

MINNESOTA'S Lakes, Pines & Mines A Sample Itinerary

Grand Rapids

Iron Range

Duluth

Presented as an exciting circle tour of northern Minnesota, the **Lakes, Pines and Mines Tour** highlights our state's unique heritage through a wide variety of one-of-a-kind attractions, magnificent sightseeing and unsurpassed service to you and your passengers. Included in the tour are Duluth and Lake Superior – the largest freshwater lake in the world, Grand Rapids' beautiful pristine forests and Mississippi River and the rich history of the Iron Range, with heritage sites and the world's largest iron ore mines.

The tour begins and ends in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis/St. Paul – Minnesota's gateway to the Northland.

DAY 1

Arrive in **Grand Rapids, Minnesota**

Tour **Old Central School**, the **Itasca County Historical Society**

Visit the **Judy Garland Museum**

Themed Dinner at the Sawmill Inn

DAY 2

Tour the **Forest History Center**

City Tour of Grand Rapids

Tour the **University of Minnesota Experimental Station**

Tour **Hill Annex Mine State Park** – plan a special fossil hunt

Travel to the **Iron Range**

Tour the **Greyhound Bus Origin Center**

Tour **Soudan Underground Mine**

Tour **U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame**

DAY 3

Tour **Minnesota Museum of Mining**

City Tour of Hibbing with drive by of **Bob Dylan's childhood home**

Visit **Minnesota Discovery Center**

Travel to **Duluth**

Tour **Great Lakes Aquarium**

Dinner Cruise on the Vista Star

DAY 4

Tour **Glensheen Historic Estate**

NORTH SHORE ADVENTURE

North Shore Scenic Railroad – train ride along the shore of Lake Superior and inland, box lunches available.

Tour **Split Rock Lighthouse**

Tour **Gooseberry Falls State Park**

DAY 5

City Tour of Duluth

Tour **St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center (The Depot)**

Depart Duluth for Twin Cities

MINNESOTA'S LAKES, PINES, AND MINES

A Sample Itinerary

DAY 1 and 2

“TRAVEL ADVENTURE TO GRAND RAPIDS”

Grand Rapids offers exciting options for the Motorcoach Adventurer. Known as the 1,000 Grand Lakes area, Grand Rapids is a four-season recreation destination at the Navigational Headwaters of the Mississippi River. Conveniently located at the crossroads of two major highways, Grand Rapids is just 179 miles from downtown Minneapolis.

Dubbed the “Emerald City” Grand Rapids is the birthplace of Judy Garland and three colorful, ethnic cultures: the Lumberjack, the Iron Miner and Native Americans. Their legacy still lives in the interpretive centers, special events and attractions.

Grand Rapids' Attractions

Forest History Center – A living history 1900 logging camp with costumed interpreters in character. Minnesota's only authentically recreated logging camp. Visit the Interpretive Center, River Wanigan (a floating cookshack), walk the nature trails and climb the 100-foot high Fire Tower.

Tour Time: 2 hours

Hill Annex Mine State Park – The world's largest open pit mine open for tours. Discover the history of mining on the Iron Range, view vintage machinery and scenic overlooks, or go on a fossil hunt.

Tour Time: 1½ hours

Central School – “A Unique Marketplace”; recapture the spirit of your youth at Central School, a turn of the century schoolhouse, which has been transformed into a unique marketplace.

Tour Time: 1½ hours

MacRostie Art Center – A non-profit arts organization dedicated to the exhibition of and education in the visual arts, featuring spacious gallery with rotating art exhibits.

Tour Time: 1 hour

Myles Reif Performing Arts Center – Presents fine performances by local & professional touring artists, including symphonies, ballet, theater, ethnic and modern dance companies.

Tour Time: 1-3 hours

University of Minnesota North Central Experiment Station – One of six in the nation – special tours include areas of horticulture, wild rice, beef/forage and small grains.

Tour Time: 1 ½ hours

Judy Garland Birthplace Historic House – Step back to 1925 when Judy and the Gumm Sisters performed vaudeville in silent movie theatres throughout northern Minnesota. This authentic restoration of her home was based on family photographs and oral histories.

Tour Time: 1 hour

Judy Garland Children's Discovery Museum – Hands-on museum offers family fun for all ages. Explore different sounds in the music room, create artwork, and view rare collection of original artifacts from the world's most beloved film, the "Wizard of Oz".

Tour Time: 1½ hours

Grand Rapids' Special Events

Mississippi Melodie Showboat – Costumed greeters escort your passengers; seated on the banks of the Mississippi River, your groups will see the showboat round the bend and dock at the wharf. Performers dance and sing with live band music.

Performance offered Thursday, Friday, & Saturday, the last 3 weekends of July.

White Oak Rendezvous – A trip back in time to the early 1800's to see life as it was during the days of the Ojibwe and voyageur, bringing together fur trappers, singers, dancers, merchants, and traders in a festival designed to please visitors of all ages.

Show offered the 1st full weekend in August.

Tall Timber Days – Have fun while learning about the timber industry of the past and present. Included are the lumberjack show, arts and craft fair, chainsaw carving, bingo, parade and much more.

Festival offered the 1st full weekend in August.

Judy Garland Festival – Celebrate the birth of one of America's most beloved stars, mingle with the munchkins who appeared in the "Wizard of Oz".

Festival offered the 3rd weekend in June.

For Itinerary & Lodging Assistance:

Contact: Cheri Bialke

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DAY 2 and 3



Traveling the Iron Range *“A little taste of adventure in the Iron Range area”*

Experience a magical vacation to an area that is full of beauty and wonder. The **Iron Range** area is surrounded by the marvel of Mother Nature, with 320,000 acres of the Superior National Forest and more than 500 sparkling lakes and rivers. While visiting the **Iron Range** uncover 35 of the area’s treasures listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. Take a tour by exploring an area with a cultural heritage from over forty countries. Designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce as an American Pathways 2000 route, the **Iron Range** is proud to have been chosen for this historic honor. Under the theme by “Lady Liberty” the magic of the area’s deep history of mining, logging, railroads and immigration comes alive. Spend a day uncovering one of Mother Nature’s masterpieces on the **Iron Range** in Northeastern Minnesota.

Experience the heritage of Northeastern Minnesota at **Minnesota Discovery Museum** in Chisholm. Tour permanent and traveling exhibits that explore the history, heritage and future of the region and its people. Theater, restaurant, trolley, Museum Store and galleries. Guided or self tours. Enjoy traditional or modern fare in restaurant, The 43. Or, special order a “pasty in a pail” like the miner’s used to eat.
Tour Time: 3 hours (with lunch)

Walk through castle-like walls into the past and experience life in the mining era by touring replicas of an underground mine and mining town at the **Minnesota Museum of Mining** in Chisholm. Become a miner, as you climb aboard mining equipment the size of an elephant or become the operator of one the fastest steam shovels ever made.
Tour Time: 1 hour

Hull Rust Mahoning Mine in Hibbing: View the biggest open pit iron ore mine in the world, more than three miles long, two miles wide and 535 feet deep. This man-made “Grand Canyon of the North” was the first strip mine on the Mesabi Iron Range. The amazing view continues to grow as the Hibbing Taconite Company Mine expands its mining operations. Rotary drills, 33-cubic-yard shovels and 240-ton production trucks can be seen in action at this National Historic Site. Occasionally, you’ll be able to witness a mining dynamite blast used to clear bedrock away to get to the iron ore.
Tour Time: 30 minutes

Imagine being a driver of an over-sized bus as you step inside the world of the Greyhound Bus at the **Greyhound Bus Origin Center** in Hibbing. This fascinating museum takes you on a journey through time as you watch how a 1914 hupmobile grew into one of the largest bus companies in America.

Tour Time: 30 minutes

Sneak a peak at the *outside* of Hibbing native and music legend **Bob Dylan's childhood home**. Then experience ethnic flavors by snacking on mouth-watering tasty treats at **Sunrise Bakery**. Enjoy the richness of an area favorite, potica, bite into baklava, a moist triangular-shaped pastry filled with delicious honey and topped with cinnamon or enjoy Neapolitan, custard filled with thin mouth-watering layers of pastry.

Tour time: 15 minutes

Enter a beautifully sculpted auditorium designed after New York's old capital Theatre. Cut-glass chandeliers from Czechoslovakia light the 1800-seat grand auditorium at the historic **Hibbing High School**.

Tour Time: 30 minutes

Recline comfortably while viewing the night sky inside the planetarium, or watch a stunning large format 70 mm movie on the magnificent 40-foot domed screen at the **Paulucci Space Theatre** in Hibbing.

Tour time: one hour

Mineview in the Sky in Virginia: Imagine having a panoramic view of the area with the focus being an open pit nearly three miles long, a half-mile long and 450 feet deep. Then, look up for a glimpse of the biggest truck in the area, a 240-ton mining truck towering 21 feet 10 inches.

Tour Time: 20 minutes

Experience the exciting world of hockey at the **United States Hockey Hall of Fame** in Eveleth. See the struggles and glories of enshrined hockey players who worked hard to capture their dreams. Sit on the sidelines as you re-live the 1980 gold Olympics, and women's gold Olympics by film.

Tour Time: one hour

Let the hockey excitement continue as you drive downtown Eveleth to pose next to the **World's Largest Hockey Stick** measuring 107 feet and weighing over 3 tons.

Tour Time: 15 minutes

Explore the realms of Minnesota's first underground mine as a caged elevator lowers you 2,400 feet into the depths of the **Soudan Underground Mine**. An electric train brings you to the last and deepest area mined. (Bring along a sweater for the amazing underground tour.) Tour time: 2 hours

Experience the spine-tingling sensation of howling wolves at the **International Wolf Center** in Ely. Step into the shoes of a researcher as you track wild wolves. Then, watch as three Great Plains wolves and two rare Artic Yearlings endure the great outdoors.

Tour time: one hour

Sax-Zim Bog in Sax/Zim: Stroll through one of the top birding locations in the Midwest. Make sure to bring your camera as wildlife galore surrounds you. See everything from sedge wren and yellow-bellied flycatcher to cross bills and snowy owls.

Tour time: one hour

Travel to a designation on the American Pathways tour - the **Sisu Heritage Pioneer Homestead tours** in Embarrass. Venture through woods on old Indian paths to experience farms complete with barns and saunas, carved with axes and picks by Finns.

Tour time: 1 hour

Glance at the life of a miner through their eyes as you take an exciting **tour** of a modern day **mining company**, Hibbing Taconite. View huge 240-ton trucks, 80-car trains, and 30-yard shovels.

Tour time: 30 minutes

Hunt for treasures at one of the more than fifty antiques and specialty shops on the Iron Trail. A **shopping** excursion will bring you to shops filled with handcrafted goods. Find a unique souvenir or a special gift flavored with the area's local charm and craftsmanship.

Tour time: 2 hours

This is only a sample of some of the area's biggest and brightest attractions. Sample over forty attractions while visiting the Iron Trail. The area is filled with exciting adventures and attractions just waiting to be explored. Page through the Iron Trail Vacation Guide and find the perfect adventure just for you.

For itinerary & lodging assistance contact:

Cheyenne Denny

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DAY 3 and 4



DISCOVER DULUTH & LAKE SUPERIOR ***“Minnesota’s Lake Superior Treasure”***

Welcome to **Duluth!** Welcome to endless miles of scenic lakeshore and rocky hillside beauty. Founded as a trading post more than 300 years ago, Duluth is located on the western most tip of **Lake Superior**, the largest freshwater lake in the world. From Skyline Drive, the steep hillside offers views unlike any other in the Midwest – 600 feet above the lake. Harbor cruises, scenic train excursions, and a host of fascinating attractions and events await your groups.

Duluth Attractions

The St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center, (the Depot), listed on the National Register of Historic places, features four distinct museums. Set in “Depot Square”, 22 store fronts depict 1910 downtown Duluth. Enjoy the Lake Superior Railroad Museum, one of the Midwest’s largest train collections. Explore world cultures in the Duluth Children’s Museum and connect with the past of Northeastern Minnesota in the St. Louis County Historical Society Galleries.

Tour Time: 1½ hours

Duluth Omnimax® Theatre – A premier multimedia experience with the audience becoming completely involved in the picture on the dome screen. The 3-story screen surrounds the audience and creates the illusion of actually being there! Show Length: 1 hour

Fond-du-Luth Casino – Offering video slots, blackjack and daily bingo. There’s something for everyone amid the excitement and glamour in downtown Duluth.

Glensheen Historic Estate – As seen on the A&E television network’s “American Castles”, Glensheen Historic Estate is one of Duluth’s leading attractions. Built in 1908 by Chester Congdon, the 39-room Jacobean mansion, complete with original furnishings and located along Lake Superior’s shoreline, captures the essence of old world Duluth.

Tour Time: 1 ½ hours

Great Lakes Aquarium – Unveils the secrets and wonder of Lake Superior. Dive in to America’s only all-freshwater aquarium! Discover what’s in and under Lake Superior through 70 species of fish and exhibits from the Great Lakes and other freshwater lakes and rivers of the world. Great Lakes Aquarium is much more than an aquarium – there’s art, history, culture and commerce, all as they relate to freshwater.

Tour Time: 1½ hours

Historic Home Tours – Step into Duluth’s colorful past during a guided tour of some of Duluth’s premier historic Bed and Breakfast Inns. Give your passengers a glimpse into the opulent lifestyles of turn-of-the-century lumber barons, lawyers, and mining magnates.

Tour Time: Varied

Incline Station Bowling Center – Have fun with your group at “the most popular bowling center in the Northland”. Enjoy pizza, hamburgers and much more inside The Spot Sports Bar & Grill.

Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center – Operated by the Detroit District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the museum provides information about the commercial shipping and port development of the upper Great Lakes, Lake Superior shipwrecks and the work of the Corps. Special presentations on a topic of your choice are provided free of charge.

Tour Time: 1 hour

Lake Superior & Mississippi Railroad – An historic 90-minute journey along the scenic St. Louis River. View wildlife in its natural environment, while enjoying the majestic beauty of the river and surrounding area. Using vintage equipment as well as an open “Safari Car” on its excursions, the LS&M traces its roots back to 1863 and was the first railroad linking Duluth with the Twin Cities. Excursion: 1½ hours

Lake Superior Railroad Museum – Take in the view from a caboose. From a world-class dining car exhibit to Minnesota’s first engine, the William Crooks, the Lake Superior Railroad Museum has something for everyone!

Lake Superior Zoo – Visit animals from around the world. Come nose to nose with Siberian tigers, Australian Kangaroos and Arctic Polar Bears! Enjoy the monkeys in our Primate Conservation Center. The Lake Superior Zoo is dedicated to the responsible stewardship of our natural environment through exhibition of living animals and plants and programs in conservation and wildlife education. Tour Time: 1½ hours

North Shore Scenic Railroad – Experience *the Romance of the Golden Age of Railroading*. All Aboard! For an exciting and memorable excursion along Lake Superior’s North Shore. Your train pulls out of the historic Union Depot, rumbles through the city, along the rugged shoreline of Lake Superior and deep into the majestic Northwoods.

Tour Time: Varied

Spirit Mt. Recreation Area – Offers scenic, tree-lined runs and beautifully wooded cross-country trails. One of the largest chalet facilities in the area with breathtaking views of Lake Superior.

Tweed Museum of Art – From the art of the past to the art of today, from formal lectures to lively hands-on programs, the Tweed Museum of Art is a unique learning laboratory for people of all ages and backgrounds. The museum hosts both contemporary and historical exhibitions in its nine galleries and maintains an important collection of American and European paintings.
Tour Time: 1 hour

Vista Fleet – One of the area's premier attractions welcomes you to Duluth-Superior so you can enjoy Lake Superior and its popular international harbor. Cruises aboard the Vista Fleet are always special events. Dine or just cruise and enjoy the sights and sounds of Lake Superior. Dinner, lunch, brunch or sightseeing cruises are available - narrated.
Tour Time: Varies

William A. Irvin Ore Boat Museum – Experience life on the lakes by touring this 600-foot ore boat. Once the flagship of the "Silver Stack", the William A. Irvin carried more than just millions of tons of rich, red iron ore; she transported dignitaries, the elite and the powerful of the day in magnificently appointed wood-paneled staterooms. From the bow to the stern, you'll view the pilot house, lounges, staterooms, guest galley and dining room, cargo holds, crew quarters and impressive engine room.
Tour Time: 1 hour

U.S. Coast Guard Vessel Sundew tended buoys and served as an icebreaker at several ports on Lake Michigan and Lake Superior as well as the port of Duluth.
Tour Time: ½ hour

Charter Fishing/Lake Superior Fishing – Reel in the BIG FISH of Lake Superior. See large foreign ships and marvel at the Duluth Aerial Lift Bridge as it opens to let you pass to some of the most productive fishing anywhere in the world.

AREA

Gooseberry Falls State Park – Known for its spectacular waterfalls, river gorge, Lake Superior shoreline, historic Civilian Conservation Corps log and stone structures and Northwoods wildlife. Visitor center, nature store and more.

Richard I. Bong Veterans Historical Center – Named for America's Ace of Aces, is an educational resource for all ages. Changing exhibits and artifacts.

Split Rock Lighthouse Historic Site – Visit the lightkeeper's dwelling, fog-signal building and the lighthouse. See an award-winning film and take in the scenic beauty atop the 130-foot cliff.

Your greatest motorcoach tour is waiting on the shore of the greatest Great Lake, the world's largest body of fresh water. Here, on the edge of Lake Superior, sits a sprawling city cut out of the rugged northern Minnesota wilderness. More than a must-see, Duluth is a must-do! There is virtually no end to the events, attractions and other activities in this lively city of 87,000, and every coach is welcome.

Duluth. It's a city of experiences, and it's waiting to be explored!

For Itinerary & Lodging Assistance:

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