



AHOY FROM EBEL'S VOYAGEUR HOUSEBOATS

Thank you for reserving your houseboat vacation with Ebel's Voyageur Houseboats. The 2024 season is ahead of us, and we have a few new policies, procedures and reminders that we would like to share with our guests. Please review with your party prior to trip arrival to make any plans that may affect your vacation.

The below trip planning guide will help prepare you for hassle-free houseboat vacation. The Ebel's crew is eager to welcome you aboard for your upcoming trip to the beautiful Voyageurs National Park.

Our 50-year family-owned and operated business looks forward to seeing you on the water this summer. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to email info@ebels.com.

Justin & Heather Ebel & Crew

TRIP PLANNING GUIDE, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

HOUSEBOAT MOORING

- All houseboats are required to be secured on shore overnight. We recommend having at least two able-bodied people to help moor the houseboat to shoreline.

OVERNIGHT PARK PERMITS

- All houseboats are required to get a reservation permit to stay overnight in the park. Reservations are not site-specific and issued per houseboat for overnight stays. Fees will apply.
- Visitors can obtain a reservation at [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov), or by calling their national call center at 877-444-6777.
 - **You will choose the "Kabetogama, Namakan, Sand Point, and Crane Lake Basin."** Rainy Lake is not accessible by houseboat.
- Please **print and sign** this permit and bring it with you on check-in day.

RENTAL DOCUMENTS & POLICIES

Ebel's will distribute all rental documents electronically via Signarely approximately 2-3 weeks prior to your scheduled trip. Documentation will include the following:

- **Passenger Manifest:** This document will note 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 thousands of dollars and are the responsibility of the renter.
- **Charter Agreement:** This is the agreement between you and Ebel's for the rental of the houseboat.
- **Optional Insurance Agreement:** Any damages to the houseboat and its parts will be your responsibility. Ebel's offers optional damage insurance for \$40.00/day. Small boat + motor is not covered by this insurance policy.
- **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 pay this fee upon check-in.

EXTRA RENTALS

- Please let us know in advance if you will need extra rental equipment. This may include small boats, small motors, generators, canoes, kayaks, etc.
- **Small boats:** reminder that a small boat and motor tow is required. A 14' small boat is included with the houseboat rental. Guests will need to bring or rent their own small motor. The provided 14' rental boat is rated for up to a short shaft 20HP.
- **Motor rentals:** for guests that cannot bring their own motor, rentals are available for \$55/day, or \$250/weekly.

LINENS

- There are no pillows or blankets provided on any houseboat.
- There are no linens provided on the Voyageur and Voyageur Plus Series.
- Linens (sheets and towels only) are provided on the Vistas and 65' Series.

REMOTE CONTACT AND CELL PHONES

- During your trip, you will have contact with Ebel's via business band radio, or in some cases via cell phone. AT&T provides the best cell phone coverage.
- Business band radio provides 24/7 coverage in the event of emergencies. Please know your location prior to calling us if assistance is needed.

NAVIGATION – NEW in 2023-24 Season

- All houseboats are equipped with a Hummingbird GPS unit and a Navionics chip. We highly recommend downloading the **Navionics app** to your device. Although Ebel's provides marine-grade navigational maps as a first-line mode of navigation, this is a useful secondary tool in navigation.
- **You cannot navigate with Google maps** as they are NOT accurate in Voyageurs National Park.

CPAP BATTERY RENTALS DISCONTINUED

- We are experiencing difficulties with CPAP battery setups. Machines have changed and our setups are not able to handle new technology. Therefore, we discontinued battery pack rentals. Please plan with your health provider for battery use.
- **REMINDER: generators are not allowed to run overnight.** Your healthcare provider or Amazon should sell appropriate CPAP battery packages.

PAYMENTS

Payment must be paid in full upon check-in and prior to boarding.

- **Tax fees:** A 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%.
- **Credit/Debit Cards:** Ebel's will add a 3% surcharge for all credit/debit card use. Alternate forms of payment are accepted, including check or cash.
- **Deposits:** All deposits are non-refundable. Payment in full 45 days in advance is required on the Vista and 65' Series.
- **Incrementals:** additional needs such as ice, bait, firewood, fuel and any other add-ons will be tallied at the end of your trip.

FISHING & LICENSES

- **Don't forget your fishing pole!** Fishing licenses should be obtained prior to your arrival. They can be purchased online via dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/fishing.

NO SMOKING POLICY

- All houseboats are non-smoking/vaping. Please smoke outside. There is a strict \$500 cleaning fee for smoking inside the houseboat cabin.

CLEANING POLICIES, PROCEDURES, INCIDENTALS

- Following all stays, Ebel's requires adequate time to clean and sanitize each houseboat unit prior to next guest arrival. Guests are responsible for keeping their houseboat tidy during their stay.
- Incidental fees may be incurred if there is damage to the houseboat, or if it requires an inordinate amount of cleaning time as determined by Ebel's management.
- Out of respect for our staff and the National Park Service, we ask that our guests help with basic tasks during their stay and prior to departure, including:
 - Leave NO trace in Voyageurs National Park
 - Waste collection and removal: please bag/store your trash on the back of the boat for our staff to collect at the end of your stay
 - Wash and store dishes
 - Wipe surfaces of toxic substances and dead bugs (mosquitos, etc.)

CHECK-IN + CHECK-OUT

Check-in time is between 1 and 4 p.m. Check-out time is prior to 10 a.m. Arrivals after 4 p.m. are required to moor overnight at Ebel's base.

Here's a helpful guide to the typical process.

- Plan on arriving AFTER 1 p.m. and PRIOR to 4 p.m..
- Guests check-in at Ebel's main office.
- Don't forget to bring your signed and printed overnight permit!
- Pay for your houseboat trip and any extra rental equipment.
- Your houseboat and houseboat number will be assigned to you, along with a staff member to assist in loading your houseboat, parking your vehicle and questions prior to instructions.
- Inspect your houseboat with a crew member.
- The crew member will help you load your trip belongings.
- Launch your own small boats in the water at Ebel's boat ramp.
- Ask your assigned crew member where to park your vehicle. This is important as we have limited parking and need to make good use of designated areas. Vehicles with trailers, or RV's will be stored at our off-site property for parking.
- Order ice, bait, firewood and any other items that you may want to purchase from Ebel's. A running tab will be held for your boat party and will be paid at the end of your trip, in addition to incurred fuel use.
- Houseboat instructions begin. Please listen carefully to instructions and save questions until the end.
- Once your crew instructor is sure that you fully understand the instructions, you will set sail!
- An Ebel's crew instructor will accompany you for a short cruise (they will tow an extra boat to return to our base) and you will be on your own to venture in our beautiful National Park.
- Check-out time is 10 a.m. Please plan accordingly to return your houseboat rental to base at this time.
- Ebel's has the right to refuse or terminate any trip if determined.
- Have a fun and memorable trip!