



WHAT'S IT LIKE TO LIVE IN A LOG CABIN ON A PRIVATE ISLAND?



Have you ever dreamed of relaxing in front of a fireplace in your log cabin on your own island? That dream can come true on Lake Vermilion, one of the most scenic lakes in the USA. Just a short boat ride across calm water is this lovingly restored cabin nestled in towering pines on a six acre island of virgin timber. Company is welcome year round in the updated guest cabin. There's a hot tub, swimming cove, and Happy Hour/ Sunset Point with a nine mile view across Big Bay. Little Timber Island can be yours for \$673,500 because after decades of living this dream, Mike and Connie have decided it's time to pass it on to new owners.

Lisa Janisch from Janisch Realty talked to owners Mike and Connie to see if having your own island— >>>

being one of the few people in the world who can say you own an island—is as wonderful as it sounds.

What was it that made you decide to purchase the island?

We always dreamed of having a log cabin and when this opportunity came along, it was a dream come true. You walk up the path in the mature pine forest and you see that historic log cabin and you are just blown away. After more than forty years, we still have that sense of awe. The cabin lit up at night looks like a Terry Redlin painting.

From anywhere you are on the island or in the cabins, the only thing you see is trees and water. It's incredible to always be able to see and hear the water.

What do your friends comment on the most when visiting?

They walk up the path and see the cabin and are just amazed. Those reluctant to make the trip arrive and say, “Ohhh we get this now.” They



finally know what it is like to feel free from the demands of everyday life. Here, nothing else matters.

We had a friend here from LA who thought she was going deaf, it was so quiet and then a Loon called and she knew it was ok. This was her first time experiencing the tranquility of this place. The island enveloped her senses. She felt like she had gotten closer to the clouds. She could touch nature by running her fingers through the pine boughs. It was the smell of the pine forest and the abundant wildlife. It was the colors, the blues and greens in the miles of postcard-worthy coastline, the reds and oranges and pinks of the sunsets. When her ears adjusted to the lack of city noise, she heard waves splashing on the shore and the sound of wind in the pines.

“Those reluctant to make the drive & short boat ride arrive and say “Ohhh we get this now.”



What is a day on the island like?

In the morning, we might take our coffee to the dock to enjoy the sunrise. On a snowy morning, we might enjoy the sunrise coming in through the windows as we have coffee in front of the fireplace. We might take a walk on the paths from one end of the island to the other. On a rainy day we might go to the guest cabin and sit in the screen porch at the water's edge. We might take a boat ride, go golfing, or take the car to Ely. We swim almost every day. We both love to cook. Evenings, we go to Happy Hour/Sunset Point and watch the sun sink down. Evenings are for fires in the firepit or in the fireplace, reading, listening to music.

How's the fishing?

We haven't had to go far to catch a fresh fish dinner in decades. If we don't feel like going fishing, we call our neighbor kid and he gets us walleye. Of course new owners will have to establish their own relationships, but he would be a good asset to the new owners.

How do you shop?

In the summer, we go to the marina to get the car. Larger items come via pontoon or one of the barge services on the lake.

In the winter, you can plow an ice road to bring supplies or stage parts for upcoming projects. The hot tub was delivered this way.

What was the island like before you moved there and what has changed?

The original owner was a commercial baker from Chicago who took the train to Duluth and stayed on Vermilion for the summer. He talked two craftsmen into coming out of retirement to build this cabin. The craftsmen couldn't believe someone would need so many windows in a log cabin but he insisted on views from every room. The cabin was positioned so the morning light comes in through the kitchen and dining. As the day progresses, the light comes through the living room and at the end of the day, warms the bedrooms.

Up until ten years ago, there was no electricity to the island and we maintained the property by hand. Electricity was a game changer. This is permanent power via underwater cable. Once we got electricity, we completely renovated the guest cabin.

If you could change anything about the island, what would it be and why?

If we were staying, we would put in a septic system to replace the bath house. It is

comfortable with its composting toilet, shower and sink; however, a septic system would provide further options. On the north side of the island, I would consider installing a second dock. Guests would have their own dock and you could dock a floatplane there because it is rare to get wind at that part of the island.

What makes celebrating special occasions on the island special?

We've made it a point to celebrate anniversaries and birthdays on the island, not only our own but friend's. We start with champagne at Sunset Point, then have hors d'oeuvres at the clearing in front of the cabin, the main course inside and dessert by the fireplace.

Where are your favorite places to go nearby?

The new state park on Armstrong Bay. Sandy

Cove (public beach accessible only by boat). Glenwood Lodge (resort with bar). Fortune Bay Resort Casino (marina and golf course).

What's the best thing about living on a private island?

Seclusion. You have your own island with no neighbor sitting right next door to you. Many times during the week there is not another person in our bay. We can say we own an island--how many people in the world can say that? We have taken a lot of pride in ownership. 🦆

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