Throughout the fall, any road or trail you choose is going to be sensational. Look to the ridgelines for the maples, which take on their fiery red color first. The shore and forests, with their birch, tamarack and evergreens, will carry the golds and greens that linger later into the season. Below are four sample routes to get you started...

1. Start at the Caribou Trail (County Road 4) just north of Lutsen off Highway 61. Wind past Caribou Lake and take Forest Road 164 (Honeymoon Trail) to the left. When you come to the Sawbill Trail (County Road 2), turn left and return to Highway 61 at Tofte.

2. Start at 5th Avenue West, just off Highway 61 in Grand Marais. Take a left at County Road 7 (by the hospital). When you get to County Road 45, take a right and continue up to Pike Lake. Return to Grand Marais on the same roads or take a right on County Road 44 and another right on County Road 7 to reach Highway 61 near Cascade River State Park.

3. Start at the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12) just off Highway 61 in Grand Marais. For a scenic side trip, take Maple Hill Drive (County Road 54). Return to the Gunflint Trail and continue north to County Road 60. For a short tour, take a right or left at County Road 14 (either way will take you back to Highway 61).

   For a longer tour, turn left onto County Road 14, then left again onto Forest Road 140 (with a scenic side trip on the Bogus Lake Road—Forest Service 140 G). Back on Forest Road 140, two miles after passing Trout Lake, you will reconnect with the Gunflint Trail. A left turn will take you back to Highway 61 and Grand Marais.

4. Take the Arrowhead Trail (County Road 16) off Highway 61 in Hovland. Watch for Jackson Lake Road where you’ll take a right, follow the road for a bit and then take a left onto Otter Lake Road which will connect with the Arrowhead Trail (County 16). Make side trips off the Arrowhead Trail on Tower Road to the Hovland Lookout Tower before returning to Highway 61.
Points of Interest

1 Temperance River Vista View of the Temperance River, its valley, and Carlton Peak which rises 900 ft above Lake Superior.

2 Heartbreak Ridge When horses were used for logging, this steep ridge broke many a logger’s heart because during the winter he could not haul up or down the rise.

3 Temperance River Campground Camping, picnicking, toilets, and well.

4 Poplar River Campground Camping, picnicking, toilets.

5 Oberg and LeVeaux Hiking Trails Some of the best fall vistas are from these trails. There are steep cliffs, so keep children close. Round trip: Oberg, 2 ¼ miles; LeVeaux, 3 ½ miles. Parking for both is 2 miles up the Onion River Rd (336).

6 Britton Peak Trail This short 5 minute trail provides a great view from the top.

7 Scenic Drives There are three designated Scenic Byways to explore in the area. The North Shore Scenic Byway (MN 61) follows the birch filled shore of Lake Superior. The Gunflint Trail (Co 12) and Superior National Forest (Forest Hwy 11) Scenic Byways travel into the Forest from the shore and can be found on other maps.