A Wild Place to Hike

One of the best outdoor activities to be found along northeastern Minnesota's Gunflint Trail is recreational hiking — and it's possible to do it spring, summer, fall, and winter. Chose your trail — from easy day hikes, to challenging multi-day routes for overnight camping. Trails meander through the Superior National Forest and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCAW), and include access to The Border Route and Superior Hiking Trail.

Wildlife

There are millions of reasons why we say the Gunflint Trail offers vacations of a different nature. Countless natural, wild, and scenic reasons. Moose, deer, loons, wolves, pine marten, black bears, eagles, owls, fox, lynx, beaver, otters, dozens of birds and other animals make up the wildlife in these north woods. Hundreds of species of songbirds, birds of prey, and waterfowl live in or migrate through this unique boreal habitat. Walleye, large and small mouth bass, lake trout, rainbow trout, and northern pike are the most prolific fish species. Come hike, explore, experience, and enjoy.

Trail Safety

Be prepared for rough and slippery surfaces, especially on ledge rock. Wear comfortable boots or a well-built jogging shoe with non-slip soles. Allow approximately 45 minutes per mile. Take along safety essentials: food and water for longer hikes, first aid kit, compass and detailed maps, sunscreen, and bug repellent. Always let someone know where you are headed and when you expect to return.

Leave No Trace

Help protect the thin soils and fragile plant life by staying on the main trail. Pack out everything you pack in. Take only pictures, leave only footprints.

218-387-2524
VisitCookCounty.com

Your Gunflint Trail Hosts

Bearskin Lodge
218-388-2292 • www.bearskin.com

Big Bear Lodge & Cabins
218-388-0772 • www.bigbearlodge.com

Clearwater Canoe Outfitters & Lodge
218-388-2254 • www.clearwaterhistoriclodge.com

Cross River Lodge
218-388-2233 • www.crossriverlodge.com

Golden Eagle Lodge
218-388-2203 • www.golden-eagle.com

Gunflint Lodge
218-388-2296 • www.gunflint.com

Gunflint Northwoods Outfitters
218-388-2296 • www.gunflintoutfitters.com

Gunflint Pines Resort
218-388-4454 • www.gunflintpines.com

Heston's Lodge
218-388-2243 • www.hestons.com

Hungry Jack Lodge
218-388-2265 • www.hungryjacklodge.com

Hungry Jack Outfitters
218-388-2275 • www.hjo.com

Loon Lake Lodge
218-388-2232 • www.visitloonlake.com

Nor'Wester Lodge
218-388-2252 • www.norwesterlodge.com

Poplar Creek Guesthouse
218-388-4487 • www.poplarcreekbnb.com

Poplar Haus
218-388-2222 • www.poplarhaus.com

Rockwood Lodge & Outfitters
218-388-2242 • www.rockwoodbwca.com

Seagull Creek Fishing Camp
218-388-9929 • www.seagullcreekfishingcamp.com

Seagull Canoe Outfitters
218-388-2216 • www.seagulloutfitters.com

Trail Center Resort
218-388-2214 • www.trailcenterlodge.com

Trout Lake Resort
218-387-1330 • www.troutlakeresort.com

Tuscarora Lodge & Canoe Outfitters
218-388-2221 • www.tuscaroracanoe.com

Voyageur Canoe Outfitters
218-388-2224 • www.voyageur.com

Way of the Wilderness Outfitters
218-388-2212 • www.wayofthewilderness.com
1. SUPERIOR HIKING TRAIL
Features: Boreal and transition forest
Longest hiking trail in the Midwest
Spectacular Lake Superior overlooks
Difficulty: Moderate to difficult
Distance: 200+ miles
Location: Access from Pincushion Mountain trail system.
Drive 2.5 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12); turn right on County Road 53.
Hiking the Trail: This long distance trail follows the Lake Superior shore from Two Harbors to the Canadian border.
There are spectacular vistas of Lake Superior, silhouettes of the Sawtooth Mountain Range, and breathtaking glimpses of wild rivers as they cascade over waterfalls through rocky gorges. Trailheads are located at most County Road crossings and state parks. Current maps are available at U.S. Gunflint Ranger Station, state park offices, local resorts and businesses, and from the Superior Hiking Trail Association in Two Harbors, Minnesota.

1. PINCUSHION MOUNTAIN TRAILS
Features: Connections to Superior Hiking Trail
Lake Superior overlook
Difficulty: Easy to difficult
Distance: 15 miles (various loops)
Location: Drive 2.5 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12); turn right on County Road 53 and drive 0.2 miles to parking.
Hiking the Trail: The trailhead parking lot offers a great view of Lake Superior and the Grand Marais harbor. There are a variety of hikes possible within thislooping system of trails. Take the loop to Pincushion Mountain for a view of the Devil Track River gorge and a panorama of Lake Superior. The Pincushion Trail System connects with the Superior Hiking Trail. Maps are available at trailhead and various locations along the trail.

2. EAGLE MOUNTAIN
Self-Issued BWCAW day permit required for hiking.
Overnight permit (obtained at Gunflint Ranger Station or outpost) required for overnight stay at primitive campsite.
Features: Highest point in Minnesota (2,301 feet)
Spectacular vistas of BWCAW
Two campsties
Historic fire tower site
Difficulty: Moderate with some steep and rocky terrain
Distance: 7 miles (round trip)
Location: Take the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12) from Highway 61 in Grand Marais 4.0 miles to County Road 8 on your left (toward Devil Track Lake). Turn left on County Road 8, drive 5 miles to County Road 27 and turn right. Drive 5 miles to the junction of Forest Road 170 and turn left. Follow #170 5 miles to the trailhead parking area.
Hiking the Trail: The first 2.5 miles of the trail gains elevation gradually; the next half mile offers slightly more increase and the final half mile becomes rocky and steep, gaining elevation rapidly to the summit. The highest point is marked by a brass survey disk placed toward the west side of the ridge.

3. WILDFLOWER INTERPRETIVE HIKE
Features: Wildflower interpretive signs
Difficulty: Not maintained
Distance: Less than a mile
Location: 5.7 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12) just before the Devil Track River bridge. Look for a small brown sign that says “Wildflower Sanctuary.”
Hiking the Trail: A shaded walk along the edge of the Devil Track River with an interesting variety of native and non-native wild flowers, shrubs, trees, and grasses
NOTE: This trail is currently not maintained.

4. GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PINES
Features: White and red pine forest
Wildflowers
Difficulty: Easy
Distance: 3 miles (round trip)
Location: 6.8 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12). Turn left into the parking lot.
Hiking the Trail: The trail is an old road through a tall pine stand. It turns at Elbow Creek and follows the creek before winding back into the forest. The trail can get wet and muddy during rainy periods.

5. KIMBALL LAKE FISHING TRAIL
Features: Designated trout lake
Difficulty: Easy
Distance: 2 miles
Location: 10.9 miles up the Gunflint Trail, then 2 miles east on Trout Lake Road (Forest Road 140).
Hiking the Trail: The trail starts at the Kimball Lake Campground and goes around the entire lake, and offers dozens of fishing spots cleared along the shoreline.

6. NORTHERN LIGHT LAKE BLUEBERRY HILL
Features: Panoramic view of Northern Light Lake
Difficulty: Difficult, but short
Distance: 1 mile (round trip)
Location: Drive 13 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12). The trailhead is 2.25 miles past Trout Lake Road.
Hiking the Trail: The top of Blueberry Hill offers outstanding vistas above Northern Light Lake. Or, hike a short distance down to the Brule River that flows into Northern Light Lake. NOTE: Portions of the trail have steep sections of exposed bedrock that can be difficult to cross when wet.

7. LIMA MOUNTAIN TRAIL
Self-Issued BWCAW day permit required for hiking.
Overnight permit (obtained at Gunflint Ranger Station or outpost) required for overnight stay at primitive campsite.
Features: Beautiful vistas
Historic fire tower site
Difficulty: Difficult
Distance: 3 miles (round trip)
Location: Drive 21 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12). Turn left on Forest Road 152. Go 2 miles to Forest Road 315. Lima Mountain trailhead is located off Forest Road 315.
Hiking the Trail: The Lima Mountain Trail is narrow, rocky, and steep. Protruding rocks and roots make the footing difficult in places; be sure to wear good hiking shoes. Lima Mountain is the site of a former fire lookout tower (built in 1935, staffed until 1955, and removed in 1978). At the top of the mountain, at an elevation of 2,238 feet, there is a panoramic view to the west of the Misquah Hills, which also includes Eagle Mountain.

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 and type in “Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness”

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