

GO Lake Country

ELY • LAKE VERMILION • VOYAGEURS

Summer 2022

FREE



- YOUR MAP OF THE LAKE COUNTRY...PG 8
- LOCAL EVENTS...PGS 10-13
- CATCH YOUR SUPPER...PG 18
- AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

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WELCOME to the LAKE COUNTRY

Whether you're new to our area, or a regular visitor, we're happy to have you in the Lake Country and we've produced this guide specifically to make your stay here the best it can be. The word is certainly out that our region has some of the best outdoor recreation opportunities found anywhere in the Upper Midwest. We experienced back-to-back busy summers the past two years even in the midst of a pandemic. While we know many of you are here for the fishing, camping, boating, or hiking, the Lake Country is also known for its full schedule of summer events. You'll find our events listing starting on page 10 and stories throughout highlighting the wide range of other things to do here in the Lake Country.

For us, home is the Lake Country, extending from Voyageurs National Park to Lake Vermilion to the Ely area. We know it well and are excited to share it with you. And we hope as you get to know our little piece of paradise, you'll come to love it here as much as we do. Maybe, someday, we'll even be able to call you neighbor!



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EXPLORE >>

LAKE COUNTRY COMMUNITIES



Far left: Live music is found throughout the Lake Country in summer.

Middle: The grounds of the Nelimark Museum in Embarrass.

Left: Great walleye fishing comes naturally in the Lake Country!

Ash River Trail

Located on the edge of Voyageurs National Park, this small resort community is the perfect destination if you're looking to really get away from it all. From the six distinctive resorts found here, you have direct access to over a thousand miles of pristine, pine-studded shoreline.

Babbitt

Located on the eastern end of the Mesabi Iron Range, Babbitt remains an active mining town. Nearby Birch Lake, a sprawling reservoir just northeast of town, offers scenic vistas and great fishing. Only two portages away from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Cook

A thriving timber town, Cook serves the western end of Lake Vermilion and the Little Fork River Valley. This bustling community hosts interesting shops, an active arts scene, and a wide range of medical services for when you twist your ankle out on the trail.

Crane Lake

If you're looking to relax, you've come to the right place. Located at the border, with Canada on the opposite shore, Crane Lake offers a full service outpost, with a wide range of resorts, houseboat rentals, and outfitters, whether you're headed to the Boundary Waters or Voyageurs National Park.

Ely

The community at the end of the road. Once a mining town, it's become the gateway to the Boundary Waters and with outfitters galore, it is now widely viewed as one of the top outdoors towns in America. It's got the best shopping north of Duluth, a thriving arts community, and great restaurants.

Embarrass

Once a Finnish enclave, this is a community that is still proud of its heritage and its reputation as the coldest place in the Lower '48. You can visit the Darwin S. Myers WMA for bird and wildlife watching. The Nelimark Homestead Museum is expected to open in June.

Lake Kabetogama

Well-known as a fishing hotspot, Lake Kabetogama is home to numerous top-notch resorts all located right on the edge of Voyageurs National Park. From here, you can access all of the park's major lakes.

Orr

If you want colorful history, Orr has it in spades. This former frontier town has stories that put the Wild West to shame and you can read about it in the book *Unforgettable Orr*, available at the Orr Visitors Center. It's the gateway to Voyageurs National Park and the Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary.

Tower-Soudan

They're the oldest communities north of Duluth, founded in 1883 just ahead of the opening of the Soudan Mine, Minnesota's first and deepest iron mine. These former mining towns are tying their future to beautiful Lake Vermilion, a top destination for visitors and new residents to the area. Don't miss the newly-developed Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park.

A Home For All Seasons



It started as a family dream and became a reality in 2010. They had a love for Lake Vermilion and wanted to share it with others. AND now you have the opportunity to call it your own!

Their focus was to create a simple design lake home with efficiency and open concepts in mind. The success is evident as you enter the 3,292 SF home from the welcoming foyer with closets and cubbies to the wonderful great room with 13 ft high ceilings. A gourmet kitchen with custom Alder cabinetry, Cambria countertops, island with seating for four, designated dining area, slate tile fireplace, with custom Alder mantel, french doors onto the lakeside Brazilian Walnut deck AND stunning southern big water views. Also, an amazing sunroom surrounded by screened and sliding glass windows, Alder tongue and groove wall and ceiling paneling. Private main floor master bedroom suite with generous walk-in closet and tile shower.

Lower-level has 9 ft ceilings, stained concrete heated floors, two spacious bedrooms with lake views, family room with fireplace, wet bar with custom Alder cabinets, and full bathroom including a bubbler tub. Step out to a stamped concrete patio ready for your hot tub and only a few feet from an outside cedar lined sauna with a wood-burning Kuuma stove. Plus, a finished 320 SF bonus room above the garage!

Attached two-stall garage plus a one-stall tuck-under garage for all those extras. Energy efficient T-Mass Concrete foundation (R-20) resulting in low heating/cooling costs throughout the year. Low maintenance LP Smart Siding and Marvin low-E windows. All doors are 7'2" in height and oversized hallways. All rooms are lakeside with oversized windows bringing in natural light.

Beautifully landscaped yard with custom Blue Stone walkways, natural boulder rock retaining walls and a dedicated fire pit area for those evening campfires.

Located on highly desirable Birch Point, this property has 150 ft of private lakeshore with mature trees including Maples, Birch, Pine plus established blueberry/raspberry bushes!

This incredible lake home is being sold furnished. Don't miss your chance to own a piece of Lake Vermilion!

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And While You're Here...

Your directory of just about everything there is to do in the Lake Country

DON'T MISS >>

SHOP FOR LOCAL FOODS

Farmers markets are held weekly during the summer in Ely (Tues. 5-7 p.m. starting June 7), Tower (Fri. 4-6 p.m. starting June 17), and Cook (Sat. 8 a.m.-Noon, starting June 18).

Enjoy fresh, quality produce, artisan breads, preserves, and local specialties produced by area residents. It's a great way to "shop locally!"



TAKE A STROLL ON THE ORR BOG WALK

Wetlands are found almost everywhere in the Lake Country and the newly-rebuilt Orr Bogwalk is a great way to learn about different wetland types *and* stretch your legs at the same time. The half-mile-long boardwalk takes you through a spruce bog, a black ash swamp, through an alder thicket, and along the shore of the Pelican River, which is a mecca for a wide variety of waterfowl, from grebes to pelicans.

It's located just off the parking lot at the Orr Visitors Center, along Hwy. 53 at Orr's south entrance.



WILD BEARS >>



VINCE SHUTE SANCTUARY

If you want to see black bears in the wild, this is the place, named after an Orr area logger who lived his life in the deep woods and came to befriend the wild creatures around him. Today, the sanctuary provides a safe viewing platform to watch the bears that come to feed on sunflower seeds and other foods put out by sanctuary staff.

See more details on pgs. 30-31

Just the Facts

Lake Vermilion/Soudan Mine State Park
Soudan, MN • Hiking trails open. New surface tours Memorial - Labor Day. Underground tours canceled in 2022 due to mine shaft maintenance. Call 218-300-7000 or www.dnr.state.mn.us for latest information.

Bear Head Lake State Park
Ely, MN • Park activities, camping, hiking trails, swimming beach, and fishing. Call 218-235-2520 or www.dnr.state.mn.us for latest information.

International Wolf Center
Ely, MN • Open daily in summer through Oct. 23, reservations suggested, 9-5 p.m. 218-365-4695 www.wolf.org

Embarrass Heritage Homestead Tours
Embarrass, MN • Call 218-984-2084 for details. www.embarrass.org

Orr Visitor Center and Wetlands Walk
Orr, MN • Bogwalk • Call for special activities 218-757-3288

VNP Kabetogama Visitor Center
County Rd. 123 • Open late May to late Sept., closed some holidays. www.nps.gov/voya 218-875-2111

VNP Ash River Visitor Center
Off County Rd. 129 • Open late May to late Sept., closed some holidays. • www.nps.gov/voy 218-374-3221

Dorothy Molter Museum
2002 E. Sheridan St., Ely, MN • Open 10-5 daily May 28 - Sept. 5. Oct 1 - 29 open Fri/Sat 10-4. 218-365-4451 • www.rootbeerlady.com

Ely Chamber of Commerce
1600 E. Sheridan St., Ely, MN. www.ely.org • 218-365-6123

North American Bear Center
Ely, MN • Open daily through Oct. 29. Call for hours. 218-365-7879 • www.bear.org

Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary
Orr, MN • Open 5-8 p.m. Tues-Sun, June 9 - Sept. 4. check www.americanbear.org for more information. 218-757-0172 • bears@americanbear.org

GO Lake Country
Minnesota's Boundary Waters

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Summer

EVENTS & FESTIVALS

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JUNE

ELY'S HISTORIC STATE THEATER, Special events all summer long. Check elystatetheater.org for showtimes. 218-235-6300.

GREENSTONE ARTS KIDS ARTS CAMPS- Miners Dry Building in Ely. June 7, 8, & 9, for ages 7 - 12, and June 14, 15, & 16, for ages 13 - 18. Both camps are \$50 per student, scholarships available through Ely Community Resources. More info on Facebook at Greenstone Arts or contact artsgreenstone@gmail.com.

SAUNA DAY, June 11, at the Nelimark Homestead and Museum in Embarrass. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Traveling saunas on display, live music, games, demonstrations, Finnish foods and goods for sale. See www.sisuheritage.org for more.

SPRING ART EXPO, June 5-28. Local art exhibited at businesses throughout Cook. Sponsored by

Northwoods Friends of the Arts. See nwfamn.org.

TAKE-A-KID FISHING, June 10-12. Minnesota residents 16 and older fish for free when they accompany an angler 15 and younger. For more, visit www.dnr.state.mn.us.

COOK TIMBER DAYS, June 10-12, celebrating the impact of the timber industry on Cook and the surrounding area. Parade, food, live music, softball tourney, pet show, fireworks, and more. Visit their Facebook page.

COOK MUSIC IN THE PARK, Featuring local musicians every Wednesday evening at 6 p.m., beginning June 15 through Aug. 31. Held at the gazebo in downtown Cook, or at the nearby VFW in case of rain. Food available in the park.



PETER MITCHELL FUN DAYS, June 17-19. 64th anniversary of Babbitt's biggest festival of the year. Check out their Facebook page for more information on events and times.

LAND OF THE LOON FESTIVAL, June 18-19 in Virginia's Olcott Park, celebrates the culture and customs of the diverse people who settled in Northeastern Minnesota. Kick-off parade at 9 a.m. on Saturday. Food, music, ethnic arts and crafts. Visit landoftheloonfestival.com.

LAKE VERMILION POWWOW, June 24-26. Traditional dancing,

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JULY

NORTHERN LIGHTS MUSIC FESTIVAL, June 26-July 24, presents four weeks of youth music camps, opera, solo recitals, orchestral and chamber music at various venues. This year's opera is *The Magic Flute*. Visit northernlightsmusic.org.

JULY 3RD FUN DAYS, downtown Orr. 5K Walk/Run, beanbag tourney, street dance, fireworks at night.

TOWER-SOUDAN 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION, July 2-4. One of the oldest, largest and best celebrations in the area. July 4 events include: 5K/10K run, parade, pancake breakfast, children's activities, entertainment! Fireworks on Saturday, July 2 at dusk. Community Picnic in Soudan on July 3.

4TH OF JULY IN ELY, 4 Mile Run/Walk at 8 a.m. at Miner's Lake. Parade at 1 p.m. Family activities, children's games, and food in Whiteside Park sponsored by Ely Young Life. Fireworks at 10 p.m. over Miner's Lake.



CRANE LAKE 4TH OF JULY, July 4. Boat parade begins at 3 p.m., with food, music, and fireworks at dusk. See www.visitcranelake.com or call 218-993-2901 for more.

WATERCOLOR ART SHOW, July 20 - 24, 10 - 4, Miners Dry Building in Ely. Free admission. The Ely Watercolor Club has hundreds of original watercolors on display and for sale!

FINE ART SHOW, July 26 - Aug. 3, 10 - 4, Miners Dry Building in Ely, free admission. Featuring artists Laura Ahola Young, Andy Messerschmidt and Scott King.



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ELY'S BLUEBERRY/ART FESTIVAL, July 29-31, Whiteside Park in Ely. 240 exhibitors displaying original art and handcrafts. Food vendors, music, children's events, stage shows. 218-365-6123 or events@ely.org.

AUGUST

CRANE LAKE, Aug. 2 celebration of National Night Out.



FESTIVAL OF SKALDS, Aug. 13-14, from 10-5. 8182 Carpenter Rd., Angora. Join us for a weekend of Olde Norse Merriment. Follow us on Facebook for the most up to date info. Food, vendors, entertainment, ancient games, archery, and more. www.ironrangearts.com.

GREAT RIVER ENERGY/MESABI TRAIL TOUR '22, Aug. 20. Minnesota Discovery Center, Chisholm. Music, food, exercise and fun. Registration now open online. Option of a 12, 32, 46, or 64-mile route. All start and end at MDC in Chisholm. Call 218-749-4331 or visit mesabitrail.com.

EMBARRASS REGION FAIR, Aug. 26-28 at Timber Hall in Embarrass. An old-fashioned fair with demolition derby, mud run, animals, garden exhibits, 5K walk/run and much more. Visit their Facebook page.

SEPTEMBER

LAKE VERMILION ANTIQUE AND CLASSIC BOAT SHOW, Sept. 4, noon to 4 p.m. If you love the look of lovingly restored wooden boats, this is the show for you. It's a free annual event held at The Landing on the western-most tip of Lake Vermilion.

FEST DU NORD, Sept. 2-5. 10th anniversary of the Family-friendly outdoor music weekend at YMCA's Camp du Nord

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outside of Ely. See ymcanorth.org for more information.

POTTERY, PICS & POETRY, Sept. 7 - 14, 10 - 4, Miners Dry Building in Ely. Pottery, Pics & Poetry Show and Sale, free admission.

ELY'S HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL, Sept. 9-11. More than 140 artists and

crafters, demonstrations, food, live music at Whiteside Park. New in '22: Vintage vehicle display. See www.ely.org for more.

SISU COMMUNITY NIGHT OUT, Sept. 11, 4 p.m. Tours, live music, and supper at the restored Seitaniemi House-barn in Waasa. 218-984-3012 or www.sisuheritage.com for more.

ELY MARATHON, Sept. 24. Full, half, and kids' marathon races, plus canoe portage races. 5K Glow Run on Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. See elymarathon.com for more info and to register.



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LAKE COUNTRY STATE PARKS HAVE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

With two of Minnesota's premier state parks located virtually next door to each other, the Lake Country has a wide range of outdoor fun and activities available all year round. And, not surprisingly, both state parks are centered

around spectacular lakes, that offer opportunities for fishing, canoeing, boating, swimming, along with all the land-based activities like hiking and biking, as well as exceptional opportunities for viewing birds and other wildlife.



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Lake Vermilion Soudan Underground Mine State Park

Since its founding in 2010, the Minnesota state park with the longest official name, has mostly been considered a work in progress. But that's all changed with the opening of the Vermilion Ridge Campground, which opened in the fall of 2018. The new campground includes 33 large and

widely-spaced camp sites, all of which are capable of servicing either tents or RVs. Three spectacular group camps are also located at the campground, and each can house up to 60 people. One of the camps is designed for tents, with more rustic bathroom accommodations, while the other two can house both

tents and RVs, and share a full, modern bathroom and shower facility. Each of the group camps also features a large, fully screened picnic shelter with a long counter and shelves for food preparation and serving, and electrical service.

The park also has eight new camper cabins, which

opened for overnight stays just over a year ago. The cabins are small and fairly rustic, but they're a huge step up from tent camping. The cabins have proven to be extremely popular in other state parks, so competition for reservations is stiff.

At the same time, the park offers a number of remote campsites, that visitors can hike or paddle to, any of which offers plenty of seclusion.

And those are just the lodging possibilities. The park hosts a growing network of

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CLEAN

- Boats, trailers, and gear
- Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axles, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, nets, and gear before leaving boat landing

DRAIN

- Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well
- Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
- Trash unused bait

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Soudan Mine tours



Interpretive staff at the Lake Vermilion Soudan Underground Mine State Park will be offering a guided surface tour of the former mining operation here this summer. The surface tour will highlight the above-ground facilities at the former iron mine and the role those buildings played in the operations there. It's a great way to learn more about the operations at the former iron mine, which is Minnesota's oldest and deepest. Surface tours will begin every half hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and cost \$5 per person for ages five and older, while visitors ages four and under are free.



Historic Stuntz Bay boathouses now part of Lake Vermilion State Park

hiking trails across its 4,000 acres, some offering spectacular overlooks of Lake Vermilion or some of the park's wetland complexes. Others pass through spectacular stands of old-growth red and white pine.

If you'd rather ride a bike, you're in luck. A newly-completed stretch of the Mesabi Bike Trail, which runs from Grand Rapids to Ely, is now in place and makes for fantastic biking through beautiful rolling terrain.

And, of course, there's Lake Vermilion, with hundreds of miles of winding,

pine-studded shoreline and 365 islands. It isn't just one of America's most beautiful lakes—it also offers world class fishing for walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass, or muskie. While Vermilion is sometimes too big for novice-level canoers, some of Vermilion's quieter and more protected bays, like Armstrong and Mattson Bays (both within the park), provide excellent opportunities for kayaking or canoeing.

And no trip to the park would be complete without a visit to the historic Soudan Mine. While underground tours will not be



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offered this year while the park staff undertakes a major refurbishment of the mine's elevator shaft, interpretive staff will be hosting walking tours of the above-ground facilities that were part of the mining operation there.

If you only have time for a short visit, the park has a beautiful day use area, located at the entrance to Armstrong Bay, in the northeast corner of the park. The facility is accessible by both vehicle and by boat. You'll find picnic facilities, bathrooms, and a large fishing pier.

The park staff is now beginning the planning for the park's newest attraction, a main lodge, to be built on a ridge overlooking Lake Vermilion. It will provide the centerpiece for this spectacular park within the next few years.

For more information, you can contact the state park at 218-300-7000.

Bear Head Lake State Park

If you're looking for a real taste of the Northwoods, you'll find it at Bear Head Lake State Park, located just up the road from Lake Vermilion. Watch for the park cutoff along Hwy. 169, about halfway between Tower and Ely.

This idyllic 4,500-acre park is heavily forested with pine, spruce, and birch and is well-known for its hiking trails, camping, and fishing. The clear waters of the park's namesake, the 674-acre Bear Head Lake, features walleye, northern pike, and crappies, while two small kettle lakes within the park are regularly stocked with brook and rainbow trout and offer good fishing throughout the year.

If you're looking for great swimming, the park's picnic area offers an excellent sandy beach. Just watch the youngsters, since the water drops off fairly quickly.

The park is a favorite destination for hikers, with 17 miles of hiking trails, nine of which are groomed for cross-country skiing in winter. The rugged, wooded terrain in the park is home to bear, deer, gray wolves, and moose, as well as many smaller mammals and dozens of species of northern forest birds, like crossbills, boreal chickadees, red-breasted nuthatches, and evening grosbeaks. It's also a great spot to view many species of neo-trop-



ical migrants, especially warblers and vireos, in the summer months. In past years, the park has offered Saturday morning bird walks, check with the park office for naturalist-led activities.

The park also offers plenty of camping opportunities, with 73 drive-in sites, two water access sites as well as five remote hike-in campsites spread around the park. The park also has a guest house that can sleep up to ten, and four camper cabins are available as well if you're lucky enough to score a reservation. Reservations for all camping at the park are recommended. You can contact the park for more information or to check for campsite availability at 218-235-2520.

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CATCH YOUR SUPPER!

Area fishing guides offer advice to get you started

You made it. You drove six hours with the family to get to that Lake Country resort you've been dreaming of for six months. You've checked in for a week, unpacked, and the kids are happily splashing in the water while your spouse lounges on the beach with a good book.

That boat you reserved for the week is parked at the dock, gassed, and ready to go. The walleyes are out there. You just need to go find them.

Ah, but where to begin?

There's a lot of water here in the Lake Country, far more than you could possibly explore in a week. So, we talked to some area fishing guides for tips on how to make

the most of your time on the water. Here's a breakdown of what they had to say.

Hire a guide:

You might expect fishing guides to offer such a suggestion, but we agree this is probably the best money you can spend, especially if you're planning to fish one of the big lakes in the region, like Vermilion, Burntside or Kabetogama. Even a half-day spent with a guide, which will run you anywhere from \$325-\$450 for up to two people, will leave you far better prepared for a week of good fishing than anything else you could do. Schedule time with a guide early on in your stay, so you can take advantage of what you'll learn for the next several days.

According to Lake Vermilion guide Rob Bryers (218-780-7939), your guide will not only take you to a few of his hot spots, he'll give you even more valuable information, such as the proper depths to fish, the types of presentation to use, and which baits are working at the moment. That's all critical information for successful fishing.

Get a good map of the lake:

You'll find that most of the popular fishing lakes in the Lake Country have detailed maps, complete with depth contours and, often, a few tips on spots that tend to produce fish. These maps are typically available at most bait shops. Lake Vermilion guide Cliff Wagenbach

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graph, I generally won't even drop a line," said Wagenbach.

Think structure:

"For me, checking out a new lake is always about structure," says Ely area fishing guide Steve Foss (218-235-1147). While most anglers think of structure as humps and lake points, which frequently hold fish, area guides agree that depth breaks, particularly the first break off shore, where a relatively shallow shoreline shelf falls off into deeper water, is an excellent place to work for fish. And

Foss says don't forget to think of weedbeds as part of the lake's structure since fish tend to frequent those areas, particularly the weedlines.

While the traditional paper maps offer this kind of information, Foss also likes some of the new fishing apps, like Navionics, that provide detailed information and mapping direct to your smartphone. "Navionics varies in accuracy from lake to lake, but most lakes are pretty well represented, and it's great for bottom contour and structure," said Foss. "There are other apps that can help with weedlines and transitions," he said.

On a big lake, like Vermilion, the amount of structure to consider is almost limitless, so Bryers says he likes to focus on

a smaller area, such as a single bay. "Take that bay and pretend it's its own lake," he said. Scope out the depth breaks, look for weedbeds, and use your electronics to start marking fish.

Troll:

In the hunt for fish, few methods can be as effective as trolling. Whether you're fast trolling with a rapala or slow trolling with a lindy rig or jig and minnow over a soft bottom, this method allows you to cover a lot of territory. Work along points and known reefs, or any new shoreline you haven't tried before. The fish will let you know where they are. "In the early season, especially, trolling can be pretty effective for finding fish," said Wagenbach.

Ask a local bait dealer:

Even when you find the right places, getting fish to bite can still be a challenge. And that's where a conversation with a local bait shop owner can be critical. Let's face it, you can fill your tackle box with lures from a discount center, but the local bait shop still survives because most anglers recognize that these are the folks who have their finger on the pulse, which makes them a must-stop. Pick up an extra lure or two, some live bait, and throw in a six-pack of pop and some ice and you're ready to hit the water. Most of all, ask the guy or gal behind the counter where the fish are biting, and what they're biting. When the bite switches from minnows to leeches, they'll know right away. When

the fish are moving into deeper water, or setting up along the weedlines, they'll hear about it. They may be selling tackle and bait, but they also know they're selling information, so don't be shy about asking. You'll get useful intel from your local bait dealer, and they'll often have recent reports from some of the lesser-fished lakes as well as the most popular ones.

(218-753-2005) says maps will reveal structure that tend to hold fish, and will also indicate depth breaks, where fish tend to congregate. These maps are particularly valuable for many of the smaller fishing lakes in the Lake Country, that often are not serviced by guides. If you don't have a guide, you'll definitely want a map.

Trust your fish finder:

Whether you've brought your own fishing boat or are renting from a resort, you're likely to have access to an electronic fish locator. When you understand how they work, they can be an extremely valuable tool to help you put fish in the live well. In combination with a map, they can help you quickly locate key locations and even tell you whether fish are actually present. "If I don't see fish on the

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TRAILS TO ADVENTURE

When it comes to hiking, we've got you covered here in the Lake Country

The Lake Country is well known for its gorgeous lakes and world class fishing. Yet the region is also home to some of the most spectacular hiking trails in the Upper Midwest. No matter where you are in the Lake Country there are excellent trails designed for a wide range of ability levels and stamina, from the half-mile-long Orr Bogwalk, a fully-accessible boardwalk for all ability levels, to the 39-mile long Kekekabic Trail that winds its way through the heart of the Boundary Waters Canoe



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Area Wilderness.

Here's a sampling of just some of the trails you may want to try out during your stay:

The Ancient Cedars Trail

Created just two years ago, this remarkable trail quickly transports visitors from "downtown" Tower to a unique portion of untouched upland cedar forest that dates back 150 years. The site is not just extraordinary, it is a reminder of an ecological period that no longer exists in Minnesota. Had this site burned in recent years, the regeneration of white cedar would likely not have occurred due to the presence of whitetail deer, which browse heavily on white cedar. But when these trees grew up in the late 1880s, the forests of this area were populated by woodland caribou, which subsisted mostly on other foods of the forest. That makes this forest unique as a relic of a bygone era in Minnesota.

Yet the area is spectacular for more than just trees. The site also includes rugged rock outcrops, the remains of ancient mountains, that offer views of portions of the city and nearby Lake Vermilion. As you walk along the bases of these outcrops,



under the deep shade of the old cedars, the rock faces are draped in mosses and ferns. It's a return to the forest primeval.

Sturdy shoes or hiking boots are recommended and hiking sticks or poles may be of assistance as well.

To reach the trail, just follow the directional signs on the paved Mesabi Trail, which begins next to the Tower Train

Depot Museum. In three-tenths of a mile, watch for a right turn down a grassy lane. From there, the trailhead is about 500 feet away, just over a wooden snowmobile bridge. Watch for the trailhead and an interpretive sign on your left.

The first 500 feet of the trail is on boardwalk, through a wetland area. The rest of the trail is upland, and parts of it are



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fairly rugged. The main trail is just under a mile in length, while a number of loops and alternative routes, provide a total of two miles of hiking opportunity.

The Pine Ridges Trail

Spectacular views of Lake Vermilion from pine-studded outcrops are among the highlights of the Pine Ridges Trail system, which is mostly completed on Tower's north side. The trails work their way up to the top of Tower's big hill, where you'll find interesting rock formations in addition to the spectacular views. One of the outcrops overlooks the Tower Airport, which provides a bird's eye view of the activity at this busy airport and seaplane base. Take the connection over to the historic Lee Mine, now a small, nearly bottomless, mine pit lake, with impressive cliffs along the northwest side.

To get there, take Tower's Pine Street north from Hwy. 169 (Main Street) to the intersection with Birch St. N. You'll find the trailhead sign at the end of Birch St.

Vermilion Gorge Trail

The Vermilion Gorge trailhead is located in the community of Crane Lake, 27 miles northeast of Orr. Trail parking is



0.1 mile past the U.S. Park Service office on the left. At a leisurely pace, you can hike this 1.5-mile one-way trail in about three hours. The first two-thirds of the trail is relatively easy, with a wide, gravel trail bed.

But once you reach the river, the trail turns upstream and narrows and the gravel fades to a natural trail surface. This is the steepest and most interesting part of the trail, and you'll notice a dramatic change in

vegetation as you climb. The aspen/birch forest, with its dense understory, gives way to an open, park-like grove of red pine. Interpretive signs describe the historical development of the area, including logging, mineral prospecting, and the colorful fur trade era.

The deep gorge formed where the Vermilion River empties into Crane Lake is a dramatic sight and definitely worth the

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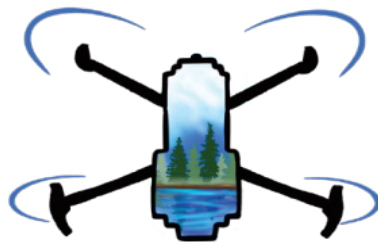
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DON'T GET "BUGGED"

It's true, there are plenty of biting insects and ticks in the forests of the Lake Country and you'll likely run into a few of them when out hiking, particularly in the early summer. Fortunately, there are good strategies to keep from being "bugged."

- ☞ Wear light-colored, long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- ☞ Wear a brimmed hat and spray it with a heavy dose of insect repellent.
- ☞ Try hiking in the late morning to mid-afternoon when the mosquitoes are generally inactive.
- ☞ Try hiking on breezy and less humid days. Most troublesome insects tend to hunker down under such conditions.
- ☞ Plan to do most of your hiking in late summer and fall. The insect population typically drops sharply in the Lake Country by August and the woods are practically insect-free come September. Early season is also a good time for hiking. Mosquitoes and biting flies are usually minimal in May, right up until Memorial Day.
- ☞ Be aware that deer ticks are now present in the Lake Country and they are potential carriers of the virus that causes Lyme Disease. If you're planning a hike, tuck your pants in your socks and hit your pant legs, shoes, and socks with a tick repellent, like Permethrin. And don't forget to do a "tick check" when you get back. Remember that deer ticks are much smaller than the more common "wood tick" so look carefully.

hike. But be careful with small children on this portion of the trail. The steep cliffs can be dangerous.

Stop in at the LaCroix Ranger District visitors center, on Hwy. 53 in Cook for a map of the trail.

Bass Lake Trails

Located six miles north of Ely just off the Echo Trail, the Bass Lake trails are among the most popular in the area. A se-

ries of loop trails circumnavigate Bass and Dry lakes, and a portion of Low Lake, and they take hikers through historically and ecologically unique terrain along the way. These trails have it all, including remote backpacking campsites, scenic overlooks, waterfalls, sandy beaches, and more.

Allow yourself at least four hours to hike the trail, longer if you want to pack a lunch, a swimsuit, and make a day of it. You'll want sturdy footwear, since the trail is rugged in many spots.

Bass and Low lakes occupy a long narrow basin that glaciers carved out of

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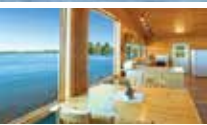
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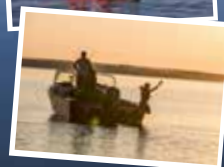
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Pre-Cambrian rock. Prior to 1925, the two lakes were separated by a ridge of glacial gravel which acted as a natural dam between them. Logging operations in the area led to the construction of a sluiceway to move logs from Bass Lake to Low Lake, a drop of nearly 60 feet. Seepage soon weakened the sluiceway as water moved through the gravel adjacent to the structure. In April of 1925, the sluiceway and glacial ridge collapsed in a giant washout that created a 250-foot gorge in a matter of hours.

This catastrophe lowered the level of Bass Lake 55 feet in just ten hours. Bass Lake was reduced to about half its original size and two small lakes became isolated in the old lake bed. Approximately 250 acres of land was then exposed and a portion of the trail now winds along the former lakebed.

Pick up a trail guide at the U.S. Forest Service visitors center, located on Hwy. 169 on the east end of Ely.

Secret/Blackstone Trails

This gem of a trail system can be found near the end of the Fernberg Road, about 18 miles east of Ely. The 3.5-mile loop trail follows a winding path of moderate terrain, with a few steeper hills. The trail leads hikers from high scenic overlooks, to wetlands, to waterfalls. A mixed forest provides habitat for many species of wildlife, so don't



be surprised to see signs of bear, wolves, or even moose. Much of the surrounding forest was heavily damaged by the massive 1999 blowdown that flattened nearly 350,000 acres of the Superior National Forest, so it is a good spot to see the effects of that storm, as well as the forest's recovery.

The trail's ultimate destination is a rock cliff overlooking Ennis Lake. The cliff is popular with rock climbers and it provides

an outstanding vista.

Pick up a trail guide at the U.S. Forest Service visitors center, located on Hwy. 169 on the east end of Ely.

Lookout Mountain Trails

Managed by the U.S. Forest Service, the Lookout Mountain trails, located four miles north of Virginia, offer a wide range of trails for hiking as well as mountain biking. As the name suggests, some of the trails will have you climbing and they offer fantastic views to the north and west, including view of the enormous wind turbines at nearby Taconite Ridge. In late July, you might also explore some of the open rock ledges near the top of the mountain, which can be a good spot to find wild blueberries. You'll find maps at the trailhead, located right off Hwy. 53, about four miles north of Virginia.

Giants Ridge Trails

Located near Biwabik, the Giants Ridge Golf and Ski Resort offers about 10 miles of hiking trails in the summer, along with rock climbing and a wide variety of mountain biking opportunities. The trails provide a nice mix of forest hiking and scenic overlooks. Most are accessible from near the ski chalet. Go to giantsridge.com to find more information and a trail map.

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TAKE A TRIP TO ELY

If you haven't made a trip to Ely yet, get in the car. The International Wolf Center, the North American Bear Center, or the Dorothy Molter Museum will keep the kids entertained without spending a lot of money. The Wolf Center's indoor viewing area is a series of carpeted stairs, a perfect place for children to burn off some energy. Then have lunch at any of the fine eating establishments in town and check out some of the shops and galleries in downtown Ely afterwards.



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The Bois Forte Heritage Center tells the story of the Bois Forte people, who have called the Lake Country home for more than 250 years. The center is very nicely designed and extremely informative. You can explore the facility on your own, or center staff will happily offer a guided tour.

The center is open Tues.-Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and is located on the Fortune Bay Resort grounds, on Lake Vermilion. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for kids 4-12 and seniors, \$20 for families of four or more. 218-753-6017.

GO SHOPPING

Sure, there are big lakes and wilderness galore here in the Lake Country, but there is also great shopping. Whether you're looking for outdoor gear or the perfect rocker for the cabin, you'll find a wide selection of interesting shops in Ely. If you want to explore a huge selection of antiques and secondhand items, set your sights on Tower, where you'll find three such shops right on Main Street.

In Cook, you'll find a very nice quilt shop, a great little boutique and antique shop in an historic theater, and a new bakery that is now very popular. So don't let a little rain spoil the day. And when you get tired of shopping, you can go for lunch at any of restaurants and cafés in the area.



VISIT A FAMILY FRIENDLY FARM

READ A NEW BOOK

Local libraries are located in Cook, Orr, Ely, Virginia and Babbitt.



Connecting people to animals and the land is the mission of Cook's Country Connection, near Cook. It's a petting zoo filled with everything from barnyard chickens, to llamas, to exotic pigs, and it's open to the public. Visit www.cookscountryconnection.com for times and prices.

FIND A FORECAST FOR THE NORTH SHORE

The weather is often different along the North Shore of Lake Superior. Check the weather for places like Silver Bay or Grand Marais and consider a day trip to the big lake. It's a lot closer than you think!



A SENSE OF HISTORY>>

MUSEUMS & MORE



TOWER-SOUDAN DEPOT MUSEUM

Learn about Tower-Soudan history at this small, but fascinating museum, located inside Tower's historic train depot. You can also tour the restored train cars and caboose located next to the museum. Train cars open daily from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Depot Museum is open Friday/Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., but expanded/daily hours are being planned this summer. It's located just off Hwy. 169 in Tower, adjacent to the Tower Civic Center.

NELIMARK HOMESTEAD

Located on Hwy. 21, just across from Timber Hall in "downtown" Embarrass, the Nelimark Homestead is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday from



Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

Fridays are bread days, with fresh bread and treats like Finnish biscuit and cinnamon rolls. Historic buildings on the property are open for viewing, decorated with authentic items from the past.

Longtime resident Gary Rantala will offer Conversational Finnish classes at 1 p.m. on Thursdays.

The museum offers handcrafted items, books on local and Finnish history, and baked goods. For more information, call 218-290-0882.



DOROTHY MOLTER MUSEUM

Learn about the life of the last resident of the Boundary Waters Wilderness at the Dorothy Molter Museum in Ely. Her original wilderness log cabin was painstakingly moved and re-assembled in Ely and is now home to the museum that bears her name. Dorothy was famous for her homemade root beer, which prompted her common nickname, "The Root Beer Lady."

The museum is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily May 28 - Sept. 5. Limited fall hours. Call 218-365-4451.

ELY-WINTON HISTORY MUSEUM

Located on Ely's Vermilion Community College campus, this center shows the local history of logging and mining through artifacts, photographs, oral histories, and displays. They're open noon to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, June 1-Aug. 31. For more information and fall hours, call 218-365-3226.

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MINNESOTA DISCOVERY CENTER



Located in Chisholm, the Minnesota Discovery Center is the largest museum complex outside the Twin Cities. It tells the story of the Iron Range through exhibits, interpretation, and research materials. Take the hour-long trolley ride and tour the historic mining sites. And don't forget your mountain bike, since the Discovery Center is now home to

the fabulous Redhead Mountain biking trails, which take riders deep into a former open pit mine.

The Discovery Center is located right off Hwy. 169 in Chisholm. Check out their website at www.mndiscovery-center.com or call 218-254-7959.



US HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

Hockey fans visiting the Lake Country won't want to

miss a stop at the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Museum, in Eveleth. It's America's hockey showcase, highlighting and honoring the contributions to the game from outstanding coaches, players, and others who have helped promote American hockey through the years.

Eveleth has long been known as "The Capital of American Hockey" and enjoys a rich hockey tradition, having produced more top quality players than any community of its size in the country.

You'll find the Hall of Fame just off Hwy. 53 in Eveleth. It's open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Memorial Day-Labor Day. After Labor Day, it's open Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Visit www.ushockeyhall.com for more information.



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LET'S CAMP

From rustic wilderness campsites to fully-modern RV camping grounds, the Lake Country offers camping options for all tastes and budgets.

The U.S. Forest Service operates several campgrounds in the area, and all include wells, comfortable camping sites, and most have swimming beaches and docking.

The Minnesota DNR also offers camping opportunities at Bear Head Lake State Park, the new Lake Vermilion State Park, and at other lesser-used campgrounds on Lake Vermilion and Lake Kabetogama.

Campers can access remote campsites managed by the U.S. Park Service at Voyageurs National Park, but almost all require boat access. The same is true for hundreds of remote wilderness campsites managed by the Forest Service and located in the 1.1 million-acre Boundary

Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. You'll need a canoe, and a willingness to pack your gear across sometimes difficult portages to access these spectacular camping opportunities.

See the following list for information on the many camping opportunities in the Lake Country.

PUBLIC CAMPGROUNDS

Ash River Campground

Cty. Rd. 126, Kabetogama, MN
218-235-2520 • 866-857-2757

Bear Head Lake State Park

9301 Bear Head Lake State Park Rd
Ely • 218-235-2520
Operated by Minnesota DNR

Birch Lake Campground

Located 13 miles SE of
Ely off of Forest Rd 429
218-235-1299 or 218-365-7600
Operated by U.S. Forest Service

Echo Lake Campground

Located 22 miles NE of Orr
218-666-0020
Operated by U.S. Forest Service

Fall Lake Campground

Located six miles E of Ely
14197 Fall Lake Rd., Ely
218-365-2963 or 877-444-6777
Operated by U.S. Forest Service

Fenske Lake Campground

Located on the Echo Trail,
ten miles N of Ely
218-365-7600
Operated by U.S. Forest Service

Heritage Park and Campground

4789 Salo Rd, Embarrass
218-984-2084 or 218-410-7743
Operated by Town of Embarrass

Hinsdale Island, Lake Vermilion

218-300-7000 • 866-857-2757

Hoodoo Point Campground

5788 Hoodoo Point Rd
Tower • 218-753-6868
Operated by City of Tower

Lake Vermilion State Park

MN's newest state park on Lake
Vermilion • 218-300-7000
Operated by Minnesota DNR

Lake Jeanette Campground

Located 32 miles NE of Orr
218-666-0020
Operated by U.S. Forest Service

McKinley Park Campground

Located on Lake Vermilion, Soudan
218-753-5921 or 218-780-6860
Operated by Breitung Township

Pfeiffer Lake Campground

Located 12 miles SW of Tower
218-666-0020 • 218-229-8800
Operated by U.S. Forest Service

South Kawishiwi River Campground

Located ten miles S of Ely
off Hwy. 1 • 218-365-7600
Operated by U.S. Forest Service

Wakemup Bay Campground

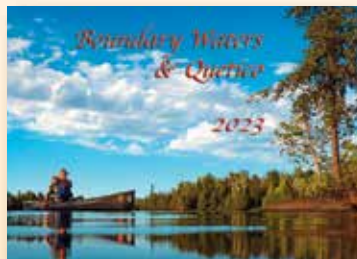
Located seven miles NE of Cook on
Lake Vermilion • 218-235-2520
Operated by Minnesota DNR

Woodenfrog Campground

Lake Kabetogama
218-235-2520
Operated by Minnesota DNR

In addition to these public campgrounds, many area resorts also offer space for tent or RV camping.

Enjoy Canoe Country all year with The Boundary Waters Calendar!



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Area Churches



COOK

First Baptist Church

210 1st Ave. NE, Cook, MN 55723
218-666-5979 • Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Worship available on our Facebook page
Vacation Bible School, June 13-17, 9 a.m. -
12 noon • www.firstbaptistcook.org.

Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

231 2nd St SE, Cook, MN 55723
218-666-5965 • www.trinitycook.org
Sunday Service 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion
Weekly. Worship is available on our Facebook
page and YouTube channel.

St. Mary's Catholic Church

124 5th St SE, Cook, MN 55723
218-666-5334 • Masses: Sunday 8 a.m.,
Tuesday 9 a.m., Thursday 9 a.m.
Confessions are a half hour before Masses.
Adoration: Tuesday and Thursday at 8 a.m.
1st Friday Mass 7 a.m., 1st Saturday Mass 9
a.m. (no confessional prior) • www.stmmhc.com

CRANE LAKE

Crane Lake Chapel

7399 Handberg Rd, Crane Lake, MN
55725. Sunday Service 11:30 a.m.
Parsonage 218-757-3336 • Come as you
are.

EMBARRASS

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218-984-3402 • www.efreechurch.com.
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Worship Service at 10 a.m.

ELY

St. Anthony's Catholic Church

231 E Camp St, Ely, MN 55731
218-365-4017 • Masses:
Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.
Tues, Thurs & Fri 8 a.m.
Please visit our website for parish events
and offerings, www.stanthonyseely.org

First Lutheran Church (LCMS)

915 E Camp St, Ely, MN 55731
218-365-3348 • Sunday Worship
Service 10:30 a.m. • *Pastor Zachariah
Burgdorf*. secretary@firstlutheranely.org
www.FirstLutheranEly.org

Praise Fellowship Center

302 E Boundary St, Ely, MN 55731
218-365-6033 • Sunday Bible Class
9 a.m. • Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
[praisefellowship0.wixsite.com/
praisefellowship](http://praisefellowship0.wixsite.com/praisefellowship).

Ely United Methodist Church

305 E Camp St., Ely, MN 55731
Pastor Craig Haberman
218-365-3336. www.elyumc.org
Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m.
Live streaming services on
YouTube: Channel Elyumc1
Facebook page at Eumc MN

Ledgerock Community Church

1515 E Camp St, Ely, MN 55731
218-365-4890. Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Men's & Women's Bible Study,
Tuesday 9:30 a.m.
www.ledgerockchurch.com.
Live streaming our services on Facebook

Ely Gospel Church

3 E Allaire St., Ely, MN 55731
218-365-5272 • Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Bible Study Wednesday 6 p.m.
www.elygospel.com.
Livestreaming services on Facebook

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

715 S Central Ave, Ely, MN 55731
218-409-6870 • Intergenerational
Communion Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.
elystmarys@gmail.com

Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA)

301 E Conan St, Ely, MN 55731
graceinely.org • 218-365-5605
In-person Sunday
Pator Eric Thiele. Worship at 9:30 a.m. in
person, and on Facebook Live. Online op-
tion at facebook.com/gracelutheranely

ORR

Holy Cross Catholic Church

10696 Shady Grove Ln, Orr, MN 55771
218-666-5334 • Mailing address: PO Box 609,
Cook, MN 55723. Masses: Saturday 5 p.m.,
Confessions are a half hour before Masses.
www.stmmhc.com

Calvary Lutheran Church

10706 Hwy. 23, Orr, MN 55771
218-757-3228 • Sunday Service 9 a.m.
calvarylutheran@centurylink.net
Services available on our YouTube Channel

SOUDAN

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

36 Church St, Soudan, MN 55782
218-753-5341 • Services: Sunday
8:30 a.m. with Communion • *Pastor Greg
Anderson* • Contemporary service last
Sunday of month with music. Sunday
School at 9 a.m. Vacation Bible School July
18-21.

TOWER

St. Martin's Catholic Church

108 N Second St, Tower, MN 55790
218-753-4310 • Masses: Sunday 10:30
a.m., Wednesday 9 a.m., Friday 9 a.m.
Confessions are a half hour before Masses
Adoration: Monday 2 - 8 p.m., Wednes-
day and Friday at 8 a.m.
Confessions: Half-hour before all Masses.
www.stmmhc.com

St. James Presbyterian Church

302 Spruce St, Tower, MN 55790
218-753-6005 • Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Adult Sunday School, 9 a.m.
Pastor Doug Workman
stjamespres.wixsite.com/stjamestowermn
Find us on YouTube: st james presbyterian
tower mn

Immanuel Lutheran Church

304 Spruce St., PO Box 466, Tower, MN
55790 • 218-753-2378. *Pastor Liz Cheney*
Sunday School 9:10 - 9:50 a.m.
Worship at 10:00 a.m.
Vacation Bible School Aug. 1 - 5
www.towerlutheran.com
Facebook: Immanuel Lutheran Church of
Tower

VIRGINIA

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

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www.gdrlutheran.com

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each week in the Timberjay Newspaper**

LIFE IN THE WILD>>

BIRDS & BEARS

Few places in the Lower 48 states have the variety of wildlife found in the Lake Country, and that's one reason that wildlife watching has become such a big draw.

Summer in the Lake Country is prime time for most area wildlife, whether it's the more than 150 species of breeding birds, or large mammals like moose, wolves, and black bears. If you're hoping to spot some interesting wildlife during your visit, here's what you need to know.

ELY AREA

There are plenty of opportunities to view wildlife at the "end of the road." The International Wolf Center and the North American Bear Center, both located on the edge of town, provide a great way to learn more about these two large predators.

The Bear Center, located on Ely's west side, features live bears in an outdoor enclo-



You can watch wild bears as they climb trees and interact at the Vince Shute Sanctuary near Orr. The center is open to the public in the evenings, Tues.-Sun. through Sept. 4.

sure as well as indoor exhibits highlighting the work of renowned bear researcher Lynn Rogers. Call 1-218-365-7879 or visit www.bear.org for more.

The International Wolf Center, found on the east side of Ely, has live wolves on display as well as indoor exhibits and special educational programs offered daily. Call 218-365-4695 or visit [wolf.org](http://www.wolf.org).

VINCE SHUTE SANCTUARY

If you want to see black bears in the wild, this is the place to go. The sanctuary,

located about 15 miles west of Orr, is known around the world as a gathering spot for hundreds of black bears, who visit the sanctuary for the smorgasbord of food put out by sanctuary staff.

It was Vince Shute, a logger, who began the feeding of the bears decades ago. While he once shot bears that raided his camp, at some point Vince realized that the bears weren't mean, they were just hungry, and over the years he became a fast friend to many of the bears in his woods. When he died, the American Bear Association



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assumed control of the property and switched the bears from their former diet of donuts and other sweets to healthier foods, like sunflower seeds, nuts, and dried fruit. The organization also built a viewing platform that now allows the public to view bears, often dozens at a time, as they feed and relax on the sanctuary grounds. The sanctuary is open Tues.-Sun., from 5-8 p.m., June 9-Sept. 4. A modest entry fee (\$12 adults, \$10 seniors, \$5 children 4-17, free under three) is required to help defray the cost of the non-profit operation. Learn more at americanbear.org, stop at the Orr Visitor Center on Hwy. 53 for a map, or call 218-757-0172.

THE ECHO TRAIL

Stretching 70 miles from near Ely to Echo Lake, north of Orr, the Echo Trail offers a fascinating journey through some of the most spectacular scenery in the Upper Midwest. It's located along the edge of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, so wildlife is abundant. For anyone hoping to spot a moose or a timber wolf, a day trip of exploration along the Echo Trail or one of its many side trails, is a good bet. Try the Bass Lake or Anglemorm trails, both



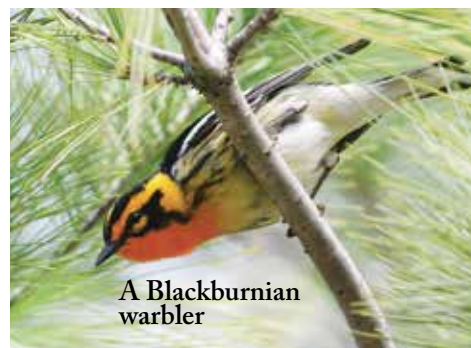
A pine marten

located north of Ely. The Stuart River portage is also scenic and long enough, at a mile and three-quarters, to provide your morning's exercise. Next time, try it with a canoe on your back!

If you're a birder, the varied habitat along the Echo Trail gives you one more good reason to go. It passes through the heart of the region's true boreal forest and it offers excellent habitat for species like three-toed woodpeckers, Cape May and pine warblers, yellow-bellied flycatchers, boreal chickadees and spruce grouse.

DARWIN MYERS WMA

The Darwin S. Myers State Wildlife Management Area in Embarrass encompasses a 748-acre wetland area that had been turned into wild rice paddies and then



A Blackburnian warbler

abandoned. The area is important habitat for many birds and other animals, including nesting sandhill cranes.

You'll find the WMA about two miles southeast of the junction of Hwy. 135 and County Road 21 in Embarrass. From the junction, travel south about two miles to Soini Road (County 558). Head east about a mile and you'll find the WMA on your right. There's a small parking lot and walking trails that follow the old dike system created during its wild rice production days. The dikes form a number of separate large pools that are highly attractive to a wide range of birds. A portion of Mesabi Bike Trail now runs through the WMA, so bring your bikes along with your binoculars.

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For many visitors to the Lake Country, a trip into the 1.1 million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is the quintessential northwoods experience. But for those who haven't ventured into the wilderness before, planning a trip can be a daunting task.

There are so many things to consider. Where do you go? How do you obtain a permit? What should you pack? And, perhaps most importantly, with more than a thou-

sand lakes and at least as many portage trails, how will you keep from getting lost?

All are good questions. Luckily, they all come with easy answers, if you know the right people. There are more than a dozen reliable, experienced outfitters in the Ely and Crane Lake areas who can provide you with everything you need, whether it's for an afternoon's paddle, or a month-long journey deep into the wilderness. Outfitters make it easy—providing you



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Outfitters Guide

LATOURELL'S MOOSE LAKE OUTFITTERS

14793 Moose Lake Rd., PO Box 239, Ely, MN 55731 • 218-365-4531 or info@fishbwca.com, www.latourells.com. LaTourell's is the closest resort and canoe trip outfitter to the BWCA and Quetico Park.

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If you're just looking for an easy adventure, a day trip is a great option, says Jane Koschak, who operates River Point Resort and Outfitters near Ely. Pack a lunch, your swim trunks, and a bucket for blueberries and you've got the makings of an outstanding day in the wilderness. Most outfitters will provide you with a canoe for the day, and can even supply a guide if you'd like. A guide is particularly helpful if you're looking to catch some fish, or if you've never attempted a backcountry adventure before.

There are also many great day-trip options that can give even the novice adventurer a taste of the Boundary Waters without spending a lot, or having to camp overnight. And while overnight stays in the wilderness require permits that are subject to quotas, there's no limit on day use in the Boundary Waters. The Forest Service does require a free, self-issuing permit, but you'll find those readily available at every established wilderness entry point.

Still, for many, the true wilderness experience can only come from a longer venture into the canoe country, and that's where outfitters can really be your friend.

Before contacting an outfitter, however, think about a few questions. Such as, how many days would you like to be out? How many will be in your party? And what kind

of a trip are you looking for?

Trips generally fall into one of three categories, including:

☛ **Base camp**— which involves paddling to a nice campsite and using that as your home base for various activities.

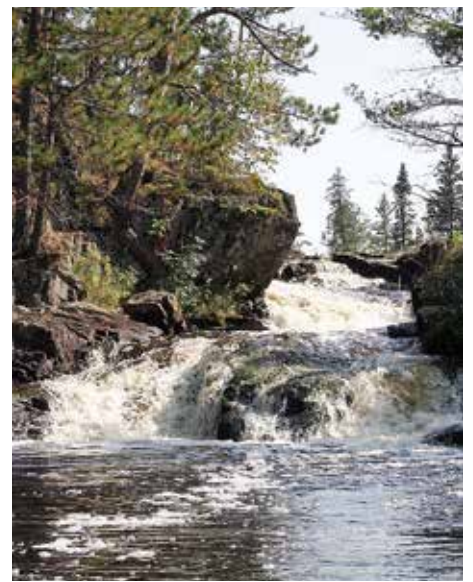
☛ **Touring**— which involves a longer journey, typically with a new camp every evening.

☛ **Fishing**— you get the idea.

The focus of your trip will help determine the best routes, gear, and destinations. While every Boundary Waters lake has fish, some offer a lot better fishing than others. If you just want to see the sights, your outfitter can recommend some of the most scenic routes in the area. If you're base-camping, you'll really want a nice campsite, probably with a beach and some good fishing or berry-picking nearby.

While entry permits can be a hassle for the uninitiated, your outfitter knows how to navigate the bureaucracy as well as the portages, and they'll take care of that for you. That's not to say that a permit is always available for every entry point. Sometimes, you might have to settle for your second or third choice entry, unless you've reserved a permit well in advance.

The bottom line is, a visit to the Boundary Waters is an experience you'll



Picturesque Sioux Falls on the Little Indian Sioux River. It makes a nice destination for a wilderness day trip.

remember for a lifetime, so don't be intimidated by the logistics involved. Contact an outfitter and you'll find smooth paddling ahead.

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HIT THE LINKS



The Lake Country has quietly become one of the hottest golf destinations in the Upper Midwest, thanks to the construction of three top-rated courses in recent years. The Wilderness at Fortune Bay, The Quarry at Giants Ridge, and The Legend, also at Giants Ridge, have been rated as some of the top courses in Minnesota, year after year.

☞ The 9-hole **Ely Golf Club**, just south of town on County Road 21, is open seven days a week. Call 218-365-5932 for more information.

☞ The 18-hole **Wilderness at Fortune Bay** on Lake Vermilion near Tower has won so many top awards, we don't have room to list them all. For information, or a tee time, call 218-753-8917.

☞ **The Legend and The Quarry at Giants Ridge** in Biwabik, have both consistently been rated among the top public courses in the country. Call 28-865-8030 for information or tee times.

☞ **Wolfridge Golf Course** is located west of Lake Vermilion, in Angora. It has a reputation as an interesting and challenging course. Call 877-666-0218 for more information.

☞ The 18-hole, par 71, **Virginia Golf Course** is open to the public and offers a full service golf shop. It is located at 18th Street North in Virginia. Call 218-748-7530 for more information or

to reserve a tee time.

☞ **Vermilion Fairways** in Cook is located on Highway 24, about two miles north of the city limits. The 9-hole course is open seven days a week. Call 218-666-2679 for more information.

☞ **Babbitt Golf Club** is located on St. Louis County Road 70, just west of Babbitt. Call 218-827-2603 for more information.

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While Voyageurs National Park offers limitless opportunities for days-long excursions of its maze of interconnected waterways and backcountry, day-trippers will discover a variety of enjoyable experiences to get a taste of the park's wonders as well.

The park's three visitors centers, lo-

cated on Rainy Lake, Lake Kabetogama, and Ash River, will once again be staffed and open to the public daily, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. between late May and late September. Rangers will be available to talk about the park and the history of the region, including the fur trade era and the colorful voyageurs who once used the park's inter-

Left: Paddling a traditional voyageur canoe on Rainy Lake.

Facing page: Kayaking at Voyageurs National Park.

connected lakes like a highway to transport tons of beaver pelts every year. The visitors centers provide interpretive materials on this rich history as well as gift shops so you can take home something to remember your visit.

HIT THE WATER

The park's two tour boats will be operating again this season, departing mostly from either the Rainy Lake or Kabetogama visitors centers. Several different tour options are available and they are a great way to see this water-based park if you don't have a boat of your own. Reservations are recommended since tours do fill up. You can reserve your tickets at recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777. You can also make a reservation in person at any of the park's visitors centers.

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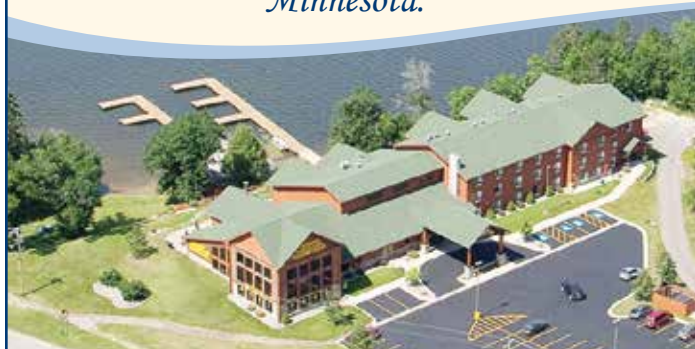


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If you're looking for variety in a concentrated area, look to the trails along Mead River Rd. on the way to the Ash River Visitor Center. The Voyageurs Forest, Beaver Pond, and Kabetogama Lake overlook trails provide strikingly different windows on the park, and all are a half-mile or less round trip. Birders may find particularly good viewing opportunities along the Beaver Pond trail.

Two other trails there provide longer hiking experiences. Sullivan Bay Trail is a 1.5-mile round trip along an old road that leads to a rewarding view of Sullivan Bay. Blind Ash Bay Trail, a 2.5-mile loop, is a narrow, winding forest trail with spectacular scenery.

The Echo Bay Trail, about three miles northwest of the Kabetogama Lake Visitor Center on County Road 122, is a wide 2.5-mile loop trail that meanders through aspens and pines as you pass through lowlands and rocky outcrops. Birding opportunities are excellent.

Two of the three trails starting at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center are ADA-accessible. The Ethno-Botanical Garden Trail is a short quarter-mile loop that steps back in time to a reconstructed Ojibwe encamp-



ment surrounded by a garden of plants native to the region. The paved Rainy Lake Recreation Trail is a 1.75-mile trek with benches and interpretive exhibits that describe cultural aspects of the area, including such things as gold mines and logging.

A third trail, the Oberholtzer Trail, includes two overlooks to view the diversity of forest and wetland types in the park. The first quarter-mile of the 1.7-mile hike is handicapped-accessible.

It would take days to hike all of the 27.9-mile Kab-Ash Trail system that connects Kabetogama and Ash River, but with four trail heads day-trippers can tackle

longer hikes on individual sections to experience backcountry and wetland areas.

LOOK TO THE SKIES

Voyageurs National Park was designated a "dark sky park" in 2020 by the International Dark Sky Association, one of only about 80 parks worldwide that have been certified for having the best conditions for night sky viewing.

So, you don't need a boat, a tent, or a long weekend to explore Voyageurs National Park. All you need is a car, a day, and a sense of adventure.

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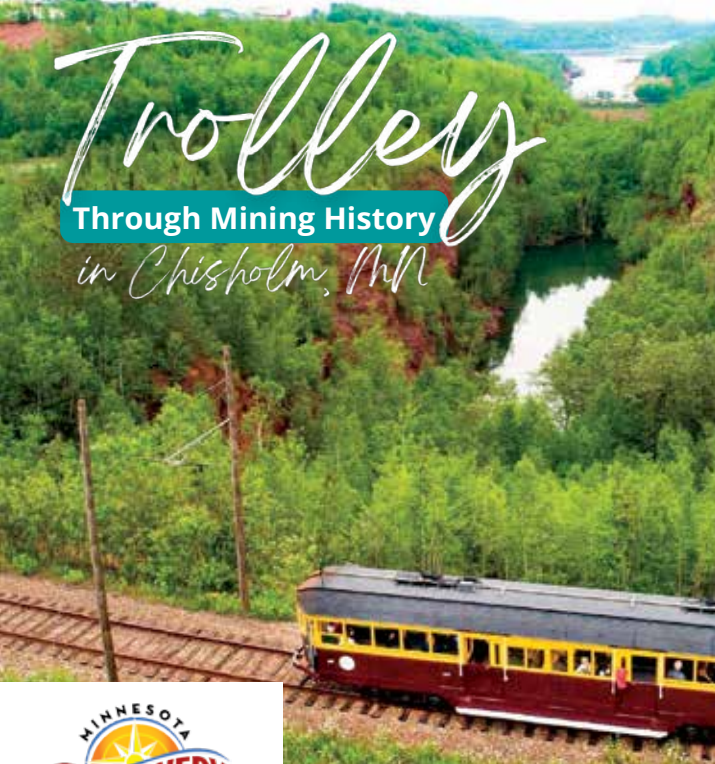
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DON'T FORGET your BINOCULARS

While visitors often come to the Lake Country for fun and relaxation, an ever-growing number of them are coming for the spectacular birdwatching.

Perhaps because there are so many other things to do in the region, the Lake Country's tremendous diversity of bird life often gets overlooked.

Yet, in the summer, the forests of northern St. Louis and Lake counties are literally alive with well over 150 species of birds, including dozens of neo-tropical migrants, such as warblers, vireos, and even the spectacular scarlet tanager. The abundance

of lakes and wetlands in the area also attracts many species of ducks, as well as loons, bald eagles, herons and bitterns. Many northern species, which are rare or nonexistent in other parts of the U.S., are also found here, including Canada jays, boreal chickadees, ravens, red-breasted nuthatches, spruce grouse, three-toed woodpeckers, and great gray owls.

While you can see most of these species almost anywhere in the Lake Country, some places are known for their abundance of birds. Here is a selection of local favorites.

Above left: A Blackburnian warbler peeks from the branches of a white pine. This spectacular bird is one of nearly two dozen species of neo-tropical warblers that come to the Lake Country every summer to breed.



Right: A male spruce grouse in breeding display.

Far right: The yellow forehead and black and white back identify this as a rare American three-toed woodpecker.

The Birch Lake Dam

Located about nine miles south of Ely on Hwy. 1, the area around the Birch Lake Dam is popular with many area birders. The area, which was first mentioned in one of the oldest guides to birding in the state, has been a hot spot for decades and it's still one of the most reliable birding locations in the region. The area gets lots of morning sun, which attracts warblers, flycatchers and many other birds. Waterfowl of all kinds are always a good bet, with the water nearby. You can walk along the dike that extends on either side of the dam and get a treetop view of the surrounding forest. A nearby gravel road is also a good bet, and leads to an old CCC camp where you can walk down the former streets of the 1930s-era camp.



The Agassa Lake Portage

This roughly three-quarters of a mile-long portage just off the Echo Trail north of Ely offers an ideal mix of upland and lowland conifer forest, making it one of your best bets for species like boreal chickadees, Cape May and Connecticut warblers, yellow-bellied flycatchers, and black-backed woodpeckers. The portage trail is located about 16 miles north of Ely on the Echo Trail. You can park at the Anglemorm trail-head. The portage trail is across the road, a

few hundred feet to the south. If you want a longer walk, try the Anglemorm Trail as well.

The Orr Bog Walk

This half-mile-long boardwalk, located next to the Orr City Hall and visitors center, traverses varied wetlands, from spruce and tamarack bog, to ash and alder swamp, to the marshy edge of the Pelican River. Because of the varied habitat, you can see a large number of different birds on this short



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Above: A black-throated green warbler catches a worm. It is among roughly two dozen species of warblers that breed in the Lake Country.



Left: The chocolate brown cap of the boreal chickadee is a key field mark that distinguishes this species from the more common black-capped variety.

trek, from warblers and thrushes in the wooded portions to pelicans, grebes, and ducks in the Pelican River. Interpretive signs point out other things of interest along the way. It's wheelchair accessible, but watch for occasional uneven tread along the floating river section. It's a great way to stretch your legs if you're headed to Voyageurs National Park or points beyond.

Lake Kabetogama

All the big lakes in Voyageurs National Park attract birds, but the relatively shallow waters and countless rocky islands of Lake Kabetogama make it the best of the bunch for seeing a wide variety of birds. If you don't have a boat of your own, consider hitching a ride on one of the park's tour boats, or rent a kayak to explore some of the more protected bays. White pelicans are frequently seen here, along with double-breasted cormorants, bald eagles, osprey, goldeneyes, and common and Caspian terns. If you have a boat, check out the Locator Trail on the Kabetogama Peninsula. It's a beautiful walk and a great place to see warblers. You can get more information at the park's Kabetogama Visitor Center on County Road 123. For directions and boat tour schedules, call them at 218-875-2111.



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AH, WILDERNESS!

Am I crazy? That was the thought that kept running through my mind recently as I carefully picked my way through tangled alder and floating muskeg on just another of what I like to call my “blank spot on the map” treks.

As a general destination, I was right at home, working my way into yet another remote corner of the Lost Lake Swamp, near Lake Vermilion. It was late June, and my goal was to reach an enormous beaver pond that sits along the headwaters of the Little Fork River, in roughly the northwest corner of the swamp.

You won’t find it on a map. The U.S. Geological Survey’s Lost Lake quadrangle provides the most detailed look, on paper, at this remote area, but the best it can do is signify thousands of acres with the little “swamp” icon that the USGS has used for many years on its maps. And that can’t possibly describe in any useful sense the complexity of the wetland environment in the Lost Lake Swamp. On this most recent trek, I found the swamp overflowing from the abundant June rains, like a huge overland river of water flowing slowly to the northwest. It was like walking through a version of the Everglades, minus the alligators. For more than two miles, almost every step challenged the limits of my rubber boots, although I somehow avoided filling them until my return trip, hastened by impending rain.

I understand that, in June, I should be using my recreational time to do the normal things, like fishing. Instead,



Above: Looking to the west across the Lost Lake Swamp.

Left: Hooded mergansers are commonly found on beaver ponds in the Lake Country.

Below: A patch of bunchberry.





there I was, on a cool, muggy day, decked out in camouflage and bug dope, carrying lunch and my camera gear into terrain that would very closely approximate most people's version of hell on Earth.

Am I crazy? It's a recurring question on such journeys.

I blame my predilection for extreme wandering mostly on Google Earth which has given digital form to those blank spots on the map, with satellite images that show in detail landscapes that, on USGS maps, used to be consigned to those generic swamp icons or simply to that cheery, unmarked

green, interrupted only by the occasional topo line, that fills in the blank spots on higher ground.

It's the blank spots that catch my eye. Lately, I've been eyeing beaver ponds. Zero in on a satellite image close enough in the North Country, and you discover a landscape that's littered with the telltale signatures of beaver activity, and they provide a reasonable destination for someone who is regularly in need of an excuse to explore.

On Google Earth, I had recently spotted one of the biggest beaver ponds I've ever seen, and I was headed out to take a firsthand look.

Traveling across the swamp is never



Above: A panorama of my destination, the giant beaver pond.

Left: A red-winged blackbird mans its territory at the pond.

predictable. The terrain is constantly changing, from tamarack to ash, to willow, to black spruce, to open,

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sedge-filled fens. And navigating in such terrain is incredibly difficult. Even with a compass in hand at all times, it's tricky to follow a bearing since landmarks are rarely visible. In an alder thicket, you're lucky to see twenty feet ahead. I had brought my iPhone, and I was glad for its GPS app, which provided a valuable correction on my errant bearings more than once. I prefer to rely on a map and compass, but this was one of those places, where the limits of the old technology were readily apparent.

I eventually arrived at a tiny upland island, that formed part of the north shore of the beaver pond and, with great difficulty, picked my way through one of the worst tangles of downed trees and dense brush that I've ever encountered, until the panorama of the pond was before me.

I had hoped to photograph ducks and other waterfowl on the pond. They were there, to be sure, along with herons, cormorants, and pied-billed grebes, whose loud, strange calls set an appropriate mood. But the pond was so large, that most were far away. I sat on the shore for almost an hour, mostly just watching, taking a few shots of redwings and one of the grebes



that happened to pass my way.

I wondered how long it had been since human eyes had looked out across this place. The USGS map did indicate the little pinprick of an island I was sitting on, so at least one intrepid surveyor had once passed by this way. That may, very well, have been the last time, however. I saw no sign of human activity. Just wilderness, left to its own devices.

Perhaps that's what I enjoy most about my journeys to the blank spots. Even here

in the North Country, we're surrounded by the signs of the human world, with our roads and towns, and fields, not to mention a forest that was entirely reshaped by humans. Beyond the roads, far off into the swamps or the deepest woods, those signs recede and eventually disappear, and that's where we still meet nature as it is. As it's always been. Call me crazy, but I still find some solace in that.

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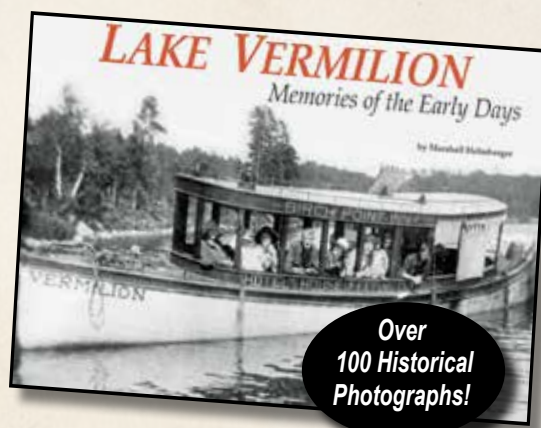
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 1.6 ACRES 218 FT SHORELINE
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Riverside Country Sanctuary

MT. IRON, MN High end custom cedar home on a thousand feet of private shoreline on the river flowing from Buhl to McQuade Lake, private pond w/fish in river & pond, sand swimming hole, beautiful country views & abundant wildlife. Ideal location between Virginia & Hibbing. Unbelievably well built home with att. massive garage w/high ceilings, in-flr heat & office/media room/guest quarters above. Open floor plan offers stunning kitchen—Hickory cabinets w/granite & butcher block counters, 2 islands, SubZero & top quality appls—two story great rm w/huge fireplace & walls of windows open to wrap around porch; spacious dining w/glass door to patio. Main flr King suite. Upstairs, king suite, loft BR & office. Wine cellar. Security system. HIGH SPEED INTERNET. Sauna log cabin. 1000 gal holding tank for RV/addl garage/guest cabin.

OFFERED AT \$749,500
DETAILS 3 BED/3 BATH 5,240 SF
 26 ACRES 1,000 FT RIVERFRONT
ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#143219



Sold!!

Norwegian Bay Peninsula

COOK, MN Private peninsula estate on Lake Vermilion! Ideal location in Norwegian Bay, just 18 miles to town or airport. 18.5 acres & 2,860 ft lakeshore w/opp. shoreline mainly undeveloped. Custom built 2014 to showcase views of the water from almost every room. 4 King suite BRs, 7 baths, 4 fireplaces, att. 3 st garage w/fitness rm & sauna above, hidden wine cellar. Timeless limestone exterior w/ slate roof & copper gutters, chimneys & turrets. Two story great rm w/massive firepl. Alder, granite & marble kitch w/walk in pantry & island open to great rm, dining, bar & screen porch, all lakeside. Main flr lakeside King suite w/firepl & glass doors to lakeside patio. Upstairs, 3 King suites, library, 3rd flr scotch rm w/lakeside deck. Manicured grounds. Boathouse w/2 rails. Boat launch. 2 docks.

SOLD AT \$3,400,000
DETAILS 3 BED/3 BATH 8,842 SF
 18.5 ACRES 2,780 FT SHORELINE
ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM

Waters Edge on White Iron

ELY, MN Private point retreat at waters edge on the White Iron Lake Chain with direct BWCA access, like driving to your own Island! Open 1.3 acres with a gentle slope to 550 feet of excellent swimming shoreline, just 5 miles to Ely. 1,800 square feet, 3 bedroom cedar cabin with original handmade doors. Lakefront livingrm with wood floor & double doors to wrap-around porch. Kitchen, dining & guest bedrooms all lakeside. Walkout basement could be workshop, rec room, 4th BR. Metal roof. Renovated windows. Updated electric. Compliant septic. New: bath, pex water lines, furnace & central air, dishwasher, stove, water heater. Water, electric, propane & septic installed for garage/guest cabin or RV. Grandfathered boat slip. Furnished.

OFFERED AT \$849,500
DETAILS 3 BED/1 BATH 1,800 SF
 1.3 ACRES 550 FT SHORELINE
ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#143026



Vermilion Sand Beach

TOWER, MN RARE, LAKE VERMILION: Dig your toes into the amazing sand beach in your own private cove or relax on the other side of coveted Ely Island & watch the sunset fill the sky. Secluded beach retreat & sauna guest cabin at waters edge on 1,290 feet of lakeshore & 19.6 acres of towering pines & rock outcroppings, adjoining 80 acres of State Land. 540 square feet, 2 bedroom half-log sided main cabin offers vaulted ceiling with skylights, a wood burning stove, and glass doors to the beachfront deck. Also included is a year-round wood fired sauna guest cabin with a covered beachside deck. Dock. Permanent power (no generator). Fully furnished. Short boat ride to town--just 2 miles across calm water to Stuntz Bay.

OFFERED AT \$498,500
DETAILS 2 BED/PRIVY 540 SF
 19.6 ACRES 1,290 FT SHORELINE
ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#141849



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Private Island - Shawaga Lake

ELY, MN Secluded island retreat w/mesmerizing views set in towering pines & rock outcroppings on Shawaga Lake, short boat ride across calm water to launch. Built 2012, knotty pine cabin w/lakeside deck connecting kitchen cabin, dock w/walk in swimming area. In 1800's, island was summer home of one of Ely's original doctors & the iron ring attached to the west end was used to corral logs.

OFFERED AT \$498,500
DETAILS 2 BED/PRIVY 560 SF
 1.75 ACRES 920 FT SHORELINE
ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#142312



Daisy Bay - Vermilion

TOWER, MN Lake Vermilion cabin & sauna guest cabin at waters edge w/sandy swimming, Level lot & blue water views all the way to Isle of Pines! Includes 60x28 metal bldg w/kitchen & bath, 3 RV hookups, L dock, apx 4.6 acres off paved Hwy 77 on prime Daisy Bay, close to town, golf, dining. Classic cabin on steel beams, ready to be finished. Drilled well. Dock. 4BR septic new 2006.

OFFERED AT \$498,500
DETAILS 3 BED/1 BATH
 4.6 ACRES 86 FT SHORELINE
ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#141952



Boundary Waters Sand Beach

ELY, MN Fall Lake - Drive to your classic 1930s Boundary Waters Area log cabin on 2.4 acres & 300 ft sunset facing sand beach, short boat ride from your dock to the BW entry & only 7 miles to Ely. Log cabin at waters edge, handmade by great grandparents who cut the logs on Fall Lake & used horses to bring them to site. Old time stacked log sauna on beach. One of a kind secluded boreal forest retreat.

OFFERED AT \$524,500
DETAILS 1 BED/1 BATH 618 SF
 2.4 ACRES 300 FT SHORELINE
ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#141916



Good Ol' Days Bar & Grill

TOWER, MN Good Ol' Days is an extremely popular restaurant & bar located on the road to Ely & minutes to Lake Vermilion landing, championship golf, State parks & snowmobile trails. Well maintained bldg includes Tiny Bubbles laundromat & 4 apartments. Corner lot w/ample parking. Circa 1887 barroom w/original hdwd flr & 1910 tin ceiling w/model train running the perimeter.

OFFERED AT \$425,000
DETAILS BAR & GRILL - LAUNDROMAT
 4 APARTMENTS - 10,500 SF
ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#142898

Wolf Lake Hideaway

ELY, MN Furnished year-round knotty pine cabin on 1.7 acres adjoining 100's of acres of public lands & NE facing sandy shoreline, Wolf Lake. 10 mi W. of Ely. Updated & lovingly maintained yr rnd main cabin plus summer guest cabin connected by deck. Kitchen open to vaulted livingrm w/wall furnace, wood stove & glass door to lakeside screen porch. Gentle steps to level lakefront firepit area & dock.

OFFERED AT \$398,500

DETAILS 2 BED/1 BATH 576 SF

1.7 ACRES 205 FT SHORELINE

ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#143093



Great Shop Space on the River

MT. IRON, MN Gorgeous 12 Acre wooded building lot on the river flowing from Buhl to McQuade Lake, including 48x36 shop w/in-flr heat & 60x36 garage w/36 x 20 heated workshop. Fish in river, beautiful country views & abundant wildlife. Ideal location between Virginia & Hibbing. 48x36 bldg is currently used as a cabinet shop, has potential to be converted to a home. High speed internet available.

OFFERED AT \$349,500

DETAILS 12.1 ACRES 1,000 FT RIVERFRONT

ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#143220



Lake Vermilion Tranquility

TOWER, MN Secluded Thoreau style cabin, Lake Vermilion, BWCA access. Simplicity & tranquility just 7 mi to town, 2 to championship golf & dining. Fully furnished cedar milled log cabin, bunkhouse, back thru boathouse, wood & storage sheds set on gently sloping lot w/low maintenance natural landscape & SW facing shoreline w/ dock. Wood stove, kerosene lamps. Electricity available.

OFFERED AT \$324,500

DETAILS 2 BED/PRIVY 494 SF

1.5 ACRES 100 FT SHORELINE

ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#141873



Lake Eshquaguma in the Pines

GILBERT, MN 3+BR lake home, excellent swimming shoreline, minutes to Giants Ridge. Built 1989, seamless steel sided home w/new roof 2019 & 2 stall att gar. Lakefront livingrm, wd burning firepl, glass dr to lakeside patio. Kitch open to livingrm, lg dining & patio—all lakeside. King w/ensuite bth & guest BRs both lakeside. Walkout LL. Dock. Golf, tennis, dining at Eshquaguma Country Club.

OFFERED AT \$449,500

DETAILS 3 BED/3 BATH 2,354 SF

1.2 ACRES 225 FT SHORELINE

ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#142568



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Black Duck Bay Island

TOWER, MN Whole private island near the center of Lake Vermilion, just offshore from public landing & Shamrock Marina, short ride across calm water. Potential building site at E end of island offers nearly 360° water views. Protected cove on S side offers area for dock & excellent swimming. Watch eagles, pick berries, swim or catch Walleyes right off your own private island.

OFFERED AT \$324,500
DETAILS 2.6 ACRES 1,615 FT SHORELINE

ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#142743



Vermilion East End Lot

TOWER, MN Secluded Lake Vermilion acreage — 17 acres at end of the road, towering pines! Just 5 mi to town, championship golf, dining. Cabin or lake home could be positioned just 75 ft from water. Choice of building sites, potential to subdivide. Easy year round road access & electric nearby.

OFFERED AT \$298,500
DETAILS 17 ACRES 424 FT SHORELINE

ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#142811



Vermilion Niles Bay Lots

COOK, MN Rare South-facing road accessible parcels adjoining 1,000's of acres of State land - unrestricted South/Southwest sunset views all the way across Niles Bay. Park like forest of giant whispering pines. Surveyed, septic sites, electricity nearby. Adjacent lots available.

OFFERED AT \$214,500-\$275,000
DETAILS 4.6-16.1 ACRES 247-455 FT SHORELINE

ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#140716, 7



Waters Island Lots - Burntside

ELY, MN Waters Island, Burntside Lake! Incredible setting for the lake home or cabin of your dreams! One of the best views on Burntside overlooking the lake & forest below! Three apx. 3 acre lots in a park like forest of towering pines & rock outcroppings with island-studded 2 mile blue water & sunshine vistas NE, E & SE. Surveyed, approved for septic & electricity on site.

OFFERED AT \$175,000-\$235,000
DETAILS 3-3.1 ACRES 225-280 FT SHORELINE
ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#141068, 69, 70



Lake Superior

HOVLAND, MN Prime Lake Superior lots! Beautiful building sites, private protected location on Chicago Bay, Lake Superior. Just 18

mi to Grand Marais, 4 to trout & salmon fishing & 15 to Isle Royale ferry. Panoramic blue water vistas, beautiful trees, protective covenants, community septic system, electricity.

OFFERED AT \$245,000-\$275,000
DETAILS 1.19-1.47 ACRES 211-343 FT SHORELINE
ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#142307, 8, 9



Pine Island

TOWER, MN Take in the beautiful sunsets from your nest on this fantastic island property w/S and W exposure. Short boat ride across

calm water to marina. Large & unspoiled parcel. Just a few minutes boat ride to the BWCA at Lake Vermilion's Trout Lake portage. Power is onsite at the back of the property.

OFFERED AT \$159,900
DETAILS 4.5 ACRES 448 FT SHORELINE
ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#141990



Norwegian Bay

COOK, MN Incredible evergreen covered acres & excellent swimming shoreline on pristine Norwegian Bay, Lake Vermilion! Includes

deep pond at N. border & adjoins 100's of acres of St land. Stunning building sites with S. facing views, Relax around the camp fire as you watch the sunsets this lake is named for!

OFFERED AT \$249,500-299,500
DETAILS 11.4-23 ACRES 405-705 FT SHORELINE
ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#142556, 7



Sock Lake

ELY, MN Beautifully wooded 6.73 acre lake lot features E facing clear water shoreline on private Sock Lake. Adj 40 acres & 100's

of feet of undeveloped State shoreline - easy yr-rnd access off paved road, just 15 mi to Ely & just down the rd to Bear Island Lake beach! Driveway is in. Electricity at road.

OFFERED AT \$149,500
DETAILS 6.73 ACRES 375 FT SHORELINE
ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#142695



Canfield Bay

TOWER, MN Put your feet up & relax as the sun sinks down into the water—see 5 miles all the way across Big Bay. Secluded Lake Ver-

million building site commands unrestricted S & W facing Big Bay views. Moderate elevation with a gradual slope to the shoreline, choice of stunning building sites.

OFFERED AT \$198,500
DETAILS 7.63 ACRES 1,095 FT SHORELINE
ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#140509



Blackduck Island

TOWER, MN Secluded island retreat, Lake Vermilion! Mesmerizing views—see 4 mi sunsets all the way to end of Frazer Bay, island

studded views S & 2 mi E toward Moc Pt for magnificent sun & moon rises! Short boat ride to this pvt peninsula ready for your cabin. Central location. Protected bay for docking.

SOLD AT \$180,000
DETAILS 4.9 ACRES
ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM



Burntside Island

ELY, MN Ideal setting for secluded island retreat w/ warm Southern exposure & panoramic faraway views set in towering pines & rock

outcroppings on beloved Burntside Lake, short boat ride to mainland. Choice of building sites offer sunset views towards Dollar Island or sunrise views to the east. Dock included.

OFFERED AT \$325,000
DETAILS 4.5 ACRES 640 FT SHORELINE
ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#142263



Lake Estate

GILBERT, MN Private estate constructed by master builder on Cedar Island Lake! Convenient location w/nearby amenities! Secluded in towering pines on lake & river, just

3 mi to town/7 to Giants Ridge Golf & Ski Resort. 20 acres & 437 ft lakeshore. Built 2004, 6,277 SF, 4BR/5

SOLD AT \$698,500
DETAILS 4 BED/5 BATH 6,277 SF
 20 ACRES 437 FT SHORELINE



Silver Rapids Lodge

ELY, MINNESOTA A well maintained full service Boundary Waters Area resort. A one of a kind property at the confluence of White Iron and Farm Lake includes 59.7 acres with 3,040 feet of lakeshore that is split between White Iron & Farm Lake. They are multiple use lakes & also a direct entry to the BWCA. The property features individual small cabins, large group cabins, hotel units, camping and RV sites, a large dining area with a full commercial kitchen, a full bar, banquet areas, retail space, a marina, boat gas sales, rental boats, a 40 person sauna, laundry facilities, recreation space. Ample room for expansion. Just 3.5 miles to town, the resort is convenient to Ely area amenities such as the North American Bear Center, the International Wolf Center, shopping, and fine dining.



SOLD AT \$2,500,000
DETAILS 12 CABINS & 42 CAMPSITES
 59.7 ACRES 3,040 FT SHORELINE
ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM



Deluxe Catering

EVELETH, MN Outstanding business opportunity! Profitable catering business, restaurant, bar & banquet facility with 2 upstairs apartments. Main Street location. Well maintained facility. Recent appraisal available. Don't miss this opportunity!



OFFERED AT \$425,000
DETAILS BAR & BANQUET FACILITY
 CATERING BUSINESS - 12,985 SF
ON THE WEB JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#142137



"The finest Realtor I've ever worked with in my life." - Tim K.



Birch Point Retreat

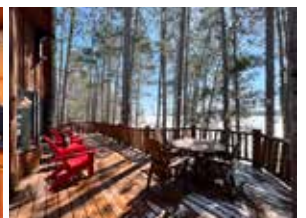
TOWER, MINNESOTA Furnished custom dream cabin, Lake Vermilion! Set back off a paved road in towering pines, with an easy bluestone slab path to a bluestone firepit & excellent swimming shoreline - see all the way across Big Bay. Just 10 miles to town. At 2,400 square feet, there are four bedrooms and three baths in this year-round cedar home. Also included are a two stall garage and sauna. A complete top quality remodel was recently completed. The living room is finished in knotty pine with cherry floors, and features natural light pouring in a wall of Marvin windows that open to the lakefront deck. There is a commercial stainless kitchen w/island open to the living, dining & screen porch—all

lakeside. Main floor lakeside suite. Main floor guest bedroom & bath. Downstairs, rec room w/slate floor, full bar, window wall open to lakeside deck; lakeside bedroom, full bath, office, laundry. Drilled well. Fire/security system. 2 docks w/large platform. Home fully furnished including leather & handmade furniture, Fiesta dinnerware, linens, limited edition artwork. Just bring your suitcase & groceries!

OFFERED AT	\$998,500		
DETAILS	4 BED/3 BATH	2,400 SF	
	0.66 ACRES	130 FT SHORELINE	
ON THE WEB	JANISCHREALTY.COM	MLS#143282	



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