

# GO Lake Country

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ELY • LAKE VERMILION • VOYAGEURS

Summer 2024



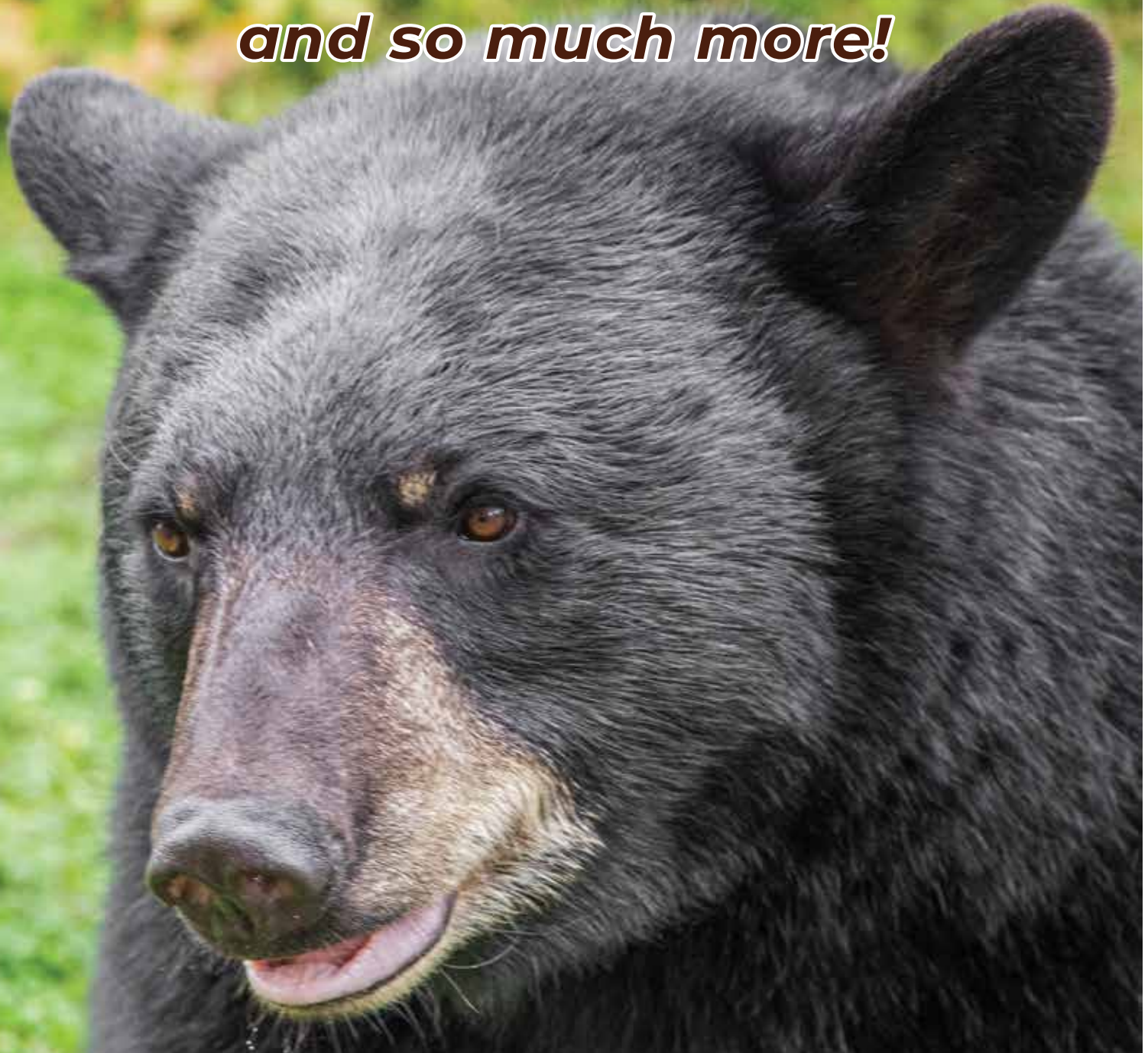
- YOUR MAP OF THE LAKE COUNTRY...PG 8
- LOCAL EVENTS...PGS 10-13
- CATCH YOUR SUPPER...PG 40
- AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

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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. 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: Lots of summertime celebrations in the Lake Country.

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 opening Memorial weekend.

## 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, the best place in North America to see wild black bears.

## 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.



# And While You're Here...

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

## DON'T MISS >>

### TOUR THE SOUDAN UNDERGROUND MINE

Underground adventures are returning at the Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park! Experience the life of the miner as you travel nearly a half mile underground. Once underground, you'll board a train and ride nearly a mile to the deepest area of the mine. Hear true stories of the miners, innovations and safety improvements, and learn firsthand about the working conditions that led to this underground iron mine being called the "Cadillac of Mines." Tours run daily from Memorial Day weekend through the end of September, and Fridays and Saturdays through the third weekend in October. Visit [www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\\_parks/lake\\_vermilion\\_soudan/tours.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/lake_vermilion_soudan/tours.html) for reservations. **See more details on pgs. 17-18.**



### RIDE THE LAKE VERMILION MAIL BOAT

Looking for a great way to explore Lake Vermilion with a seasoned captain at the helm? You can see over 80 miles of this scenic lake by catching a ride on the mailboat, based out of Aronson Boat Works, located just west of Tower on Hwy. 169. Lake Vermilion is home to hundreds of water-access-only residents during the summer months, and it's one of the few places in the country where the U.S. Post Office still delivers the mail each day in the summer by boat. The mail boat departs from Aronson's six mornings a week, at 9 a.m., from June 1-Labor Day. The cost is \$25 for adults, \$12 for children 12 and under. Call 218-753-4190 for reservations.

## 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. 32-33**

## Just the Facts

**Lake Vermilion/Soudan Mine State Park**  
Soudan, MN • Camping, hiking, public water access. Underground mine tours are back May 25-Oct. 20. Advance reservations recommended. Call 218-300-7000 or [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://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](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us) for latest information

**International Wolf Center**  
Ely, MN • Open daily 9-5, May 24-Oct. 20, discount for online preregistration. Weekly feedings Saturdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m. (preregistration recommended). 218-365-4695 [www.wolf.org](http://www.wolf.org)

**Embarrass Heritage Homestead Tours**  
Embarrass, MN • Open Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend. 218-984-2084 or [www.embarrass.org](http://www.embarrass.org).

**Orr Visitor Center and Wetlands Walk**  
Orr, MN • Half-mile-long boardwalk through a diverse wetland area • Call 218-757-3288 for special activities.

**VNP Kabetogama Visitor Center**  
County Rd. 123 • Open late May to late Sept., closed some holidays. [www.nps.gov/voya](http://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/voya](http://www.nps.gov/voya) 218-374-3221

**Dorothy Molter Museum**  
2002 E. Sheridan St., Ely, MN • Open 10-5 daily May 25 - Sept. 2. Then Open 10-4, Friday-Sunday in September. And 10-4, Friday-Saturday in Oct. 218-365-4451 • [www.rootbeerlady.com](http://www.rootbeerlady.com)

**Ely Chamber of Commerce**  
1600 E. Sheridan St., Ely, MN.  
[www.ely.org](http://www.ely.org) • 218-365-6123

**North American Bear Center**  
Ely, MN • Open daily May 10-23, 10-4; May 24 - Sept. 9, 9-6; Sept 10 - Oct. 26, 10-4; Dates/times subject to change. 218-365-7879 • [www.bear.org](http://www.bear.org)

**Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary**  
Orr, MN • Open Tues. - Sat., May 25 - Sept. 1. Open Sunday of Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day weekends. [www.americanbear.org](http://www.americanbear.org) for more information. 218-757-0172 [bears@americanbear.org](mailto:bears@americanbear.org)

**GO Lake Country**  
Minnesota's Boundary Waters

### Office Location:

414 Main St., PO Box 636,  
Tower, MN 55790

Call (218) 753-2950 or email  
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advertising information.

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Aerial View



Dock Area



Interior



Mercer Island



## MERCER ISLAND - LAKE VERMILION

Escape to your very own private 7+ acre island nestled in the heart of Lake Vermilion's Frazer Bay. This exclusive property boasts a wealth of features that promise a truly extraordinary lakeside experience including the distinctive architectural charm of three stunning "Baker" Dome cabins. Accommodate family AND friends with ease in a spacious 1 bedroom guest cabin (with kitchen), plus a charming 1 bedroom bunkhouse, wet boat-house, and original icehouse! All buildings have new roofs. Enjoy a walking trail with boardwalks that encircle the island providing enchanting views and moments of serenity. This property also has a natural sand beach! Convenience is key, and this property offers a rare mainland private access including another boathouse. This private island promises a lifetime of cherished memories. First time on the market. \$1,900,000







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## **“THE BOATHOUSE” on Beautiful Lake Vermilion**

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**SOLD \$600,000**



**SOLD \$1,490,000**



**SOLD \$655,000**



### **Client Review...**

We recently had the pleasure of working with Barb who truly went above and beyond to market and sell our lake home. From the moment we contacted her, she was fast, responsive, and extremely professional. She has an in-depth knowledge of the local area and was able to provide us with valuable insights into the market. What impressed us the most was her dedication. Barb was always available to answer our questions and address our concerns. We highly recommend Barb to anyone selling or in the market for a new home. Her commitment to her clients, her professionalism, and her local knowledge are truly exceptional.



**CONTACT BARB for a FREE MARKET ANALYSIS!**

**Vermilion Land Office • PO Box 518, 210 S. Highway 53, Cook, MN 55723**







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Summer

# EVENTS & FESTIVALS

There's always something happening in the Lake Country!

## JUNE

**ELY'S HISTORIC STATE THEATER,** Special events all summer long. Check [elystatetheater.org](http://elystatetheater.org) for showtimes. 218-235-6300.

**ARTS IN THE PARK 2024**, every Tuesday, June through September, from 5-7 p.m. This event will include the Summer Arts Market, Ely City Band, Broadway in Whiteside Park, and our ArtisticELY: Arts in Action workshops paired with the Ely Farmers Market. Presented by Northern Lakes Arts Association.

**MINNESOTA DISCOVERY CENTER SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**, June thru September at the Discovery Center Amphitheater. Visit [mndiscoverycenter.com](http://mndiscoverycenter.com) for concert information and tickets.

**GREENSTONE ARTS KIDS CAMP**, Miners Dry Building in Ely. June 4-6, for grades 1-6 (\$75, scholarships available). Immersive classes and workshops

in a wide range of mediums, from painting and drawing to theatre and sculpture. Register at [northernlakesarts.org](http://northernlakesarts.org).

**IRENE HARTFIELD & FRIENDS CONCERT**, June 7, 7 p.m., presented by the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center at St. Mary's Hall, 705 Main St., Tower, MN 55790. Free will donation. More info at [irenehartfield.com/event/irene-friends-birthday-bash/](http://irenehartfield.com/event/irene-friends-birthday-bash/).

**SPRING ART EXPO**, June 5-29, with reception set for June 7, 5-7 p.m. Local art exhibited at businesses throughout Cook. Sponsored by Northwoods Friends of the Arts. See [nwfamn.org](http://nwfamn.org).

**COOK TIMBER DAYS**, June 7-9, celebrating the impact of the timber industry on Cook and the surrounding area. Parade, food, music, car show, bean bag tourney, kids games/shows, fireworks and more. Visit their Facebook page.



**TAKE-A-KID FISHING**, June 7-9. Minnesota residents 16 and older fish for free when they accompany an angler 15 and younger. For more, visit [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us).

**SAUNA DAY**, June 8, 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.sis heritage.org](http://www.sis heritage.org) for more.

**NORTHWOODS KIDS FISHING DERBY**, June 8, at Veterans on the Lake in Ely. Activities include fishing, water safety, skills, invasive species, and art.

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Register with the Ely Chamber of Commerce. For more info, visit [ely.org](http://ely.org).

**COOK MUSIC IN THE PARK,** Featuring local musicians every Wednesday evening at 6 p.m., beginning June 12 through Aug. 28. 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 14-16. 66th 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 15-16 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](http://landoftheloonfestival.com).

**AUTHOR STEPHEN SCHAITBERGER PRESENTATION,** June 15, 3 p.m., presented by the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center at St. Mary's Hall, 705 Main St., Tower, MN 55790. Stephen Schaitberger, co-author of the book "Stands Before His People: Enmegahbowh and the Ojibwe," will present and discuss his book.

**TRAIN TALES,** June 19, July 10, July 31, and Aug. 21 at 3:15 p.m., Coach 81 Train Car at the Tower City Park. Tower-Soudan Historical Society offers children the opportunity to "Take off on a



Train Tale Adventure" as local volunteers share their tales.

**LAKE VERMILION POWWOW,** June 28-30. Traditional dancing, drumming and food on the Vermilion Reservation. Camping available. Call 218-750-7772 or 218-780-1478 for more information.

**ROCK THE PARK MUSIC EVENT,** June 29 and July 6, 4-11 p.m. in Ely. This music event will be held in Whiteside Park. Beverages provided by the Ely Fire Relief Association and food trucks will be present for this family event.

**ELY ALL-CLASS REUNION,** June 29 - July 7. We are eager to welcome



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An Invitation

## Midsummer Memories

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## JULY

**NORTHERN LIGHTS MUSIC FESTIVAL**, July 1-20, presents three weeks of youth music camps, opera, solo recitals, orchestral and chamber music at various ven-



ues. This year's opera is *Candide*. Visit [northernlightsmusic.org](http://northernlightsmusic.org).

**JULY 3RD FUN DAY**, downtown Orr. 5K Walk/Run, beanbag tourney, street dance, fireworks at night. Visit their Facebook page.

**TOWER-SOUDAN 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION**, July 3-6. One of the oldest, largest and best celebrations in the area. July 4 events include: 5K/10K run at 8 a.m., parade at 11 a.m., pancake breakfast, children's games, entertainment! Fireworks on July 3 in Big Bay and July 6 in Niles Bay. Community picnic in Soudan, date TBD.


**4TH OF JULY IN ELY**, 4 Mile Run/

Walk at 8 a.m. at Miner's Lake. Parade at 1 p.m. Family activities, childrens 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. Parade begins at 7 p.m., with fireworks after dark. See [www.visitcranelake.com](http://www.visitcranelake.com) or call 218-993-2901 for more.

**CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT**, July 9, 7 p.m., presented by the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center in conjunction with the Northern Lights Music Festival. Performed at St. Mary's Hall, 705 Main St., Tower, MN 55790. More info at [www.northernlightsmusic.org](http://www.northernlightsmusic.org).

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**ELY'S BLUEBERRY/ART FESTIVAL**, July 26-28, Whiteside Park in Ely. 270 exhibitors displaying original art and handcrafts. Food vendors, music, children's events, stage shows. 218-365-6123 or [events@ely.org](mailto:events@ely.org).

## AUGUST

**CRYSTAL SINGING BOWLS CONCERT**, August 1 at 7 p.m. at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center in Tower.

**BROADWAY IN THE BOUNDARY WATERS GALA**, August 2-3, 7 p.m. "Broadway in the Boundary Waters Gala" is a night of dazzling performances, bringing you the best of Broadway classics and introducing captivating new shows. Vermilion Fine Arts Theater, 1900 E Camp St, Ely. Tickets available at [www.northernlakesarts.org](http://www.northernlakesarts.org).

**GREENSTONE ARTS KIDS WORKSHOP**, Miners Dry Building in Ely. August 5-8, for grades 7-12 (\$100, scholarships available). Embark on an exciting four-day work-shop-style adventure delving into the world of PRINTMAKING! Register at [northernlakesarts.org](http://northernlakesarts.org).

**CRANE LAKE**, Aug. 6 celebration of National Night Out. Free food, live music, silent auction, and wiffle ball games. [www.visitcranelake.com](http://www.visitcranelake.com) or call 218-993-2901.

**FESTIVAL OF SKALDS**, Aug. 10-11, from 10-5. 8182 Carpenter Rd., Angora. Join us for a weekend of Olde Norse Merriement. Follow us on Facebook for the most up to date info. Food, vendors, entertainment, ancient games, archery, and more. [www.ironrangearts.com](http://www.ironrangearts.com).

**GREAT RIVER ENERGY/MESABI TRAIL TOUR '24**, Aug. 10. Choose from 5 different routes – 12, 26, 46, 58, or 70 miles – all traveling out and back on Mesabi Trail from one start/finish location in Buhl. Call 218-748-3536 or visit [mesabitrail.com](http://mesabitrail.com).

**16TH ANNUAL DANNY THEEL MEMORIAL TEAM PENNING & RANCH SORTING**, Aug. 16-18. Timber Hall Event Center Arena, 4855 Hwy 21, Embarrass. Visit [www.embarrassrfa.org/fair/team-penning](http://www.embarrassrfa.org/fair/team-penning) for more information.

**EMBARRASS REGION FAIR**, Aug. 23-25 at the 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 for more information.

**WINE & WATERCOLOR**, Aug. 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center in Tower. Led by local artist Linda Smith. Call 320-282-2488 for details.

**FEST DU NORD**, Aug. 30-Sept. 2. 12th anniversary of the family-friendly outdoor music weekend at YMCA's Camp du Nord outside of Ely. See [ymcanorth.org](http://ymcanorth.org) for more information.

## SEPTEMBER

**LAKE VERMILION ANTIQUE AND CLASSIC BOAT SHOW**, Sept. 1, 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. Email [lakevermilion-boatshow@aol.com](mailto:lakevermilion-boatshow@aol.com)

**ELY'S HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL**, Sept. 6-8. More than 140 artists and crafters, demonstrations, food, live music at Whiteside Park. See [www.ely.org](http://www.ely.org) for more.

**SISU COMMUNITY NIGHT OUT**, Sept. 8, 4 p.m. Tours, live music, and supper at the restored Seitaniemi House-barn in Waasa. 218-984-3012 or [www.sisuheritage.com](http://www.sisuheritage.com) for more.

**ELY MARATHON**, Sept. 21. Full, half, and kids' marathon races, plus canoe portage races. 5K Glow Run on Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. See [elymarathon.com](http://elymarathon.com) for more info and to register.



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Historic Stuntz Bay boathouses now part of Lake Vermilion State Park



## Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park

Founded in 2010, the Minnesota state park with the longest official name, has a remarkable diversity of activities available to visitors. There's plenty of history to be learned with a tour of Minnesota's oldest and deepest iron mine. You can hike through towering old growth pines to scenic overlooks, canoe in a quiet bay on Lake Vermilion, or camp in the Vermilion Ridge Campground, which opened in 2019.

The new campground includes 32 large and widely-spaced campsites, 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 between 30-50 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 are now open for overnight stays. The cabins are small and fairly rus-

tic, 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 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.

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If you'd rather ride a bike, you're in luck. The Mesabi Bike Trail, which runs from Grand Rapids to Ely, is now complete between Tower and Ely, offering fantastic cycling 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 oppor-

tunities for kayaking or canoeing.

And no trip to the park would be complete without a visit to the historic Soudan Mine. After being suspended for several years, tours of the underground mine are again being offered in 2024.

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 over-

looking 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

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Far left: The information kiosk at the Lake Vermilion State Park Camp-ground.

Left: A large complex of beaver ponds is a centerpiece of the park.

clear waters of the park's namesake, the 674-acre Bear Head Lake, features wall-eye, 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-tropical 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 four remote hike-in campsites spread around the park. The park also has a guest house that can sleep up to ten, and five year-round 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.

## Soudan Mine tours



**SOUDAN-** Venture beneath the earth's surface into the historic depths of Minnesota's oldest iron ore mine, the Soudan Underground Mine, newly reopened after an extensive \$9.3 million restoration project. This celebrated landmark within the Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park welcomes adventure seekers and history buffs alike to explore its tunnels and rich history beginning Memorial Day weekend.

Closed for more than two years to accommodate crucial updates, the mine's impressive renovations include a comprehensive overhaul of its massive elevator system, which descends

**See Mine Tours... next page**



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## Mine Tours... from previous page

nearly a half-mile below the earth's surface. These enhancements ensure a safe and educational journey into the mine's depths, where visitors can experience the life of a miner in a bygone era. The park will also roll out a new interpretive exhibit and a brand-new introductory film this summer.

"We're very excited after a two-year hiatus and COVID to be offering our full slate of tours, which includes the historic tour, the science tour of the physics lab, and the walking drift geology tour," said Interpretive Supervisor Sarah Guy-Levar. "We are eager to share the major improvements with our visitors and help people fully immerse themselves in the authentic experience of an underground miner."

Guided tours delve into the mine's historic role as a top producer of high-grade iron ore, which notably contributed to nearly every

piece of steel made by U.S. Steel between 1890 and 1940. The science tour explores how the mine's unique features made it an ideal site for high energy physics experiments. The tours begin with a ride in a refurbished cage-style elevator, using the original electric hoist that will have its 100th anniversary this summer, and continue with a train ride deep into the mine's most secluded areas.

Visitors can expect a 90-minute journey through the network of tunnels, with compelling stories of the miners and their unparalleled working conditions that marked the Soudan mine as the safest among the Iron Range mines.

Guy-Levar noted that the mine is accessible to people of all abilities. "Our standard historic tour and our science lab tour are 100-percent fully accessible," she said. "A lot of people don't realize that underground we have a ramp, so we can take people with their own mobility aids or wheelchairs. At the 27th level we have an elevator that takes them up into the stope area."

The popular tours tend to fill up fast, and advance reservations are strongly encouraged by using a link on the park's page on the DNR website.

"Don't be disappointed – make reservations ahead of time," Guy-Levar said. "On the day of your tour, make sure that you arrive at least 15 minutes before your tour. If you have a larger family group, arrive 30 minutes before your tour because you have to give people time to pay, use the restroom, grab a jacket out of their car if they forgot a jacket, because it's only 51 degrees – they definitely need a warm jacket."

There's also a self-guided audio tour of the above-ground features of the mine.

For more information call 218-300-7000 or visit the park's tour page at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\\_parks/lake\\_vermilion\\_soudan/tours.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/lake_vermilion_soudan/tours.html).



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## Area public beaches

### Pfeiffer Lake Beach

Located between Tower and Cook about four miles south of Hwy. 1. It's a nice, quiet beach on a small clear water lake with an adjacent U.S. Forest Service campground.

### Bear Head Lake Beach

Located between Tower and Ely, at Bear Head Lake State Park. This small beach is lightly used and the water is clear.

### Semer's Park Beach

Located on Shagawa Lake in Ely, it's busier than most other area beaches, but it has a pavilion and nearby restaurant that make it attractive.

### McKinley Park Beach

Located on Lake Vermilion, near Soudan, it's a popular spot with a campground store, showers, playground.

### Hoodoo Point Beach

Located on Lake Vermilion, near Tower, the shallow water makes this a good option for young children. There are also pockets of natural clay along the shore that keep the kids entertained. Campground store, showers, playground.

### Orr Public Beach

Located on Pelican Lake just north of Orr's downtown, this is a popular spot with local residents.

### Babbitt Public Beach

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# THE BOG HEATHS

Surviving in the harsh peatland environment

As in an old Thomas Hardy novel, the blooming of the heaths is an occasion for superlatives. The heaths, members of the family Ericaceae, are found in wet and cool environments across the Northern Hemisphere, from the moors of Scotland to the peatlands of northern Minnesota.

The Ericaceae, also commonly referred to as the “blueberry” family, consists mainly of low-growing, often evergreen, shrubs known for their distinctive and frequently showy flowers.

Here in northern Min-

nesota, we probably pay most attention to our most common heath, the blueberry, but for the more adventurous among us, early June is the time to explore the area peatlands for what are collectively known as “the bog heaths.”

They’re in full bloom in early summer and in many peatlands across the area it’s a carpet of pink, white, and magenta.

The bog heaths are a distinctive lot, comprised of everything from the diminutive lowbush cranberries that slowly wind their way through hummocks of sphagnum moss,



Above:  
The magenta  
blossoms  
of the bog  
laurel.



Left: The  
white,  
bell-like  
blooms of  
leatherleaf.

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Far left: The showy white flowers of the Labrador tea, the leaves of which do make a passable tea.

Left: The buds of the bell-like flowers of bog rosemary.

to the low-growing shrubs that dominate large swaths of area peatlands, including the ubiquitous leatherleaf, or *Chamaedaphne calyculata*, a plant whose common name is highly descriptive of the small, tough, leathery leaves that populate this plant, interspersed this time of year with its white pearl-like flowers that dangle beneath along the shrub's spreading branches. Labrador tea, or *Ledum groenlandicum*, is a similar example, only with a showy, white patch of flowers that grow only at the tips of its branches. And there's the bog rosemary, *Andromeda polifolia*, with its waxy, almost needle-like leaves that offers up its bead-like pink and white flowers this time of

year, or the bog laurel, *Kalmia polifolia*, with its shiny, dark green, paired leaves and astonishingly large, magenta flowers.

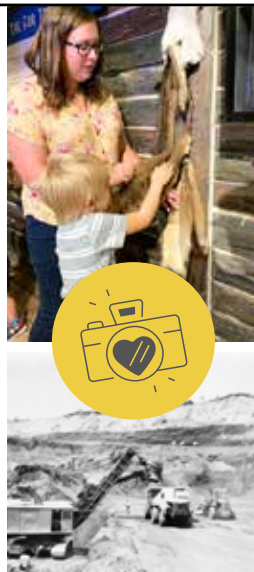
The bog heaths all live almost exclusively in bogs or fens here in northern Minnesota and they've had to adapt to the harsh conditions of life in the bog. While some bog plants have turned to a carnivorous nature to survive in a world with few nutrients available for plants, the heaths have made their peace with it by becoming hoarders of the scarce resources they can obtain.

Upland heaths, like blueberries, have access to more nutrients so they can do common things like shed their leaves come fall in preparation for winter.

But in the bog, plants have learned to be more thrifty and see a simple thing as a leaf as too important to shed lightly. Rather than expend resources to grow a whole new suite of leaves each spring, the bog heaths hold tight to theirs right through the winter. That, of course, comes with its own challenges. Most broadleaf plants drop their leaves in the fall to ward off dessication by the dry winter winds, at a time when they don't have access to water because of the frozen ground.

To prevent that, the leaves of all the bog heaths are remarkably similar—thick, waxy, and tough, often curled along the underside to further limit exposure to drying winds. The Labrador tea further protects the underside of its leaves with a layer of wool-like fuzz just for good measure.

Their short, squat nature also helps, since they'll typically spend much of the winter under the snow, where they're further protected from the drying winter winds.



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# VOYAGEUR COUNTRY

## Big border lakes create a natural playground

While Voyageurs National Park offers limitless opportunities for days-long excursions within 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, located on Rainy Lake, Lake Kabetogama, and Ash River, will once again be staffed and open to the

Photo courtesy National Park Service/John Cowman

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Left: Vermilion Gorge near Crane Lake.

Above: Kayaks are a popular way to explore the park.

Facing page: A tour boat on Rainy Lake.

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 interconnected 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, Kabetogama, or Ash River 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.

### TAKE A HIKE

Numerous trails, all accessible by car, open up the beauty and variety of Voyageurs to day-trippers.

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

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Left: A panorama of Voyageurs National Park captures the mosaic of lakes, wetlands, and boreal forest that makes up the park.

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 encampment 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 Kabetogama and Ash River, but with four trail heads day-trippers can tackle longer hikes on individual sections to experience backcountry and wetland areas.

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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# WHEN IT RAINS ON YOUR PARADE

## 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.

## EXPLORE AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE

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 Mon.-Fri., 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 a 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 the restaurants and cafés in the area.



## VISIT A FAMILY FRIENDLY FARM



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](http://www.cookscountryconnection.com) for times and prices.

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<<FOR THE BIRDS

# POTATO ISLAND

**L**AKE VERMILION—Way out in the middle of Big Bay sits one of the region's most robust hubs of bird life. It's called Potato Island, presumably for the many potato-shaped boulders found along its rocky shoreline. It's currently owned by the Lake Vermilion Resort and Tourism Association, donated in 2013 in memory of Shaver Strand and family, according to the small sign that stands on the island's highest point.

It's a small island by Vermilion's standards, just a half acre of rock with scattered low vegetation, but it has become a major rookery for

both double-crested cormorants and herring gulls. It's also become a focal point for folks who use the lake and are regularly drawn to this remarkable display of life.

On a recent day, anglers were bobbing off the island's west end and a pontoon full of nearly a dozen tourists slowly circled the island, as those aboard watched the constant activity.

Birds come and go incessantly, creating a cacophony of the high-pitched calls of the gulls, the loud peeping of the gull chicks, mixed with the low grunting of the cormorants. The island is mostly bedrock, capped by



Above: Herring gulls and cormorants co-exist more or less agreeably on Lake Vermilion's Potato Island.

Right: A herring gull with its well camouflaged chick.



a white-to-greenish layer of guano, and it's home to hundreds of birds, with probably 200-300 cormorant nests and dozens of herring gull nests as well. The birds seem to



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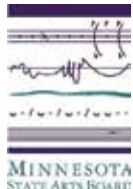
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get along for the most part, although there was a brief moment of drama during our recent visit when one of the herring gulls ended up with a cormorant chick, which it proceeded to eat to the accompaniment of some loud and angry cormorants and excited gulls. The gull chicks, which were wandering at will on the rock, seemed not to be at risk from the nesting cormorants, which are pretty exclusively fish eaters. Gulls, by contrast, will eat just about anything they can catch.

While people are plainly attracted to the island, and all its hubbub, it's most certainly the domain of the birds. There is no conve-

nient landing spot and even if one did manage to land, the island is covered in guano and the herring gulls would almost certainly make your visit unpleasant. When protecting their young, herring gulls can be very aggressive. They'll fly up behind and hit you on the back of the head with their feet, an action that is often timed as well with the release of some pretty noxious gull poop. There's nothing like the prospect of a stinky goo running down the back of one's neck to encourage most of us to avoid landfall on their isolated refuge.

This is one spot best left to the birds.

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## A SENSE OF HISTORY>>

# MUSEUMS & MORE



### 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 25 - Sept. 2. Limited fall hours. Call 218-365-4451.

### ELY-WINTON HISTORY MUSEUM

Located on Ely's Minnesota North-Vermilion campus, this center shows the local history of logging and mining through artifacts, photographs, oral his-

stories, and displays. They're open noon to 4 p.m., Tues.-Fri. and on Saturdays, June through Labor Day. Call 218-365-3226 for info.



### TOWER-SOUDAN DEPOT MUSEUM

Learn about Tower-Soudan-Lake Vermilion area history at this small but fascinating museum located inside Tower's historic train depot. You can also tour the restored train cars and caboose next to the depot museum and the 1915 settler's cabin located on the west side of the park along the river. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday from May 24 through Sept. 2. Visit the website at <https://towersoudanhistory.com> or call 218 750-7514 for more info. It's located just off Hwy. 169 in Tower, adjacent to the Herbert R. Lamppa 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.

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

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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](http://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 play-

ers 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](http://www.ushockeyhall.com) for more information.

## THE GREYHOUND BUS MUSEUM

If you're intrigued by some of the many offbeat museums found throughout the country, you just might enjoy a visit to this kid-friendly museum in Hibbing, which highlights the history of the Greyhound Bus Company, which was founded in this Iron Range city by Andy Anderson and Carl Wickman as a means of transporting miners to and from work.

You'll find lots of Greyhound memorabilia and examples of actual Greyhound buses over the years. For anyone who has ever ridden a Greyhound bus, it will definitely bring back memories. This small town museum is certainly worth a visit.

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## 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.-Sat. through Sept. 1.

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](http://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://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.-Sat., from 5-8 p.m., May 25-Sept. 1. A modest entry fee (\$15 adults, \$12 seniors, \$8 children 4-12, free under three) is required to help defray the cost of the nonprofit operation. Learn more at [americanbear.org](http://americanbear.org), stop at the sanctuary's visitor center located at 4303 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 Angeworm 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.

## 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 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.

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# TRAILS TO ADVENTURE

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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 four years ago, this remarkable trail quickly transports visitors from "downtown" Tower to a unique and 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 white-tailed 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 and moose, 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.



Previous page: The boardwalk on the Ancient Cedars Trail.  
Above: Hike through open stands of red pine on the Pine Ridges Trail.

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 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 now mostly completed on Tower's

A real estate advertisement for RE/MAX Lake Country. It features a hot air balloon with the RE/MAX logo and the text "RE/MAX Lake Country Serving Lake Vermilion to Rainy Lake". Below this is the website "www.thelakecountry.com" and the phone number "218.757.3233". The name "Ray Ingebretsen-Broker/Owner" is listed. At the bottom, there is a wooden chair and a badge that says "#1 NOBODY IN THE WORLD SELLS MORE REAL ESTATE THAN RE/MAX". A small note at the bottom right says "As measured by residential transaction sides".

A poster for the US Hockey Hall of Fame. It has a blue background with white text and graphics. The main text says "COME CELEBRATE OUR COUNTRY'S RICH HOCKEY HISTORY!". Below this are various icons and names representing hockey history: Herb Brooks, Bobby Baker, Wall of Fame, An Early Zamboni, Minnesota High School Tourney, Olympics, Vintage Sweaters, Pros, College, USA Hockey Team Lineage, John Mariucci, History of Hockey Skates, Bubble Hockey, Test Your Slapshot Speed!, and the US Hockey Hall of Fame logo. The website "USHOCKEYHALL.COM" is at the bottom.





**Left: Hiking on the oak-covered escarpment on the Herriman Lake Trail  
Right: An overlook on Ennis Lake along the Secret/Blackstone Trail.**

### 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 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 series 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 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.

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.

### Herriman Lake Trail

If you're looking for some real adventure in unusual terrain, head towards Crane Lake and the signs for the Herriman Lake Trail. Most of this trail system, which totals 13 miles, winds in and around the BWCAW. The main trail runs east to Little Vermilion Lake and ends at a sandy beach, which is a great destination on a warm day. The Dovre Lake loop passes through mature red and white pines among rock outcrops, while the Echo River route ends on a high and open escarpment covered in widely scattered scrub oak. The views along the escarpment are fantastic and are especially worth the effort when the fall colors are at their peak. This is a rugged trail at times and in places it can be easy to lose the trail altogether so bring a map and compass and know how to use them. Sturdy footwear, snacks, and water are highly recommended. Or pack for an overnight and take advantage of some of the wilderness campsites along the route. Stop in at the LaCroix Ranger District visitors center, on Hwy. 53 in Cook for a map of the trail.



# EASY DAY TRIPS in the BOUNDARY WATERS

If you're looking for a taste of the Boundary Waters but don't have the time for a longer adventure, there are a number of great day trips that offer a true wilderness experience, even if it's only for an afternoon. Here's a couple of our favorites:

While the easy paddle to North Hegman Lake is most famous for its pictographs, there's so much more to do on this popular day trip that starts just off the Echo Trail. Your only real portage starts at the Hegman Lake parking lot, located about 15 miles north of Ely. From there, most people make a beeline for the lift-over portage into North Hegman Lake, but you'd do well to explore South Hegman if you have time. A large bay on the east side of the lake is worth exploring for its interesting rock formations and a picturesque little waterfall.

You'll find the region's most famous pictographs on an impressive east-facing

Right: Classic pictographs on North Hegman Lake are an easy paddle away.

rock cliff at the northern tip of North Hegman. Enjoy them, but don't head back to the parking lot until you've slowly paddled the narrow channel that takes you into Trease Lake just a few hundred yards to the north. The channel is lined by floating bog and you'll find insect-eating pitcher plants and tiny sundews if you look closely enough.

This trip can easily be done in three hours, but why not pack a lunch and make a day of it?

Paddling rivers is a very different experience from lake paddling, and many folks prefer it. You're always close to shore, and each new river bend offers a new vista. The Little Indian Sioux River is on the far western end of the BWCAW, and is as readily accessible from the west side of the Echo



Trail as from Ely.

From the entry point, most travelers head north, and to do that you'll need to use the westerly access. If you're heading south, look for a small pull-off near where the river crosses the Echo Trail and park there.

Heading north, many travelers use the gorge, known as Devil's Cascade, at the north end of Lower Pauness Lake as their destination. To the south, a good cut-off for a day trip is Sioux Falls, which is bordered by a nice flat rock outcropping which makes a great spot for a picnic lunch.

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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  
Operated by Minnesota DNR

**Babbitt Campground and RV Park**  
Located in Babbitt within walking distance of Birch Lake  
218-413-0907  
Operation by the city of Babbitt

**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  
480-737-3002 or 218-365-7600  
Operated by U.S. Forest Service

**Echo Lake Campground**  
Located 22 miles NE of Orr  
218-666-0020 or 877-444-6777  
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 or 480-737-0417  
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  
218-453-8650 • 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.

# 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.

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## Area Churches



### BABBITT

#### St. Pius X Catholic Church

15 Ash Blvd., Babbitt, MN 55706. 218-827-2291. Masses Wednesday and Sunday at 8 a.m.

#### Evangelical Lutheran Church

28 Acacia Rd., Babbitt, MN 55706  
218-827-2659 • Sunday Service 8:30 a.m.  
Coffee fellowship following worship  
Find us on Facebook- Babbitt ELCA

### BRITT

#### Sand Lake Chapel

9038 Biss Rd., Britt, MN 55710  
218-741-1899 • Sunday service 10:15-11:30 a.m. Sunday School 9-10 a.m. September-May.  
Women's Bible Study Monday 10:15 a.m., Prayer meeting and Men and Women's Bible Study Wednesday 6-7:30 p.m., Vacation Bible School-August • www.sandlakechapel.com

### 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 10-14, 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. Sunday School Wednesdays during school year. www.facebook.com/TLC.CookMN

#### 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.stnmhc.com

#### Cook Covenant Church

11 2nd St. E, Cook, MN 55723. 218-666-2266.  
Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m. Adult and child Bible study Sunday 9:15 a.m. (adults), and 10:30 a.m. (children). Facebook.com/ecovenantchurch

### CRANE LAKE

#### Crane Lake Chapel

7399 Handberg Rd, Crane Lake, MN 55725.  
218-252-2180. Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. (coffee an' 9 a.m.), VBS July 30 - Aug. 2, ages 5-13.  
Come as you are. Facebook page is <https://Facebook.com/CraneLakeChapel>. YouTube channel is [youtube.com/@cranelakechapel](https://youtube.com/@cranelakechapel)

### EMBARRASS

Evangelical Free Church of Embarrass  
5606 Taylor Rd, Embarrass, MN 55732  
218-984-3402 • www.efreechurch.com.  
Sunday School classes at 9 a.m.  
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 5 p.m., Thurs & Fri 8 a.m.  
Please visit our website for parish events and offerings, [www.stanthonysely.org](http://www.stanthonysely.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](mailto:secretary@firstlutheranely.org)  
[www.FirstLutheranEly.org](http://www.FirstLutheranEly.org)

#### Praise Fellowship Church

27 S 1st Ave. E, Ely, MN 55731  
218-235-9541 • 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*  
218-365-3355. [www.elyumc.org](http://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](http://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.  
Women's Bible Study Thursday 10:30 a.m.  
Men's Group Thursday 6 p.m.  
[www.elygospel.com](http://www.elygospel.com). , Livestreaming services on Facebook

#### St. Mary's Episcopal Church

715 S Central Ave, Ely, MN 55731  
All ages Outdoor Worship Service, 9:30 a.m. (indoors if raining). Online: Search St. Mary's Ely Minnesota. 218-409-6870 [elystmarys@gmail.com](mailto:elystmarys@gmail.com)

### Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA)

301 E Conan St, Ely, MN 55731  
[graceinely.org](http://graceinely.org) • 218-365-5605  
*Pastor Eric Thiele*. Worship at 9:30 a.m. in person, and on Facebook Live. Online option at [facebook.com/gracelutheranely](https://facebook.com/gracelutheranely)

#### Ely Presbyterian Church

226 E Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731  
218-365-5130 • Sunday worship 11 a.m.  
[www.elypresbyterian.org](http://www.elypresbyterian.org)

### ORR

#### Holy Cross Catholic Church

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

#### Calvary Lutheran Church

10700 Hwy. 23, Orr, MN 55771  
218-757-3228 • Sunday Service 9 a.m. with fellowship following. email [calvarylutheran@centurylink.net](mailto:calvarylutheran@centurylink.net). Services available on our YouTube Channel: Calvary LutheranYT

#### Lakeview Baptist Church

4594 Lake St., Orr, MN 55771  
218-757-3608 • 218-766-5160 (Pastor) 218-787-2264 (Sr. Deacon) • Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning service 11:00 a.m., Midweek prayer and bible study Thursday 7:00 p.m., VBS 9-noon during the third week in July.

### 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.

### 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.  
Adoration: Monday 2 - 8 p.m., Wednesday and Friday at 8 a.m.  
Confessions: Half-hour before all Masses.  
[www.stmmhc.com](http://www.stmmhc.com)

#### Immanuel Lutheran Church

304 Spruce St., PO Box 466, Tower, MN 55790 • 218-753-2378. *Pastor Joel Guttormson*  
Worship at 10:00 a.m.  
Vacation Bible School Aug. 5 - 9.  
[www.towerlutheran.com](http://www.towerlutheran.com)  
Facebook: Immanuel Lutheran Church of Tower

### VIRGINIA

#### Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

6959 Hwy. 169, Virginia, MN 55792  
Sunday Service 9 a.m.  
[www.gdrlutheran.com](http://www.gdrlutheran.com)



# CATCH YOUR SUPPER!

## Area fishing guides offer advice to get you started

**Y**ou 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 \$350-\$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 (218-753-2005) says maps





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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 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 retired Ely area fishing guide Steve Foss. 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 on. 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.

# CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.



**CLEAN**

- ✓ Boats, trailers, and gear
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- ✓ Trash unused bait



**DRY**

- ✓ Everything at least five days before going to other waters
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# THE BOUNDARY WATERS MADE EASY

Outfitters can help you navigate the process

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 thousand 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 wil-

derness. Outfitters make it easy—providing you with canoes, camping gear, and even pre-packed meals for everyone (you can also choose to bring your own food if you prefer).

If you're just looking for an easy adventure, a day trip is a great option, says Jane Koschak, who operates River Point Outfitting Co. near Ely. Pack a lunch, your swim trunks, and a bucket for blueberries and you've got the makings of an

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

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

# Outfitters Guide

## LATOURELL'S MOOSE LAKE OUTFITTERS

14793 Moose Lake Rd., PO Box 239, Ely, MN 55731 • 218-365-4531 or [info@fishbwca.com](mailto:info@fishbwca.com), [www.latoourells.com](http://www.latoourells.com). LaTourell's is the closest resort and canoe trip outfitter to the BWCA and Quetico.

## RIVER POINT OUTFITTING CO.

PO Box 397, 12007 River Point Rd., Ely, MN 55731 • 218-365-6604 or [www.elyoutfitters.com](http://www.elyoutfitters.com), [info@elyoutfitters.com](mailto:info@elyoutfitters.com), Boundary Waters canoe outfitting and canoe rentals. Paddle the Quiet Side®.

## PIRAGIS NORTHWOODS COMPANY

105 N. Central Ave., Ely, MN 55731, 218-365-6745 or 1-800-223-6565, [www.piragis.com](http://www.piragis.com) or [www.boundarywaterscatalog.com](http://www.boundarywaterscatalog.com). BWCA trips, guides and guided group trips, full service outfitting, partial outfitting, canoe, kayak, SUP, and gear rentals.

## ELY OUTFITTING COMPANY

& BOUNDARY WATERS GUIDE SERVICE  
529 E. Sheridan St., Ely, MN 55731,  
218-343-7951 • [info@elyoutfittingcompany.com](mailto:info@elyoutfittingcompany.com), [www.ElyOutfittingCompany.com](http://www.ElyOutfittingCompany.com). Successful Boundary Waters canoe trips for friends and families.

## VOYAGEUR NORTH OUTFITTERS

1829 E Sheridan St., Ely, MN 55731, 218-365-3251 • [www.vnorth.com](http://www.vnorth.com). BWCA-Quetico canoe outfitting, full-service bait, retail store. Over 40 years of experience with knowledgeable, friendly staff. Open year-round.

## CANOE COUNTRY OUTFITTERS

629 E. Sheridan St., Ely, MN 55731, 218-365-4046 [www.canocountryoutfitters.com](http://www.canocountryoutfitters.com) • BWCAW/Quetico canoe trips, RV/tent campground, cabin rentals. Quality services since 1946.

## SPIRIT OF THE WILDERNESS

2030 E Sheridan St., Ely, MN 55731 • 218-365-3149 • [www.elycanotrips.com](http://www.elycanotrips.com) • Shop online at [www.BWCAshop.com](http://www.BWCAshop.com). Your trusted outfitter for complete or partial outfitting, canoe/kayak rentals, maps, guided trips, live bait & tackle (We talk fishing!), outdoor clothing, footwear, and more.



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# BIKING THE ELY WAY

Hidden Valley offers some of the region's best riding

Ely has debuted the latest contribution to the growing number of top-notch mountain bike trails in northeastern Minnesota—just be sure you're paying attention if you decide to check them out. The trails follow the hilly terrain the area is known for, and it means lots of twists and turns and ups and downs as the narrow track winds its way through dense forest. Close encounters with large trees can be just inches away.

In other words, it's that perfect mix of danger and exhilaration that has made mountain biking one of the region's most popular non-motorized forms of outdoor recreation.

"It's a firm intermediate bordering on advanced," said Wayne Pasmick, who has been one of the key players in bring-

ing and now maintaining the bike trails at Hidden Valley. He's the treasurer of the Ely Nordic Ski and Bike Club, which manages Hidden Valley, and most days you can find him out on the trails here. Spend a couple hours on the trails here and you'll understand why.

The trails have turned the Hidden Valley terrain into a roller coaster ride on two wheels. The trails have a few technical elements, like rock gardens and tabletops, but most of the challenge is found in the up and down nature of the gravel moraines that underlie Hidden Valley. The trail is also narrow, barely wider than a footpath, leaving little room for error. The uphill are very manageable, which is a nice contrast with the Redhead trails in Chisholm, which



can be a grind when you're coming back out of the pit. It's the downhills that can surprise you at Hidden Valley, so watch your speed so you remain in control. The sides are typically banked for turns at the bottom of some of the steeper drops for those who like the thrill of banking high.

"There are random features all along the way," notes Pasmick, "and some of them do have what we call 'b-lines' to get around them but not all of them do."

Hidden Valley has allowed mountain biking on its ski trails for some time, but the new trails are a reminder of just how big a difference a professionally designed



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single track trail can make to the riding experience. And with just over ten miles of designed trails, including a skills course that's just over a mile, you can spend a lot of time here without running out of room to ride.

Altogether, there are five loops (not including the separate skills course) in Hidden Valley's new trail system. You start out on the 2.2-k Flying Carpet trail, which connects with two other loops—an aptly named Big Pine loop, which has dozens of very large white pine along the route, and Ely Airlines, which is the most technical of the routes and offers the best opportunities to catch some air.

From Big Pine, you can connect with the 3.1-k loop Erratic Behavior, which is the only way to reach The Outback.

The best news is that more trails are in the works. Which means Ely is going to continue to attract more mountain bikers for the foreseeable future.

## 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 pub-

lic courses in the country. Call 218-865-8030 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 Course** is located on Hwy. 21, just west of Babbitt. Call 218-827-2603 for more information.

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## A Burntside Lake Estate

### 19.7 Acres of Privacy on Burntside

ELY, MINNESOTA A secluded estate on coveted Burntside Lake offers ultimate privacy in a sheltered bay. There are epic views through the towering pines with the opposite shoreline pristine wilderness. This property is situated in an ideal location between the main body & the North Arm of the lake and includes 19.7 acres and 1,240 feet of lakeshore. The immaculate home features 3,710 square feet, 3 bedrooms, and 3 baths and is sided with cedar. A two story great room includes a stone fireplace and glass doors to the huge lakefront deck. A stainless and granite Wolf kitchen with an island opens to the great room, dining room and deck, all of which are lakeside. The luxurious lakeside primary suite includes a spa bath overlooking the bay. Upstairs

there are an additional two bedrooms, each with a private deck. A reading/game room with water views completes the upper level. Amenities include in-floor heat, air conditioning, central vacuum, a drilled well, main floor laundry and a backup generator. Also on the property is a guest cabin situated at waters edge, a sauna, a boathouse, and a storage garage. Make this unique property your retreat!

<b>OFFERED AT</b>	\$1,985,500		
<b>DETAILS</b>	3 BED/3 BATH	3,710 SF	
	19.7 ACRES	1,240 FT SHORELINE	
<b>ON THE WEB</b>	JANISCHREALTY.COM	MLS#146304	





## Timber Frame Beauty

### Frazer Bay Retreat

COOK, MN A gorgeous Lake Vermilion timber frame year round home! The private, gradual lot is centrally located on beloved Frazer Bay, just 12 mi to town and includes a swimming beach behind the islands and out of the wind. This is a cedar sided home with a two stall garage and a two stall wet boathouse with a two bedroom guest quarters over the water. The two-story great room has natural light pouring in through Loewen windows, a glowing oak floor and glass doors that open to the lakefront deck & screen porch to enjoy the lake breeze. The kitchen showcases stainless appliances and oak cabinets with granite countertops and a copper island. Enjoy the open bluewater view from the dining room and open living room. The main floor

bedroom has a walkout glassed porch. Upstairs is a catwalk with copper stiles and two lakefront bedrooms, each with their own bathroom and walk-in closet, and one with a private waterfront deck. The walkout beach level offers a rec room, bedroom, bathroom and laundry, and has room for a sauna. In floor heat on the main and lower levels and the garage. The home comes with a whole house back up generator and a dock. Relax on the lakeside deck next to the exterior fireplace & grape arbor!

<b>OFFERED AT</b>	\$1,495,000	
<b>DETAILS</b>	4 BED/4 BATH	3,129 SF
	1 ACRE	175 FT SHORELINE
<b>ON THE WEB</b>	JANISCHREALTY.COM    MLS#144036	



## Riverside Country Sanctuary

MT. IRON, MN High end custom cedar home sits on a thousand feet of private shoreline on the river flowing from Buhl to McQuade Lake, ideal location between Virginia & Hibbing. The property includes a private pond, sand swimming hole, beautiful country views & abundant wildlife. This unbelievably well built home has an attached garage with in-floor heat & office or guest quarters above. The open floor plan offers a stunning kitchen with hickory cabinets and granite & butcher block counters, two islands, & top quality appliances. The two story great room highlights a huge fireplace & walls of windows that open to the wrap around porch. The spacious dining area with glass door opens to the patio. Main floor king suite and upstairs king suite, loft bedroom & office. Also included is a wine cellar and log cabin sauna.

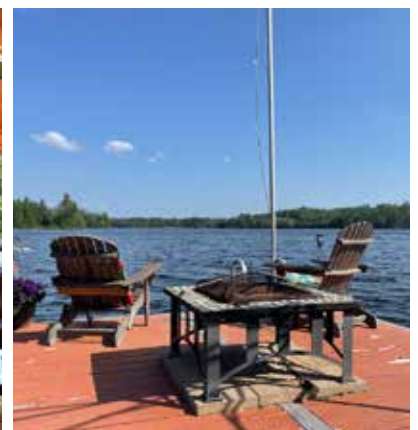
**OFFERED AT** \$749,500  
**DETAILS** 3 BED/3 BATH 5,240 SF  
 26 ACRES 1,000 FT RIVERFRONT  
**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#143219



## Log Cabin on Clear Lake

ELY, MN Right out of Log Home Living! Secluded hand hewn log home at the end of the road on Clear Lake (no public access) near Ely & the BWCA. The gradual lot offers excellent swimming & mesmerizing views. Set on east & south facing shore adjoining hundreds of acres of undeveloped state land & thousands of feet of state shore, yet just minutes to town. This home features a vaulted great room with natural light pouring in through two story tall windows, hardwood floors & glass doors that open to the lakefront deck. The gourmet kitchen with island opens to the great room, dining room & covered porch. Two main floor bedrooms and bath with a spa tub. Up the log stairs is an open loft bedroom. Downstairs is a walkout family room, sauna & bath. Three car heated garage with potential guest quarters above, two docks & boat launch.

**OFFERED AT** \$1,150,000  
**DETAILS** 3 BED/2 BATH 2,335 SF  
 8.3 ACRES 805 FT SHORELINE  
**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#146512



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## Vermilion Log Retreat

**COOK, MN** Like new, Vermilion log retreat! This amazing location on the rapids offers relaxing white water sounds and blue water vistas. The opposite shoreline features miles of pristine federal and state forest. The home features a two story vaulted great room with a stone fireplace & natural light pouring in through a wall of windows and doors that open to the 4 season porch and waterfront deck. Granite kitchen with island, dining, great room & porch, all lakeside. Main floor suite with a fireplace & glass doors that open to the deck. Main floor guest suite. Upstairs are two large bedrooms with water views and a bath. Attached two stall tucked under garage, attached two stall garage with guest quarters above plus 60X30 heated storage building. The boat launch and dock is on the Vermilion River, or launch on Lake Vermilion at the resort next door.

<b>OFFERED AT</b>	\$1,498,500
<b>DETAILS</b>	4 BED/4 BATH 6,051 SF
	22.9 ACRES 895 FT RIVERFRONT
<b>ON THE WEB</b>	JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#145947



## Burntside Paradise

**ELY, MN** Burntside Lake handcrafted log home in a private bay at the end of a pristine granite fjord! Set on 1,703 feet of shoreline and 38.75 acres of park-like forest with walking trails, and surrounded on three sides by federal forests at the edge of the BWCA. Huisman custom built in 2010, this home features an open great room with a wood burning fireplace and a wall of windows showcasing the majestic panoramic views over Burntside Lake and the surrounding forest. The property is surveyed, has a drilled well and full septic system, a fire suppression system & permanent electricity (no generator). Fish off the dock or sit on the wrap around deck and enjoy this spectacular retreat in the peace and quiet of the forest, while taking in the extraordinary beauty of Burntside!

<b>OFFERED AT</b>	\$898,500
<b>DETAILS</b>	1 BED/1 BATH 800 SF
	38.75 ACRES 1,703 FT SHORELINE
<b>ON THE WEB</b>	JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#141299



## Waters Edge on White Iron

ELY, MN Furnished private point retreat at waters edge on the White Iron Lake chain with direct BWCA access! Open 1.3 acres with a gentle slope to 550 feet of excellent swimming shoreline, just five miles to Ely. This three bedroom cedar cabin comes with the original handmade doors. A lakefront living room with wood floors feature double doors that open to the wrap-around porch. The kitchen, dining & guest bedrooms are all lakeside and the walkout basement could be a workshop, rec room or a 4th bedroom. The cabin is complete with a metal roof and renovated windows, updated electric and a compliant septic. New features include: bath, pex water lines, furnace & central air, dishwasher, stove and water heater. There is also water, electric, propane & septic installed for a future garage, guest cabin or RV. Grandfathered boat slip.

**OFFERED AT** \$719,000  
**DETAILS** 3 BED/1 BATH 1,800 SF  
1.3 ACRES 550 FT SHORELINE  
**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#143026



## Vermilion Dream Escape

TOWER, MN This furnished retreat tucked in the majestic boreal forest on the headwaters of Lake Vermilion, the Pike River Flowage, offers pristine undeveloped island studded vistas! The home features a prow front great room, a massive wood burning fireplace and glass doors that open to the lakefront deck. The kitchen opens to the great room, dining room & 3 season porch, all lakeside. Lakeside master suite with spa bath & glass doors that open to a private deck. Main floor guest bedroom, sauna, bath & laundry. Upstairs is a spacious loft bedroom with a private deck. The home also features in floor heat, air conditioning, a covered entry and a two stall attached garage. The open yard is perfect for activities. Fish off the dock or relax in the hot tub by the lake! Additional adjacent acreage is also available.

**OFFERED AT** \$897,000  
**DETAILS** 3 BED/3 BATH 2,696 SF  
18.2 ACRES 1,255 FT RIVERFRONT  
**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#145198







## Private Lake Oasis

**MAKINEN, MN** Set back off a quiet country road, this 280 acre parcel includes a 46 acre lake. The property has been surveyed & platted into 10 lots. The acreage includes a 12 acre field, orchard, 35 acres of high ground forest including many 100+ year old White Pines & a point with long range south views, 1.9 miles of groomed trails, a garage, barn & dock. Fiber optic high speed internet.

**OFFERED AT** \$1,249,950  
**DETAILS** 2 BED/1 BATH 943 SF  
 280 ACRES PRIVATE LAKE  
**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#145446



## Lake Vermilion Private Island

**COOK, MN** Gorgeous custom Lake Vermilion log home on your own island in coveted Frazer Bay! The fully furnished home showcases a vaulted great room with a wood burning fireplace, a cherry & granite kitchen that opens to the great room, dining room & covered porch, and a main floor suite and office. The property is complete with a 2 stall wet boathouse & a wood fired sauna.

**OFFERED AT** \$998,500  
**DETAILS** 2 BED/2 BATH 1,817 SF  
 0.5 ACRES PRIVATE ISLAND  
**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#145479



## Island & Mainland Boathouse

**COOK, MN** Lake Vermilion private island with a 3 bedroom over the water cabin, sauna guest cabin & bunkhouse. Just a short boat ride across calm water to your mainland lot and large wet boathouse. Boat to waterside restaurants, a championship golf course, even to town for shopping! Imagine living the island lifestyle on Lake Vermilion while also having the ability to work from home as needed.

**OFFERED AT** \$998,500  
**DETAILS** 3 BED/PRIVY 900 SF  
 2.1 ACRES PRIVATE ISLAND  
**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#146066



## Easy Lake Living

**ELY, MN** Easy lake living on beloved Clear Lake just outside of Ely. The cedar home has a vaulted great room with a stone fireplace, hardwood floor & wall of lake-front windows. The kitchen opens to the great room & lakeside dining room. The main floor has a primary suite plus 2 guest bedrooms. The walkout lower level is complete with a rec room, bathroom & laundry. Sauna.

**OFFERED AT** \$698,500  
**DETAILS** 3 BED/3 BATH 2,661 SF  
 2.75 ACRES 800 FT SHORELINE  
**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#146477



## 13 Acres on Lake Vermilion

**COOK, MN** Live the island lifestyle with a 4BR/1BA main cabin, log sauna guest cabin & sleeping cabin all at waters edge. Breathtaking blue water vistas, 13.5 acres & 1,385 ft shoreline offers excellent privacy, seclusion & swimming. Relax to nights by the firepit watching shooting stars or unwind during days on the water! Adjoining property also available.

**OFFERED AT** \$749,500

**DETAILS** 4 BED/1 BATH 2,080 SF  
13.5 ACRES 1,385 FT SHORELINE

**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#146260



## Lake Vermilion Building Lots

**COOK, MN** Gorgeous one of a kind Lake Vermilion building lots with private island! 10.5-22.0 acre lots with south & west facing shoreline offer breathtaking big water views, abundant sunshine, excellent privacy, seclusion & swimming. Property includes private island and cove known for Walleye fishing. Electricity nearby. Adjoining property also available.

**OFFERED AT** \$698,500

**DETAILS** 10.5-22.9 ACRES 1,870-2,340 FT SHORELINE

**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#146261, 2



## Lake Vermilion Tranquility

**COOK, MN** Lake Vermilion mid century modern retreat at waters edge plus wet boathouse with guest quarters above! Ideal location on Wakemup Narrows features panoramic island studded views with a protected swimming area. The vaulted great room right at the waters edge has a fireplace, glowing wood walls & floor to ceiling glass that opens to the large wrap around lakefront deck & patio.

**OFFERED AT** \$548,500

**DETAILS** 2 BED/1 BATH 816 SF  
0.5 ACRES 130 FT SHORELINE

**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#145863



## Lake Eshquaguma on the Course

**GILBERT, MN** This fully furnished 3 season retreat with a private golf course out the front door also offers a sandy shoreline on beloved Lake Eshquaguma! The original historic 1930's cottage has an open floor plan with a glassed sunroom & golf course views, a fireplace & lakefront deck. Main floor lakeside bedroom & bath. Walkout lower level with a lakeside bedroom, bath and 3rd bedroom.

**OFFERED AT** \$395,000

**DETAILS** 3 BED/2 BATH 1,274 SF  
0.4 ACRES 75 FT SHORELINE

**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#145950







## Vermilion Niles Bay Lots

COOK, MN Drive home to the Lake Vermilion retreat of your dreams! Rare south facing road accessible parcels adjoining 1,000s 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** \$524,500-\$598,500  
**DETAILS** 6.2-7.4 ACRES 200-402 FT SHORELINE

**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#143507, 8, 9



## Great Shop Space on the River

MT. IRON, MN Gorgeous wooded building lot in ideal location between Virginia & Hibbing, on the river flowing from Buhl to McQuade Lake. Includes a 48x36 shop with in-floor heat and a 60x36 garage complete with a 36x20 heated workshop. The 48x36 building is currently used as a cabinet shop and has potential to be converted to a home. High speed internet available.

**OFFERED AT** \$349,500  
**DETAILS** 12.1 ACRES RIVERFRONT  
**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#143220



## Shagawa River

ELY, MN This Mid Century Modern tranquil country home is set among towering pines & flowering crab trees on a natural animal corridor with a cart path to the Shagawa River! Just 3 mi to town, but feels deep in the woods. The home is complete with Pella windows, a sauna, and a sunroom with a 6 person hot tub. Ample storage with an attached garage & a large heated detached garage.

**OFFERED AT** \$292,500  
**DETAILS** 3 BED/2 BATH 2,263 SF  
 4.3 ACRES 150 FT RIVERFRONT  
**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#144924



## In Town Near Lake Vermilion

COOK, MN Well maintained, one owner, Mid Century Modern cedar sided home on a spacious level lot, off a paved street with city utilities, and only a few miles to Lake Vermilion! The home features an open design with a vaulted living room, a wood burning fireplace and a new deck. The adjacent property is also for sale.

**OFFERED AT** \$224,500  
**DETAILS** 2 BED/2 BATH 1,518 SF 0.4 ACRES  
**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#146318





## Burntside Lots

ELY, MN Waters Island, Burntside Lake! Incredible setting for the lake home of your dreams! One of the best views on Burntside overlooking

the lake & forest below! Three lots in a forest of towering pines & rock outcroppings with island studded vistas.

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



## Vermilion Lot

TOWER, MN Beautiful south facing Lake Vermilion building lot near Trout Lake Portage! The large & unspoiled 4.6 acre parcel with 250 ft of

shoreline adjoins the Superior National Forest to the north, which then adjoins the BWCA. Electricity accessible.

**OFFERED AT** \$124,500  
**DETAILS** 4.6 ACRES 250 FT SHORELINE  
**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#145361



## Norwegian Bay

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

pond at north border & adjoins 100s of acres of state land. Stunning building sites with south facing views.

**OFFERED AT** \$249,500  
**DETAILS** 23 ACRES 705 FT SHORELINE  
**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#146203



## Private Island

TOWER, MN Private island centrally located on beloved Frazer Bay. Includes fixer upper cabin in towering pines at

waters edge. Protected docking & swimming. Short boat ride across calm water to boat launch or marinas.

**OFFERED AT** \$198,500  
**DETAILS** 1 BED/PRIVY 360 SF 0.3 ACRES  
**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#145721



## Lake Vermilion

TOWER, MN Rare—build your nest on this Lake Vermilion peninsula near the Boundary Waters! Large & unspoiled 2.6 acre parcel with 1,235 ft of shoreline.

Sunrise to sunset views with eastern, southern & western exposure. Just a short motorboat ride across calm water.

**OFFERED AT** \$198,500  
**DETAILS** 2.6 ACRES 1,235 FT SHORELINE  
**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#144006



## Niles Bay

COOK, MN Exceptional prime lakeshore with southwest facing road accessible Lake Vermilion building lot ad-

joining thousands of acres of state land on two sides. Extraordinary sunset views all the way across Niles Bay. Seller will consider Contract For Deed.

**OFFERED AT** \$275,000  
**DETAILS** 16.1 ACRES 455 FT SHORELINE  
**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#146187



## Pine Island

TOWER, MN Secluded island retreat set in pine forest & rock outcroppings on Lake Vermilion, near Trout Lake Portage into

the Boundary Waters! Set on 3.9 acres & 261 ft of east facing shoreline. As Is fixer upper cabin with permanent electricity & dock. Adjacent property is also available.

**OFFERED AT** \$198,500  
**DETAILS** 3 BED/0.5 BATH 3.92 ACRES 261 FT SHORELINE  
**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#145406



## Pine Island Lot

TOWER, MN Incredible setting for your Lake Vermilion cabin offers panoramic island studded views near Trout Lake Portage

into the Boundary Waters! Short boat ride across calm water to Glenwood Lodge or Rice Bay Public Landing. Electricity accessible. Adjacent property available.

**OFFERED AT** \$198,500  
**DETAILS** 6 ACRES 821 FT SHORELINE  
**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#145407





## Commercial

COOK, MN Fantastic Hwy 53 commercial location with city water & sewer. Across the highway from McDonalds & Lucky Seven, Lake Vermilion Area! Gustafson facility in Cook was previously a dealership and offers tremendous potential. 0.65 acre corner lot features an 11,376 SF building.

**OFFERED AT** \$498,500  
**DETAILS** 0.65 ACRES 11,376 SF  
**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#145936



## Commercial

COOK, MN Don't miss out on over half a city block on the gateway to Lake Vermilion! Multiple buildings with one long term tenant in one building.

**OFFERED AT** \$124,500  
**DETAILS** MULTIPLE BUILDINGS  
**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#146410



## Commercial

ELY, MN Well maintained commercial location on Ely's Main Street. High visibility, heavy foot traffic, excellent rental history. Full basement

with inside & outside access for ease of deliveries. Upstairs 3 bedroom apartment. Building only.

**OFFERED AT** \$174,900  
**DETAILS** LEASE-BUILDING ONLY  
**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#146514



## Ladybug Lodge

ELY, MN Full service Boundary Waters area resort! 10.7 acres and 1,015 ft south facing lakeshore on beautiful Shagawa Lake, just 7 miles to Ely. Property

offers 10 cabins, fishing boat rentals & the largest fleet of pontoon boat rentals in the area. Turn key opportunity!

**SOLD** \$1,350,000  
**DETAILS** 10.7 ACRES 1,015 FT SHORELINE



## Deluxe Catering

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



**OFFERED AT** \$375,000  
**DETAILS** BAR & BANQUET FACILITY  
 CATERING BUSINESS - 12,985 SF

**ON THE WEB** JANISCHREALTY.COM MLS#143922





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



## Wynne Lake Retreat

**BIWABIK, MINNESOTA** Builder's own secluded log estate retreat on an amazing 450 feet of a sunset beach with a sandbar extending into coveted Wynne Lake! This ideal Giants Ridge lifestyle location offers downhill & world class cross country skiing, The Legends & The Quarry championship golf courses and the Mesabi Bike Trail. The home is situated on a two acre forest of 100 year old pines, and offers a year round log guest cabin, timber grill gazebo, and a 3 stall stone & log garage, copper gutters & log caps, and art & architecture lights. Built in 2007, this stone & log home has a trussed great room with a wood floor, a massive fireplace & French doors that open to the screen porch that is complete with a fireplace

& pizza oven. The custom kitchen with an Elmira stove & hand carved island opens to the great room, dining room, screen porch & deck, all lakeside. The main floor has a lakeside suite, guest bedroom and bath. Upstairs are two large bedrooms each with a covered deck & bath. The downstairs features a huge open room, sauna, bunkbeds, bath & laundry. In floor heat throughout the main and lower levels. City water & sewer, natural gas & high speed internet.

<b>OFFERED AT</b>	\$1,748,500	
<b>DETAILS</b>	3 BED/4 BATH	3,444 SF
	2.5 ACRES	450 FT SHORELINE
<b>ON THE WEB</b>	JANISCHREALTY.COM	MLS#145768



Let's Make Sold Happen For You Too! 218-780-6644 [www.JanischRealty.com](http://www.JanischRealty.com)

