

## Wilderness Permits

Permits are required to enter the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). Self-issued day use permits are available at trailheads. Overnight campers must have an entry point permit. Inquire at the Gunflint Ranger Station, 2020 West Highway 61, Grand Marais, MN, 55604, or call 218-387-1750 for more information. For BWCAW overnight permit reservations, call 877-444-6777 or visit RECREATION.gov



### 8. MOOSE VIEWING TRAIL

**Features:** Wildlife viewing platform  
Interpretive signs

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Distance:** 1 mile (round trip)

**Location:** 22.1 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12). Turn left and drive to the parking lot.

**Hiking the Trail:** Hike from the parking area for about a quarter mile along the snowmobile trail. The Moose Viewing Trail continues to the right, where it becomes a narrow path. The moose viewing platform is on the right, down a narrow trail through the woods. Watch for interpretive signs along the way to learn more about moose.



### 9. DANIELS LAKE

*Self-issued BWCAW day permit required for hiking.*

**Features:** Access to Border Route Trail

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Distance:** 3.75 miles (round trip)

**Location:** Drive 27 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12). Turn right on Clearwater Road (County Road 22) and drive 4.3 miles to the parking area at the West Bearskin Lake Boat Landing.

**Hiking the Trail:** The trail follows the old Alger-Smith railroad grade which was acquired by the Northern Lumber Company to gain access to white pine holdings on Rose and Clearwater Lakes. The trail terminates at the Border Route Hiking Trail, along the "Long Portage" between Rose and Rove Lakes.

### 10. HONEYMOON BLUFF

**Features:** Scenic overlook  
Perfect for viewingsunsets

**Difficulty:** Difficult but short

**Distance:** 1.5 miles (round trip)

**Location:** Drive 27 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12). Turn right on Clearwater Road (County Road 22) and drive 1.3 miles to the parking lot at the trailhead. (The trailhead is located 1/4 mile past the road to Flour Lake Campground.)

**Hiking the Trail:** This short trail with long sets of wooden stairs leads to a spectacular rocky overlook with views of Hungry Jack Lake, East Bearskin Lake, West Bearskin Lake, and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The west-facing vantage point is the top is perfect for watching the sunset. Take extra care with small children on this trail and keep them under close supervision due to the steep terrain and high cliffs.



### 11. CARIBOU ROCK TRAIL

*Self-issued BWCAW day permit required for hiking.*

*Overnight permit (obtained at Gunflint Ranger Station or outfitter) required for overnight stay at primitive campsite.*

**Features:** Scenic overlook

Access to Border Route Trail

**Difficulty:** Difficult

**Distance:** 1.5 or 7 miles (round trip)

**Location:** Drive 28.7 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12). Turn right on Hungry Jack Lake Road (County Road 21) and travel 1.9 miles to the parking area on the right; trailhead is on the left side of the road.

**Hiking the Trail:** The trail is an access route to the Border Route Hiking Trail. Overlooks along the hike include West Bearskin Lake (about three-quarters of a mile from trailhead), then Moss Lake, Duncan Lake, Rose Lake and Canada. The Stairway Falls are a highlight of this hike trip. This trail is steep and demanding, trail conditions are challenging and there are many protruding rocks and roots. Allow 5 - 7 hours for a round trip hike, and bring plenty of water, snacks, raingear, and bug repellent.

### 12. SOUTH LAKE TRAIL

*Self-issued BWCAW day permit required for hiking.*

*Overnight permit (obtained at Gunflint Ranger Station or outfitter) required for overnight stay at primitive campsite.*

**Features:** Access to Border Route Trail

Beaver pond and wildlife

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Distance:** 8 miles (round trip)

**Location:** Drive 31.8 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12). The trailhead sign is located about .1 mile past the

Rockwood Lodge sign, on the north side of the Gunflint Trail. Parking available at Rockwood Lodge.

**Hiking the Trail:** Extending from Poplar to South Lake, a portion of the trail is in the BWCAW. The trail passes near Partridge Lake which has a developed overnight campsite. Tall red and white pines watch over the trail in the sections where it passes through the old forests.



### 13. TOPPER LAKE TRAILHEAD/ MUCKER LAKE TRAIL

*Self-issued BWCAW day permit required for hiking.*

**Features:** Access to Border Route Trail

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Distance:** 1.5 miles (round trip) or 6 miles to Mucker Lake

**Location:** Drive 33.9 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12). Turn right on Forest Road 317 and drive 0.6 miles to parking area at the end of the road.

**Hiking the Trail:** Topper Lake is nestled among hills. Mucker Lake Trail intersects the Border Route Trail at South Lake.

### 14. CRAB LAKE TRAIL

*Self-issued BWCAW day permit required for hiking.*

**Features:** Access to Border Route Trail

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Distance:** 8 miles (round trip)

**Location:** Drive 38.1 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12).

Turn right on the road to Loon Lake Lodge (County Road 51) and drive 0.9 miles to the trailhead, just past the lodge.

**Hiking the Trail:** This trail passes through wetlands, with a short spur to Crab Lake. Trail is often used as an access to the Border Route Trail.

### 15. GUNFLINT LAKE TRAILS

**Features:** Access to Border Route Trail

Interpretive signs on some trails  
Spectacular vistas from overlooks

**Difficulty:** Moderate to difficult

**Distance:** 26 miles (various loops)

**Location:** Drive 44.7 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12) to South Gunflint Lake Road (County Road 20) which leads to the Gunflint Lake resorts. Pick up a local hiking map (and current information on trail conditions) from one of the area resorts. Parking available at Gunflint Lodge.

**Hiking the Trails:** The High Cliffs Trail and South Rim Trail have spectacular views of Gunflint Lake and the Canadian shore. Bridal Falls is a beautiful destination — just right for a picnic. Hike through dense growth between ridges, over lava outflows, and across the old Pee-Dee railroad bed. Hiking maps are essential. Pick one up from an area resort.

### 15. BORDER ROUTE

*Self-issued BWCAW day permit required for hiking.*

*Overnight permit (obtained at Gunflint Ranger Station or outfitter) required for overnight stay at primitive campsite.*

**Features:** Long distance hike through the BWCA

**Difficulty:** Moderate to difficult

**Distance:** 70 miles

**Location:** Access from various points along the Gunflint Trail (Caribou Rock Trail, South Lake Trail, Topper Lake Trail, Crab Lake Trail, and Gunflint Lake Trails)

**Hiking the Trail:** The trail extends from a trailhead on the Gunflint Trail to the Pigeon River below South Fowl Lake. Most of the trail passes through the BWCAW. It's fairly rugged terrain, with many rock ledges and spectacular views. Windfalls are to be expected, and it may be difficult to follow the trail. Campsites can be found along lakeshores. For current trail conditions and maps, contact the USDA Forest Service in Grand Marais.

### 16. KEKEKABIC TRAIL

*Self-issued BWCAW day permit required for hiking.*

*Overnight permit (obtained at Gunflint Ranger Station or outfitter) required for overnight stay at primitive campsite.*

**Features:** Scenic ridges

Long-distance hike  
through the BWCAW

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Distance:** 37 miles

**Location:** Drive 47.8 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12). Parking and trailhead are on the left.

**Hiking the Trail:** The trail extends from the Gunflint Trail to County Road 18 on Snowbank Lake near Ely. NOTE: In the fire-affected areas, it can be difficult to locate the trail; be sure to have a good trail map with you. Also, after high winds, large limbs and trees may criss-cross the trail. Use caution.



Gunflint Trail (County Road 12)

Grand Marais

### 17. CENTENNIAL TRAIL

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Distance:** 3.3 miles

**Location:** Drive 47.8 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12) to the Kekekabic Trailhead. Parking and trailhead are on the left.

**Hiking the Trail:** The Centennial Trail follows the path and history of the Port Arthur, Duluth, & Western Railroad route to the ill-fated Paulsen Mine. A trail brochure and numbered posts guide hikers along the trail, retracing this historic attempt to extract iron ore from Northern Minnesota. Trail features include mine test pits, late 1800's stone trestles, and recent signs of fire and wind. Follow the Round Lake Road to the left (east) to the mowed snowmobile trail, walk to the Gunflint Trail, then walk the shoulder back to the Kekekabic Trailhead parking area.



### 18. MAGNETIC ROCK TRAIL

*Self-issued BWCAW day permit required for hiking.*

**Features:** 60-foot rock with strong magnetic pull  
Connects with Gunflint Lake trails

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Distance:** 3 miles (round trip)

**Location:** Drive 47.8 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12). Trailhead is on the right.

**Hiking the Trail:** Hike across Larch Creek, through the burns of 2007, 2003 and 1974 to Magnetic Rock. Along the trail, look for rock cairns that mark the trail over areas of exposed rock. This 60-foot rock feature, with its strong magnetic attraction, is a unique phenomenon of the Glacial Period. Bring your compass and test the magnetism. Pick up a trail map at one of the Gunflint Lake area resorts if you want to hike past Magnetic Lake. This is also the access to the Border Route Trail.



### 19. CHIK-WAUK MUSEUM & NATURE CENTER TRAILS

**Features:** Six hiking trails, including an ADA trail

and interpretive walk

**Difficulty:** Easy to moderate

**Distance:** Various

**Location:** Drive 54.7 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12) to Moose Pond Road (County Road 81). Turn right and watch for the sign for the Chik-Wauk Museum & Nature Center on your right (approximately 0.4 miles). Turn right and go to the parking area.

**Hiking the Trails:** A variety of trails surround the Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center, and more will be added. Pick up a trail map at the museum.

**Contact:** Chik-Wauk Museum & Nature Center  
218-388-9915

### 20. NATURE TRAIL

**Features:** Wildflowers  
Blueberries  
Ham Lake Fire ecology

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Distance:** 1.6 miles (round trip)

**Location:** Drive 56.0 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12) to Trail's End Campground. The trail begins at the canoe landing.

**Hiking the Trail:** The trail winds up and down rocky terrain along the scenic bay which flows into the Seagull River between Seagull and Gull Lakes). In spring and early summer, look for Stemless Moccasin Flower (pink moccasin flower) and Linnaea borealis (Twin Flower). In late July and August this is an excellent blueberry area. Look and listen for Black-backed Woodpecker and several varieties of flycatchers along this trail.

