A Wild Place to Hike

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

Wildlife

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

Leaves No Trace

Please protect the thin soils and fragile plant life by "Leave No Trace". Let someone know where you are headed and when you expect to return. Pack in. Take only pictures, leave only footprints.

Trail Safety

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

Leave No Trace

Please protect the thin soils and fragile plant life by "Leave No Trace." Let someone know where you are headed and when you expect to return. Pack in. Take only pictures, leave only footprints.

Gunflint Trail Information

1-800-338-6932

www.gunflint-trail.com

1. SUPERIOR HIKING TRAIL

Features: Boreal and transition forest

Distance: 200+ miles

Location: Access from Pincushion Mountain trail system.

Difficulty: Moderate to difficult

Features:

1. Lake Superior overlook

2. Spectacular Lake Superior overlooks

Distance: 2.5 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road #12), turn right on County Road #53.

Location: Drive 2.5 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road #12), turn right on County Road #53 and drive 0.2 miles to parking.

Hiking the Trail: The long distance trail follows the Lake Superior shore from Two Harbors to the Canadian border. There are spectacular vistas of Lake Superior, silhouettes of the Sawtooth Mountain Range, and breathtaking glimpses of wild rivers as they cascade over waterfalls through rocky gorges. Trailheads are located at most County Road crossings and state park boundaries.

Deserted.

Features:

1. Spectacular views of Lake Superior

2. Historic fire tower site

Distance: 7 miles round trip

Location: Take the Gunflint Trail (County Road #12) from Highway 61 in Grand Marais 4.0 miles to County Road #8 on your left (in Devil Track Lake). Turn left on County Road #8, drive 5 miles to County Road #27 and turn right. Drive 5 miles to the junction of Forest Road #70 and turn left. Follow #70 5 miles to the trailhead parking area.

Hiking the Trail: The first 2.5 miles of the trail gains elevation gradually, the next half mile offers slightly more increase and the final half mile becomes rocky and steep, gaining elevation rapidly to the summit. The highest point is marked by a brass survey disk placed toward the west side of the ridge.

2. EAGLE MOUNTAIN

Self-issued BWCAW day permit required for hiking.

Distance: 2 miles

Location: 10.9 miles up the Gunflint Trail, then 2 miles east on Trout Lake Road—Forest Road #90.

Hiking the Trail: The trail starts at the Kambill Lake Campground and goes around the entire lake, and offers dozens of fishing spots cleared along the shoreline.

Features:

1. Self-issued BWCAW day permit required for hiking.

2. Historic fire tower site

Distance: 5 miles round trip

Location: Drive 1.3 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road #12). The trailhead is 2.25 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road #12) from Highway 61 to County Road #70 on your left. Turn left on County Road #8, drive 5 miles to County Road #27 and turn right. Drive 5 miles to the junction of Forest Road #70 and turn left. Follow #70 5 miles to the trailhead parking area.

Hiking the Trail: The first 2.5 miles of the trail gains elevation gradually, the next half mile offers slightly more increase and the final half mile becomes rocky and steep, gaining elevation rapidly to the summit. The highest point is marked by a brass survey disk placed toward the west side of the ridge.

3. WILDFLOWER INTERPRETIVE Hike

Features: Wildflower interpretive signs

Distance: Less than a mile

Location: 5.7 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road #12) just before the Devil Track Trail bridge.

Hiking the Trail: Look for a small brown sign that says “Wildflower Sanctuary.”

Hiking the Trail: A shaded walk along the edge of the Devil Track River with an interesting variety of native and non-native wild flowers, shrubs, trees, and grasses.

4. GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PINES

Features: White and red pine forest

Distance: 3 miles round trip

Location: 6.8 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road #12). Turn left into the parking lot.

Hiking the Trail: The trail is an old road through a tall pine stand. It turns at Elbow Creek and follows the creek before winding back into the forest. The trail can get wet and muddy during rainy periods.

Wilderness Permits

Permits are required to enter the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCAW). Self-issued day use permits are available at trailheads. Overnight campers must have an entry point permit. Inquire at the Gunflint Ranger Station, 22655 Gunflint Trail, Grand Marais, MN, 55604, or call 218-387-9750 for more information.

For BWCAW overnight permit reservations, call 877-550-6777 or visit RECREATION.gov

Gunflint Trail Information

1-800-338-6932

www.gunflint-trail.com

5. KIMBALL LAKE FISHING TRAIL

Features: Designated trout lake

Distance: 2 miles

Location: 10.9 miles up the Gunflint Trail, then 2 miles east on Trout Lake Road—Forest Road #90.

Hiking the Trail: The trail starts at the Kambill Lake Campground and goes around the entire lake, and offers dozens of fishing spots cleared along the shoreline.

Features:

1. Designated trout lake

Distance: 2 miles

Location: Drive 1.3 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road #12). The trailhead is 2.25 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road #12) from Highway 61 to County Road #70 on your left. Turn left on County Road #8, drive 5 miles to County Road #27 and turn right. Drive 5 miles to the junction of Forest Road #70 and turn left. Follow #70 5 miles to the trailhead parking area.

Hiking the Trail: The first 2.5 miles of the trail gains elevation gradually, the next half mile offers slightly more increase and the final half mile becomes rocky and steep, gaining elevation rapidly to the summit. The highest point is marked by a brass survey disk placed toward the west side of the ridge.

Hiking the Trail: A shaded walk along the edge of the Devil Track River with an interesting variety of native and non-native wild flowers, shrubs, trees, and grasses.

5. KIMBALL LAKE FISHING TRAIL

Features: Panoramic view of Northern Light Lake

Distance: 1 mile round trip

Location: Drive 2.5 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road #12). The trailhead is 2.25 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road #12) from Highway 61 to County Road #70 on your left. Turn left on County Road #8, drive 5 miles to County Road #27 and turn right. Drive 5 miles to the junction of Forest Road #70 and turn left. Follow #70 5 miles to the trailhead parking area.

Hiking the Trail: The first 2.5 miles of the trail gains elevation gradually, the next half mile offers slightly more increase and the final half mile becomes rocky and steep, gaining elevation rapidly to the summit. The highest point is marked by a brass survey disk placed toward the west side of the ridge.

Hiking the Trail: A shaded walk along the edge of the Devil Track River with an interesting variety of native and non-native wild flowers, shrubs, trees, and grasses.

6. NORTHERN LIGHT LAKE BLUEBERRY HILL

Features: Panoramic view of Northern Light Lake

Distance: 1 mile round trip

Location: Drive 2.5 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road #12). The trailhead is 2.25 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road #12) from Highway 61 to County Road #70 on your left. Turn left on County Road #8, drive 5 miles to County Road #27 and turn right. Drive 5 miles to the junction of Forest Road #70 and turn left. Follow #70 5 miles to the trailhead parking area.

Hiking the Trail: The first 2.5 miles of the trail gains elevation gradually, the next half mile offers slightly more increase and the final half mile becomes rocky and steep, gaining elevation rapidly to the summit. The highest point is marked by a brass survey disk placed toward the west side of the ridge.

Hiking the Trail: A shaded walk along the edge of the Devil Track River with an interesting variety of native and non-native wild flowers, shrubs, trees, and grasses.

7. LIMA MOUNTAIN TRAIL

Features: Designated trout lake

Distance: 3 miles round trip

Location: Drive 21.5 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road #12). Turn left on Forest Road #82. Go 2 miles to Forest Road #315. Lima Mountain trailhead is located off Forest Road #315.

Hiking the Trail: The Lima Mountain Trail is narrow, rocky, and steep. Prolific rocks and roots make the footing difficult in places, be sure to wear good hiking shoes. Lima Mountain is the site of a former fire lookout tower built in 1935, staffed until 1955, and removed in 1978. At the top of the mountain, at an elevation of 2,238 feet, there is a panoramic view to the west of the Misquah Hills, which also includes Eagle Mountain.
8. MOOSE VIEWING TRAIL
Features: Wildlife viewing platform, interpretive signs
Difficulty: Easy
Distance: 1 mile round trip
Location: 2.2 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12). Turn left and drive to the parking lot.

Hiking the Trail: Hike from the parking area for about a quarter mile along the snowmobile path. The Moose Viewing Trail continues to the right, where it becomes a narrow path. The Moose viewing platform is on the right, down a narrow trail through the woods. Watch for interpretive signs along the way to the moose.

9. DANIELS LAKE
Self-Issued BWCAW day permit required for hiking
Features: Access to Border Route Trail
Difficulty: Easy
Distance: 3.75 miles round trip
Location: Drive 27 miles north of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail (County Road 12). Turn right on Clearwater Road (County Road 22) and drive 2.3 miles to the parking lot at the trailhead.

Hiking the Trail: The trail follows the old Alger-Smith railroad grade which was acquired by the Northern Lumber Company. Hiking the Trail:

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