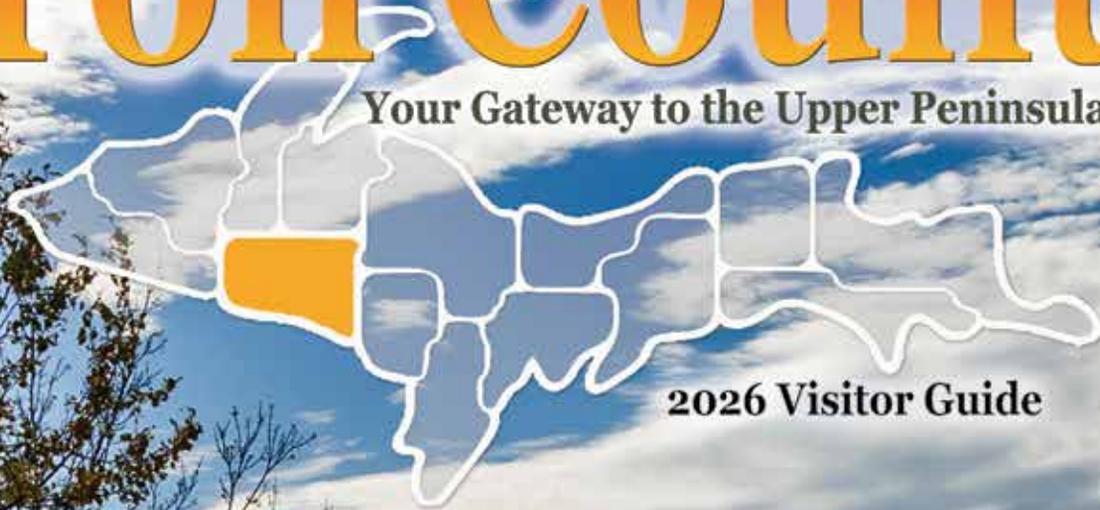


# MICHIGAN Iron County

Your Gateway to the Upper Peninsula



2026 Visitor Guide



*Photo by: Copper Island Images*

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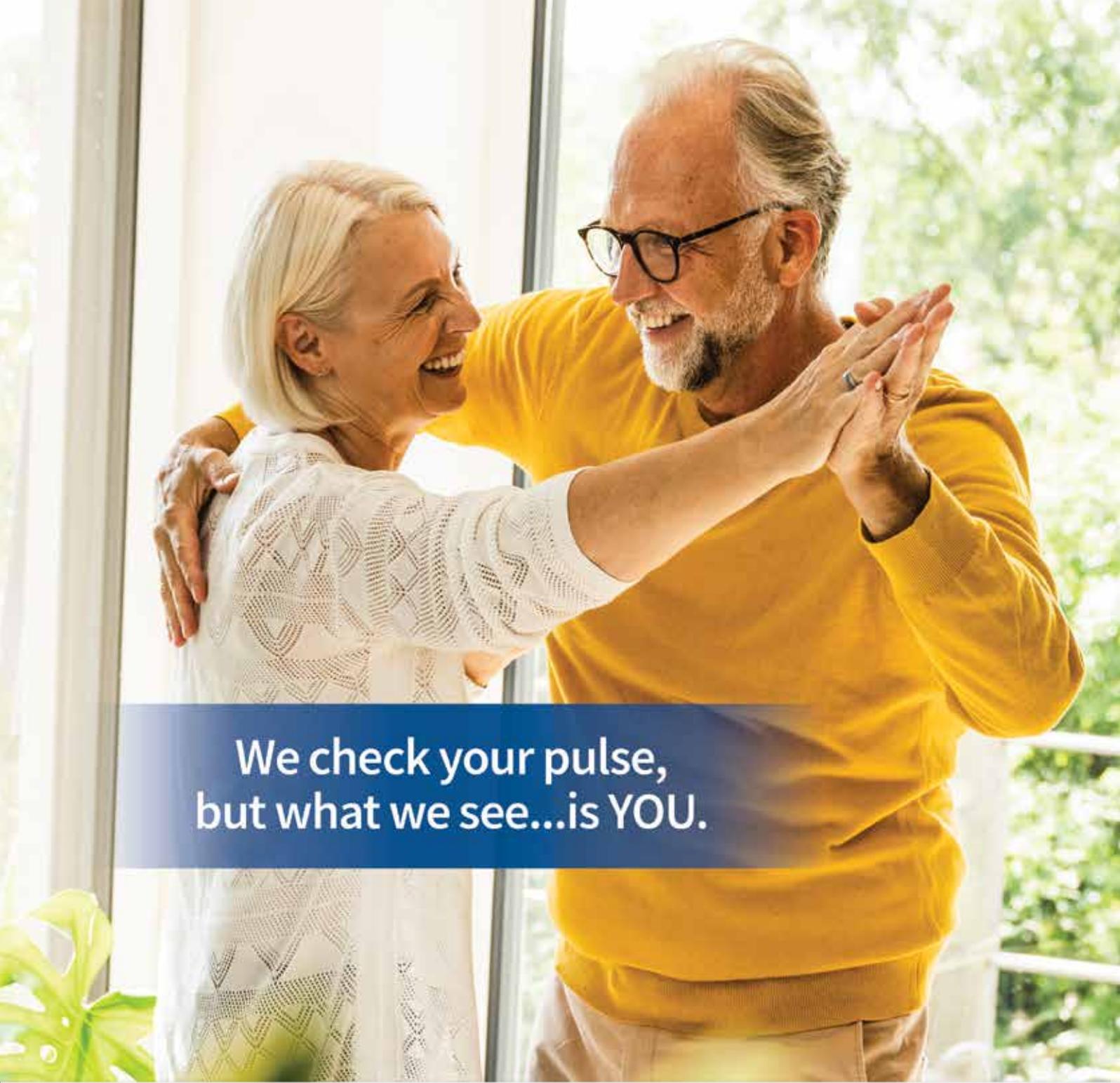
Friday Fish Fry  
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[www.experienceyoungs.com](http://www.experienceyoungs.com) - 906.265.3401 - 159 Young's Lane, Crystal Falls, MI 49920

A photograph of an elderly couple standing by a large window. The man, on the right, has grey hair, a beard, and glasses, and is wearing a bright yellow sweater. He has his arm around the woman's shoulder and is clapping his hands. The woman, on the left, has short white hair and is wearing a white patterned sweater. She is smiling and looking at the man. The background shows a bright window with green foliage outside.

**We check your pulse,  
but what we see...is YOU.**

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Passion for excellence. Compassion for people.

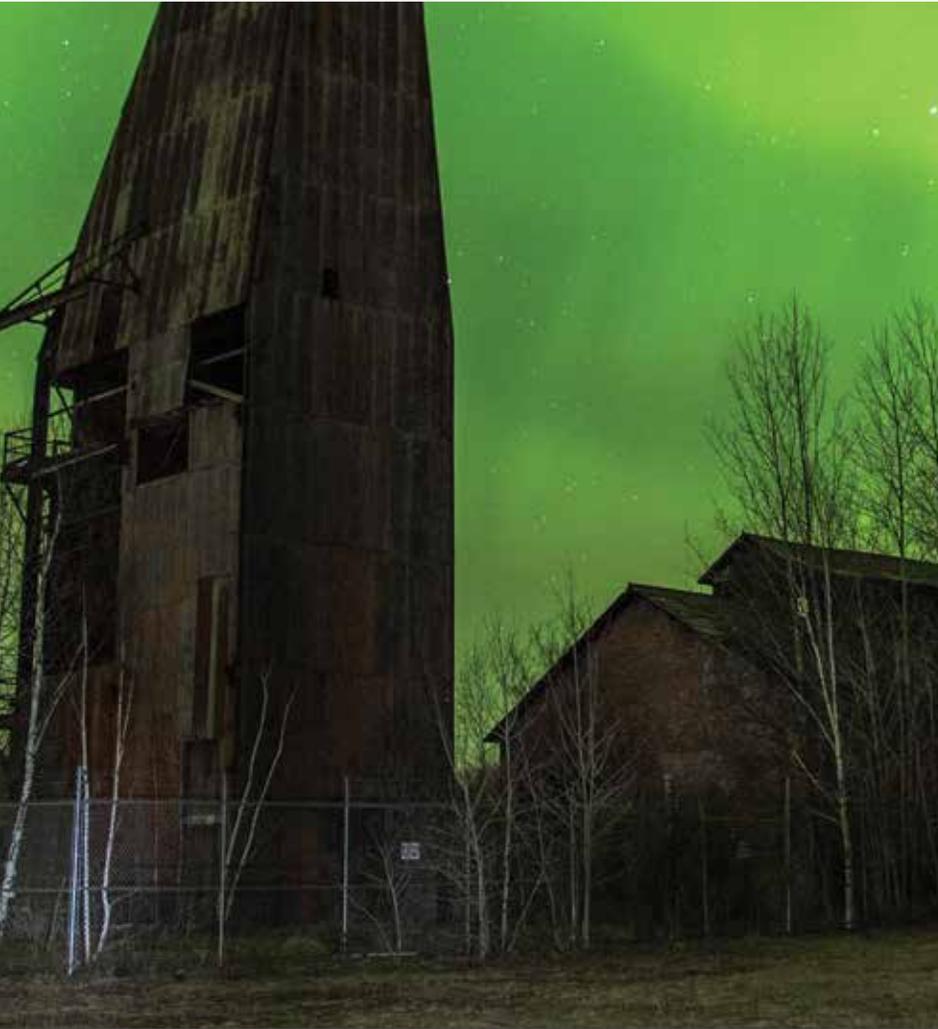
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call 800.847.4707  
visit [aspirus.org](http://aspirus.org)



# Iron County, Michigan

Home of Nick Baumgartner, Olympic Gold Medalist

*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.

## 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](http://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](http://iron.org)

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IRON RIVER, MI

*Cozy Little Country Inn*

Call to book 906-265-9244  
Book online at [Expedia.com](http://Expedia.com)  
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Iron River, MI 49935  
906-265-3611

Your onsite hosts  
Mike & Bonnie  
[lakeshoremotelup@yahoo.com](mailto:lakeshoremotelup@yahoo.com)

*Lakeshore Motel  
Ice Lake*

[LakeshoreMotelIceLake.com](http://LakeshoreMotelIceLake.com)

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lodging details

# SPRING & SUMMER

## 2026 WINTER EVENTS

### Winter Fest: February 21

Young's Complex – 159 Young's Lane, Crystal Falls, MI 49920

### Tippin' Up Town: February 21

Alpha MI Brewery – 303 E. Center St, Alpha, MI 49902

### 5th Annual Alpha Ice Bowl: March 7

Alpha Disc Golf Course

### Freeze Your Bass Off: March 14

Runkle Lake Park, Crystal Falls, MI 49920

### Spring Craft & Vendor Show: March 28

Windsor Center – 612 W. Adams St. Iron River, MI 49935

### Easter Egg Hunt: March 28

Runkle Lake Park, Crystal Falls, MI

### Phelps Maple Syrup Fest: April 11

Phelps, WI

### Meat Raffle: April 25

American Legion Reino Post 21 – 212 Washington Ave, Iron River, MI 49935

### Artist Show: May 9

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

### Spring Garden & Plant Sale: May 15-17

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

### 8th Annual Alpha MI Brewing Company Celebration: May 30

Alpha MI Brewery – 303 E. Center St. Alpha, MI 49902

### Iron Area Health Foundation Golf Scramble: May 31

Young's Golf Course – 159 Young's Lane, Crystal Falls, MI 49920

### Senior Days at Camp Batawagama: June 17-19

Camp Batawagama – 909 Pentoga Trail, Crystal Falls, MI 49920

### Rhubarb Fest: June 20

Downtown Crystal Falls, MI

### Saturday Cruise Fest: June 20

Downtown Iron River, MI

### Father's Day Car & Tractor Show: June 21

Downtown Iron River, MI

### Band Camp Instructors Concert: June 25

Camp Batawagama – 909 Pentoga Trail, Crystal Falls, MI 49920

### Band Camp Student Concert: June 27

Forest Park High School – 801 Forest Parkway, Crystal Falls, MI 49920

### Bates Hall Preservation Society

### Rummage Sale: July 2 & 3

Location: TBD

### Alpha MI 4th of July Celebration: July 4

Alpha, MI

### West Side Veterans 4th of July Parade & Fireworks: July 4

Iron River, MI

### Bass Festival: July 10-12

Runkle Lake Park, Crystal Falls, MI 49920

### Run Your Bass Off: July 12

Runkle Lake Park, Crystal Falls, MI 49920

### U.P. Rodeo Market Days: July 10

Downtown Iron River, MI

### U.P. Championship Rodeo: July 10 & 11

Iron County Fairgrounds - 720 W. Franklin St. Iron River, MI 49935

### Upper Peninsula Volunteer

### Firefighters Tournament: July 24-26

Caspian, MI

### Humongous Fungus Festival: July 31 & August 1

Downtown Crystal Falls, MI

### Classic Car Cruise Nights:

### August 4, 11, 18, 25

Genesee St. Iron River, MI 49935

### Iron County Fair: August 27-30

Iron County Fairgrounds – 720 W. Franklin St. Iron River, MI 49935

### Alpha Bluesfest: August 29

Alpha, MI

# FALL & WINTER

# EVENTS

## **Fall Forage: September 12**

Crystal Falls, MI

## **Yooptoberfest: September 19**

Alpha MI Brewery – 303 E. Center St. Alpha, MI 49902

## **Apple Festival & Craft Market: September 26**

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

## **Harvest & Haunt: September 26**

Klint Safford Memorial RV Park – 50 E. Genesee St. Iron River, MI 49935

## **Aspirus Health Fair: October 14**

Windsor Center – 612 W. Adams St. Iron River, MI 49935

## **Candy Bash Crystal Falls: October 24**

Downtown Crystal Falls, MI

## **Candy Bash Iron River: October 24**

Downtown Iron River, MI

## **Trunk or Treat: October 25**

Alpha MI Brewery – 303 E. Center St. Alpha, MI 49902

## **Halloween Party: October 31**

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

## **True North Old Fashioned Cocktail Competition: November 14**

Young's Complex – 159 Young's Lane, Crystal Falls, MI 49920

## **Ladies Night Out: November 18**

Crystal Falls, MI

## **Buck Fest: November 21**

Downtown Crystal Falls, MI

## **Holiday Art, Craft, & Bake Sale: November 21**

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

## **37th Annual Christmas Tree Galleria & Basket Raffle:**

### **November 28 – December 13**

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

## **Shop Small Saturday: November 28**

Iron County, MI

## **Craft Fair: November 28**

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

## **Ladies Night Out: December 3**

Iron River, MI

## **Christmas at the Barn: December 4**

Serenity Barn – 512 Hwy M73, Iron River, MI 49935

## **Christmas in Lights Craft Fair: December 5**

Windsor Center – 612 W. Adams St. Iron River, MI 49935

## **Christmas in Lights Parade: December 5**

Genesee St. Iron River, MI

## **Crystal Christmas: December 12**

Downtown Crystal Falls, MI

**All events are subject to change.  
Please check for event updates  
at [Iron.org/events](http://Iron.org/events).**





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

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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 St., 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  
(906) 265-4957  


### BUDDHA BEAN COFFEE CO.

Coffee, Smoothies, Danishes, Bagels  
1353 US HWY 2, Crystal Falls, MI 49920  
(906) 874-2326  


### BUMP'S BURGERS

Burger & Sandwich Shop  
119 E. Genesee St., Iron River, MI 49935  
(906) 284-7608  


### CHUNG'S BAR & GRILL

Full Bar serving Sandwiches and Pizza  
602 Wagner St., Crystal Falls, MI 49920  
(906) 214-4727  
(906) 375-0011  


### CONTRAST COFFEE

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Visit ContrastCoffee.com or download their app Contrast Coffee.  
(906) 451-5662  


### COZEE BAR

200 E Caspian Ave., Caspian, MI 49915  
(906) 265-3723  


### CRYSTAL FALLS DINER

Home-Cooked Meals in a Classic Atmosphere.  
1353 US Hwy 2, Crystal Falls, MI 49920  
(906) 875-4200  


### CRYSTAL LANES

Full Bar with Snack Foods and Pizza  
105 Superior Ave., Crystal Falls, MI 49920  
(906) 875-6561  


### CURIOUS PIG RESTAURANT & CATERING

Upscale Southern BBQ & Smoked Foods  
117 S. 5th St., Crystal Falls, MI 49920  
(906) 282-7575  


### DELIGHTFUL DESSERTS & MORE

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419 Washington Ave., Iron River, MI 49935  
(906) 729-0700  


### DESI'S SUBS & PIZZA

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321 W Adams St., Iron River, MI 49935  
(906) 265-5050  


### FIREBRICK BAR & GRILL

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159 Youngs Lane, Crystal Falls, MI 49920  
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**FIZZY'S**

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**FUZZ & SCHMOO'S BAR & GRILL**

Full Bar with Pizza, Burgers, & Appetizers 224 E Caspian Ave., Caspian, MI 49915 (906) 265-9277  


**HILLSIDE TAVERN**

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**HORSESHOE BAR**

Full Bar and Sandwiches 102 Pine St., Amasa, MI 49903 (906) 661-3010  


**INFIELD BAR & PIZZERIA**

Full Bar with Tasty Pizza and Appetizers 234 Superior Ave., Crystal Falls, MI 49920 (906) 875-3398  


**KERMIT'S PIZZA, PUB & GRILL**

Pizza, Burgers, Appetizers & a Full Bar 500 Washington Ave., Iron River, MI 49935 (906) 367-7047  


**KFC**

Fast Food Chicken. 32 W. Adams St., Iron River, MI 49935. (906) 214-5022  


**LOGANS' PLACE**

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**MAIN STREET CAFE**

All-Day Breakfast and Generous Portions 321 W Genesee St., Iron River, MI 49935 (906) 265-4944  


**MCDONALD'S**

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**MR. T'S FAMILY RESTAURANT**

Breakfast Served All Day 3599 US Hwy 2, Iron River, MI 49935 (906) 999-0121  


**OUTER LIMITS BAR & GRILL**

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**PAINT RIVER LANDING PIZZA**

Extensive Pizza Menu and Salad Bar 598 US 141, Crystal Falls, MI 49920 (906) 914-0450  


**RAVEN'S NEST**

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**RIVERSIDE BAR & PIZZERIA**

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**SACH'S RENDEZVOUS**

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**SUBWAY**

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**TASTY REX BAKERY**

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**THE MINERS' 9**

Delicious Food, Warm Service, and a Cozy Atmosphere Inspired by our Region's Rich Mining Heritage 110 Hiawatha Rd, Iron River, MI 49935 (906) 265-3161  


**THE PASTY CORNER**

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**THE STAND**

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**TUFTS RONDON VFW POST #2891**

108 Superior Ave., Crystal Falls, MI 49920 (906) 875-6594  


**VFW OTTAWA POST #3134**

Open to the Public 94 E Genesee St., Iron River, MI 49935 (906) 265-9412  


**WAY DAM RESORT**

Full Bar with Sandwiches & Dina Mia Pizza 368 Kopfs Rd., Crystal Falls, MI 49920 (906) 875-3682  


**WOODEN NICKEL BAR & GRILL**

Featuring the Famous Olive Burger & Half-Naked Cheese Curds! 461 Gibbs City Rd., Iron River, MI 49935 (906) 265-5861  


**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.**



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 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, Black Dog Printing, 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, Central Arts & Gifts, and Ottawa Trading Company on the historic main street. Just west of downtown is the Silver Moon Gifts & Clothing with a floral shop. For a full list of places to shop, see number 9 on the next page.

Photo by Kevin Zini

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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 Crystal Falls Harbour House Museum, the Historic Crystal Theatre, 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](http://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 many metropolitan hotspots. Want to have the best UP pasta, UP's top-rated pizza, southern BBQ, a grilled olive burger, delicious fish fries, authentic Italian cuisine, as well as desserts and coffee? See our full restaurant guide on pages 8 and 9. In addition, visit the Alpha Michigan Brewing Company with an ever-changing lineup of locally crafted brews.

**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, and Ottawa Trading Company 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, Black Dog Printing, 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](http://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. Crystella Ski Hill in Crystal Falls, made possible by a dedicated group of volunteers, also offers Skiing, Snowboarding, and Sledding.

Photo by Kevin Zini

# 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 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.

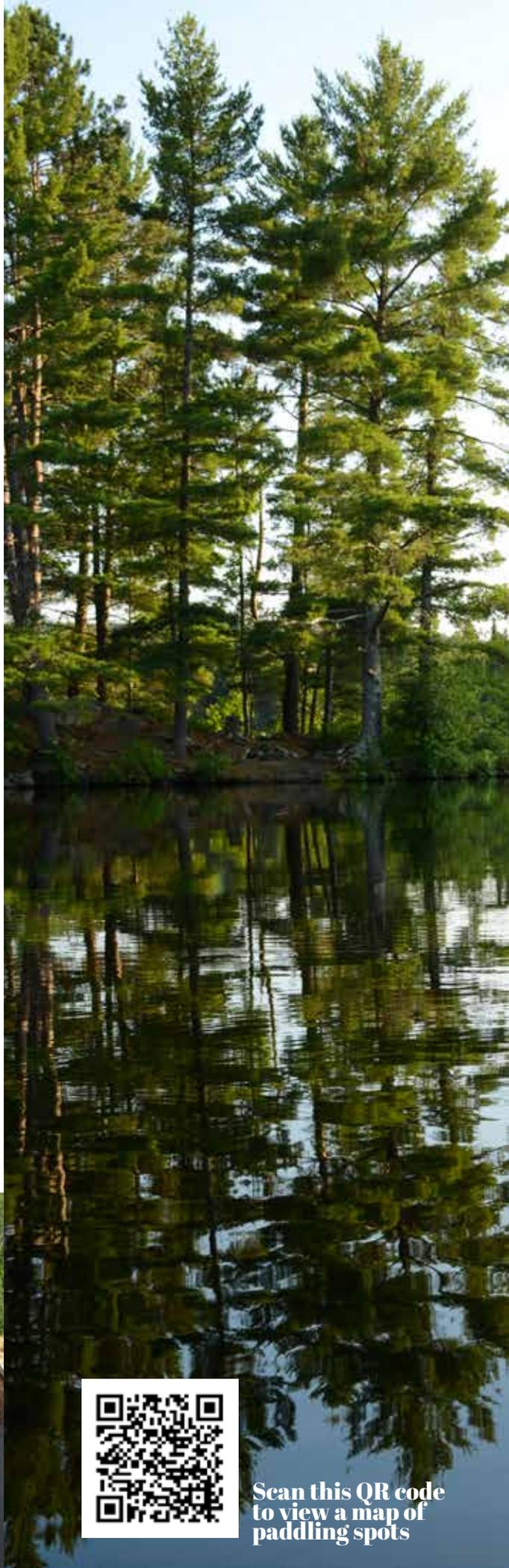
The Michigamme Reservoir is part of Wilderness Shores, a 23,000-acre natural habitat that stretches south into northern Wisconsin. In Iron County alone, Wilderness Shores has nine primitive campgrounds on the water, plus 17 boat launches. There are five hydroelectric dams that are all dramatic to visit - 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/](http://tinyurl.com/IRONCOUNTYBACKWATERS)**  
**IRONCOUNTYBACKWATERS**

Photo by Dan Jarvi



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



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](http://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.



**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](http://www.tinyurl.com/iron-fishing).**

**The 2026 Free Fishing Weekends are February 14th & 15th and June 13th & 14th. 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 flurocarbon 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

## 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](http://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: [michigan.gov/dnr](http://michigan.gov/dnr) so that you may stay alert of any rules or changes. Also, you may call 1-800-AskFish.



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 your winter get-away.

# HUNTING

## 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](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)



Photo by Kevin Zini

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 Louisa Knirvila

## 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.

Scan this QR code to view a list of area waterfalls



## 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.



Photo by Kevin Zini

## 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."

Find his new book: "Gold from Iron" on Amazon.



Photo by Kevin Zini



## 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) 200-1901 - 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 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](http://iron.org).**



Photo by Kevin Zini



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.



Photo by Kevin Zini



Photo by Jason Smedlund



## 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 Circle K Gas Station. Michigan residents and out-of-state visitors are invited to ride DNR-designated routes and trails during the Free ORV Weekends, June 13 & 14 and August 15 & 16, 2026. For full state regulations, visit [www.tinyurl.com/iron-orv](http://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 licensing stations in Iron County or online at [mdnr-licensure.com](http://mdnr-licensure.com).

For up to date trail conditions, you can visit our  
local clubs on Facebook:

[tinyurl.com/snokats](http://tinyurl.com/snokats) • [tinyurl.com/ironrangetrail](http://tinyurl.com/ironrangetrail)

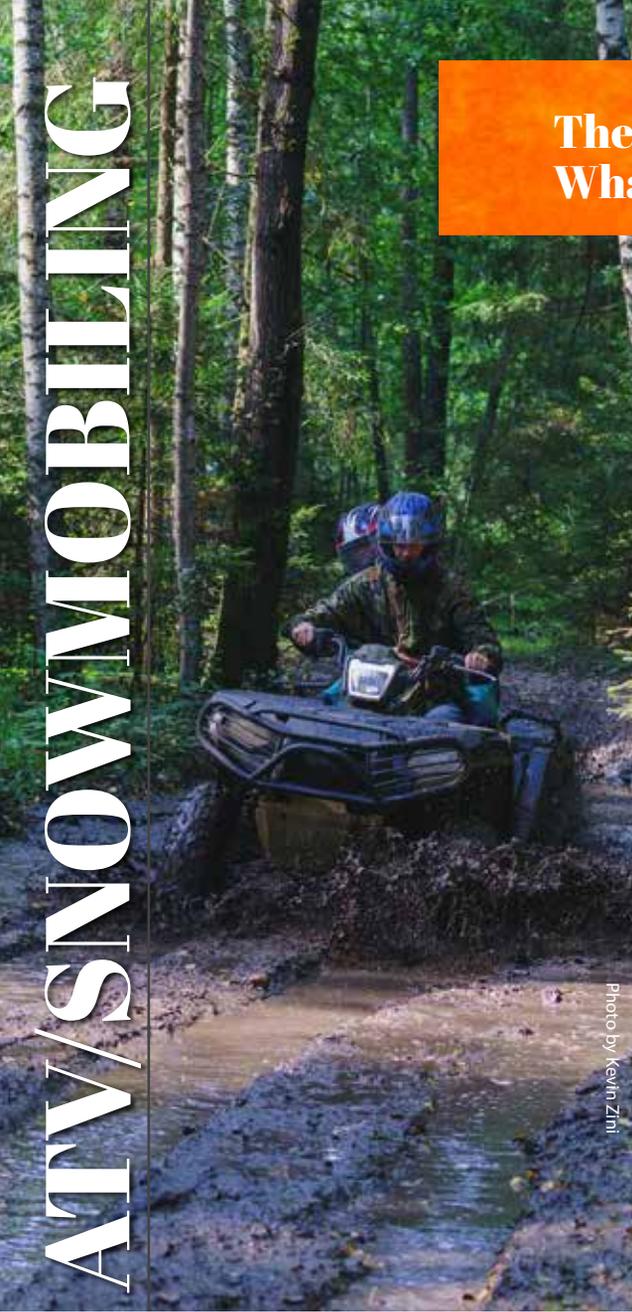


Photo by Kevin Zini



Photo by Kevin Zini



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](http://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. Miners' 9 Golf Course 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](http://iron.org/outdoors).

Photo by Jason Smedland



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.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)



## Camp Christine

Situated on beautiful Lake Mary near a large network of hiking trails. To register call (906) 875-6456.



## Dawson Lake Park

This 18-site, wooded campground in Mansfield Township is perfect for families with kids.

[www.mansfieldtownship.org](http://www.mansfieldtownship.org)



## Deer Lake Campground

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

[www.tinyurl.com/camp-deer](http://www.tinyurl.com/camp-deer)



## Gibson Lake Campground

This small camp is perfect for families.

[www.tinyurl.com/camp-gibson](http://www.tinyurl.com/camp-gibson)



## Glidden Lake Campground

This quiet campground is perfect for tents & small trailers.

[www.tinyurl.com/camp-glidden](http://www.tinyurl.com/camp-glidden)



## Golden Lake Campground

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

[www.tinyurl.com/camp-golden](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.tinyurl.com/camp-norway)



## Paint River Blockhouse

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

[www.tinyurl.com/camp-blockhouse](http://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](http://www.tinyurl.com/paint-river-forks)



## Paint River Hills Campground

New and modern, this camp also offers cabin rentals.

[www.prhcamp.com](http://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.ironmi.com/pentoga-park](http://www.ironmi.com/pentoga-park)



## Perch Lake Campground

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

[www.tinyurl.com/camp-perch](http://www.tinyurl.com/camp-perch)



## Runkle Lake Campground

This large campground offers many recreation and sport opportunities.

[www.runklelakecamping.com](http://www.runklelakecamping.com)



## Sunset Lake Campground

This campground is perfect for families with kids.

(906) 265-2787 Ext. 6

[batestownship.com/parks-and-recreation](http://batestownship.com/parks-and-recreation)



## Tepee Lake Campground

This abandoned camp offers great fishing. \*No potable water available.\*

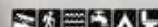
[www.tinyurl.com/camp-tepee](http://www.tinyurl.com/camp-tepee)



## 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](http://www.we-energies.com/environment/wilderness-shores)



Scan this QR code to view a map of area campgrounds





Golden Lake Campground

## Find Your Perfect Campground in Iron County

Camping in Iron County isn't a one-size-fits-all experience—and that's exactly what makes it special. With everything from modern parks offering beaches and playgrounds to deeply secluded backcountry sites tucked into the Ottawa National Forest, visitors can tailor their stay to match their sense of adventure. Whether you're planning a family getaway, a quiet couples retreat, or a solo escape into the woods, Iron County delivers the kind of outdoor experience that keeps campers coming back year after year.

Families often gravitate toward larger, modern campgrounds where kids can swim, bike, and explore nearby recreation areas, while anglers and paddlers seek out lakefront and river-adjacent sites known for peaceful mornings and abundant wildlife. Rustic and primitive campgrounds appeal to those looking to unplug completely—where the soundtrack is loons on the water and wind through the pines. And for campers who enjoy a bit more convenience, RV-friendly parks located near towns provide easy access to dining, shopping, and trail systems without sacrificing scenic views.

No matter where you set up camp, Iron County's landscape is always part of the experience. Days are filled with hiking, fishing, swimming, and wildlife watching, while evenings invite campfires, stargazing, and stories shared under dark, unspoiled skies. From lakeside sunrises to the quiet solitude of the forest, camping here offers a chance to slow down, reconnect, and experience the Northwoods the way it was meant to be enjoyed.

## Camping Tips for Iron County

### PLAN AHEAD

Iron County campgrounds range from modern parks to rustic and primitive sites. Some locations offer full amenities, while others have no potable water or services. Check campground details in advance so you know what to pack and what to expect.

### PACK FOR CHANGING WEATHER

Northwoods weather can shift quickly. Even summer evenings can be cool, so pack layers, rain gear, and extra blankets. A warm hoodie by the campfire is always a good idea.

### RESPECT WILDLIFE

Iron County is home to abundant wildlife, including deer, eagles, and black bears. Store food properly, keep campsites clean, and observe animals from a safe distance—never feed wildlife.

### BRING THE ESSENTIALS

Cell service can be limited, especially in remote areas. Bring a printed map, flashlight, extra batteries, and a basic first-aid kit. If you're heading to a primitive or backcountry site, be sure to pack in all necessary supplies.

### KNOW THE WATER SITUATION

Some campgrounds do not offer potable water. Bring enough drinking water for your stay or plan to treat water if allowed and appropriate.

### PRACTICE CAMPFIRE SAFETY

Check current fire conditions and restrictions before starting a campfire. Use designated fire rings, keep fires manageable, and fully extinguish them before leaving your site.

### LEAVE NO TRACE

Help preserve Iron County's natural beauty by packing out all trash, staying on established trails, and leaving campsites better than you found them.

### ENJOY THE DARK SKIES

Many campgrounds in Iron County offer excellent stargazing. Limit artificial light at night and take time to enjoy the quiet, star-filled skies that make camping here so memorable.

**Mansfield Pioneer Church**  
Stream Road | Visitors Welcome  
Contact [snickels@up.net](mailto:snickels@up.net)  
for rental information

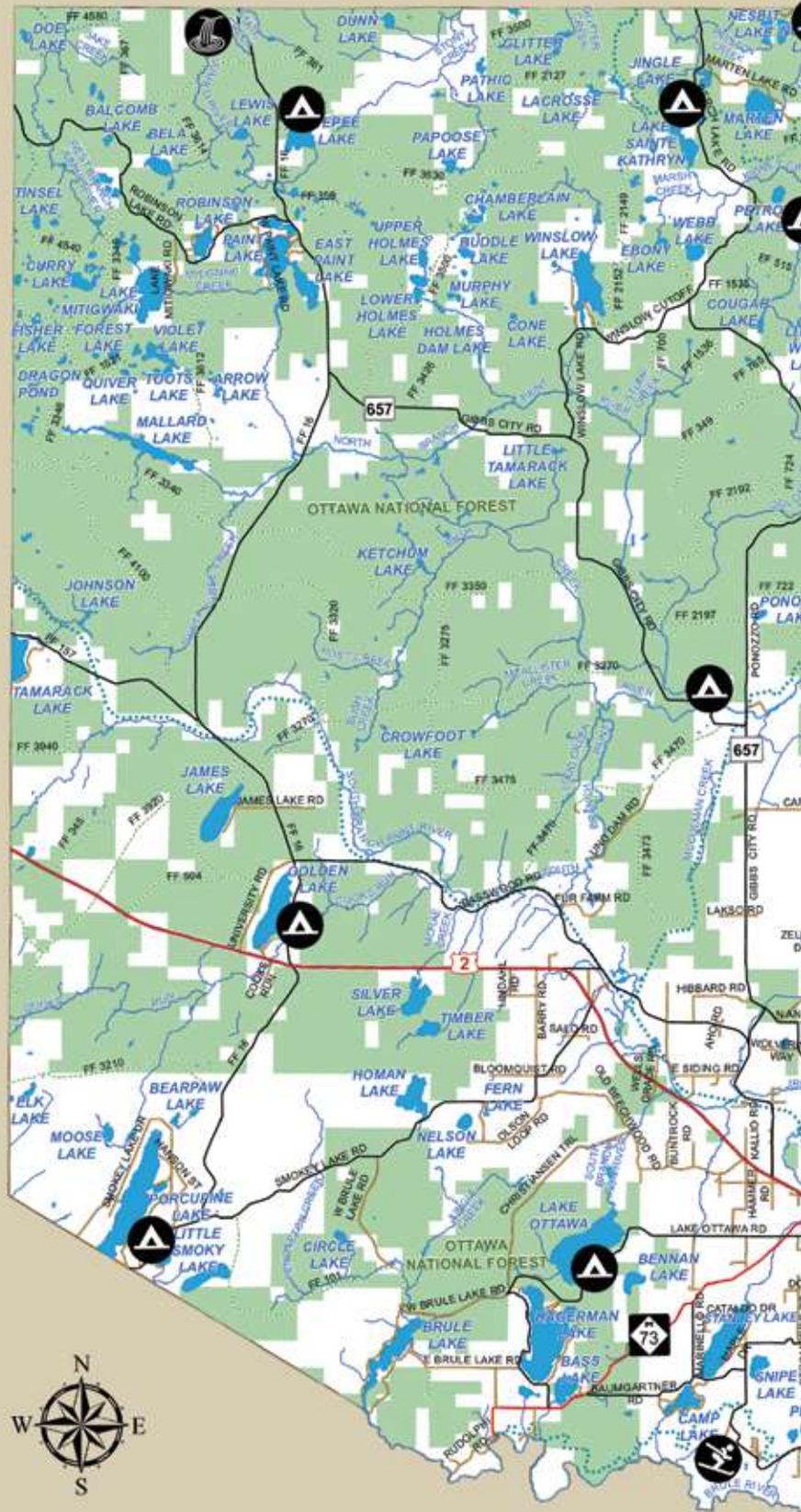
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# AREA MAP

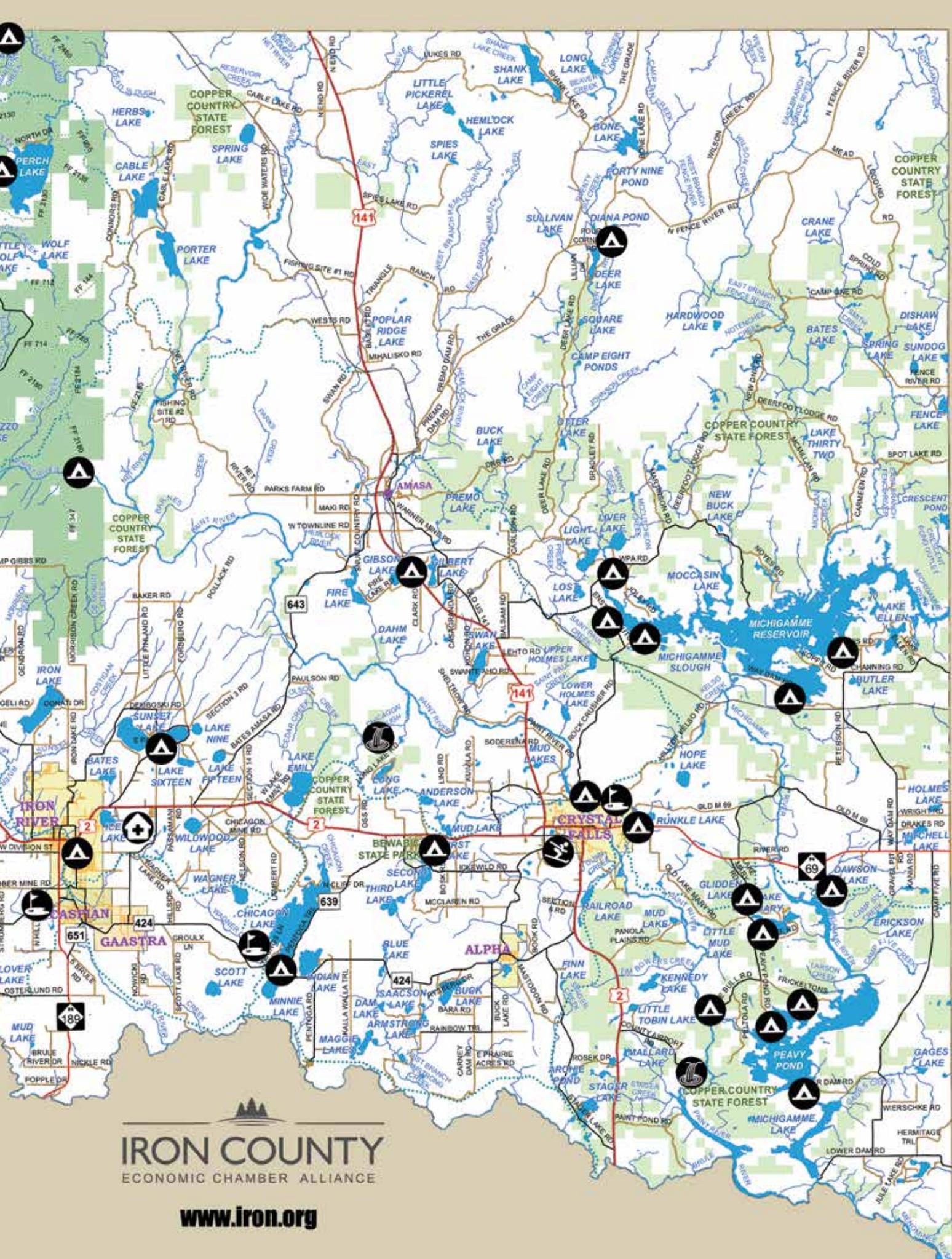
## Legend

	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  
1212,400 1 inch = 3.35 miles



**IRON COUNTY**  
ECONOMIC CHAMBER ALLIANCE

[www.iron.org](http://www.iron.org)

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.



Photo by Kevin Zini

**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](http://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](http://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](http://www.windsorcenter.org).



## Crystal Falls Museum Society Harbour House

This historical site is located at:

17 North Fourth Street Crystal Falls, MI 49920  
(one block north of Superior Avenue)



Mail P.O. Box 65 Crystal Falls, MI 49920

[cfharbourhouse@gmail.com](mailto:cfharbourhouse@gmail.com)

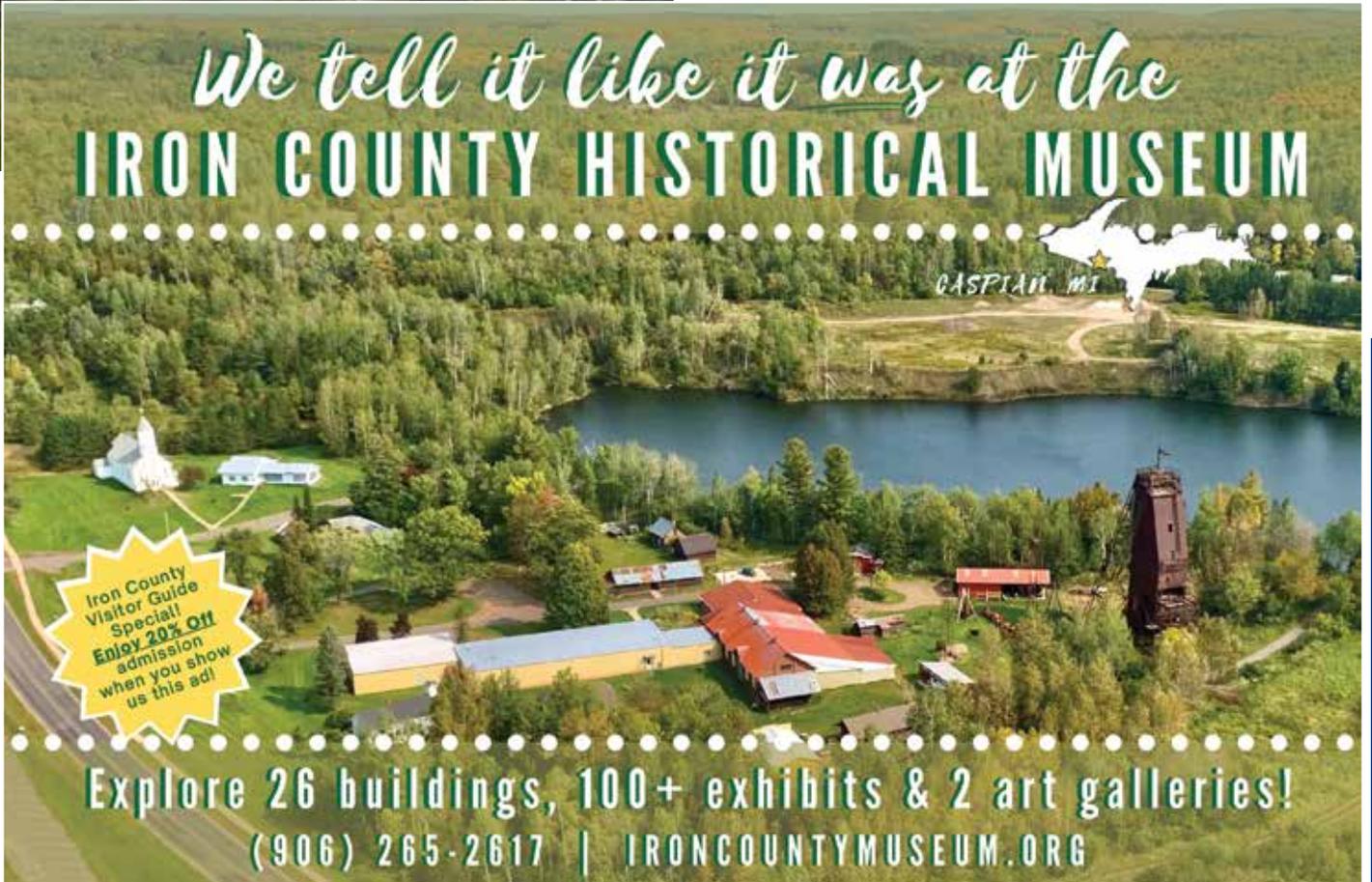
[crystalfallsmuseum-harbourhouse.org](http://crystalfallsmuseum-harbourhouse.org)

Visit us on Facebook at: [Crystal Falls Society-Harbour House](https://www.facebook.com/Crystal-Falls-Society-Harbour-House) 

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**ATTRACTIONS & EVENTS**



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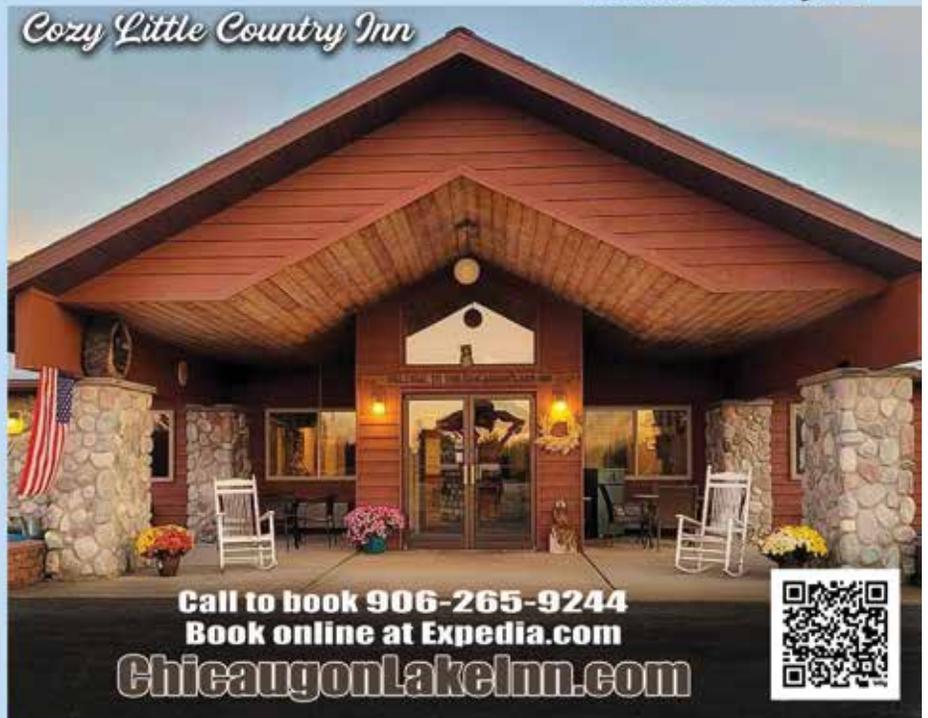
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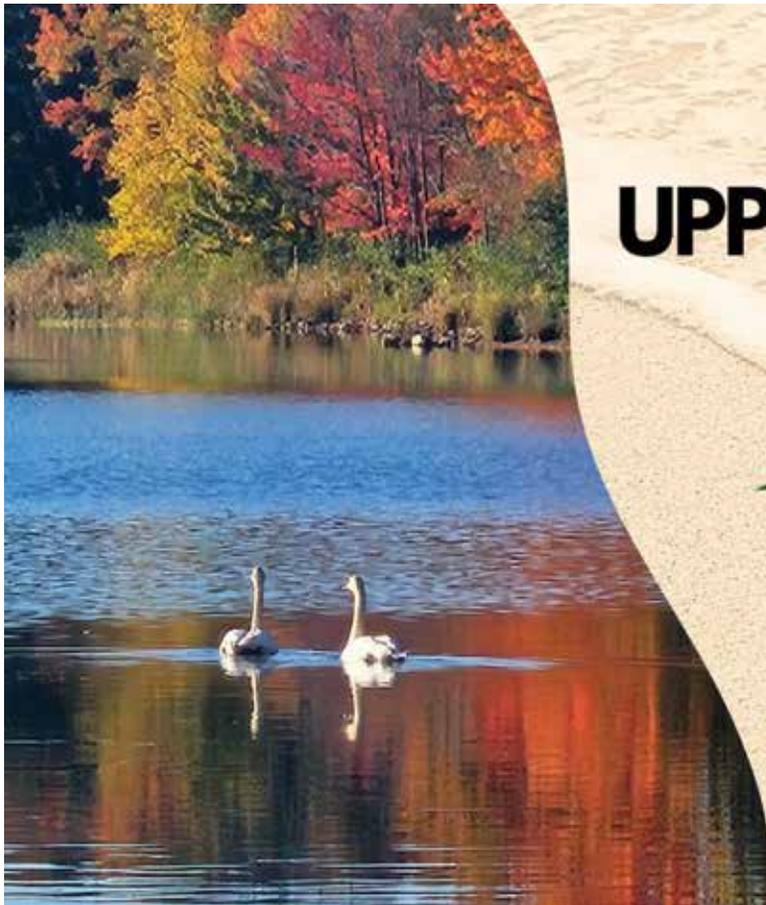
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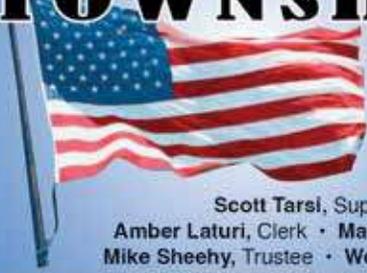
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## Downtown Development Association

### 2026 Events:

- Cruise Fest- June 20
- Father's Day Car & Tractor Show - June 21
- 4th of July Parade & Fireworks - July 4
- U.P. Rodeo Market Days - July 10
- 58th Annual U.P. Rodeo - July 10-11
- Wild West Parade - July 11
- Cruise Nights on Genesee - Every Tues in Aug.
- Iron County Fair - August 27-30
- Harvest & Haunt - Sept. 26
- Halloween Candy Bash for Downtown Businesses- October 24
- Christmas in Lights Parade - Dec. 5

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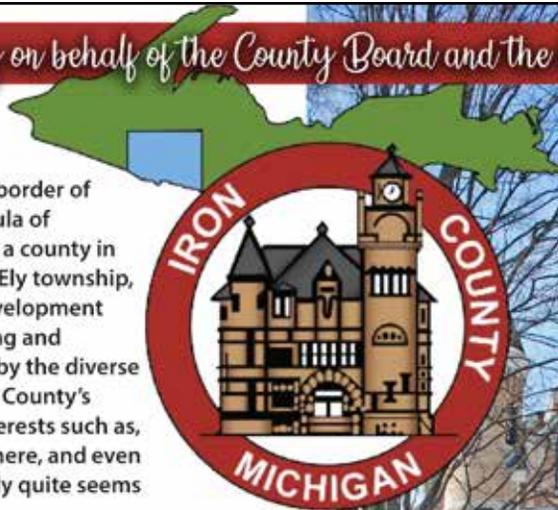
## BATES TOWNSHIP WATER TRAILS

The Bates-Crystal Falls Township Water Trail begins at the Bates-Amasa Rd Paint River Access Site. This is a 7-mile water trail flowing east down the Paint River ending at Erickson Landing just west of US141 on Sheltrou Rd. This is an easy traveling river and a favorite of canoers and kayakers who want a leisure ride or may want to fish on the trek.

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Iron County is located along the border of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and was established as a county in 1885, having been severed from Ely township, Marquette County. Economic development was primarily based on the mining and logging industries and enriched by the diverse ethnic mixture of its people. Iron County's history is of great variety and interests such as, the people, the jobs, the atmosphere, and even long forgotten towns that nobody quite seems to recall.



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Whether you are here for the breathtaking forests, the winding rivers, or the friendly faces, Hematite Township offers a peaceful retreat and a vibrant local culture. The town of Amasa, with its storied past rooted in mining and logging, stands as a testament to the resilience and hospitality of its people.

As you explore the area, you'll discover a variety of outdoor activities—from hiking and fishing and hunting to snowmobiling and riding your ATV—alongside local shops and eateries that reflect the unique character of our community. We invite you to experience the natural beauty, community events, and the genuine warmth that defines Hematite Township and Amasa.

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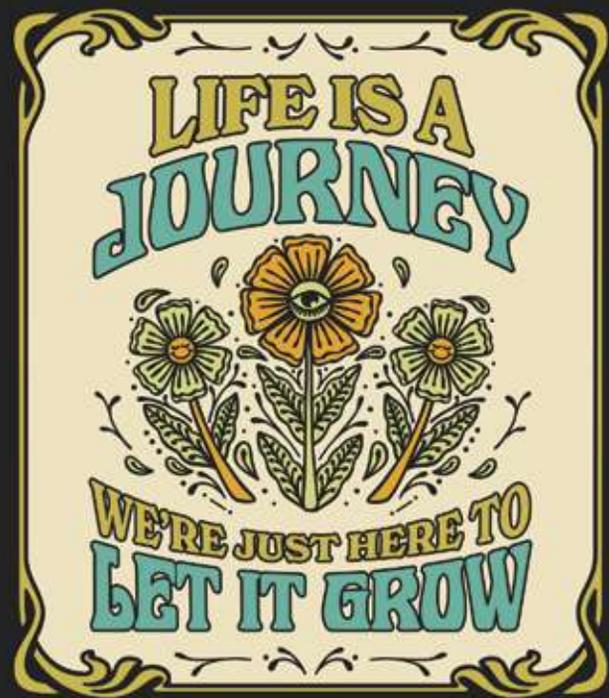


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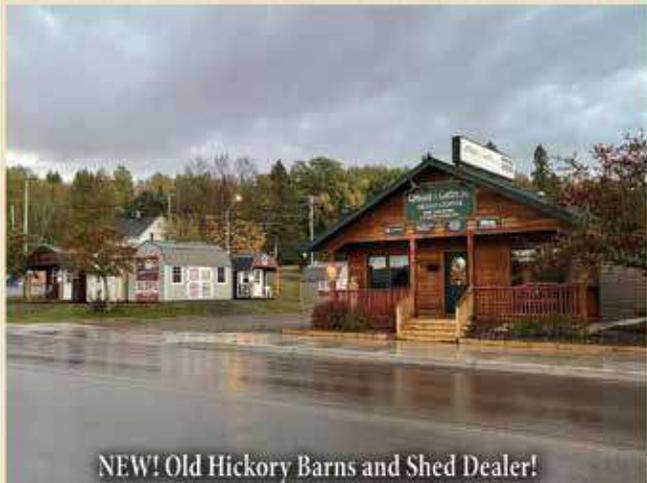
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## The Beautiful, Small Town on the Hill



## EVENTS

March 28th - CFBA Easter Egg Hunt, Runkle Lake Recreation Area

June - CFBA Person Of the Year

June 20th - Rhubarb Fest Harbour House Museum

July 31st & August 1st - CFBA Fungus Fest

September 12th - CFBA Fall Forage

October 24th - CFBA Halloween Candy Bash

November 21st - CFBA Buck Fest

December 12th - CFBA Crystal Christmas

*\*\*\*Events may have been added to events over time, please check [crystalfallsmi.com](http://crystalfallsmi.com) Events Page.*

Non CFBA Events-

July 4th - Fourth Of July, Alpha, MI

July 10-12 - Bass Festival, Lions Club, Runkle Lake

September 19th - Yooptoberfest, Alpha Brewery

October 25th - Trunk or Treat, Halloween, Alpha, MI

For lodging options, visit [IronCountyLodging.com](http://IronCountyLodging.com)

**CrystalFallsMI.com** 

P.O. Box 233 • Crystal Falls, MI 49920



**AMERICINN BY WYNDHAM**  
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# 2026 PLAN, PLAY & STAY

in IRON COUNTY, MICHIGAN



## Michigan Free Weekends

*no permits/registration needed - see Michigan.gov for details*

- Feb. 14-15, 2026 - Free fishing
- Jun. 13-14, 2026 - Free fishing, ATV/ORV, state park entry
- Aug. 15-16, 2026 - Free ATV/ORV

## Explore...

- 5 blue-ribbon trout streams
- 300+ lakes and 200+ miles of rivers
- 100+ miles of ATV/ORV trails
- 260+ miles of snowmobile trails
- 150+ acres, 17 trails, 11 lifts at Ski Brule
- 400,000+ acres of public forest

**IronCountyLodging.com**

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lodging details

