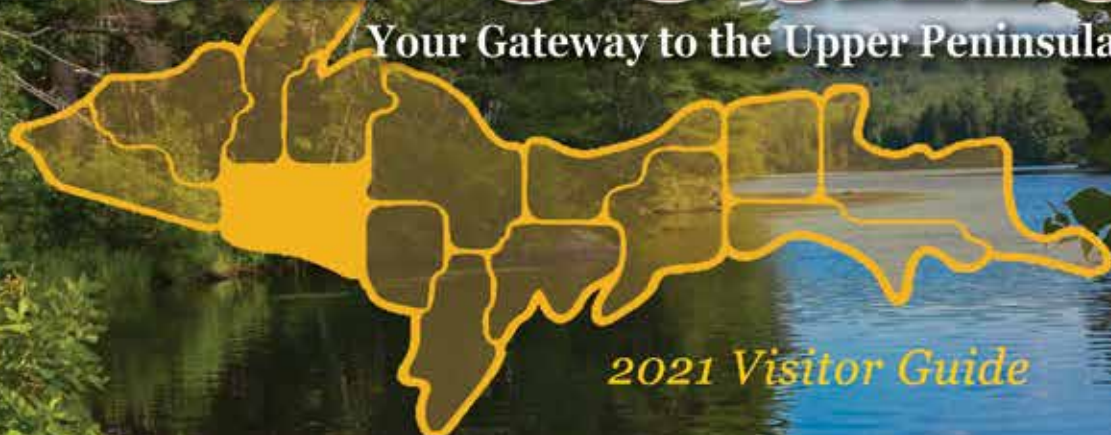


MICHIGAN Iron County

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2021 Visitor Guide

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Iron County, Michigan Welcomes You

Iron County is one of the Upper Peninsula's best travel destinations. Camp, hunt, fish, and hike in our 400,000 acres of public forestland in the Ottawa National Forest. Catch your limit of a multitude of fish species in our more than 300 lakes and navigable river miles, five streams of which are designated Blue Ribbon Trout Streams. Our Northwoods clear waters and quiet retreats will give you an affordable family adventure and help make lasting memories.

Iron County has several claims to fame:

- We are home to the Log Cabin Capital of the Midwest located in Caspian at the Iron County Historical Museum.
- The only professional rodeo in Michigan comes to Iron River on July 16th and July 17th!
- The Iron County Fair happens from August 4th through the 8th.

Find a full calendar of our fun and unique events from concerts to art classes and festivals at iron.org/events.

We have many great restaurants where you can find everything from award winning pizza and pasties to southern BBQ and Friday night fish fries where you are guaranteed a memorable meal.

The Iron County Visitors Center has tips on everything from the best restaurants to maps and brochures for day trips to many of our amazing sights. Make Iron County your hub for trips around the Western U.P. We will be your concierge and help you make the most of your stay.

The Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center
 Located beside the Klint Safford Memorial RV Park
 50 E. Genesee St., Iron River, MI 49935
 Hours: Monday through Friday from 10 am until 4 pm.
 For information call (906) 265-3822 or visit: iron.org

Photo by Kevin Zini

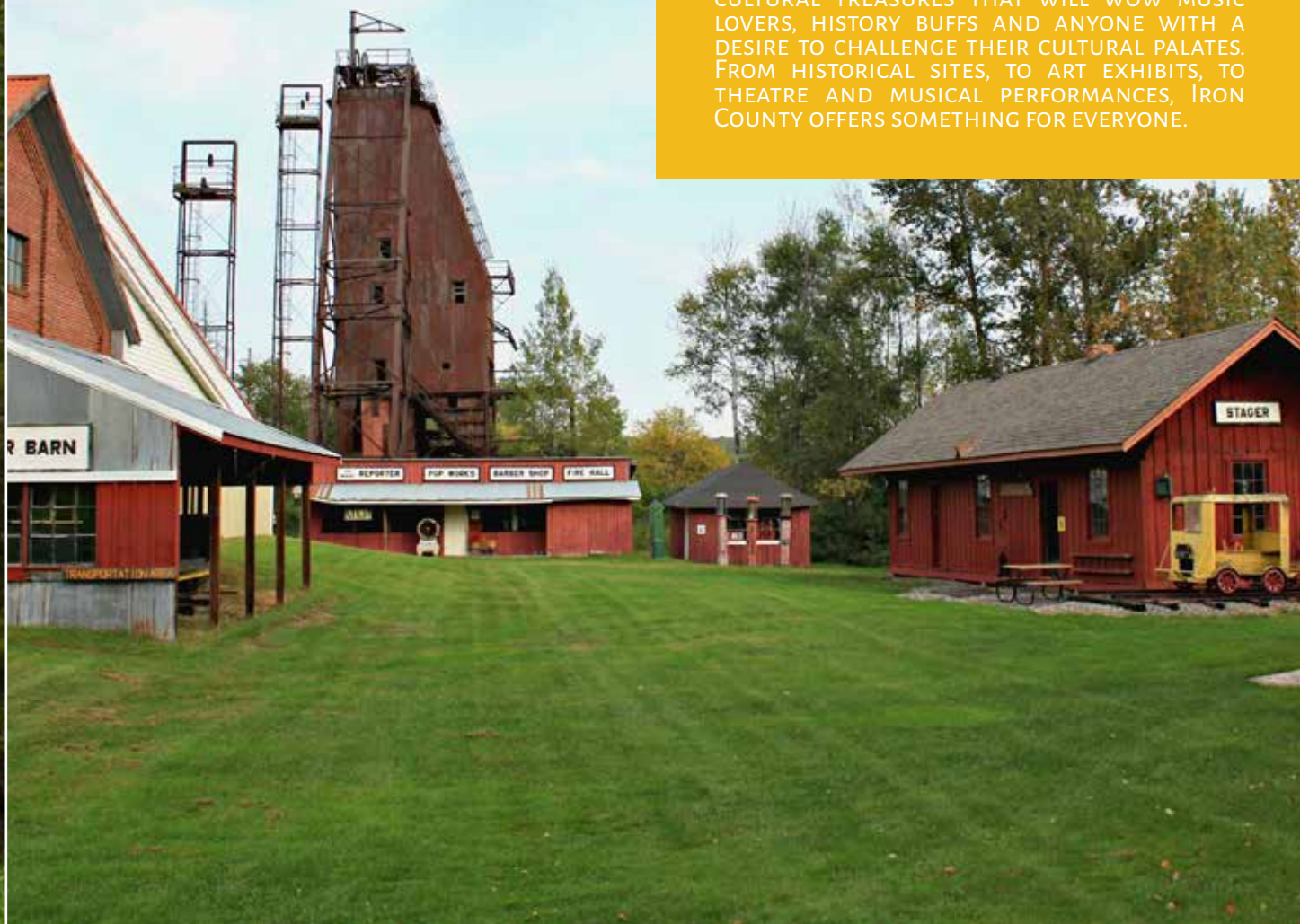
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IRON COUNTY HAS A WIDE VARIETY OF ART AND CULTURAL TREASURES THAT WILL WOW MUSIC LOVERS, HISTORY BUFFS AND ANYONE WITH A DESIRE TO CHALLENGE THEIR CULTURAL PALATES. FROM HISTORICAL SITES, TO ART EXHIBITS, TO THEATRE AND MUSICAL PERFORMANCES, IRON COUNTY OFFERS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.



IRON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM, CASPIAN
The Iron County Historical Museum is designated the log cabin capital of the Michigan. It is located in Caspian, Michigan, on nearly 10 acres of land. The former mine site has 26 buildings with over 100 major exhibits and two special art galleries. One of these galleries features the art of famous wildlife & landscape artist, Lee LeBlanc. LeBlanc is most well-known for his work on the sets of the 1959 blockbuster hit, *Ben Hur*. Enjoy the interactive exhibits and make sure you give yourself enough time to see it all - there's a lot to take in!

CRYSTAL THEATRE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, CRYSTAL FALLS
June –December . The Historic Crystal Theatre, the gem on the hill in Crystal Falls, hosts several live performances a month. From a local artist's series to international pop legends and classical artists check out Crystal Theatre. The Theatre also shows classic films and documentaries of local interest on its big screen. Visit www.thecrystaltheatre.org or Facebook for a current schedule and ticket purchasing options.

HERITAGE TRAIL, IRON COUNTY
There are many historical treasures that are easily accessible, including Native American burial grounds, the Iron County Courthouse, Harbour House Museum, Mansfield Mine Disaster site, the Pioneer Church, Amasa Museum,

Camp Gibbs CCC Camp, Iron County Historical Museum, and a variety of parks and trails. Get the full guide to these historical sites on iron.org.

IRON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, CRYSTAL FALLS
The Iron County Courthouse, built in 1890, is listed on the State and National Register of Historical Places and is listed on the Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan Heritage Trail. The building is the subject of legendary local scandal. Initially, the courthouse was slated to be built in Iron River; however, in 1885, two Crystal Falls men broke into a safe and stole the county record during a poker game and changed the document to reflect Crystal Falls as the county seat. Hear more about this story and schedule a tour of this stately structure.

THE WINDSOR CENTER, IRON RIVER
A former school building, this renovated historical site has become a community recreational and cultural center. Throughout the year, the Windsor Center hosts free showings of new release movies, a monthly Open Mic night featuring local musical talents, community presentations, fitness classes and other enrichment courses. For a complete listing of upcoming events, visit www.windsorcenter.org.

Our Featured Events have something FUN for everyone!

WINDSOR CENTER "OPEN MIC" - EVERY LAST SATURDAY IN MAY-OCTOBER, IRON RIVER

Iron County is home to a variety of musicians; Open Mic is a showcase of that talent. It is not a true "open mic" where anyone gets up to play but, rather, a full concert featuring six acts, each playing a different genre of music. Every month is different, and you never know who you'll see perform, but the quality of entertainment is consistently great!

CRYSTAL THEATRE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, CRYSTAL FALLS

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FATHER'S DAY CAR & TRACTOR SHOW

June 20 Iron River The Car and Tractor Show will take place on Genesee Street from 12 noon to 3 p.m

BASS FESTIVAL - JULY 10-11, CRYSTAL FALLS

Enjoy a full weekend of fun including a boxing tournament, parade, fishing contest, volleyball tournament, community picnic, activities for kids, Run Your Bass Off 5K and much more. Located in various locations around Crystal Falls, visit iron.org/events for more information.

53TH ANNUAL U.P PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO - JULY 16-17, IRON RIVER

The only Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) rodeo in Michigan takes place the second weekend in July every summer in Iron River. The Upper Peninsula Championship Rodeo is an action-packed weekend featuring three performances with bull and bronco riders, cattle roping, barrel racing, steer wrestling, Rodeo Queen pageant, and more! Find more information and get your tickets at www.upprorodeo.com.

HUMONGOUS FUNGUS FESTIVAL - JULY 31-AUGUST 1, CRYSTAL FALLS

Crystal Falls is home to the world's largest, oldest, contiguous living organism, an *Armillaria bulbosa* fungus. This "Humongous Fungus" spreads over 187 acres of land and is at least 2,500 years old. A festival celebrating this benevolent fungus was started more than 20 years ago and continues to be a tourist favorite.

129TH ANNUAL IRON COUNTY FAIR - AUGUST 4-8, IRON RIVER

From carnival games to rides, live music to high-energy auctions, the Miss Iron County Queen pageant to the demolition derby, rabbit showmanship to horse speed events, Grandma's best preserves to dream catchers, there's something at the Iron County Fair for everyone. Head on down to the fairgrounds in Iron River to enjoy the best hometown county fair in the U.P.!

BEETHOVEN & BANJOS - EVENING OF AUGUST 28, CRYSTAL FALLS

This annual cross-genre chamber music festival travels across the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and makes a stop at the Crystal Theatre in Crystal Falls. Admission is by donation and listeners are given the opportunity to hear and experience unique programs embedded with the spirit of the U.P., with school and community programs.

CLASSICS & CURIOS AT THE IRON COUNTY MUSEUM – SEPTEMBER 11, CASPIAN

Experience an Antique Roadshow style event where a professional appraiser will be valuing antiques! Enjoy a classic car show, food from local vendors and local brews as well. This event will be held outdoors with social distancing measures in place. If you have an item you would like appraised, call (906) 265-2617 to sign up in advance. There will be fun for the whole family!

HARVEST & HAUNT FALL FESTIVAL - SEPTEMBER 25, IRON RIVER

This fall and music festival is a free, family-friendly event featuring live music, kids' games and crafts, trick-or-treating in the "haunted" campground, a spook-tacular bonfire, and a beer tent for the adult ghouls and boys. This fun event is always the last Saturday in September among beautiful fall colors in the Klint Safford Memorial RV Park in Iron River. Those camping in the park during this weekend compete in a decorating contest to win a free weekend of camping.

CHRISTMAS TREE GALLERIA - NOVEMBER 26-DECEMBER 5, IRON RIVER

Every year, the Iron County Historical Museum in collaboration with local businesses and organizations puts together 40 decked-out, themed Christmas trees. The Galleria hours during the week are daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

CHRISTMAS IN LIGHTS - DECEMBER 4, IRON RIVER

Local businesses, clubs and organizations create unique lighted floats to parade down Genesee Street in Iron River. Attendees then gather for a warm bonfire, hot cocoa and free cookies at the Klint Safford Memorial RV Park.

CRYSTAL CHRISTMAS - DECEMBER 11, CRYSTAL FALLS

Featuring an ice shack parade, craft & art show, a showing of a Christmas movie at the Historic Crystal Theatre and more.



ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
PLEASE CHECK FOR EVENT UPDATES AT
IRON.ORG.

Photo by Kevin Zini



Autumn Color Tours

Grab yourself some hot cocoa or a freshly brewed cup of coffee and pastry and hit the road for a fall color tour. Put some miles behind you and witness the incredible tide of color wash over our forests. Consider taking a late-night stroll or drive and discover the Aurora Borealis that stains our star-glittered night sky. Clear autumn nights lend themselves to the best stargazing and ideal conditions for the northern lights.

Head west over the rolling hills of US 2 and experience the changing of the seasons. Or travel north on either Forest Highway 16 or US 141, which traverse more "mountainous" areas of the county and supply more dramatic landscapes of reds, oranges and yellows.

Taking the main road east will bring travelers to some of the highest spots in Iron County. The zenith of the four lanes of US 2 between Iron River and Crystal Falls will provide an expansive picture that covers miles of territory.

US 2 East, M-189 South and M-73 South all provide their unique opportunities for a Color Tour supreme. Whether you want to see color up-close - or prefer a panoramic color - the highways will offer you a view to behold.

Off the beaten path, a favorite color-viewing road is Pentoga Trail, located to the south of US 2 as you head east toward Crystal Falls. You should also consider a kayak or canoe trip down a stretch of river for an up-close view of the fall colors and wildlife.

Fall(ing) for Waterfalls

The autumn season is also a great time for a waterfall tour! There are six waterfalls that are accessible at varying degrees of difficulty. The best tour of falls in the county is the loop west of Iron River that take you north to Kenton in Forest Highway 16, over to Bruce's Crossing, south to Watersmeet on Highway 45 and then back to Iron River on US 2. On this loop, waterfall lovers can view four different waterfalls in a half-a-day trip. Stop at the Chamber Office in Iron River for a map or find it online at iron.org.

Discover a Local Treasure to Take Home

Nothing pairs better with fall than holiday shopping! Find a unique gift for a loved one or take home a travel keepsake from any of the local boutiques and antique shops. These places are full of personality, and so are the friendly owners.

On the main street of Crystal Falls, you'll find Winks Woods, which features a mind-boggling 10,000 gifts made by a wide variety of local artisans, including wood carvings and more. On the hill under the watch of the beautiful historic courthouse, you'll find The Twisted Twig Studio and Gifts, Charlie's Emporium, Crystal Falls Trading Company, a classic Ben Franklin and Superior Sport and Feed. These shops all carry a wide variety of gifts, collectibles and antiques.

In Iron River, we recommend stopping at the Rose Quartz Cottage, The Laughing Loon Emporium, A Bit of Whimsy and Central Arts & Gifts on the historic main street. Just west of the downtown is the Silver Moon, featuring a wide variety of women's clothing, "Yooper" gifts and apparel, as well as a selection of unique jewelry, accessories and beauty products.

Photo by Kevin Zini



OUR COOL, CRISP AUTUMNS ARE SECOND TO NONE IN THE U.P.; IRON COUNTY IS YOUR GATEWAY TO A CORNUCOPIA OF INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCES. PADDLE THE PAINT RIVER AS THE TREES CONFETTI THE LANDSCAPE IN VIVID RED, ORANGE AND YELLOW HUES. FORAGE FOR WILD MUSHROOMS, APPLES AND THE LINGERING SUMMER BERRIES. SCOUT SCENIC SIGHTS, FANCY YOURSELF A FESTIVAL, WADE THE WILD WATERFALLS. WHATEVER YOUR FLAVOR, WE'VE GOT IT IN IRON COUNTY.

1 Take a Waterfall Tour - No matter the season, the waterfalls in Iron County and the surrounding area are always a spectacle. Be careful to watch your step while hiking as trails are often natural or "desire paths" that are not maintained, but we think all these falls are worth seeing! Discover local waterfalls at iron.org/waterfalls.

2 Bathe in Our Quiet Forests with a Silent Sport - Embrace the tranquility of our forest trails by cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking. There are a variety of trail systems-- some rustic, and others well-marked. Visit iron.org/hikingandbiking for a map to find the right trail for your activity!

3 Discover Iron County Heritage Sites - No matter what time of year you choose to visit, an array of cultural and natural attractions await your discovery. These designated sites along the 36-mile route, some of which are on the National Historic Register, are clearly marked and numbered to correspond with the Heritage Trail brochure which can be found online at iron.org or in the Visitor Center in Iron River. Along the way are many other historic and natural features to be enjoyed.

4 Experience Local Art & Culture - Iron County has a wide variety of art and cultural treasures that will wow music lovers, history buffs and anyone else that likes to challenge their cultural palettes! Check out the Iron County Historical Museum, the Historic Crystal Theatre, the Second Sunday Folk Dance Series, Open Mic at the Windsor Center, and the Crystal Falls Contemporary Center to find the cultural experience to fit your taste.

5 Paddle, Swim, Boat or Fish on our 200+ Lakes - Iron County is a water wonderland, with 200+ lakes ranging from 2 to 5,200 acres and more than 300 navigable miles of river, including five Blue Ribbon Trout Streams. The untouched, wild beauty makes for the perfect location for hunting, fishing, and almost any outdoor activity! Find a map of all our lakes including boat landings at iron.org.

6 Stargaze on a Professional Level - With near zero light pollution, the richest part of the Milky Way spreads itself out on summer nights in Iron County. In early summer, constellations like Scorpio and Sagittarius are visible on clear nights. Mid and late summer nights give way to meteor showers where you can keep count of the shooting stars you'll see, and in the winter, the Aurora Borealis is a regular visitor.

7 Get to Know the Humongous Fungus - Did you know that the largest, contiguous life form lives right here in Iron County? It's a 30+ acre subterranean fungus living between Crystal Falls and Alpha. Visitors and locals celebrate the fungus the first weekend in August at the Humongous Fungus Festival with delicious mushroom dishes, guided forays, live music, a parade, and a jaw-dropping 100 square-foot pizza! But you can find a vast variety of edible mushrooms all throughout the spring, summer and fall.

8 Get a Taste of the Northwoods - Our local cuisine can rival any metropolitan hotspot. Want to have the best pasty in the UP? The Pasty Corner has it. Interested in the UP's top-rated pizza? Riverside Bar & Pizzeria makes it. Craving southern BBQ? The Curious Pig will satisfy your hunger with their smoky delights. The Wooden Nickle is the perfect small, friendly bar west of Iron River on Gibbs City Road. They boast an olive burger, grilled to order, with sliced green olives, Swiss cheese, and mayo on a ciabatta roll. The Village of Alpha boasts the Alpha Michigan Brewing Company with an ever-changing lineup of locally crafted brews (some with locally grown hops). In the summer, enjoy the outdoor beer garden, live music, and food truck.

9 Tour Antiques and Boutiques - Iron County has a wide variety of unique, locally owned shops. In Iron River visit The Rose Quartz Cottage, The Laughing Loon Emporium, A Bit of Whimsy, Central Arts and Gifts on the historic main street. Just west of town is The Silver Moon. In Crystal Falls, Winks Woods can be found on the main street. In town, on the hill below the beautiful courthouse is The Twisted Twig Studio & Gifts, Charlie's Emporium, Crystal Falls Trading Company, a classic Ben Franklin, and Superior Sport and Feed. All shops carry a wide variety of gifts, collectables, and antiques. Check our complete listing on iron.org/places/shop.

10 Hit the Slopes or Snowmobile Trails - When winter is five months long, you embrace it with winter sports! Our well-groomed snowmobile trails are your gateway to exploring the sites of the western U.P. and our local mountain, Ski Brule, is one of the best in the Midwest with runs to fit every ability, including challenging runs for the advanced skier.

THE MIGHTY MICHIGAMME

Just northeast of Crystal Falls, in central Mansfield Township, is a true Iron County hidden gem: the Michigamme Reservoir. The nearly 7,000 acres of water are ringed by 140 miles of shoreline, boasting pine, birch and hardwood trees and rugged granite rock formations.

The Wisconsin Electric Power Company created the reservoir in 1941 by damming the Michigamme River in order to control local flooding and provide opportunities to generate hydroelectric power. Before the reservoir was created, Deerskin, Long, Lewis and Harvey lakes occupied the region and we independently fished. Besides the Michigamme River, the Fence River (one of our five Blue Ribbon Trout Streams) and the Deer, Moccasin and Corbett creeks also feed the water system.

The fishing is amazing, and because of the large size of the body of water and the remote location, the pressure on the fish populations is minimal. Whether fishing from shore, fishing from a boat or ice fishing, you'll find walleye, sucker, northern pike, rock bass, yellow perch, black crappie, bluegill and smallmouth bass out on the backwaters. It truly is an outdoor enthusiast's dream.

What locals love most is the freedom to drive your boat or snowmobile for miles and miles, not seeing another boat or person for hours. The shoreline is unimproved, rustic and rugged and you can explore numerous bays, islands and rivers. The paddling, from either canoe or kayak, is amazing as well.

You can enjoy the long summer days swimming and relaxing in the sun, alone on a beach or with a group of friends. The nights are quiet and star-filled. Folks have spent years exploring the quiet backwaters and still haven't covered all the territory. You'll feel your stress and cares just peel off of you out there. It is truly a remarkable resource both visitors and locals are lucky to enjoy.

The Michigamme Reservoir is part of Wilderness Shores, a 23,000-acre natural habitat that stretches south into northern Wisconsin. In Iron County alone, Wilderness Shores has nine primitive campgrounds on the water, plus 17 boat launches. There are five hydroelectric dams that are all dramatic to visit - and all of the dam sites include canoe portages.

South of the Michigamme Reservoir is Peavy Pond, fed by the Michigamme River coming south out of the reservoir as well as Paint River as it merges with the Brule. Peavy Pond, like the backwaters, is a large, unspoiled body of water over 2,700 acres in size.

When fishing boundary waters - the Menominee and Brule rivers separating Michigan and Wisconsin - you can use a fishing license from either state. On inland waters, only a license from that particular state will be honored.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
TINYURL.COM/ICBACKWATERS.

Photo by Kevin Zini



SCAN THIS QR CODE
TO VIEW A MAP OF
PADDLING SPOTS

PADDLING & BOATING



THE NEARLY 7,000 ACRES OF WATER ARE RINGED BY 140 MILES OF SHORELINE, BOASTING PINE, BIRCH AND HARDWOOD TREES AND RUGGED GRANITE ROCK FORMATIONS.

IRON COUNTY'S RIVERS AND LAKES ARE A PADDLER'S PARADISE, AND WITH MORE THAN 300 LAKES AND 300 NAVIGABLE RIVER MILES, THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF WATERWAYS TO EXPLORE.



Photo by Kevin Zini



Paddling is becoming one of the most popular outdoor recreation activities anywhere, with over 22 million Americans taking to lakes and streams each year. Whether for fitness, socializing with family or friends, or just surrounding yourself with unspoiled nature, hitting Iron County's waterways on a canoe or kayak is a great way to enjoy this recreational sport.

Iron County's rivers and lakes are a paddler's paradise, and with more than 300 lakes and 300 navigable river miles, there's no shortage of waterways to explore. Whether it's taking the kids canoeing on Lake Ottawa or taking a leisurely kayak trip down stretches of the beautiful Paint River, our pure waters are sure to impress.

For a day spent tubing, fishing or pontooning with your family with easy public access points to put in, you'll want to check out some of the bigger lakes. Sunset Lake, located just a few miles from downtown Iron River, is a prime spot for any water activity and has a beautiful public beach and well maintained boat launch. Chicaugon Lake, on which the Young's golf course and recreation complex are located, is one of the largest lakes in the area, featuring a beautiful campground, expansive playground and perfectly maintained beach and swimming area. Located just east of downtown Crystal Falls is Runkle Lake Park, which offers a public beach, playground, baseball diamond and picnic area in addition to prime boating waters.

Visit in early winter before the rivers freeze over and enjoy a unique and tranquil float through our winter wonderland. The unconventional twist is second to none for both picturesque views and bragging rights. Memories made on a winter kayak or canoe float down one of our pristine rivers will be treasured for years to come.

In need of a more private, secluded paddling or boating experience? Then you'll want to check out the expansive waters of the Michigamme Reservoir, the second-largest body of water in the Western U.P. For long stretches of water with very little fishing pressure, you'll want to put in your kayak or canoe on the Paint River or the Brule River.

Let the Chamber of Commerce be your concierge - stop by or visit us online at iron.org to learn more about Iron County's amazing waters and supporting activities to make your stay exactly what you want it to be. We can also connect you with canoe or kayak rentals or hook you up with a shuttle service.



Take a Fishing Trip You Will Never Forget with an Iron County Fishing Guide

With 314 lakes and approximately 900 miles of rivers, Iron County provides virtually limitless opportunities for anglers seeking remote waterways with bountiful stocks of diverse species from native brook trout to trophy musky. Whether you are a beginner looking to learn about equipment and basic techniques or an experienced angler from out of the area who wants to avoid the guesswork, booking a guided fishing trip with one of Iron County's experienced fishing guides will help ensure a successful day on the water.

SETH WATERS OF DARK WATERS FLY SHOP AND FISHING GUIDE SERVICE

Dark Waters Fly Shop is a fly fishing specialty shop located in Iron River. The shop is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., seasonally, from Easter to Thanksgiving. In addition to the flies, reels and accessories stocked at the shop, you'll also find valuable resources such as maps, information about different aquatic insects that trout and other species feed on, predicted insect emergence charts and hatch charts.

Dark Waters Fly Shop's owner, Seth Waters, also provides a fishing guide service to Iron County and the surrounding area from Easter to Thanksgiving. Seth's guided trips provide clients to very remote areas - what Seth refers to as "the real Northwoods." Seth's laidback and approachable style with a focus on teaching helps the new fly fisherman feel at ease. Seth is out exploring the waters of Iron County every day, and his extensive knowledge of the most bountiful remote spots in Iron County and the surrounding area is also beneficial to experienced fly fishermen. Because the Upper Peninsula is so vast and sparsely populated with many of the waterways uncharted, there are limited statistics and information about the waterways and the fishing activity to help inform fly fishers' decisions of where to go and when to go there for the most activity.

Anglers looking to book a guided fishing trip with Seth Waters should expect wade-in fly fishing trips in remote areas along inland trout streams. While previous fly fishing experience is not required, clients will need to be able to walk on uneven terrain, walk through brush and wade in the river. Seth is qualified to guide for any species in the U.P. but specializes in "cold water fish" (trout and salmon). Dark Waters Fly Shop and Guide Service is located at 217 W Genesee Street, Iron River. Contact Seth at (906) 284-9305 or 906waters@gmail.com or visit darkwatersflyshop.com for more information or to book a guided fly fishing trip.

HAIGHT'S WANDERINGS

Benjamin Haight, of Haight's Wanderings, offers catch-and-release guided kayak fishing and guided three-man raft (drift-boat style) fishing trips in Iron County and the surrounding area. This legal and licensed Michigan fishing guide who is fully insured with an Inland Pilot's license calls Crystal Falls his home base. He focuses on fishing for smallmouth bass and muskies and prefers fishing the remote rivers and streams in Iron County and the surrounding area that have seen minimal fishing pressure. Due to the size and pace of the remote rivers and streams on which Benjamin leads guided fishing trips, motorized boats are not used. Benjamin is a teacher during the weeks during the school year and a fishing guide on weekends and summers, and his experience as an educator shines through. His trips are informative, and his style is encouraging and patient. To learn more about Haight's Wanderings guided fishing trips, visit www.haightswanderings.com, or contact Benjamin Haight at (269) 519-4493 or benjaminhaight@gmail.com.

YOU'LL NEED A MICHIGAN STATE FISHING LICENSE TO FISH OUR WATERS - THOSE ARE AVAILABLE LOCALLY AND ONLINE. YOU CAN PURCHASE 24-HOUR, 72-HOUR AND ANNUAL FISHING LICENSES TO BEST FIT YOUR VACATION NEEDS. FOR FULL STATE REGULATIONS, VISIT WWW.TINYURL.COM/IRON-FISHING.

THE 2020 FREE FISHING WEEKENDS ARE FEBRUARY 15 & 16 AND JUNE 13 & 14. ALL FISHING LICENSE FEES WILL BE WAIVED FOR TWO DAYS. A RECREATION PASSPORT WILL NOT BE REQUIRED FOR ENTRY INTO STATE PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS DURING FREE FISHING WEEKEND. THE SUMMER FREE FISHING WEEKEND IS ALSO THE FREE ORV WEEKEND!



SCAN THIS QR CODE
TO VIEW A LIST OF
LAKE RIVER SPECIES



BLUE RIBBON TROUT STREAMS

Iron County has an abundance of cold trout waters classified among Michigan's Blue Ribbon Trout Streams. This 2010 designation indicates the best of Michigan's trout streams, supporting excellent stocks of wild resident trout. These waters have the physical characteristics to permit fly casting but are shallow enough to wade. They produce diverse insect species and good fly hatches. Moreover, these trout streams deserve their reputation for providing top-notch trout fishing and for having excellent water quality.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources manages Blue Ribbon Trout Streams to accommodate the needs of the trout angler, maintain strong stocks of wild resident trout that best suit the character of each stream, maintain and enhance trout habitat and the natural stream environment, provide adequate public access and public frontage, and prepare appropriate informational materials on these trout streams.

Iron County is the home of five of Michigan's best trout streams:

Brule River • Cooks Run
Fence River • Iron River
Paint River (South Branch)



BLUEGILL

Plain garden worms are the favorite bait for bluegills. The fly fisher can have fun with poppers, especially in spring and early summer. Most large bluegills are taken in deep water during the summer months by drifting with the wind using worms. Peak season is mid to late June. Key lakes: Iron, Ice, Chicaugon, Buck.



BROOK TROUT

Brook Trout need lots of oxygen and a water temperature of 53 degrees or colder. Small spinners work best. They will also hit worms and natural bugs like grasshoppers or mayflies. Fly fishing with artificial flies is an excellent method. Peak seasons are May to June and late August to September.



BROWN TROUT

Some of the best brown trout fishing is done in the springtime with light tackle. Favorite techniques include trolling or casting minnow-type plugs and spoons. Live bait, small spoons, jigs and plugs are commonly used. Key rivers: Brule, Cooks Run, Paint River.



CRAPPIE

The black crappie is considered an excellent game fish when taken on light tackle - the bait must be kept constantly moving. The best baits are small minnows, small jigs, plastic minnows or small streamer flies cast along the outer edges of weed beds. The crappie lies in weed beds in deep water during the day and bites best in early morning or toward evening.



LARGEMOUTH BASS

Largemouth bass will bite on almost anything. They can be caught on minnows, worms or other live bait; poppers or streamers presented with a fly rod; or plugs thrown from a casting or spinning rod. Because the bass is usually associated with weeds, a weedless bait will often be necessary. Best fishing times are early morning and evening during the warm months. Bass like warm water and warm weather. Peak season is July to September. Key lakes: Ottawa, Big Smoky, Little Smoky, Sunset, Chicaugon.



MUSKY

Key elements of musky fishing gear include a medium-heavy action 7' or longer casting rod, substantial level-wind baitcasting reel, heavy (50 to 80#) fishing line and a variety of large lures. Musky lurk near drop-offs, rock or sand bars, weed edges or in weed-covered bays or shady areas along shore. Peak season is August through early November. Key lakes: Emily, Brule, Chicaugon, Paint Pond, Stanley.



NORTHERN PIKE

Unlike other common species of game fish, northern pike are most active when the water is cool. The northern pike is quite accommodating to anglers, biting best during the daylight hours. Being a predator, northerns prefer live fish baits and wobbling spoons. Peak season is early to mid June. Key lakes: Bass, Buck, Bone, Iron, Perch.



SMALLMOUTH BASS

Some of the best lake fishing takes place in June, during and just after the spawning season, and in early fall. Natural baits like hellgrammites and dragonfly larvae are especially effective during early morning or late evening. Probably the best artificial baits are those used on the surface. Light tackle is ideal. Fish quietly, casting toward rocks or logs, keeping the rod tip up and the line taut. Key lakes: Ottawa, Big Smoky, Little Smoky, Sunset, Chicaugon.



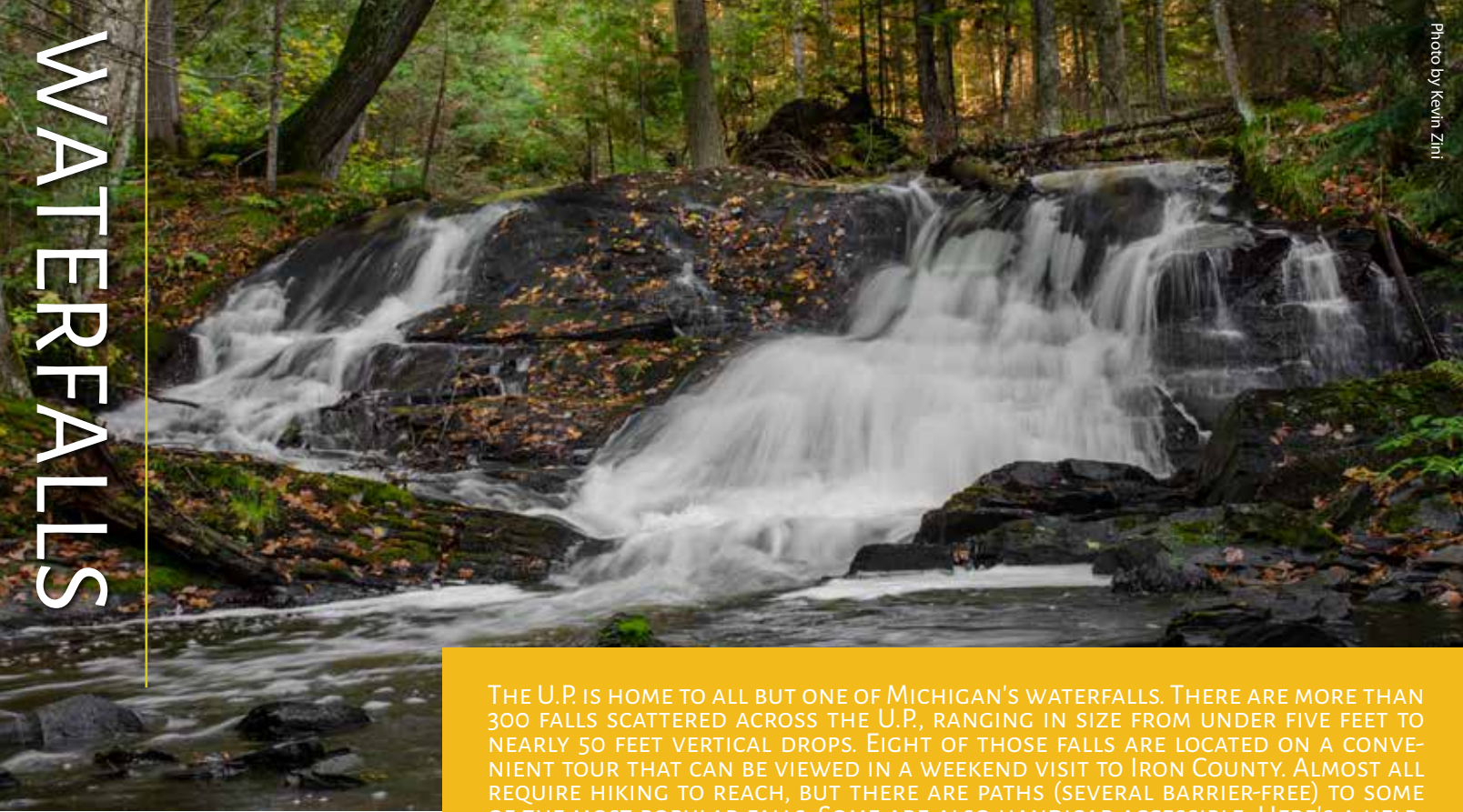
WALLEYE

Walleye are primarily minnow feeders, but leeches, small bullheads, nightcrawlers and various small plugs are favorite baits. In clear waters, walleyes usually stay in deeper areas during the day, moving into the shallows at night. Peak season is early to mid June. Key lakes: Ottawa, Hagerman, Chicaugon, Iron, Brule Lake, Perch, Swan.



YELLOW PERCH

Yellow perch are primarily bottom feeders with a slow, deliberate bite. They eat almost anything but prefer minnows, insect larvae, plankton and worms. Because perch prefer cooler water, the best fishing is usually in deep water. Perch move about in schools, often numbering in the hundreds. If one spot is unproductive after a few tries, it is best to move to other spots until a school is located. Key lakes: Iron, Chicaugon, Ottawa.



THE U.P. IS HOME TO ALL BUT ONE OF MICHIGAN'S WATERFALLS. THERE ARE MORE THAN 300 FALLS SCATTERED ACROSS THE U.P., RANGING IN SIZE FROM UNDER FIVE FEET TO NEARLY 50 FEET VERTICAL DROPS. EIGHT OF THOSE FALLS ARE LOCATED ON A CONVENIENT TOUR THAT CAN BE VIEWED IN A WEEKEND VISIT TO IRON COUNTY. ALMOST ALL REQUIRE HIKING TO REACH, BUT THERE ARE PATHS (SEVERAL BARRIER-FREE) TO SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR FALLS. SOME ARE ALSO HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE. HERE'S A HELPFUL GUIDE THAT INDICATES TRAVEL TIME FROM THE IRON COUNTY VISITORS CENTER IN DOWNTOWN IRON RIVER OR CRYSTAL FALLS.



Photo by Kevin Zini

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO VIEW A LIST OF AREA WATERFALLS



AGATE FALLS

Travel time: 54 minutes

Accessibility: Easy

From Iron River: Travel west on US 2; then turn north (right) on FFH 16. Continue 25 miles. In Kenton, turn west (left) toward Bruce Crossing and continue 9.5 miles. Access to Agate Falls is located on your left in a roadside park. This waterfall is handicap accessible.

BOND FALLS

Travel time: 49 minutes

Accessibility: Easy

From Iron River: Travel west on US 2 for 30 miles; then turn north (right) on highway 45 in Watersmeet. Continue 9.5 miles, then turn right onto Bond Falls Road. Travel about 4 miles. There are two access points to this waterfall. This waterfall is handicap accessible.

CANYON FALLS

Travel time: 49 minutes

Accessibility: Easy

From Iron River: Travel north on Bates Amasa Road about 13 miles. Continue north (left) on Hwy 141 23 miles to Covington; then turn right to stay on Hwy 141. Go 4 miles to the Hwy 41 intersection and turn north (left). Access is located in a roadside park on your left that's well marked.

CHICAUGON FALLS

Travel time: 15 minutes

Accessibility: Moderate

From Crystal Falls: Travel west 5 miles on US 2 to Long Lake Road and turn north (right). Continue on Long Lake Road for 3 miles. You will see a small sign on the right side of the road that points to the falls. Follow to Raymer Drive and continue on foot, following the signs to the falls.

DUPPY FALLS

Travel time: 38 minutes

Accessibility: Moderate-Difficult

From Iron River: Travel west on US 2, turning north (right) onto FFH 16. Continue 19.5 miles. Turn west (left) on USFS 168; park in the clearing on left. On foot, follow the road to a lower clearing and take the footpath (left). Continue 0.5 miles to the falls.

HORSE RACE RAPIDS

Travel time: 31 minutes

Accessibility: Easy-Moderate

From Crystal Falls: Travel east on US 2. About 7 miles from the edge of town, turn left onto County Airport Road. Follow the road until the dead end, about 4 miles. Then follow the trail.

JUMBO FALLS

Travel time: 54 minutes

Accessibility: Easy-Moderate

From Iron River: Travel west on US 2, turning north (right) onto FFH 16. Continue 25 miles. In Kenton, turn west (left) toward Bruce Crossing and continue 1.7 miles. Turn south (left) onto Golden Glow Road and continue for 1.6 miles. Turn east (left) onto Golden Glow Road N and veer right onto USFS 4589-b.

MEX-I-MIN-E FALLS

Travel time: 41 minutes

Accessibility: Easy

From Iron River: Travel west on US 2 for about 23 miles to USFS 3960. Turn north (right) and continue 5.7 miles to Old US 2. Turn east (right) on Old US 2 and continue .5 mile to USFS 4500. Continue north (left) about .5 mile to the Burned Dam Campground. The falls have easy access.

Welcome Home to Iron County!

Iron County is a great place to live, work and play. On key quality-of-life factors, we're off the charts. If you enjoy nature, friendly neighborhoods, opportunity and affordability, it's hard to imagine a better place to call home.

Whether you are a regular vacationer looking to put down more permanent roots, a young family looking for a place to build a future, someone who grew up here and wants to come home or a retired couple looking for an affordable home base, welcome to Iron County!

ENTREPRENEUR FRIENDLY

Iron County is open for business! Entrepreneurship is in our blood; let us help you find a home and a niche for your new startup business here in Iron County. Our business community is growing and if you are looking for a job, from part time to highly skilled full time, we've got the openings. Successful local companies are eager to grow and expand with your help. Come join our dedicated, committed workforce.

REAL ESTATE

Get your dream home at an affordable price. Whether that means a four-bedroom home for your young family or a small cottage on a lake in the woods, Iron County has the right home at the right price for your budget. There are also great lakeside and riverfront lots available for building. Talk to any of the friendly realtors in our area for more information.

EDUCATION

There are two outstanding school districts in Iron County where your child will receive a well-rounded and enriching education: Forest Park in Crystal Falls and West Iron in Iron River. Our schools are safe, have small classroom sizes for a more individualized learning experience and offer a variety of sports and extracurricular activities for students to get involved.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Access to quality healthcare is a vital component of any relocation decision, and Iron County offers excellent options locally for dental, vision, chiropractic and naturopathic medicine. Situated on beautiful Ice Lake, Aspirus Iron River Hospital & Clinics serve the needs of the south-central Upper Peninsula of Michigan and northern Wisconsin. It was even named in the Top 20 Critical Access Hospitals in the nation!

REMOTE WORKING AND INTERNET

If you are one of the growing number of professionals who can choose to live where they want and work online, then Iron County can be a great home base! It's beautiful, affordable and close to nearly every attraction in the U.P.

One of the most essential twenty-first-century tools is broadband Internet connectivity, crucial for remote work. While Iron County isn't fully wired corner to corner (yet), we do have a number of fiber-optic trunk lines running east to west, and a surprising number of areas in the county have excellent high-speed Internet.

LEARN MORE AT IRON.ORG/LIVEHERE.

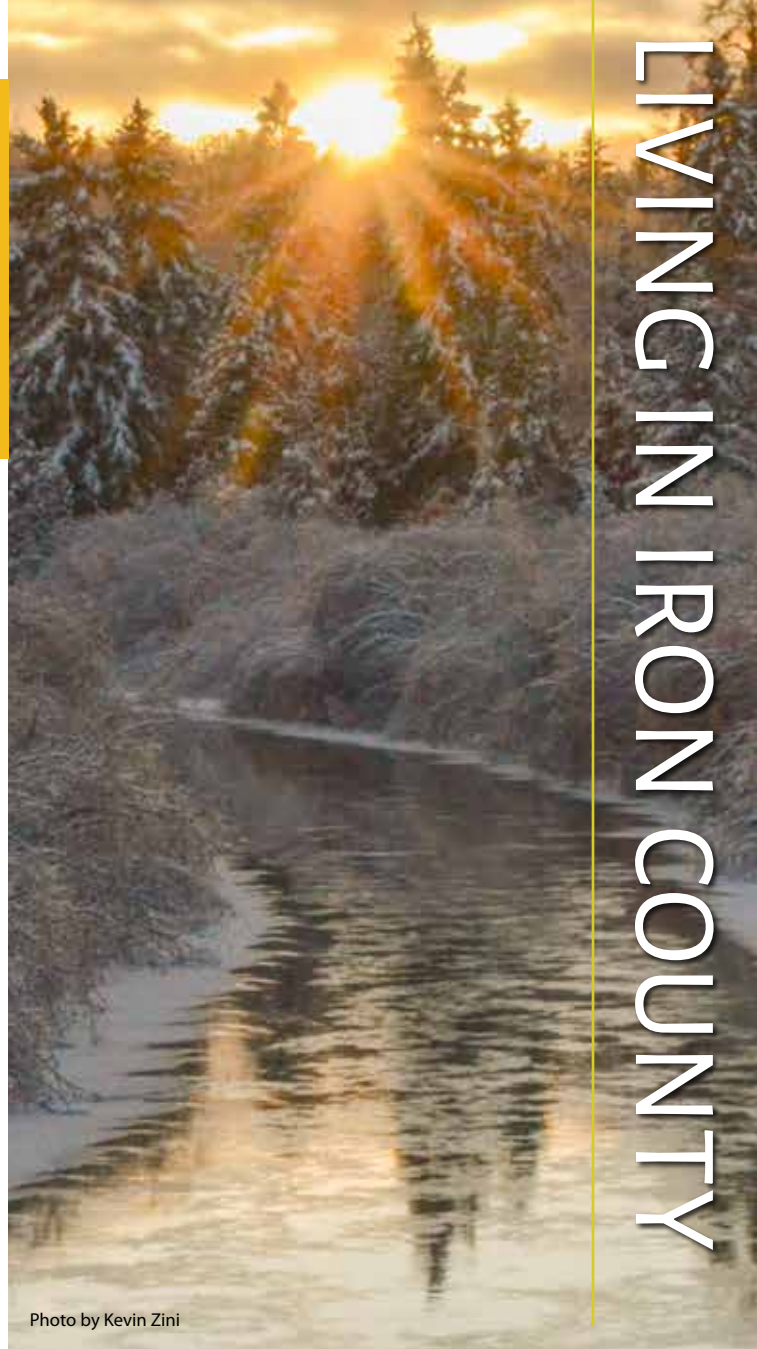


Photo by Kevin Zini

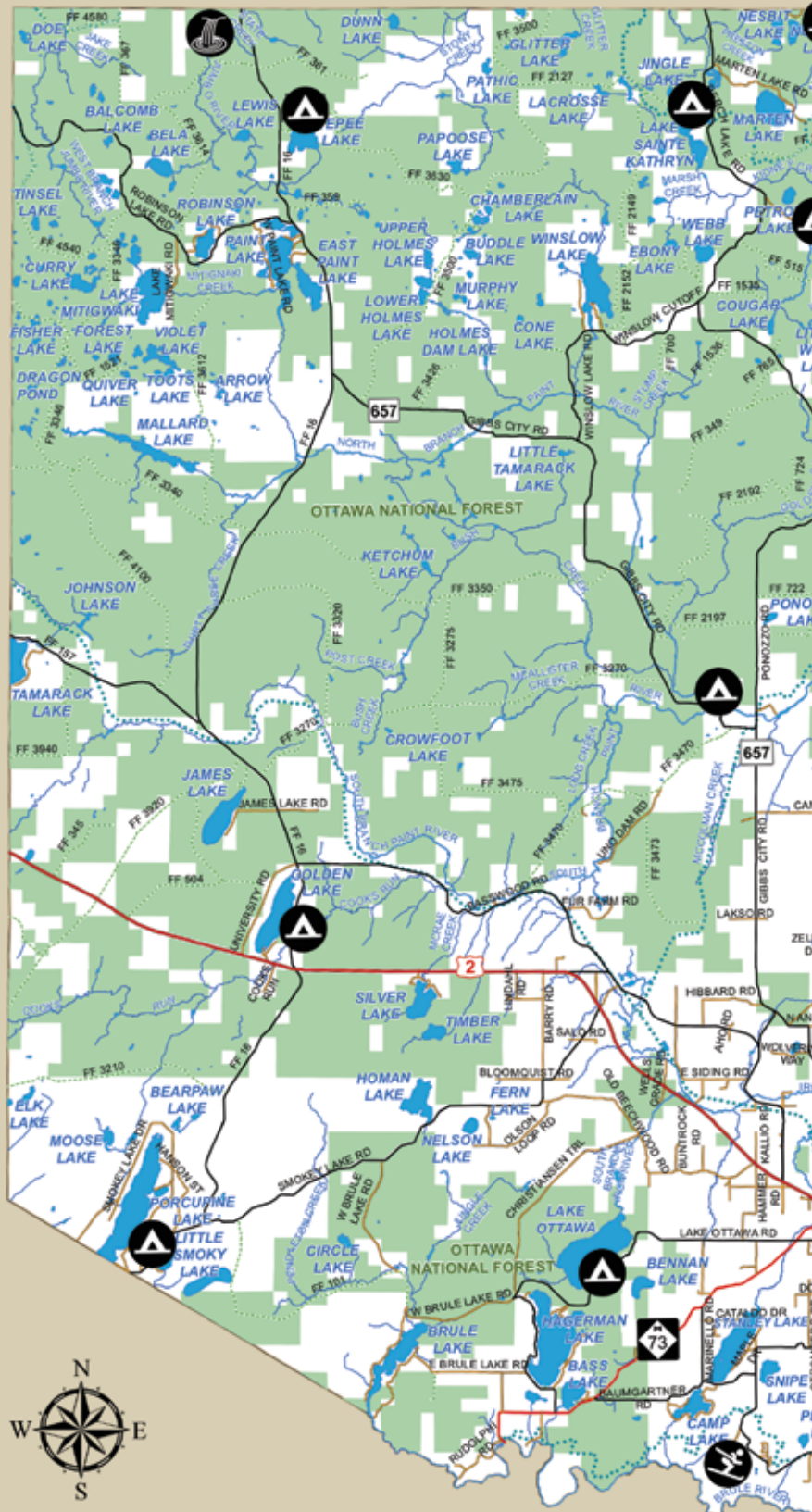
LIVING IN IRON COUNTY



AREA MAP

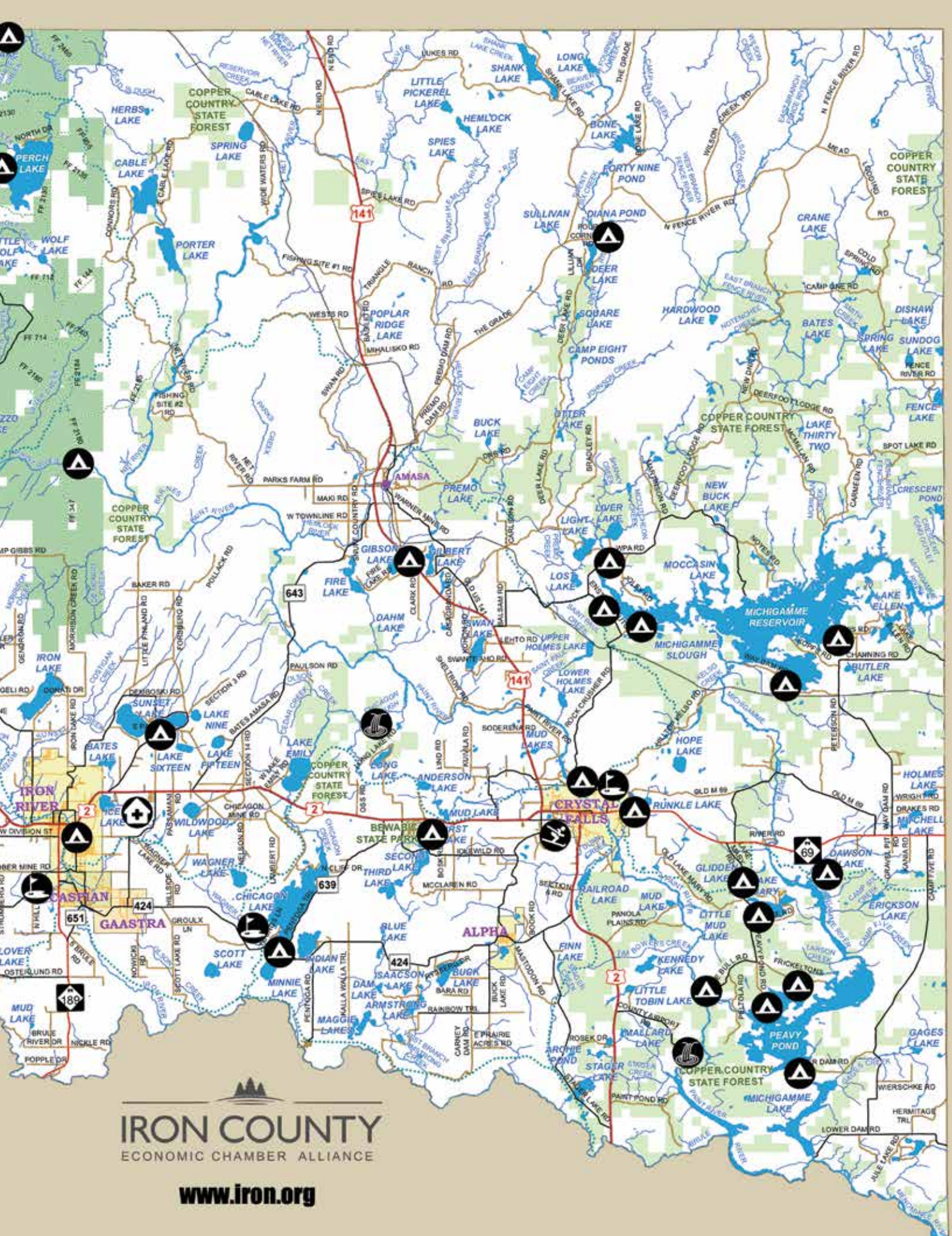
Legend

	Incorporated City, Town or Village
	DNR Land
	State Land
	Lake, River or Other Large Water Feature
	Campground
	Golf Course
	Hospital
	Waterfall
	Downhill Skiing
	Multi-Use Trail
	Federal Highway
	State Highway
	County Road
	Primary Road
	Forest Road
	City Street
	Railroad
	River / Creek



Iron County, Michigan Area Map

0 0.75 1.5 3 4.5 6 Miles
1:121,400 1 inch = 3.35 miles



IRON COUNTY
ECONOMIC CHAMBER ALLIANCE

www.iron.org



Iron County's Groomed Trails - Your Gateway to the Western U.P.

Iron County boasts more than 260 miles of extensively groomed and well-marked snowmobile trails, drawing riders from throughout the region and beyond to enjoy scenic journeys that are a trademark of trails here. The wide-open trails traverse abandoned railroad ways, weave through varied wooded terrain and cross lakes for excellent sledding.

Snowfall totals are between 90 and 120 inches each season. The season opens December 1 and closes March 31. The county trail system includes Amasa, Crystal Falls, Iron River, Sidnaw and Kenton areas. The Iron Range Trail Club - (906) 265-7152 - maintains and grooms about 150 miles of trail. Additionally, the Chippewa Sno-Kats Snowmobile Club - (906) 875-3117 - grooms and maintains about 100 miles of trail.

Iron County serves as a hub for not only local trails but far beyond. Snowmobilers can tap into the vast network of trails in the Upper Peninsula and northern Wisconsin for an extended riding adventure. Gas stations, restaurants, lodging and sled rentals are available. For trail reports, call (906) 265-7152 or (888) 879-4766.

IRON COUNTY SNOWMOBILE TRAIL MAPS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE IRON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICE - (906) 265-3822 - MOST AREA GAS STATIONS & MANY LOCAL BUSINESSES.

Cross-Country & Downhill Skiing for Everyone

Whether your preference is challenging slopes or a beautiful nature trail, there is a skiing experience in Iron County for every ability.

For the downhill skier, there are three great slopes in Iron County. If you're looking for a full day fun with a wide variety of runs to enjoy, then Ski Brule is the place for you. Amenities includes lodging, skiing and snowboarding rentals, terrain park, tubing, Acrobag, fat tire bike trails, cross-country ski trails, snowshoe trails and fun family events throughout the winter.

If you've just got a couple of hours and want to enjoy the snow, then check out the Caspian Ski Hill in Caspian or the Crystella Ski Hill in Crystal Falls. While the tow ropes on these hills have limited operational hours, they are great for beginner skiing, sledding or tubing. And when you're good and tired, hit one of the great restaurants or bars. Nothing pairs with a full day in the snow like a hot coffee and a hot meal!

If you're more of a nordic skier who enjoys the trails cut through the wilderness, then you'll love our diverse cross-country ski trails. You can choose the sequestered Lake Mary Plains Pathways in Mansfield Township. One of the local favorites is the Ge-Che Cross-Country Trail. This trail system weaves around three lakes: Hagerman, Brule and Ottawa through the U.S. Forest Service's Ottawa National Forest in southwest Iron County. Ge-Che ("Big Lake" in Ojibwe) was named for Lake Ottawa. The trail totals 9 miles over gentle and rolling terrain and connects Lake Ottawa with Hagerman Lake across the road.

You can also take in the beauty of the Northwoods on Young's newly expanded cross-country ski and snowshoe trails! Explore the winter wonderland of Iron County on over 6 miles of professionally groomed trails. Afterwards, warm up with beverage and warm meal at FireBrick Bar & Grill on the Young's campus; then unwind with a soak in the Jacuzzi! They also offer ski and snowshoe rentals for adults and complimentary ski and snowshoe rentals for kids.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE AND OTHER
GREAT SKIING OPTIONS AT IRON.ORG.



Photo by Kevin Zini





Wanderlust in a Winter Wonderland

You find yourself in a vast wilderness of black and white - only the deep evergreens and lingering red winterberry break the grayscale that is a winter landscape. The sounds of the forest are muffled as if the earth is quietly humming its winter ballad - a solemn and mournful song, but striking nonetheless. The trees creak and moan in the cold. The wind whistle through the pine needles, the beat kept by mounds of snow falling from trees. The bright chatter of the chickadees bursting through the hushed winter song reminds you to appreciate the days that are bright and warm. A light shower of diamond snowflakes glitters and dances down to the earth in applause.

Our forests offer an incredible and unique opportunity to experience nature. They are far from lonely - with chickadees, pileated woodpeckers, owls, deer, squirrels and chipmunks hurrying about, curious of the out-of-place visitor. Take a moment to build a small fire and see what is around you and ponder what these forests have seen through past decades and millennia. Have you ever made coffee over a fire in the dead of winter in a quiet forest? There is no experience like it. Try catching and cooking a fresh fish over a winter fire.

Dress warm and bring your family out for a winter stroll through the forested wonderland. Get to know each other in a place where sound, color and life cannot interrupt. Learn to access your daring side and go out on an unconventional adventure - you'll reap the benefits for years to come.



Photo by Kevin Zini



Photo by Kevin Zini

**They say it's the miles that make a man.
What they don't say is ATVs count.**

Hitting the trail on your ATV/ORV in the summer months or on your snowmobile in the winter is a great way to experience the natural beauty of Iron County and the surrounding regions, plus it's a whole lot of fun! The Upper Peninsula's trail system is extensive and well documented - there are more than 1,300 miles of trails open for you to explore.

Iron County's trails and eligible routes are some of the finest and most beautiful in the entire U.P. In Iron County alone, we have 260 miles of remote and beautiful riding.

In central Iron County, there is a 57-mile mixed-use loop of trails, called the State-line Route, that connects Crystal Falls west to Iron River, southeast toward Florence, WI, and then back north to Crystal Falls.

The Stateline Route also connects with the Mi-Trale trail that heads west out of Iron River toward Watersmeet and joins an interconnected 550-mile trail system covering the western U.P.

GOING OFF-ROAD

Iron County has also opened all county roads to ATV/ORV riding, so the places to go and things to see are nearly limitless. There are also great watering holes, restaurants, convenience stores and fueling stops easily reachable from the trails and ATV/ORV-accessible roads.

You'll find yourself in our wild and remote northwoods with far more trees than repair shops, and often without reliable cell service. It's a good idea to be well-equipped for your off-road adventures. Consider packing a tire repair kit, first aid kit, tools, a tow strap or winch, food and water, and a paper map.

An ORV license is required to ride eligible county roads, state forest and national forest roads. An ORV trail permit is required to ride on state-designated ORV Trail/Routes and special ORV-use areas. You can purchase these online or at many locations in Iron County (the Visitors Center, the Outpost and the Holiday convenience store, to name a few). Michigan residents and out-of-state visitors are invited to ride DNR-designated routes and trails during the Free ORV Weekend this summer, taking place June 13-14, 2020. For full state regulations, visit www.tinyurl.com/iron-orv.

You'll find complete trail maps, Ottawa National Forest maps and Iron County plat books at the Chamber of Commerce. Now suit up and go hit the trails, wouldya?!

SNOWMOBILING: SLEDDING, WITH MORE ADRENALINE

With a blanket of snow on the ground, visitors can ride to points of interest that are hidden in warmer months and find themselves on a truly memorable winter adventure. Explore scenic overlooks and picturesque trails and ride right to the door of many lodging establishments, restaurants and pubs catering to those who travel by sled.

Iron County supports two trail clubs, the Chippewa Sno-Kats and the Iron Range Trail Club, that groom 260 miles of combined winter trails. These trails connect with the Mi-Trale trail that heads west out of Iron River to Watersmeet and beyond to Marenisco. It also connects with other Mi-Trale trails that head in all directions in the western U.P.!

Snowmobilers in Michigan are required to purchase a trail permit (this generates the funds that allow clubs to groom and maintain the trails). The trail permit enables snowmobilers to ride state-designated trails, public roads and public lands (where authorized) October 1 through September 30. State-designated trails are open December 1 through March 31. You can purchase a trail permit at local DNR licencing stations in Iron County or online at mdnr-licensing.com.

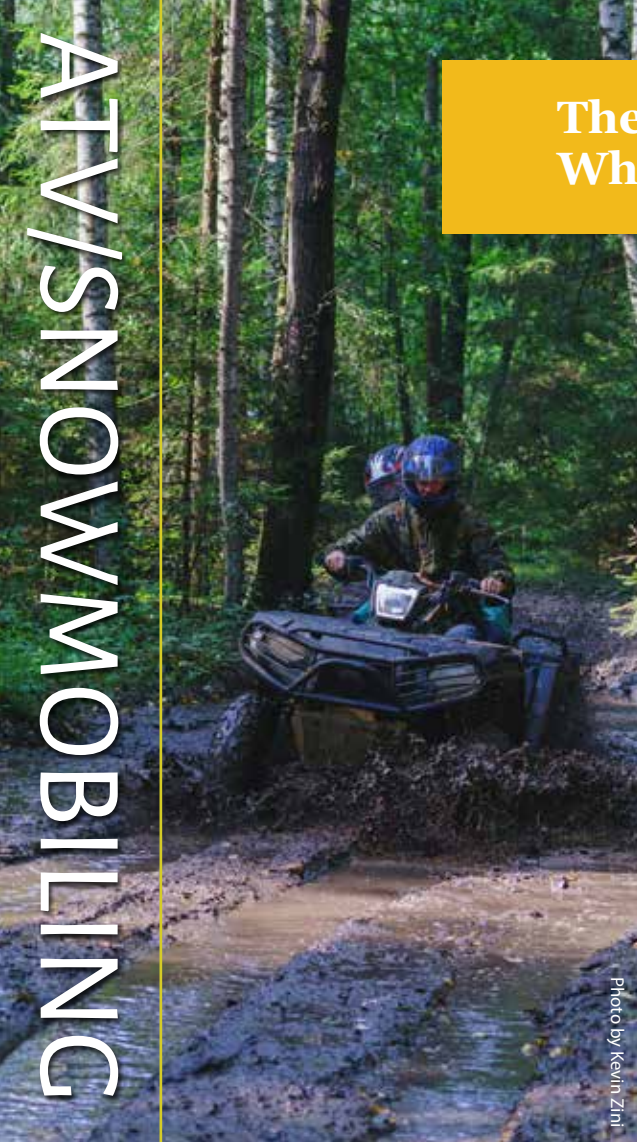


Photo by Kevin Zini



Photo by Kevin Zini

FOR UP TO DATE TRAIL CONDITIONS, YOU CAN VISIT OUR LOCAL CLUBS ON FACEBOOK:

TINYURL.COM/SNOKATS · TINYURL.COM/IRONRANGETRAIL



Photo by Kevin Zini

On trend with the upswing in non-motorized trails across the U.P., Iron County is keeping up, adding new miles of trail nearly every year since 2016. From rustic hiking trails to smoothly paved multi-use trails, we've got something for everyone. Our trails allow a quiet and peaceful way to explore our woods, lakes and streams.

The Apple Blossom/Heritage Trail is a beautiful paved trail for walking and bike riding that begins at the Chamber and Visitors Center and curves along the Iron River and continues on for 14 miles to Chicaugon Lake. At the end of the trail, it's just a short walk or ride up Young's Lane to the amazing Young's recreational facilities and the FireBrick Bar and Grill. At Young's, you'll also find the Wolf Track Nature Trail, a 1.5-mile loop through scenic woodlands, paced by signs interpreting nature in words and art. In 2019, a new section of the Heritage Trail was added that starts in downtown Crystal Falls and travels west to Fortune Lake.

The Lake Ottawa Recreation Area (located 6 miles west of Iron River) is home to the peaceful and scenic Ge-Che trail. This 9-mile trail has several shorter loops through the primitive hardwood forests surrounding Ottawa Lake.

The beautiful Paint River Boardwalk is located in Crystal Falls on M-69 on the east side of the Paint River. The boardwalk has ample parking and is handicap accessible. Along the boardwalk are benches, barrier-free fishing piers and a nature trail with informational signage.

The Mirkwood Trail, finished in the fall of 2019, is a rustic bike and hiking trail located next to the Iron River Airport behind the West Iron County High School. The trailhead is just off to the left from the road leading into the airport. The trail itself is a large loop that you can walk or bike in either direction, and it is only about 1 mile in total distance.

We've only just scratched the surface of all the trail experiences for walking, hiking and biking in Iron County! For maps and other trail information, stop into the Chamber and Visitors Center. You can also find information online at iron.org/hiking.

GOLF & OTHER SPORTS

No matter your outdoor sport of choice, we'll fulfill your recreation dreams in Iron County.

For the amateur or competitive golfer, there are three courses in Iron County that each have their own charm. The Iron River Country Club has a pristine nine-hole course and fully stocked clubhouse for an afternoon cold one. It's open to members and non-members and is located just over a mile from downtown Iron River.

Young's is a recreational jewel in Iron County with a Golf Digest four-star, 18-hole championship golf course located on the expansive Chicaugon Lake. And after a day on the course, unwind with a swim in the newly renovated pool, soak in the spa and or sit in the sauna. Afterwards, satisfy your hunger at Young's FireBrick Bar & Grill, featuring a unique menu and even a beer crafted especially for their bar from the local Alpha Michigan Brewing Company.





If a challenging nine-hole course on the banks of the Paint River sounds like a great day to you, then the Crystal View Golf Course is the one for you. Overlooking beautiful downtown Crystal Falls, this historic course has been kept in excellent condition and is a pleasure to play. And when you're ready to relax, you're just a short drive or walk to the nightlife on Superior Avenue.

If you are into disc golf, the Tailings, located in Iron River, is a nationally ranked course along the banks of the Iron River and just off the Apple Blossom Trail. If you want to give it a try but don't have the gear, just drop by the Visitors Center to borrow a set of discs.

Iron County is also home to a vast array of well-maintained parks where you and your family and pets can enjoy picnics, tennis, pickleball, basketball, baseball and even football. Learn more about the endless recreational possibilities at iron.org/outdoors.



Whether you're the type of camper that likes to be alone in nature, living off the land and sleeping in a cozy tent or the kind of camper that prefers bringing a motorized home-away-from-home with Wi-Fi and cable, there's a campground where you and your loved ones can kick back and relax. Iron County is home to several campgrounds, some located in the Ottawa National Forest, others on lakes and rivers, but all have something special to offer. You can also backcountry camp and get the full "roughing-it" experience!

-  Boat Launch
-  Dump Station
-  Electricity
-  Hiking
-  On Water
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Potable Water
-  RV Camping
-  Showers
-  Tent Camping
-  Toilets

BEWABIC STATE PARK

This modern campground requires a MI Recreation Passport.

www.tinyurl.com/bewabic



CAMP CHRISTINE

Situated on beautiful Lake Mary near a large network of hiking trails.



DAWSON LAKE PARK

This 10-site, wooded campground in Mansfield Township is perfect for families with kids.

www.mansfieldtownship.org



DEER LAKE CAMPGROUND

Located 40 minutes N of town, this campground is very quiet.

www.tinyurl.com/camp-deer



GIBSON LAKE CAMPGROUND

This small camp is perfect for families.

www.tinyurl.com/camp-gibson



GLIDDEN LAKE CAMPGROUND

This quiet campground is perfect for tents & small trailers.

www.tinyurl.com/camp-glidden



GOLDEN LAKE CAMPGROUND

Set 15 miles from town, this camp has excellent wildlife viewing.

www.tinyurl.com/camp-golden



IMP LAKE CAMPGROUND

Quiet & primitive, this is a prime spot for wildlife watchers.

www.tinyurl.com/camp-imp



HOLMES PARK/LITTLE SMOKY LAKE PARK

Ideal for tents or small trailers, this camp is very quiet and rustic. *No potable water available.*



KLINT SAFFORD MEMORIAL RV PARK

The finest "glamping" you can get with Wi-Fi and cable on select sites.

(906) 265-3822

www.iron.org/camping



LAKE OTTAWA CAMPGROUND

Trophy-sized bass and lots of trails, this rustic camp is a favorite.

www.tinyurl.com/lake-ottawa



LAKE STE. KATHRYN CAMPGROUND

This camp can host RVs; however, it does not have any hook-ups.

www.tinyurl.com/camp-saint-kathryn



NORWAY LAKE CAMPGROUND

Situated on a shallow, remote and sandy lake an hour north of Iron River.

www.tinyurl.com/camp-norway



PAINT RIVER FORKS CAMPGROUND

Very rustic, this camp is small and secluded.

No potable water available.

www.tinyurl.com/paint-river-forks



PAINT RIVER BLOCKHOUSE

The ultimate backcountry experience. *No potable water available.*

www.tinyurl.com/camp-blockhouse



PAINT RIVER HILLS CAMPGROUND

New and modern, this camp also offers cabin rentals.

www.prhcamp.com



PENTOGA PARK CAMPGROUND

Large and modern, Pentoga Park houses historical landmarks and a huge beach and recreation area. Great for families with kids.

(906) 265-3979

www.pentogapark.com



PERCH LAKE CAMPGROUND

Spacious, private sites sit on a quiet lake that is rich with wildlife.

www.tinyurl.com/camp-perch



RUNKLE LAKE CAMPGROUND

This large campground offers many recreation and sport opportunities.

www.tinyurl.com/runkle-lake



SUNSET LAKE CAMPGROUND

This campground is perfect for families with kids.

(906) 265-2787 Ext. 6

www.tinyurl.com/camp-sunset



TEPEE LAKE CAMPGROUND

This abandoned camp offers great fishing.

No potable water available.

www.tinyurl.com/camp-tepee



WILDERNESS SHORES

There's plenty to explore in this 23,000-acre wilderness area. Several campgrounds can be found at Wilderness Shores and also offers backcountry camping.

www.tinyurl.com/wilderness-shores



SCAN THIS QR CODE
TO VIEW A MAP OF
AREA CAMPGROUNDS





Photo by Kevin Zini

It's one thing to be in nature, but it's a totally different story to truly *experience* nature. With nearly half a million acres of public forest land, there's plenty of space to enjoy the best of the outdoors.

FORAGE FOR WILD EDIBLES

Iron County is home to all kinds of foraging feastlings like wild leeks, berries, plums, apples, many herbs, a large variety of mushrooms and even the newest health craze - chaga! There are also opportunities to learn about and harvest *manoomin*, the Native American word for wild rice. Whether you're an experienced forager or just want to learn some of the basics, you can find helpful resources at the West Iron District Library or get advice from a local - the Visitors Center will hook you up. Just remember, foraging is fun, but be sure you know what you're picking; not everything is edible twice.

MAKE FRIENDS WITH THE BIRDS

Whether you're exploring the backroads, checking out a waterfall or taking a hike on one of our great nature trails, you're sure to run into some friendly locals - the four-legged variety, that is! The real crowd-pleasers, though, are the birds. According to U.P. Travel, there are more than 400 species of birds in the Upper Peninsula, and there are now smartphone apps for identifying them and even mimicking their sounds to call them in for better viewing. There are several spots where you can even feed chickadees from your hand.

DRINK FROM THE PUREST WATER ON EARTH AT AN ARTESIAN SPRING

Water is something of a specialty for us. When you're in Iron County, you're never more than 3 miles from a body of water! Our lakes and streams are some of the purest in the nation, and we're home to internationally acclaimed water company, Crystal Springs, who took second in the world (only losing by one point!) for best water. And while it's worth picking up a case of Artesia® while you're here, there are also public, free venues for artesian spring water. Contact the Visitors Center for directions!

ENJOY THE INCOMPARABLE BEAUTY OF NATURE IN WINTER

Of course, to truly experience nature in Iron County, one has to do so in the winter. While skiing or snowshoeing one of the groomed or rustic trails available in Iron County, you'll encounter breathtaking views, sounds of wildlife and untouched nature as it was meant to be. Winter is far from a wasteland here, and there are ways for every ability level and interest to enjoy it. Let us be your travel advisor, and we'll help you make the most of winter get-away.

HUMONGOUS FUNGUS



Crystal Falls is home to the world's largest, oldest contiguous living organism - an *Armillaria gallica* fungus (also known as a "honey mushroom" or "shoestring mushroom"). This "Humongous Fungus," discovered in 1988, spreads across 38 acres of land, weighs in at an estimated 200,000 pounds and is between 1,500 and 10,000 years old. The Humongous Fungus Festival, celebrating this now famous fungus, occurs the first weekend in August.

Seasons and Permits

Michigan has a long, rich history in hunting. Many hunters come for the sport and trophies, but hunting also contributes to wildlife management and conservation, provides a positive family experience and is good for the economy. The sportsman is in no want for wild game in Iron County! White-tailed deer, turkey, black bear, upland birds and waterfowl are all fair game.

Licenses are available for purchase at convenience stores, gas stations and bait shops, and rules and regulation information can be found online. Hunters have opportunities to harvest a trophy white-tailed deer and daily bag limits of grouse, woodcock and waterfowl on more than 400,000 acres of public land open to hunters and hundreds of miles of roads and hunting trails offering easy access to prime locations.

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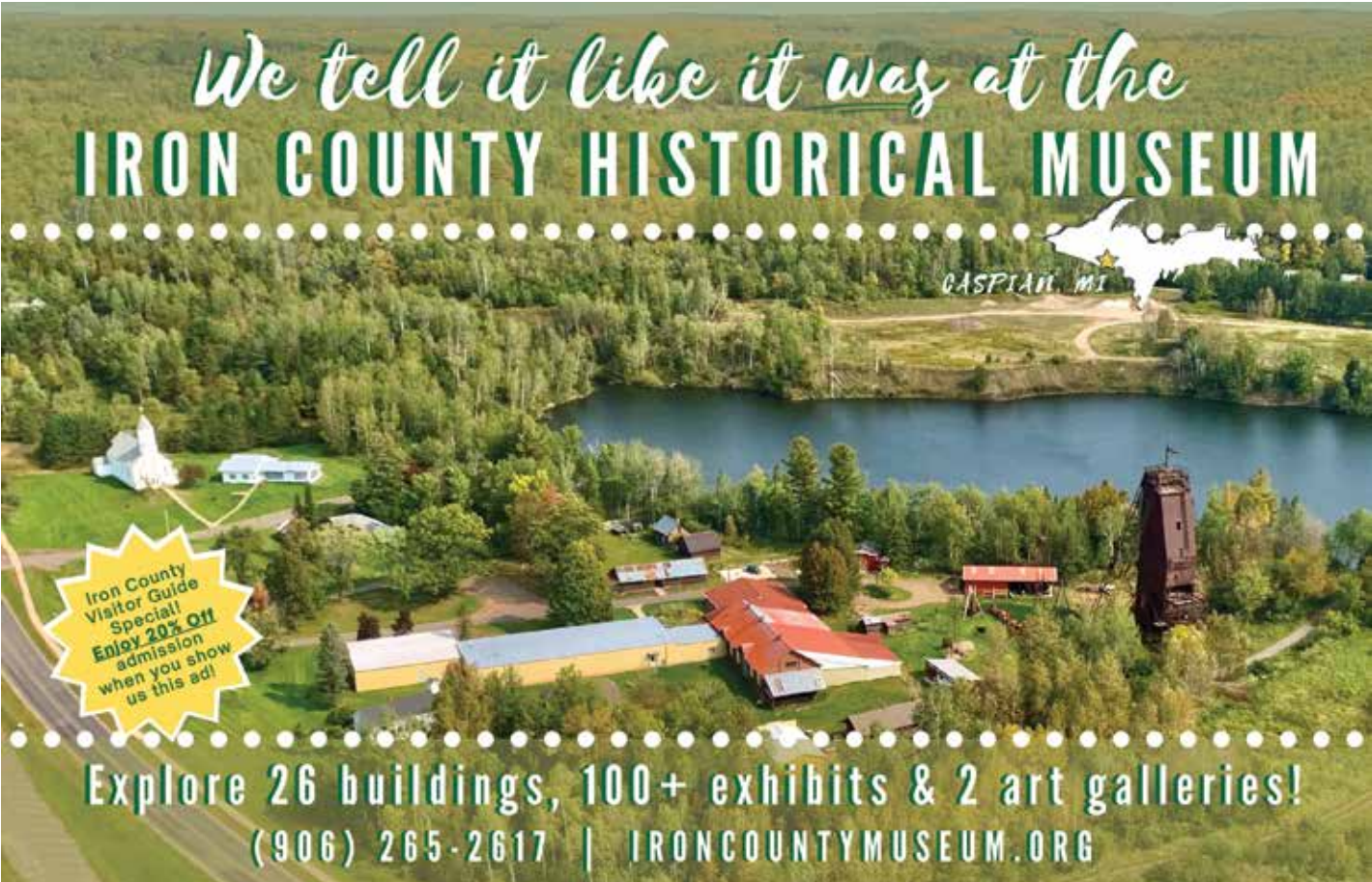
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