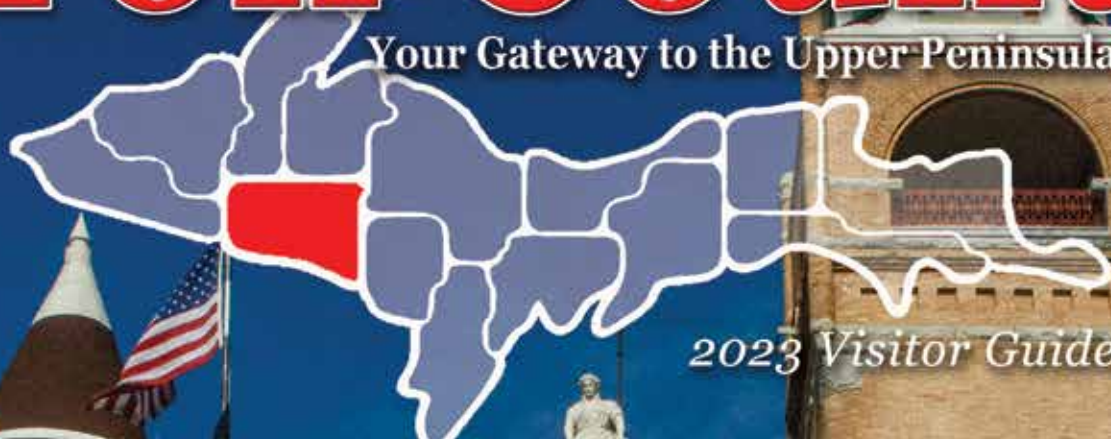


MICHIGAN Iron County

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2023 Visitor Guide



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IRON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

HOME OF NICK BAUMGARTNER,
OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST

WELCOMES YOU!

Photo by Kevin Zini

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.

VISIT:

- **Alpha** – This village has several buildings on the National Register of Historic Places.
- **Amasa** – Home to the renowned NBA & NCAA basketball flooring manufacturer, Connor Sports.
- **Caspian** – Take the Apple Blossom Walking/Biking Trail and visit the Iron County Historical Museum.
- **Crystal Falls** – The county seat of Iron County with the 1890 Romanesque-style Iron County Courthouse.
- **Gaastra** – As of the 2010 census, it is Michigan's third smallest incorporated city by population.
- **Iron River** – The largest city in Iron County. In 2000, Stambaugh and Mineral Hills were consolidated with Iron River and formed the first consolidated community in the State of Michigan.

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

The Iron County Visitors Center has tips on everything from 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 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 3 pm.
For information call (906) 265-3822 or visit: iron.org

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SPRING & SUMMER

MARCH 31 - THE WAY DOWN WANDERERS

Crystal Theatre - 304 Superior Ave.,
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

APRIL 1 - YOUNG'S EASTER EGG HUNT

Youngs Complex, Crystal Falls, MI

APRIL 8 - EASTER EGG HUNT

Crystella Ski Hill, Crystal Falls, MI

APRIL 15 - SPRING CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW

Windsor Center, Iron River, MI

APRIL 21 - KAREN MORGAN, COMEDIAN

Crystal Theatre - 304 Superior Ave.,
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

MAY 7 - DAVE SHARP WORLD'S QUARTET

Crystal Theatre - 304 Superior Ave.,
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

MAY 13 - SPRING GARDENING SEMINAR

Beechwood Hall - 178 Beechwood Store Rd.,
Iron River, MI 49935

MAY 21-22 - SPRING GARDEN PLANTS SALE

Beechwood Hall - 178 Beechwood Store Rd.,
Iron River, MI 49935

MAY 27 - WAR BONDS - THE SONGS & LETTERS OF WORLD WAR II

Crystal Theatre - 304 Superior Ave.,
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

JUNE 10 - ARTIST SHOW

Beechwood Hall - 178 Beechwood Store Rd.,
Iron River, MI 49935

JUNE 17 - BLESSING OF THE CARS & CRUISE

Genesee St., Iron River, MI

JUNE 18 - FATHER'S DAY CAR & TRACTOR SHOW

Genesee Street, Iron River, MI

JUNE 23 - MICHIGAN I-O

Crystal Theatre - 304 Superior Ave.,
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

JUNE 30 - HISTORY HAPPY HOUR

Iron County Museum - 100 Brady Ave.,
Caspian, MI 49915

JULY 1 - HISTORIC EXHIBIT

Beechwood Hall - 178 Beechwood Store Rd.,
Iron River, MI 49935

JULY 4 - ALPHA 4TH OF JULY

Alpha, MI

JULY 7 - OZARK MOUNTAIN DAREDEVILS

Crystal Theatre - 304 Superior Ave.,
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

JULY 7-8 - U.P. CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO

Fairgrounds, Iron River, MI

JULY 7-9 - BASS FESTIVAL

Runkle Lake, Crystal Falls, MI

JULY 9 - RUN YOUR BASS OFF

Runkle Lake Park, Crystal Falls, MI

JULY 21 - BLOOZE BROTHERS CONCERT

Crystal Theatre - 304 Superior Ave.,
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

JULY 28 - HISTORY HAPPY HOUR

Iron County Museum - 100 Brady Ave.,
Caspian, MI 49915

JULY 29 - FLEA MARKET & BAKE SALE

Beechwood Hall - 178 Beechwood Store Rd.,
Iron River, MI 49935

AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - CLASSIC CAR CRUISE NIGHTS

Genesee Street, Iron River, MI

AUGUST 5 - TASTINGS, TAPAS, & TOURS

Iron County Museum - 100 Brady Ave.,
Caspian, MI 49915

AUGUST 10-13 - IRON COUNTY FAIR

Fairgrounds, Iron River, MI

AUGUST 19 - MUSTARD'S RETREAT

Crystal Theatre - 304 Superior Ave.,
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

AUGUST 25 - HISTORY HAPPY HOUR

Iron County Museum - 100 Brady Ave.,
Caspian, MI 49915

AUGUST 25-26 - HUMONGOUS FUNGUS FESTIVAL

Crystal Falls, MI

AUGUST 26 - THE JOURNEY

Crystal Theatre - 304 Superior Ave.,
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

FALL & WINTER

SEPTEMBER 8 - FOUREVER FAB

Crystal Theatre - 304 Superior Ave.,
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

SEPTEMBER 8-10 - HARVEST FEST

Bewabic State Park

SEPTEMBER 15 - HISTORY HAPPY HOUR

Iron County Museum - 100 Brady Ave.,
Caspian, MI 49915

SEPTEMBER 16 - SCARECROW FESTIVAL

Phelps, WI

SEPT. 16 - OCT. 29 - CORN MAZE

Loud Acres Farm - 178 Fisher Road,
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

SEPT. 23 - YOOTOBER FEST

Alpha, MI

SEPTEMBER 30 - BEECHWOOD APPLE FEST

Beechwood Hall - 178 Beechwood Store Rd.,
Iron River, MI 49935

SEPTEMBER 30 - HARVEST & HAUNT

Klint Safford Memorial RV Park, Iron River, MI

OCTOBER 1 - RED ELVISES

Crystal Theatre - 304 Superior Ave.,
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

OCTOBER 7, 14, 21, 28 - HAUNTED NIGHTS

Loud Acres Farm - 178 Fisher Road,
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

OCTOBER 28 - HALLOWEEN BUSINESS

CANDY BASH
Crystal Falls, MI

OCTOBER 29 - HALLOWEEN TRUNK

OR TREAT
Alpha, MI

NOVEMBER 18 - BUCK FEST

Downtown, Crystal Falls, MI

NOVEMBER 18 - HOLIDAY ART, CRAFT, & BAKE SALE

Beechwood Hall - 178 Beechwood Store Rd.,
Iron River, MI 49935

Nov. 25 - DEC. 3 - CHRISTMAS TREE GALLERIA

Iron County Museum - 100 Brady Ave.,
Caspian, MI 49915

NOVEMBER 25 - SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Shop Local All Over Iron County!

DECEMBER 2 - CHRISTMAS IN LIGHTS CRAFT SHOW

Windsor Center, Iron River, MI

DECEMBER 2 - CHRISTMAS IN LIGHTS PARADE

Iron River, MI

DECEMBER 9 - CRYSTAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION & PARADE

Crystal Falls, MI

JANUARY 13 - WINTER FUN DAY

Beechwood Hall - 178 Beechwood Store Rd.,
Iron River, MI 49935

JANUARY 20 - WINTERFEST

Youngs Complex, Crystal Falls, MI

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
PLEASE CHECK FOR EVENT UPDATES AT
[IRON.ORG/EVENTS.](https://www.iron.org/events)



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.



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 takes you north to Kenton on 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 brochure.

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 US 2 in Crystal Falls, you'll find Winks Woods, which features over 38,000 gifts made by a wide variety of local artisans, including wood carvings and more. East of Winks Woods you'll find Pixel Bath Body Boutique. 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, "Yoooper" gifts and apparel, as well as a selection of unique jewelry, accessories and beauty products. For a full list of places to shop, see number 9 on the next page.

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 - Crystal Falls is home to the world's largest, oldest contiguous living organism: an Armillaria gallica fungus also known as a "honey mushroom" or a "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. Visitors and locals celebrate the fungus in August at the Humongous Fungus Festival.

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 Nickel 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 US 2 and to the east you will find Pixel Bath Body Boutique. 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/snowboarder.

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 were 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 the 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
[HTTP://TINYURL.COM/
IRONCOUNTYBACKWATERS](http://tinyurl.com/ironcountybackwaters)**

Photo by Dan Jarvi

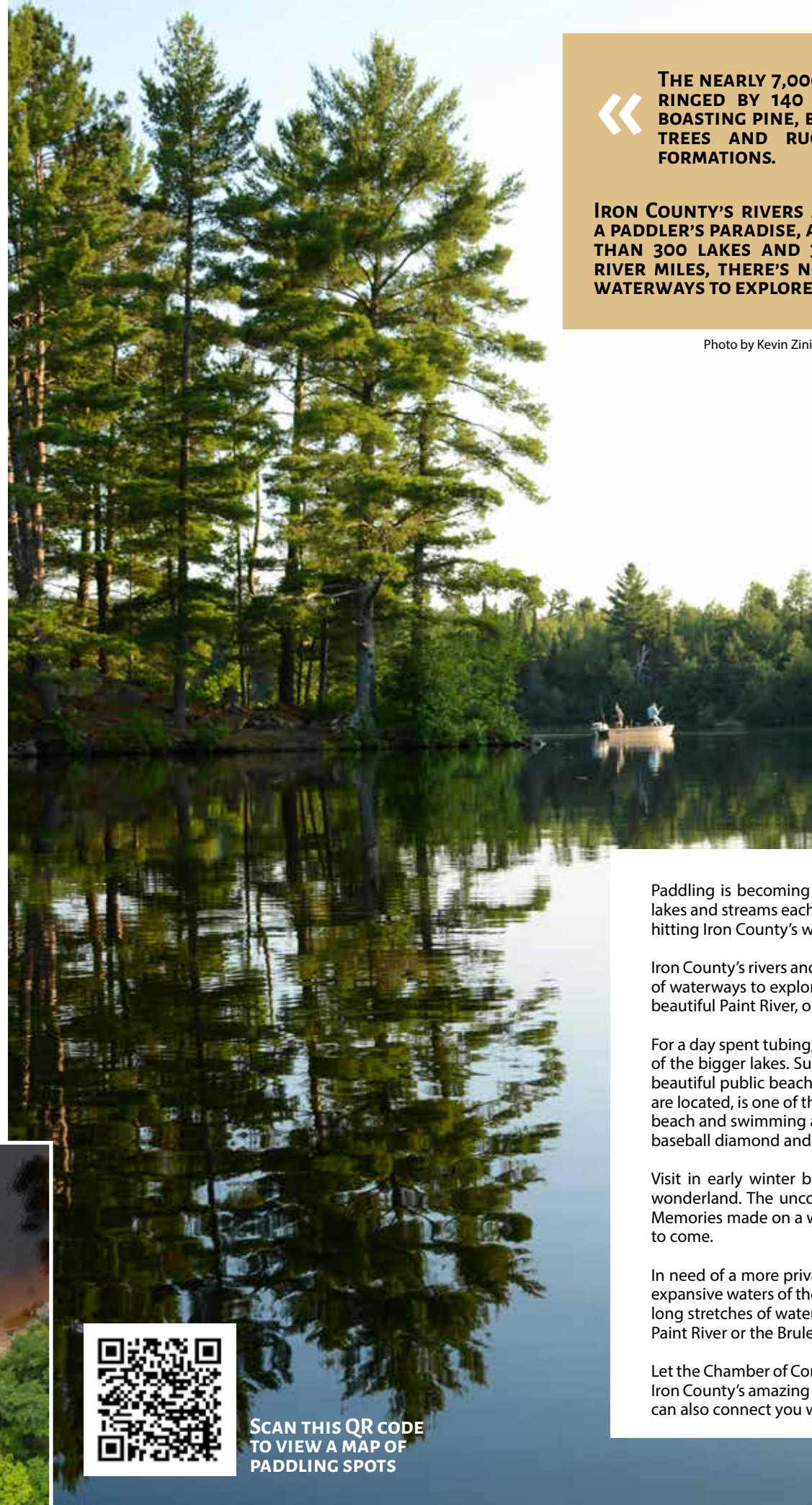
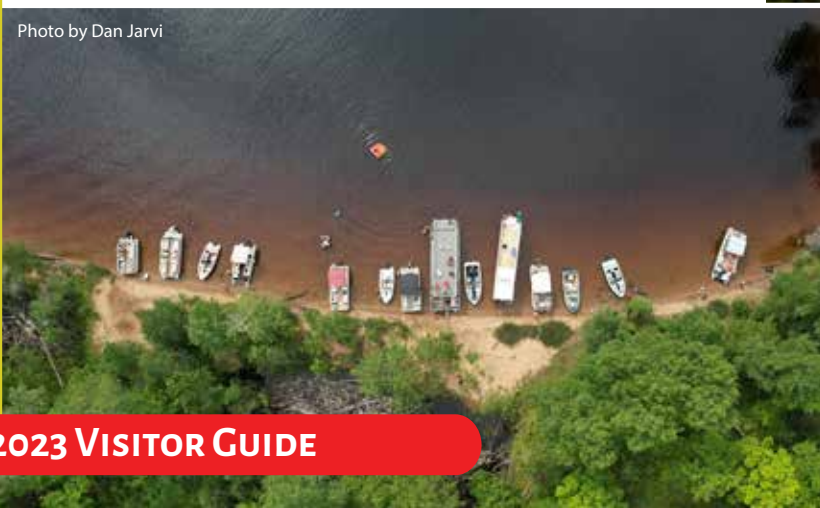


Photo by Kevin Zini

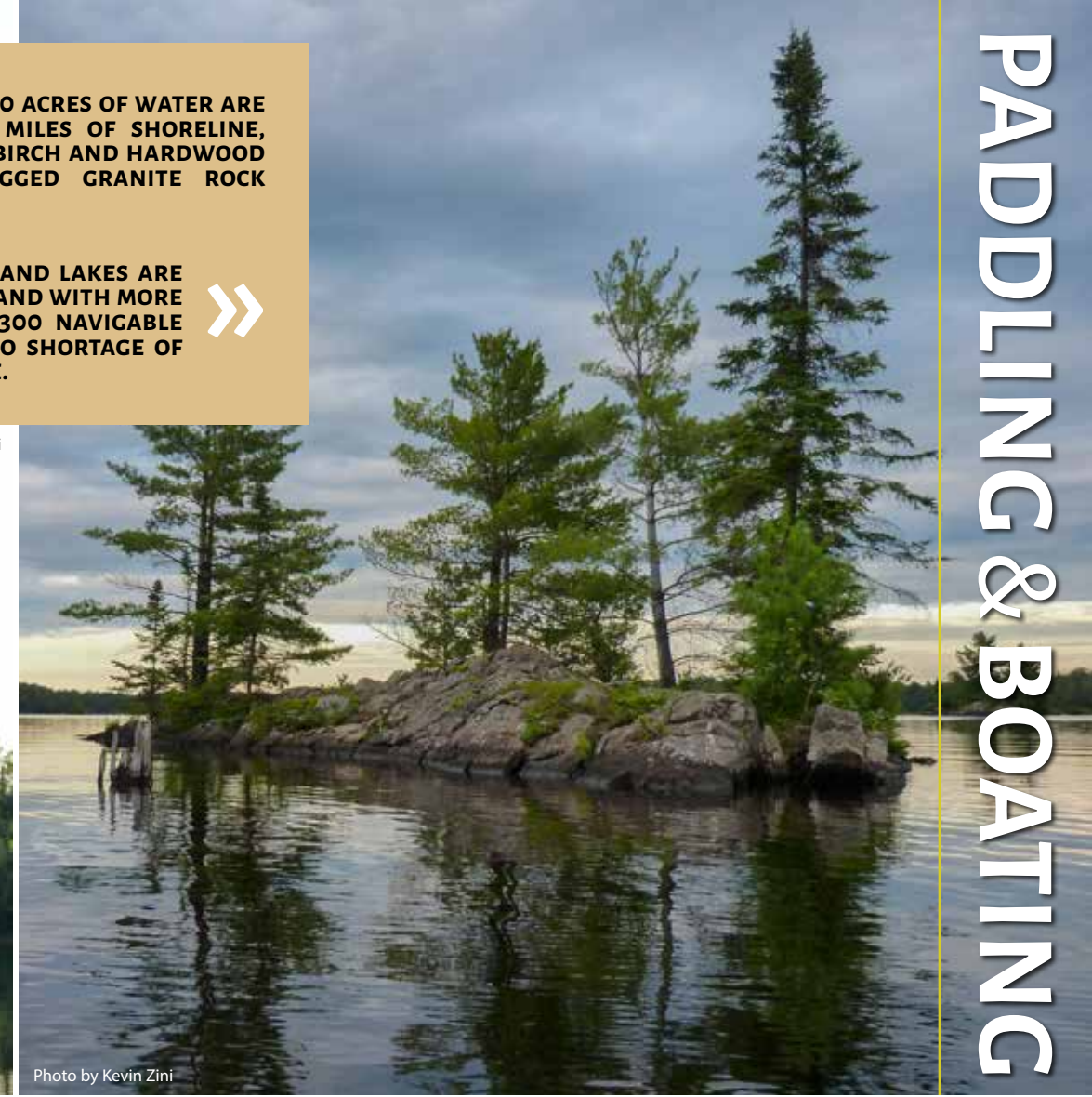


Photo by Kevin Zini

« **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. »

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.



SCAN THIS QR CODE
TO VIEW A MAP OF
PADDLING SPOTS

Photo by Levi Glines



Photo by Seth Waters

BLUE RIBBON TROUT STREAMS

Iron County has an abundance of cold waters classified as some of Michigan's Blue Ribbon Trout Streams. To be classified as a Blue Ribbon Trout Stream, the waterway must be able to support excellent stocks of wild resident trout, have the physical characteristics to permit fly casting but shallow enough to wade, produce diverse insect life, and have excellent water quality.

Iron County's Blue Ribbon Trout Streams are: Brule River, Cooks Run, Fence River, Iron River, and the Paint River (South Branch).

Iron County also boasts over 200 lakes that are home to Bass, Bluegill, Crappie, Muskie, Pike, Trout, and Walleye. Many of our lakes have easy boat access as well as great shore fishing. Maps can be found at The Welcome Center, 50 E. Genesee St., Iron River, MI or at www.iron.org/outdoors/fishing-iron-county.

FISHING DOESN'T STOP WHEN THE WATER FREEZES

The Upper Peninsula is known for its great ice-fishing opportunities. Tip-ups and shanties make the season fun for all ages. Many fishermen work a jig and minnow combination. Perch is the most sought-after type of fish during this season. Stanley Lake, Sunset Lake and Emily Lake are well known for successful walleye fishing in the winter.

Virtually every fish that is available to anglers in the summer can be caught through the ice – some more frequently in winter. Before your vacation, please visit: dnr.state.mi.us so that you may stay alert of any rules or changes. Also, you may call 1-800-AskFish.

FISHING FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

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Watersmeet, MI 49969

30 Miles West of Iron River, MI

WATERSMEET TROUT HATCHERY

906-358-4331 www.WatersmeetTroutHatchery.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 2023 FREE FISHING WEEKEND IS JUNE 10TH & 11TH. 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 THE FREE FISHING WEEKEND.

BLUEGILL

Gills can be an excellent species to target for beginners. Find them in shallow bays and shorelines early spring. Come summer, they'll congregate near weeds and lily pads. They mainly prey on aquatic insects. Bait fisherman can have great success using smaller worms on a jig, or under a bobber. The fly angler can use a variety of nymphs or small poppers. Peak Seasons: May - June and Early Ice Key Lakes: Ice, Iron, Chicaugon, Buck, Winslow.



BROOK TROUT

Brook Trout need lots of oxygen and cold water. They're found in clean, spring fed creeks, rivers, and lakes within an optimal temperature in the 50's. Their forage includes smaller fish and aquatic insects such as mayflies, caddis, stoneflies, and grasshoppers. These bugs can be successfully imitated by using fly fishing techniques, such as dry flies, nymphs, or streamers. Bait fisherman can find luck with small spinners, spoons, and worms. When fishing for trout during the summer months, be mindful of water temperatures. Trout have a larger mortality rate when the water reaches above 65 degrees. When this occurs it's best to look for colder waters. Peak Seasons: May-July Key Rivers: Iron, Upper Paint, Fence, Deer



BROWN TROUT

Brown Trout are a wary predator and are often caught during the evening or at night. They shy away from loud noise and vibrations. They make for a tricky fish to stalk, but can be caught using long casts or lots of patience. They are found in spring fed waters, preying on small fish, frogs, mice, and bugs. Minnow imitations include spinners, small spoons, and even live bait. The fly angler can use any variety of streamer, dry, or nymph. Keying in on what fish are seasonally eating is key to success. Peak Season: Spring-Early Summer Key Rivers: South Branch Paint, Brule, Cooks Run.



CRAPPIE

Both subspecies can be found within Iron County. Crappie are a great gamefish to target with light tackle and through the ice. In summer they suspend off weed edges and can be caught with small live minnows under slip bobbers, smaller jigs, plastics, spinners and small poppers, or streamers. During ice season, Crappie are found suspended over deep basins. Most active during mornings and evenings Peak Seasons: Summer and Winter Key Lakes: Ice, Iron, Michigamme Reservoir



LARGEMOUTH BASS

Largemouth will bite on almost anything. Any live baits will work. If you want to get creative try casting plastics, or crankbaits at docks or weed beds. Weedless lures, topwater frogs, spinners or poppers, make for a more exciting, visual type of fishing. Bass are an awesome species to target with fly gear, and are active during the heat of summer when trout streams are too warm to fish. Peak Season: June - September Key Lakes: Ste. Kathryn, Sunset, Fortune Chain



MUSKELLUNGE

Musky are the top of the food chain. They are large, aggressive fish that can reach over 50 inches! Using heavy tackle is recommended when targeting these fish. A stout rod, with 50lb plus rated line is a good start. Be sure to use steel or fluorocarbon leaders rated for pike and musky to protect from bite offs. These fish have large, sharp teeth. Large shiners, and sucker rigs make the best live baits. For casting baits use larger spinners, glide baits, swim baits, or topwaters. Look for rock points or sand bars, weed edges or shallow weedy bays. Peak Season: August - November Key Lakes: Emily, Brule, Chicaugon, Iron, Stanley



NORTHERN PIKE

Pike are just as aggressive, if not more than their counterpart, the musky. They are willing to eat medium to large size baits of all kinds. They do not shy away during daytime and can be caught in full sun. Sucker rigs, large shiners can be used, as well as spoons, swimbaits, and spinners. Fly anglers can also have a chance at these fish using large streamers and topwaters. Peak Seasons: May - June Key Lakes: Bass, Bone, Perch, Iron, Buck



SMALLMOUTH BASS

Best fishing takes place during early june during or after spawning, and on topwater during summer mayfly hatches. Fish crankbaits, swimbaits, and with plastics resembling worms, minnows, or crayfish. Fish quietly, casting toward rock, and logs that are adjacent to drop offs and points with access to deeper water. Key Lakes: Ottawa, Big Smokey, Little Smokey, Ice, Paint River.



WALLEYE

Walleye are primarily minnow feeders, but leeches and nightcrawlers are also used by bait fisherman. Use a jig to get down to them. For casting baits try minnow shaped plastics, swimbaits, and crankbaits. Walleye stay deep during the day and come shallow during the evening and morning hours to feed in muddy bays or off rocky points. They are caught by fishing just off the bottom. Key Lakes: Ottawa, Iron, Stanley, Swan, Brule Lake, and Perch



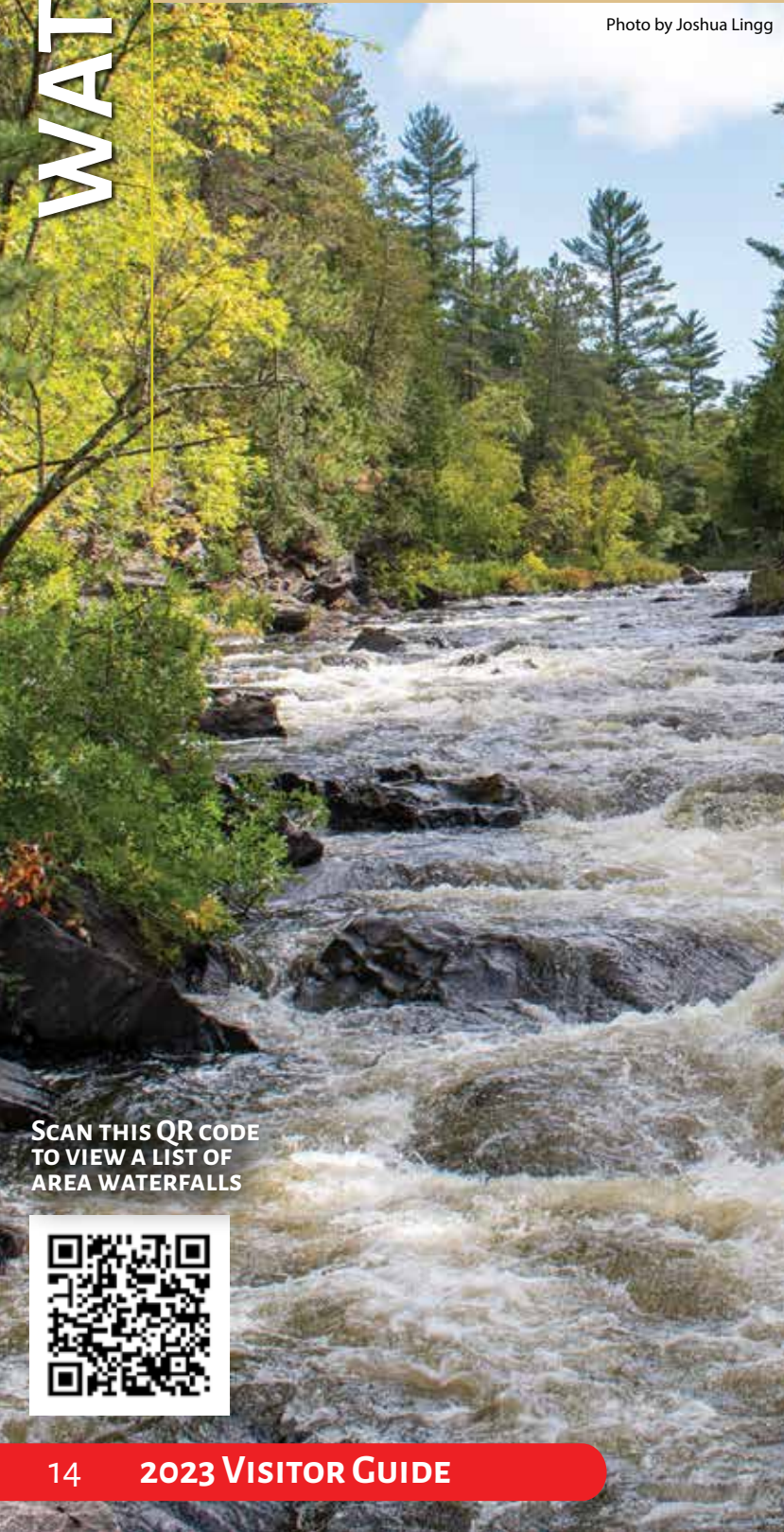
YELLOW PERCH

Perch can be found around weed beds in deeper water most of the year. Their preferred forage varies between minnows, insect larva, plankton, and worms. Perch travel in schools, often numbering in the hundreds. If one spot isn't productive, it's best to keep moving till you find the school. Key Lakes: Iron, Chicaugon, Ottawa, Stanley, Michigamme Reservoir



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. NINE 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 Joshua Lingg



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 south 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.

TIBBETS FALLS

Travel time: 45 minutes
Accessibility: Moderate
From Iron River: Take US 2 E and turn left on Bates Amasa Rd for about 13 miles. Continue north (left) on Hwy 141 and then continue on M 28 to Watton. Turn right on E. Plains Rd.



Photo by Nate Glocke

WELCOME HOME TO IRON COUNTY!

Iron County is a great place to live, work, and play. If you enjoy nature, friendly neighborhoods, opportunity, and affordability, it is hard to imagine a better place to call home.

ENTREPRENEUR FRIENDLY

Iron County is open for business! Come here to find a home for your start up business. Our community is growing and actively welcomes and supports new businesses.

REAL ESTATE

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.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Iron County offers excellent options locally for dental, vision, chiropractic, and naturopathic medicine. Aspirus Iron River Hospital & Clinics serve the needs of the south-central Upper Peninsula of Michigan and northern Wisconsin.

REMOTE WORKING & 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 UP. We have several fiber-optic trunk lines running east to west and a number of areas in the county with excellent high-speed internet.

IRON COUNTY IS HOME TO NICK BAUMGARTNER, OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST

Born and raised in Iron River, Nick Baumgartner first learned to snowboard with plastic boards on the sledding hill behind his house, and from there graduated to Ski Brule. In addition to being an Olympic snowboarder, Nick is the 2000 Wrestling State Champ, a State Champion Hurdler, and an All-State football player.

When Nick trains with the National Team based in Park City, Utah, he makes sure everyone knows that they are technically "Yoopers" because the organization traces its roots to Ishpeming, MI.

In 2011, Nick scored a World Cup victory in addition to an X Games gold medal. He also earned an X Games silver medal in snowboardcross at Aspen in 2012 and was then invited to compete at the 2014 summer X Games in Austin in his "other" sport, Stadium Super Truck racing.

Nick competed in the 2014 Winter Olympics and won his first Olympic gold at the age of 40 in the 2022 Winter Olympics.

Snowboarding has taken Nick around the world, but when he wants to experience true beauty, Baumgartner doesn't need to leave his home state. "I've seen some of the most beautiful views in the world," he says, "And I'm telling you, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan – Lake Superior- is the most beautiful thing I've ever seen."



Photos by Kevin Zini



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO VIEW A LIST OF AREA WATERFALLS





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.



Photo by Kevin Zini



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 it's winter ballad - a solemn and mournful song, but striking nonetheless. The trees creak and moan in the cold. The wind whistles 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.

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 of fun with a wide variety of runs to enjoy, then Ski Brule is the place for you. Amenities include 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 a 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



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 Stateline 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 other locations in Iron County like the Holiday Gas Station. 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 10-11 and August 19-20, 2023. 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.

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-elicense.com.

**FOR UP TO DATE TRAIL CONDITIONS, YOU CAN VISIT
OUR LOCAL CLUBS ON FACEBOOK:
TINYURL.COM/SNOKATS · TINYURL.COM/IRONRANGETRAIL**



Photo by Jason Smedlund

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. 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. 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. When you are ready to relax, head to the clubhouse and visit Chung's Bar & Grill.

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. You can also check out the new Disc Golf Course located in Alpha, MI that suits all ages and abilities.

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.

Photo by Jason Smedlund



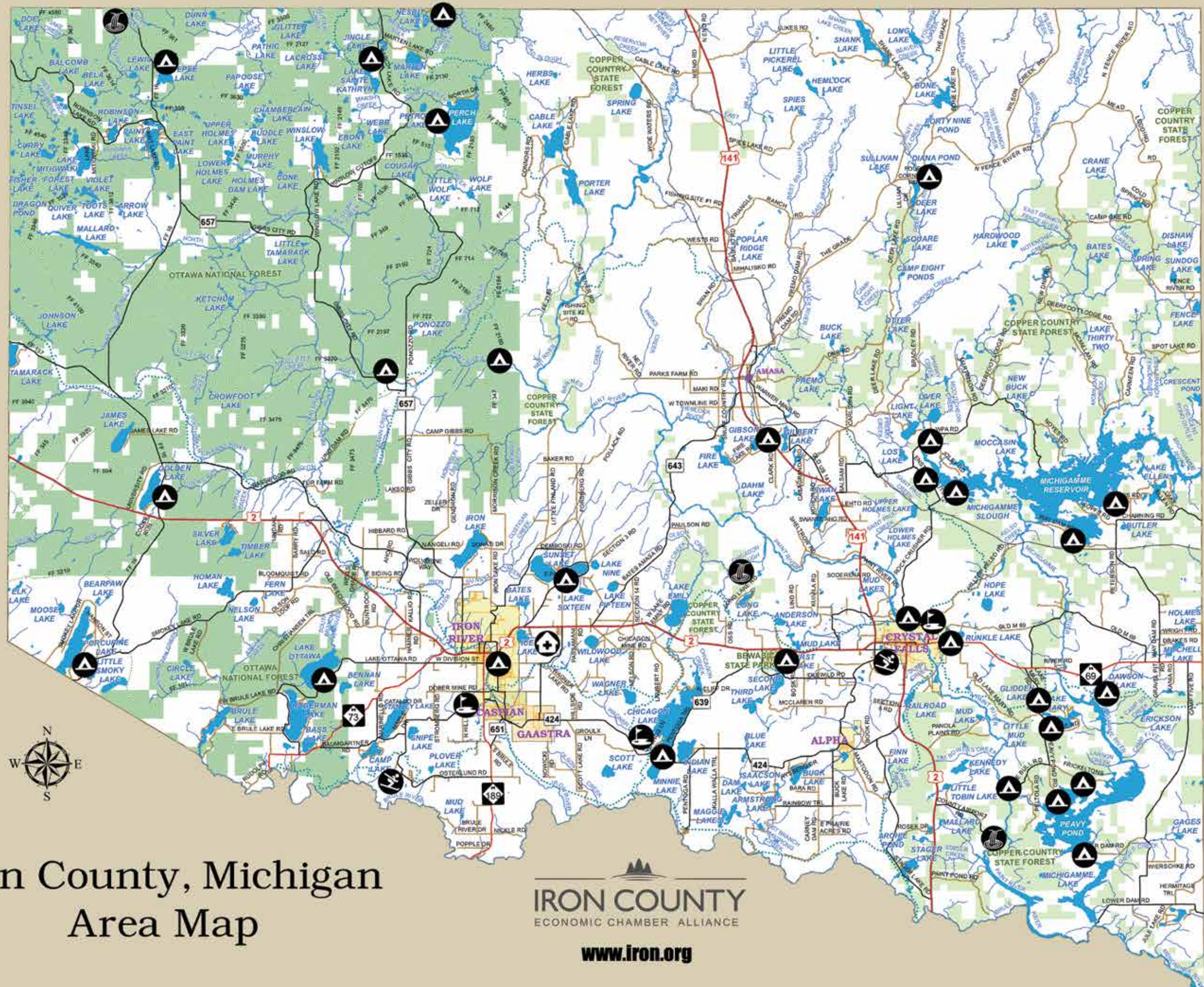
Photo by Kevin Zini

Photo by Kevin Zini

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
1:212,400 1 inch = 3.35 miles

IRON COUNTY
ECONOMIC CHAMBER ALLIANCE

www.iron.org

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!

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. To register call (906) 875-6456.



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



HOLMES PARK/LITTLE SMOKY LAKE PARK

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



IMP LAKE CAMPGROUND

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

www.tinyurl.com/camp-imp



KLINT SAFFORD MEMORIAL RV PARK

Nestled on the Iron River by the Apple Blossom Trail and within walking distance to shopping and restaurants. (888) 879-4766

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 BLOCKHOUSE

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

www.tinyurl.com/camp-blockhouse



PAINT RIVER FORKS CAMPGROUND

Very rustic, this camp is small and secluded. *No potable water available.*

www.tinyurl.com/paint-river-forks



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

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.runklelakecamping.com



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.we-energies.com/environment/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 a great place to go foraging for 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. Just remember, foraging is fun, but be sure you know what you're picking; not everything is edible.

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.

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. It is worth picking up a case of Artesia while you are here.

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.

Photo by Kevin Zini

SEASONS & 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. Sportsmen can find plenty of wild game in Iron County: White-tailed deer, turkey, black bear, upland birds and waterfowl are all legal.

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.

FOR FULL MICHIGAN LICENSE AND HUNTING SEASON INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/DNR





Please call each establishment for days & hours of operation.

- Alcohol Served
- Credit Cards
- Drive Through
- Friday Fish Fry
- Ice Cream
- Pizza
- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Pasty

ALICE'S SUPPER CLUB

Authentic Italian and American Food, Homemade Pasta
402 W Adams St., Iron River, MI 49935
(906) 265-4764

ALPHA MICHIGAN BREWING COMPANY

"The Smallest Village in America with a Brewery"
303 E Center Street, Alpha, MI 49902
(920) 358-9551

AMASA SAWBLADE

Full Bar with a Full Menu including a Friday Fish Fry
110 W Pine St., Amasa, MI 49903
(906) 822-0192

AMERICAN LEGION REINO POST 21

Open to All - Taco Tuesday - Friday Fish Fry
212 Washington Ave., Iron River, MI 49935
(906) 214-7853

BRULE CAFE AND SALOON

Dining located at Ski Brule
397 Brule Mountain Rd, Iron River, MI, 49935
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Photo by Pure Michigan



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Photo by the U.P. Rodeo



The rodeo brings fans from all over the region to Iron River with several events built around the actual rodeo performances. The two-day event offers something for everyone as the U.P. Championship Rodeo continues to keep its tradition going.

This year, rodeo performances will be held on Friday July 7th and Saturday July 8th with crowd pleasing events and entertainers. Spectators can cheer on professional competitors for the bull riding, bareback riding, saddle bronc, barrel racing, team roping, steer wrestling, tie down and breakaway roping events. Spectators can also participate in 50/50 drawings, ball toss and children's calf scramble.

The first rodeo performance is slated for Friday at 7:00 pm. The second performance is Saturday afternoon at 2:00 pm and the finale will go off at 7:00 pm. Gates open two hours prior to each rodeo performance allowing fans to check out the arena vendors, grab something to eat and visit with rodeo royalty. Also prior to each rodeo performance, The Rodeo City Riders and Hometown Heroes Drill Team return to entertain fans as they eagerly await the rodeo competition. The performances will go on rain or shine at the Iron County Fairgrounds Rodeo Arena.

Photo by the U.P. Rodeo



The rodeo performances form the centerpiece of the weekend but are no means the only festivities for folks to enjoy. There are the Wild West Parade, Market Days, Miss UP Rodeo Queen and Princess pageants. Ticket prices for the rodeo performances are \$20 for adults, \$8 for children 6-12. Kids 5 and under get in free. Saturday's 2 pm performance, children 6-12 will be free with a paying adult.

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE RODEO AT WWW.UPRODEO.COM AND FOLLOW THE UPPER PENINSULA CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO ON FACEBOOK.

THE FUNGUS, ARMILLARIA GALLICA, IS AMONG ONE OF THE LARGEST AND OLDEST LIVING ORGANISMS WEIGHING OVER 100 TONS AND THOUGHT TO BE BETWEEN 1,500-10,000 YEARS OLD.



Photo by the Iron County Economic Chamber Alliance



The 38-acre fungus was discovered in 1988 by Myron L. Smith and James B. Anderson, while doing research for the U.S. Navy. Johann N. Bruhn, a research scientist with Michigan Technological University in Houghton, MI wrote an article on it in the Journal of Nature in April 1992 which started the Fungus Frenzy.

The beloved Humongous Fungus has been written about, searched for, and joked about but the City of Crystal Falls, MI is getting ready to celebrate the Humongous Fungus for the 32nd year! The famed fungus has had renewed attention thanks to the recent documentary "The Humongous Fungus Among Us" (2021) which Crystal Falls native, Tim Warmanen, helped write and produce.

The 2023 Humongous Fungus Fest will take place August 25-26, 2023, in Crystal Falls. The weekend will include a Saturday morning parade, mushroom foray, vendor village, city wide rummage sales, a car show, and other community friendly events. The Journey tribute at the Crystal Theater is on Saturday at 7:00 pm.

The CFBA has begun to create a t-shirt every year for the event, each year is different. These need to be ordered via the CFBA. Ben Franklin also has a selection of t-shirts in their store on Superior Ave.

The Harbour House Museum Society will be having a mushroom cook-off contest and serving mushroom burgers on Saturday.

Take a 3 hour Mushroom forage trip, by a local bus, on Saturday morning or afternoon. Pre-sign up with the CFBA is required, and forms will be available at crystalfallsmi.com. This year there is a local mushroom fun-gi who will lead the adventure.

The Car Show will be in the Northern Interstate Bank parking lot on Superior Ave. There will be a parade on Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m.

HAPPY FUNGUS!



Photo by the Crystal Falls Business Association



Photo by the Crystal Falls Business Association



Photo by Kevin Zini



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

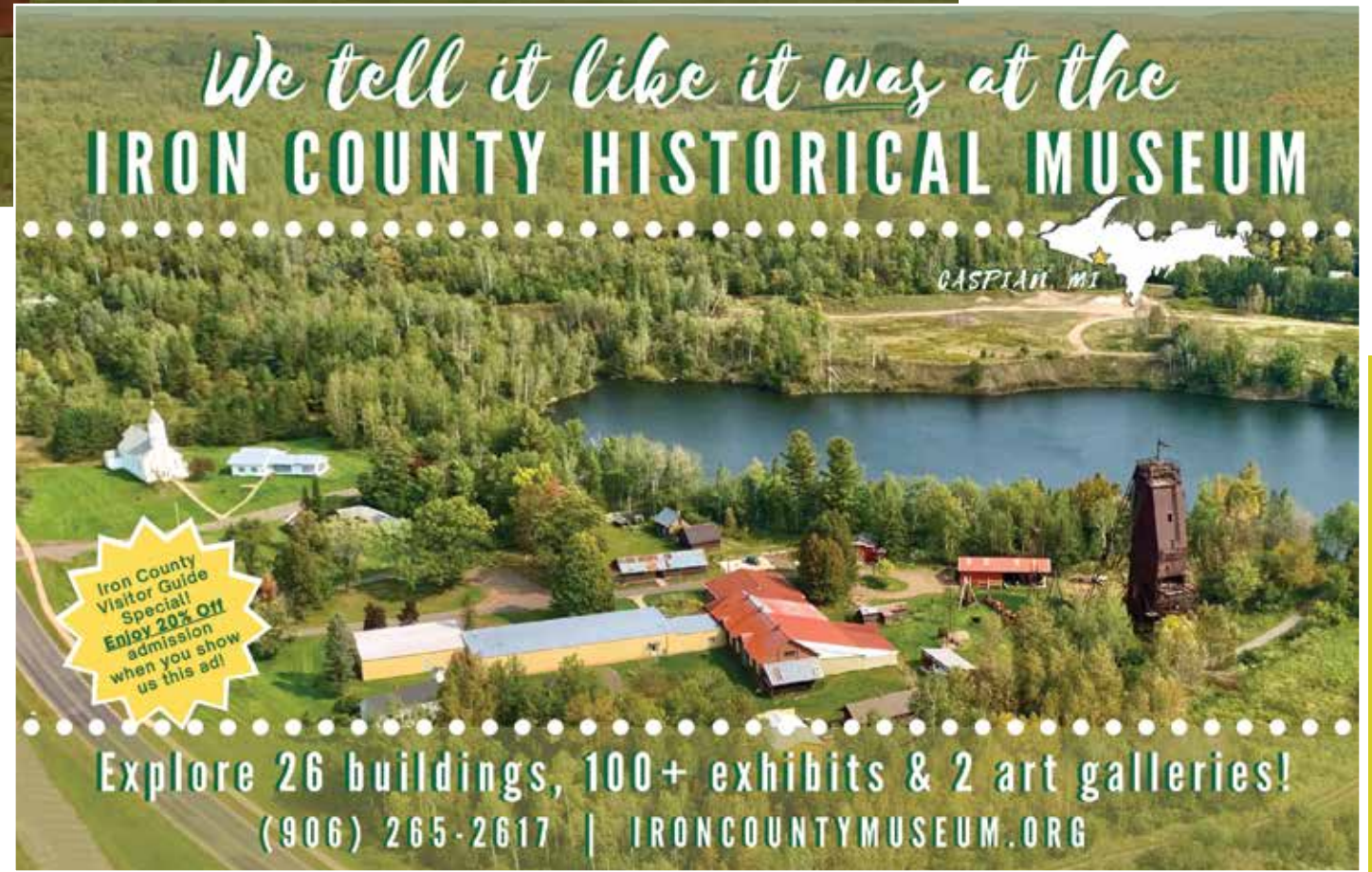
Courthouse, Harbour House Museum, Mansfield Mine Disaster site, the Pioneer Church, Amasa Museum, Camp Gibbs CCC Camp, Iron County Historical Museum, and a variety of parks and trails. Get the full guide to these historical sites on iron.org.

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.



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- U.P. Rodeo Market Days - July 7
- 55th Annual U.P. Rodeo - July 7-8
- Wild West Parade - July 8
- Cruise Nights on Genesee - Every Tues in Aug.
- Iron County Fair - Aug. 10-13
- Harvest & Haunt - Sept. 30
- Christmas in Lights Parade - Dec. 2

Land parcels available in the District for anyone considering relocating their business to Iron River.

<http://www.ironriver.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Premire-Property-Sites-w-pics.pdf>

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