

Ebel's Voyager Houseboats FAQ

Do we have to start our houseboat vacation on a particular day?

You may begin your houseboat vacation any day of the week if the boat is available. A week is seven nights, and Ebel's requires a three-night minimum. Midweek trips are Sunday through Thursday or Monday through Friday.

What are the standard features on all houseboats?

Please see the accompanying document entitled "What is Supplied."

Can I use my CPAP machine?

Generators cannot run overnight on houseboats due to the risk of carbon monoxide. Please contact your healthcare provider or check Amazon for a battery set-up to bring for your CPAP machine.

What if we need supplies?

Ebel's offers complimentary hospitality service one day per week if you need small supplies (our lake run day is typically each Wednesday). We will also pick-up and dispose of your trash at this time. In addition, our crew can stop by your boat if we are on the lake at any other time during the week. There is no fee for this service.

Do you have parking available?

Yes, parking is available and Ebel's can also accommodate trucks/trailers and RV's at our off-site property. There is no fee for parking.

How do we navigate?

Navigational maps are provided and are the first mode of navigation. All houseboats are also equipped with a Hummingbird GPS and a Navionics chip. You can also download the Navionics app to your personal device. There is typically a "free" two-week trial.

Do you sell supplies at your base?

Ebel's sells bait and ice on-site, including minnows, leeches and nightcrawlers; 10-pound block ice and 5-pound cube ice. We also have DNR-approved firewood, a small supply of dry goods and basic refrigerated foods such as milk and eggs.

Do you sell fishing licenses?

Ebel's sells non-resident and resident MN fishing licenses. Your social security number is required to purchase a license. However, we highly recommend purchasing your licenses online prior to arrival.

Can we travel into Canada? Do we need a Canadian fishing license?

All houseboats and other Ebel's rental equipment are required to stay within U.S. waterways. Guests are allowed to take their personal watercraft into Canadian waters

and fish with a Canadian license. All guests are held responsible for Canadian rules and regulations.

What time is pick up and drop off?

Arrival time is between 1 to 4 p.m. Please do not plan on arriving prior to 1 p.m. Houseboats are guaranteed by 4 p.m. Guests are required to return their houseboat back to Ebel's base prior to 10 a.m. on their scheduled departure day. Docks can be open as early as 7 a.m. for guests on high turnover days such as weekends.

Where can we get groceries?

There are no grocery stores on the lakes, and it is highly-recommended to start your trip with all necessary supplies. Great places to stop during your trip north include Virginia and the surrounding area at Super One Foods, Aldi, Target or Walmart, or in Cook at Zup's Grocery. Ebel's is about 80-miles north of Virginia. Feel free to contact us for other recommendations en route to Ebel's.

Do we need to purchase a National Park permit?

Voyageurs National Park requires all houseboats to purchase and display an overnight permit. The houseboat permits are not site-specific, and just an overnight fee for mooring on shoreline in Voyageurs National Park. As the permit holder, you are responsible for understanding National Park Service rules and regulations.

Visit recreation.gov to make a reservation and print your permit prior to check-in time. The fee is \$15/night with a \$10 processing fee. Tip: Use Google Chrome as your web browser when printing the permit, as the site isn't compatible with some other browsers (e.g. Safari, etc.)

Are pets allowed?

All houseboats are pet-friendly. We have a two-pet max. per houseboat. The pet fee is \$100 per pet.

Which houseboats have water slides?

All houseboats are equipped with a water slide.

How fast do the houseboats go?

Approximately 5-7 mph depending on houseboat model.

Can we anchor?

No, the houseboats utilize ropes for mooring onto shoreline. During your orientation, our staff will instruct you on how to securely and safely moor your houseboat to shoreline, and provide you with suggestions for good locations.

Will we have cell phone service?

AT&T provides the best coverage throughout the lakes. You are also welcome to give your family, or emergency contacts our office number (218-374-3571) and we can pass along any message via radio if needed.

Do we need a fishing boat?

Ebel's requires a tow-along boat in case of emergency and to utilize water areas beyond houseboat capabilities. A 14' aluminum boat is included with the houseboat rental. You may either bring your own or use the one supplied from us. Multiple boats, larger boats, runabouts, bass boats and pontoon boats are easily towed behind the houseboat with a 10'-15' solid braided rope. Motor rentals are \$55/day or \$250/weekly and required if you are not bringing your own boat and/or motor.

How many people can we have on a houseboat?

We have houseboats that accommodate 2-12 people. 12 people is the maximum. Voyageurs National Park has a two-houseboat max. per site.

How far is Kettle Falls?

From Ebel's base, Kettle Falls is 17 miles, or approximately 2.5 hours by houseboat.

How are emergencies handled?

Medical Emergencies: call Ebel's on your radio for any emergencies during your houseboat trip. All houseboats are equipped with a business band radio, which is monitored by Ebel's staff 24/7. We will respond on our service boat, or via 911 out of Ash River, Kabetogama or Crane Lake (whichever is closest to your location).

Mechanical Emergencies: should your houseboat need service while on the water, a service boat will be sent to correct the problem.

What do we do in the event of severe weather?

Listen to NOAA Weather Radio daily for any potential of severe weather. Plan on mooring on the leeward side of shoreline (away from the wind). Secure the houseboat and small boats on the shoreline!

There may also be severe weather situations where Ebel's staff will advise no travel on certain areas of the lakes, and it is imperative that you follow this guidance. If any questions arise, do not hesitate to contact Ebel's base via radio and guide you through the weather situation.

Is there insurance coverage?

You can purchase additional optional insurance for \$40/day.