



P.O. Box 1330
116 West HWY 61
Grand Marais, MN 55604
218.387.2788
VisitCookCounty.com

Devil Track Lake Loop

Distance: 18 miles

Estimated Time: 2.5-4 hours

Difficulty: Intermediate/advanced

Surface Type: Combination of pavement, gravel and snowmobile trails.

Special Notes: Remote. Route-finding skills needed. Suitable for mountain bikes.

Directions to Trailhead: From Grand Marais, travel 3 miles up the Gunflint Trail. Turn left onto Devil Track Road (County Road 8). Travel 4 miles to Skyport Lane. You'll see signs for Devil Track Resort. Travel a quarter-mile. You will see the resort on the left and the old runway from the airport on the right. Park on the old runway.

Route Description: Ride back to Devil Track Road. Once on the road, turn left (west). Stay on the paved road for about 4 miles. When the road turns to gravel, turn left, as if you were going to the Forest Service campground. In a few hundred feet, you'll see a snowmobile trail on the right.

Turn onto the trail and follow it for a couple of miles. You will ride past the western end of Devil Track Lake and through recent logging operations. Many of these sites were logged not only for timber but to promote regeneration of white pine. (White pine seedlings need about 2 acres of clearing to get enough sunlight to grow. Historically this would have happened in natural fire cycles.) Look for several large, 150-year-old white pines left in these open areas. These are called seed trees. They will be responsible for starting the next generation of white pine forests.

You will cross a wooden bridge on the snowmobile trail. Veer right for another half-mile and you will find yourself at a gravel road. Turn left (south). This is Bally Creek Road (Forest Service 158)—not a busy road, but expect some traffic.

Travel about 1.5 miles south on Bally Creek Road. Watch for signs for the North Shore State Trail. Turn left (east) onto it, skirting the gate that is in place to keep motorized traffic out. If you reach Cascade River Road, you've gone about 100 yards too far.

Once on the North Shore State Trail, you will be riding on some fantastic rolling, hilly terrain, heading east. After about 5 miles, there will be a shelter on the right side. This is Blueberry Lake, a nice spot to take a break. Continue east on the snowmobile trail for another mile, skirting another gate. After the gate, stay to the left. Within a quarter-mile you will end up on a minimum maintenance road called Meridian Road. Turn left onto it. Meridian Road is a rough gravel road that runs about 1.5 miles straight north. Expect some water crossings. At the end of the road, you'll hit pavement. This is South Shore Drive. Turn right and proceed to the stop sign, then turn left. You are now on Devil Track Road. Follow it for 1.5 miles and turn left onto Skyport Lane, returning to your vehicle.



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