trip you can reach down and touch the sandy bottom with your paddle. As you approach the cliffs at Point aux Barques, you pass by Thumbnail Point before entering a cave-like grotto surrounding Turnip Rock. The water is about chest deep in the grotto where you can land your kayak, play in the water and snap a few photos. Continue east about 200 yards to explore the sea caves before heading back. To take the “continuous route,” the local outfitter can spot you and your kayaks at Grindstone City Harbor for a westbound trip along the cliffs, caves and rock formations heading back to Port Austin.

Broken Rocks Water Trail

Enjoy 4 more scenic miles of fun exploring the sea caves and rock formations west of Port Austin on the Broken Rocks Water Trail. A great water trail for beginning paddlers, the 3-hour out-and-back route takes you past the Twin Sisters, the Broken Rocks, and Table Rock where you can land your kayak, relax and enjoy a picnic. This is also a popular water trail for stand up paddleboards.



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