

WILD LIFE

Bring your camera, your backpack and your sense of adventure, because you will get closer to Mother Nature than ever before. Duluth is considered the gateway to the northern wild and you can see it all up close and personal throughout the city and beyond. Get a bird's eye view and learn about the many varieties of hawks, eagles and other birds that migrate by the tens of thousands over Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory during **Hawk Weekend Festival, September 14-16, 2012**. Beavers, birds, turtles, fox, otters, deer, bear, moose and more can be spotted from trails and parks that include the 70-mile Willard Munger State Trail, the five-mile Western Waterfront Trail, the 277-mile Superior Hiking Trail and the 660-acre Hartley Park just to name a few. Come face-to-face with wolves at Ely's International Wolf Center, a few hours north of town. Or bear at the Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary, near Orr. Or head way up north and travel the Gunflint Trail from Grand Marais to the edges of the BWCAW. This is Minnesota wilderness at its best—and Duluth is the best way to get there.



One of America's Owliest Cities
Birder's World magazine readers named Hawk Ridge #8 and the Duluth Harbor #12 in its Top 25 places to owl spot in the U.S. and Canada.

GO
WILD

WITH AN ENDLESS BLUE-WATER HORIZON, SECLUDED STREAMS AND RIVERS COURSING THROUGH RAW FORESTS AND AN EXPANSIVE ESTUARY THAT CONNECTS IT ALL, HERE'S THE PERFECT CHANCE TO TUNE OUT THE NOISE AND TUNE INTO YOUR SURROUNDINGS.



HAWK RIDGE

How good is the bird watching here? Well, on a single day in the fall of 2003, more than 100,000 broad-wing hawks flew over this Skyline Parkway bird-watching paradise. Funneled by westerly winds and the large expanse of Lake Superior, hawks, eagles and other species of birds fill the skies during fall migration. Beyond the avian activity, you'll enjoy one of the most commanding views of Lake Superior from 700 feet above the water on Hawk Ridge's rocky hillside.



CYCLISTS OF GITCHEE GUMEE SHORES

COGGS is a voluntary organization of bicycling enthusiasts from all walks of life and various regions surrounding Lake Superior. The organization's goal is to improve and maintain bicycling opportunities within our natural and urban habitats for generations to come. For more information on how you can join COGGS to improve this region's cycling resources, please visit www.coggs.com.

THE SUPERIOR HIKING TRAIL

The Superior Hiking Trail is a 277-mile-long footpath that bisects the city of Duluth and follows the rocky ridgeline above Lake Superior. There are trailheads with parking every 5-10 miles, along with 81 backcountry-style campsites, so it's ideal for both day hikes and backpacking. A full 29 miles of trails are right inside the city limits, offering plenty of room to explore and admire the unbelievable views.

Walk in.

There's more green space here than in any other American city—11,000 acres of open and wooded land. With so much terrain, the biggest challenge is figuring out where to start. Consider the Superior Hiking Trail, one of *Reader's Digest's* "Five Walks to Remember." Or, for an easy, kid-friendly hike, pack a lunch and visit one of Duluth's many stunning city parks for a chance to see wildlife up close—from eagles at Hawk Ridge to whitetail deer and grey fox in Hartley Nature Center.

Ride in.

Pedal your way down the Lakewalk, where you can stop to dip your toes in the world's largest freshwater lake, or get a panoramic view from Skyline Parkway. Looking for a day trip? Try the Willard Munger State Trail. The longest paved path in the U.S. carves through forests, cliffs and meadows. Near the trailhead, the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area offers an array of rugged mountain bike terrain.

Dive in.

Lake Superior is at the heart of the Duluth experience, and one of the most compelling reasons to visit. From nearly any point in the city, you'll have a breathtaking lake view. Start at the Aerial Lift Bridge, Duluth's most famous landmark, to see 1,000-foot freighters and ships from around the world passing by.

BY WATER: lakesuperiorstreams.org offers a wealth of info on Duluth's 40 streams and the Great Lake they feed.

BY LAND: duluthmn.gov/parks