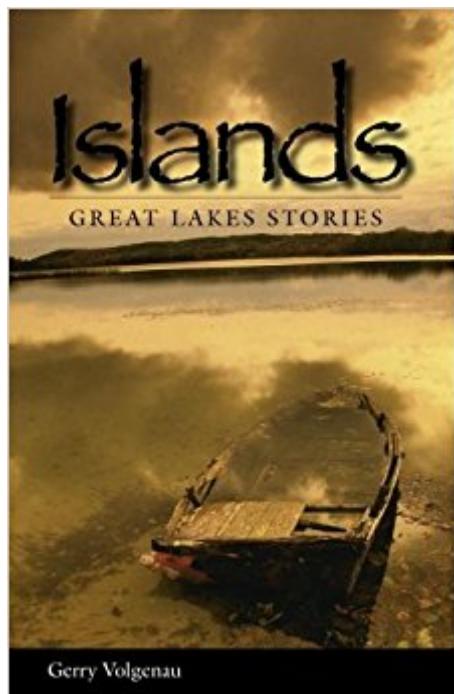


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Islands: Great Lakes' Legends



Synopsis

Most people are stunned to learn that there are some 35,000 islands in the Great Lakes, ranging from a large stone with its top above water level to the world's largest freshwater island, Manitoulin. Islands: Great Lakes' Stories focuses on 18 of these islands with their histories and personalities.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #1,766,429 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in Books > Travel > United States > Michigan > General #1518 in Books > Travel > United States > Midwest #6854 in Books > Travel > Travel Writing

Customer Reviews

Islands is one of the most fascinating summertime, or anytime, reads to come out of this region. --
The Saginaw News, July 24, 2005

Each island's stories amaze. Many of the islands played important roles for some 300 years of North American history and still have residents as quirky and genial as ever. Even if you never board an island ferry, you will be fascinated with the tales of spies and pirates, daring attacks on forts, Indian legends, the mysterious death of a Dodge family heir, heroic lighthouse keepers, a Mormon leader who declared himself king of Beaver Island, ghosts and islands that--while they appeared on maps--never existed.

I purchased a first addition copy autographed and was very pleased with my purchase.

This is a great book, especially if you live in Michigan and are interested in the numerous islands that are in the Great Lakes. It gives you a description of the island, it's history, etc.

Perfect! Great read and exactly what I was looking for!

Desert island, island retreat, Great Lake islands--most of us think of islands as isolated places. Author and travel writer Gerry Volgenau was given an assignment by his editor at the Detroit Free Press to do a story on Put-in-Bay and the Lake Erie islands. While on this assignment, he became captivated by the personality of these islands. With this as a start, he discovered there are 35,000 islands of varying size in the five Great Lakes. He decided to learn more about any island that people could get to for the price of a ferry ticket or bridge toll. His stories range from Toronto Islands (that Toronto was named after) to Isle Royale, an isolated wilderness area on Lake Superior where moose and wolves reign. Then in the end the author wrote about the places that intrigued him, the places with the "best stories." For Lake Ontario, a story about Toronto Island; for Lake Erie, eight stories; Lake Huron, eight stories including Mackinac Island; Lake Michigan eight stories; and Lake Superior eight stories. Madeline Island on Lake Superior is Wisconsin's 24-square-mile park with bike riding tourists and residents enjoying the beauty. Lake Superior, called Giche Gumee by the native people, was made famous/infamous with the sinking of the ocean-going Edmund Fitzgerald cargo ship. Today Mackinac Island in Michigan's Upper Peninsula is reached by a breath-taking bridge. His stories take you back to how others reached such islands. If you love the magnificent Great Lakes or if you have fond memories of time camping on our own little island, you'll find the history and myths great fun and very interesting. Armchair Interviews says that stories and photo make for a great read by the fireplace...if that is your island retreat. His stories made me want to visit many of those areas.

My husband was a huge fan and faithful reader of Gerry's travel column at the Detroit Free Press. When he passed along this book, I was amazed at all of the history that has taken place in the Great Lakes and at the specific islands. For quick and easy reference, the book is set up with different sections for each lake and chapters for the different islands. However, this book was so interesting that I picked it up and read it straight through, from cover to cover. This book will definitely be on hand for our next summer trip.

I was a fan of Mr. Volgenau's Detroit Free Press work too, and made more than one travel decision based on his recommendations - but this book is a cut above. It information about the Islands that I've never read anywhere else - after 15 years of Great Lakes boating - and I really wish he'd written - and I'd read it - years earlier. Definitely recommended, for the armchair travelers too, but

especially for the people interested in visiting these islands in person.

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