

## Beyond the Gates – Garden Island

Next up for Beyond the Gates is a real WAY beyond the gates wonder – Garden Island, MI. Garden is a small (7.8 sq. mi) island located just north of Beaver Island (coordinates: 45 degrees 48' N 85 degrees 29' W). You will need a proper boat for this trip – or a friend who has one, and proper weather.

Garden is just a little ways past St. James on Beaver Island or about 32 miles from Charlevoix. Follow the chart from the buoys at the head of St. James Harbor around to the southwest corner of Garden Island where you will find Garden Island Harbor and its excellent protected anchorage. At the north end of Garden Island Harbor there is an even more protected inlet known as Indian Harbor – a great place to spend the day or overnight.

The island is uninhabited but boasts the ruins of former residences and farms, DNR research facilities, good hiking trails and the Garden Island Indian Cemetery (Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, with more than 3,500 burials and a number of “spirit houses” marking some of the burial sites). A map of the island is available for download from [www. Beaverisland.net](http://www.Beaverisland.net).

My family and I have enjoyed several trips to Garden Island and the pleasure of taking several groups of friends on this adventure. It is a really special place that not many have the chance to enjoy.

**John C. Deane**

