

FROM MINNEAPOLIS/ST PAUL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (MSP) TO LAKE OF THE WOODS

There are a number of routes you can take to get to Lake of the Woods. Minnesota offers so much to explore, we have outlined four routes for you.

To explore the **northwest**, begin at **Route 1**.

To explore the **northeast**, please begin at **Route 2**.

ROUTE 1: EXPLORE NORTHWEST MN. MSP TO ST. CLOUD TO BRAINERD OR BEMIDJI:

EXPLORE BLOOMINGTON (NEAR MSP AIRPORT):

Mall of America

60 E Broadway Ave, Bloomington, MN 55425 | mallofamerica.com | "One Call for the Mall" 952-883-8800
Text your question 952-479-4839

Enjoy tax-free shopping at the nation's largest shopping and entertainment destination - Mall of America. MOA features 520 stores, 60 restaurants and attractions galore, including Nickelodeon Universe, the nation's largest indoor theme park.

The Japanese Garden

9700 France Ave, Bloomington, MN 55431 | normandale.edu/community/Japanese-garden | 952-358-8145

The Normandale Japanese Garden is a 2-acre strolling garden featuring a pond, koi, lagoon, hand-crafted bridges and buildings, imported hand-carved lanterns, islands, a waterfall and carefully manicured trees and shrubs maintained in the authentic Japanese tradition.

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

3815 American Boulevard E, Bloomington, MN 55425 | fws.gov/refuge/minnesota_valley | 952-854-5900

Prairies, wetlands, bottomland forests and other woodlands provide a peek at wildlife on the edge of the Twin Cities urban community.

- Go west on MN Highway 5 from Glumack Dr (MSP airport)
- Proceed west on Interstate 494
- Follow Interstate 94 west
- Head east on Highway 24 (Exit 178)
- Then proceed west on US Highway 10

EXPLORE ST. CLOUD:

St. Cloud Welcome Center

2651 US Highway 10, St. Cloud, MN 56304 (1 mile SE of St. Cloud) | 320-654-5548

Maps, brochures, and Travel Counselors are available to give directions and information.

Summerland Family Fun Park

1050 28th Ave NE, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379 | summerlandfunpark.com | 320-251-0940

This wonderful treat for the entire family includes Go-Karts, Bumper Boats, 18 Holes of Mini-golf, a Waterslide, Batting cages, Moonwalk, Concessions, Arcade and more.

Munsinger Gardens and Clemens Gardens

1515 Riverside Drive SE, St. Cloud, MN 56301 | munsingerclemens.com | 320-257-5959

The Munsinger Gardens and Clemens Gardens have over 150,000 annuals and perennials beautifully displayed in both formal and cottage garden styles.

Stearns History Museum | 235-33rd Ave S, St. Cloud, MN 56301 | stearns-museum.org | 320-253-8424

The Stearns History Museum has a two-level exhibit gallery that is handicapped accessible, a gallery theater with six video presentations, and a hands-on Children's Room. Exhibits include Navigating the 70s, Stearns County and WWI and the Natural History of Stearns County.

Quarry Park & Nature Preserve | 1802 Co Rd 137, Waite Park, MN 56387

co.stearns.mn.us/Recreation/CountyParks/QuarryParkandNaturePreserve | 320-255-6172

Natural features include scenic woodlands, open prairie, wetlands and unquarried bedrock area. Sizable hills are composed of quarried rock remnants. Amenities include two swimming quarries, picnic area, trout fishing, hiking trails, rock climbing and scuba diving.

ROUTE 1A: ST CLOUD TO BRAINERD. (If you would like to explore Bemidji, see Route 1b.)

- Continue west on US Highway 10

EXPLORE LITTLE FALLS:

The Charles Lindbergh House and Museum

1620 Lindbergh Dr. S, Little Falls, MN 56345 | mnhs.org/lindbergh | 320-616-5421

Tour the boyhood home of Charles Lindbergh, explore the visitor center exhibits, including a "Spirit of St. Louis" flight simulator, and walk an interpretive trail along the river. Additional trails are located in the adjacent Charles A. Lindbergh State Park. The Charles A. Lindbergh Historic Site is a National Historic Landmark.

Pine Grove Zoo | 1200 West Broadway, Little Falls, MN 56345 | pinegrovezoo.com | 320-616-5595

View a variety of exotic, native and domestic animals at home in spacious, natural habitats. Interactive signs and a petting stable provide educational encounters that will enhance your zoo visit and create long lasting memories.

Minnesota Military Museum

15000 Highway 115, Camp Ripley, Little Falls, MN 56345 | mnmilitarymuseum.org | 320-616-6050

The Minnesota Military Museum has historical exhibits dating from mid-1800s, including weapon, uniform, medal and insignia collections, and an outdoor area with artillery, aircraft, military vehicles and the state's only WWI 40 & 8 boxcar.

- Head north on Highway 371

EXPLORE BRAINERD:

Paul Bunyan Land | 17553 State Highway 18, Brainerd, MN 56401 | paulbunyanland.com | 218-764-2524

From the amusement rides, petting barn, and the many displays in the pioneer village, there is something for every generation to enjoy, and a 26' tall Paul Bunyan statue greets visitors by name.

Crow Wing State Park 3124 State Park Road, Brainerd, MN 56401 | mndnr.gov/parks | 218-825-3075

Walk along the historic Red River Ox Cart Trail past the historic Beaulieu House and the other remains of the once prosperous town of Old Crow Wing. Enjoy the natural beauty of this site at the confluence of the Crow Wing and the Mississippi Rivers.

Northland Kart Kountry

17568 MN Highway 371, Brainerd, MN 56401 | northlandkartkountry.com | 218-454-1602

Northland Kart Kountry Family Fun Park has something for all ages, including Go Karts, Batting Cages, Water Wars, Bungee Bounce, Mini Golf, Jump Shot, Bumper Boats, Climbing Wall, and Arcade Games.

Paul Bunyan State Trail

1601 Minnesota Dr, Brainerd, MN 56401 | mndnr.gov/state_trails/paul_bunyan | 218-203-4442

The 115 mile paved trail stretches between Brainerd/Baxter area and Bemidji State Park. Scenery includes woods, wetlands, lakes, meadows and farmland.

Crow Wing County Historical Museum | 320 Laurel St, Brainerd, MN 56401 | crowwinghistory.org | 218-829-3268

Restored sheriff's quarters and old county jail converted into a museum features county history, American Indian, lumbering, and railroad and mining exhibits.

- Continue north on Highway 371

EXPLORE NISSWA, PEQUOT LAKES, PINE RIVER AND WALKER TO EXPLORE UNIQUE SHOPS AND LOCAL RESTAURANTS IN THESE CHARMING SMALL TOWNS.

- Continue north on Highway 371
- Go east on US Highway 2
- Then proceed north on Highway 39, also known as the Lady Slipper Scenic Byway
- Continue north on Highway 72
- Proceed east on Highway 1
- Then head north on Highway 72

EXPLORE BIG BOG STATE RECREATION AREA:

Big Bog State Recreation Area

55716 MN Highway 72 NE, Waskish, MN 56685 | mndnr.gov/parks | 218-647-8592

A mile-long boardwalk enables visitors to get a first-hand look at the unique plant and animal life of this rare resource, from orchids to carnivorous plants and rare birds. Fishing is excellent at this recreation area.

- Continue north on Highway 72 to Lake of the Woods

ROUTE 1B: ST. CLOUD TO BEMIDJI

- From St. Cloud, proceed west on Interstate 94
- Then head north on Highway 71 (Exit 127)

EXPLORE PARK RAPIDS:

Character Challenge Adventure Park

13218 Co Rd 40, Park Rapids, MN 56470 | characterchallengecourse.com | 218-760-8442

This exhilarating tourist attraction has a 370' zip line, a 35' high Aerial Adventure Course, a Power Swing with a 40' free fall and the Leap of Faith.

Hubbard County Historical Museum

301 Court Ave, Park Rapids, MN 56470 | hubbardcountyhistory.org | 218-732-5237

Permanent exhibits include Native American artifacts, farming and logging displays, quilts, a pioneer cabin and a one room school house. The museum also has a large collection of vintage clothing and Civil War memorabilia.

- Continue north on Highway 71

EXPLORE THE HEADWATERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI AT ITASCA STATE PARK:

Itasca State Park | 36750 Main Park Dr, Park Rapids, MN 56470 | mndnr.gov/parks | 218-699-7251

Established in 1891, Itasca is Minnesota's oldest State Park. In this 32,000 acre sanctuary, the mighty Mississippi River begins its 2,552 mile journey to the Gulf of Mexico. Points of interest include old growth pine at Preacher's Grove, Peace Pipe Vista, bison kill site and over 100 lakes.

- From the east entrance of the park, follow Highway 71 north to Bemidji

EXPLORE BEMIDJI:

Bemidji Tourist Information Center

300 Bemidji Ave, Bemidji, MN 56601 | visitbemidji.com/paul-bunyan-babe-information-center | 218-759-0164

Paul Bunyan and Babe his Blue Ox, the legendary lumberjack team, await your arrival on the shore of Lake Bemidji. Don't miss this great photo opportunity outside the Tourist Information Center.

Paul Bunyan's Animal Land

3857 Animal Land Dr. SE, Bemidji, MN 56601 | paulbunyansanimalland.com | 218-759-1533

Minnesota's largest wildlife park/petting zoo features over 100 animals representing every continent on earth. Some of the animals who make their homes at Animal Land include lions, tigers, bears, camels, kangaroos, monkeys, lemurs, three varieties of deer, cougars, bobcats, leopards, servals, raccoons, and dozens of other animals.

Beltrami County History Center | 130 Minnesota Ave SW, Bemidji, MN 56601 | beltamihistory.org | 218-444-3376

The History Center is located in historic downtown Bemidji in the restored 1912 Great Northern Depot, the region's most unique museum.

Headwaters Science Center | 413 Beltrami Ave NW, Bemidji, MN 56601 | hscbemidji.org | 218-444-4472

The 7,500 sq. ft. exhibit floor features over 40 hands-on, interactive exhibits, including live animals, hot air balloon, tractor, and pitching cage.

- Follow Highway 71 north
- Head north on Highway 72
- Go east on Highway 1
- Then proceed north on Highway 72

EXPLORE BIG BOG STATE RECREATION AREA:

Big Bog State Recreation Area | 55716 MN Highway 72, Waskish, MN 56685 | mndnr.gov/parks | 218-647-8592

Called Minnesota's last true wilderness. The 500 square mile peat bog is the largest in the lower 48 states. A mile-long boardwalk enables visitors to get a first-hand look at the unique plant and animal life.

- Continue north on Highway 72 to Lake of the Woods

ROUTE 2: EXPLORE NORTHEAST MN. MSP TO ST PAUL, DULUTH AND GRAND RAPIDS OR THE IRON RANGE AND INTERNATIONAL FALLS.

- Go east on MN Highway 5 from Glumack Dr (MSP airport)
- Proceed north on Interstate 35 E

EXPLORE ST. PAUL:

Historic Fort Snelling | 200 Tower Ave, St. Paul, MN 55111 | mnhs.org/fortsnelling | 612-726-1171

This National Historic Landmark resides on Dakota homeland at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers. Explore the voices and stories of the men, women, and children who crossed paths here over the centuries - from the Dakota, Ojibwe, and enslaved people, to immigrants, soldiers, and fur traders.

James J. Hill House | 240 Summit Ave, St. Paul, MN 55102 | mnhs.org/hillhouse | 651-297-2555

Explore upstairs and downstairs life in Minnesota's Downton Abbey, a 36,000-square-foot mansion built for railroad titan James J. Hill. The rugged stone, massive scale, fine detail, and ingenious mechanical systems of this magnificent Gilded Age mansion recall the powerful presence of James J. Hill, builder of the Great Northern Railway. With 13 bathrooms, 22 fireplaces, 16 chandeliers, a reception hall nearly 100 feet long, sophisticated technical systems, and a two-story, skylit art gallery, this mansion was once the largest private residence in the state.

Minnesota History Center | 345 Kellogg Blvd W, St. Paul, MN 55102 | mnhs.org/historycenter | 651-259-3000

Explore Minnesota's past through exhibits that feature authentic historical objects, hands-on experiences, and multimedia presentations.

Minnesota State Capitol

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55155 | mnhs.org/capitol | 651-296-2881

Connect with this landmark building through its amazing stories and learn about its incredible architecture, art and history. Designed by Cass Gilbert, the Minnesota State Capitol is considered an architectural masterpiece.

Science Museum of Minnesota

120 Kellogg Blvd W, St. Paul, MN 55102 | smm.org | 651-221-9444 or 1-800-221-9444

Located on the Mississippi River in downtown St. Paul, the Science Museum of Minnesota is the most popular museum in the Upper Midwest, featuring dinosaurs, the Omnitheater and hands-on exhibits.

- Continue north on Interstate 35 E
- Follow Interstate 35 north

EXPLORE HINCKLEY:

Hinckley Fire Museum | 106 Old Highway 61, Hinckley, MN 55037 | hinckleyfiremuseum.com | 320-384-7338

This restored St. Paul and Duluth Railroad Depot contains artifacts and stories from the great Hinckley fire of 1894, a firestorm that devastated six towns in east central Minnesota. This was one of the biggest natural disasters in Minnesota history.

St. Croix State Park | 30065 St. Croix Park Rd, Hinckley, MN 55037 | mndnr.gov/parks | 320-384-6591

Minnesota's largest state park with over 34,000 acres. Amenities include hiking trails, picnicking, sightseeing, swimming, fishing, nature programs and cultural sites.

Grand National Golf Course | 300 Lady Luck Drive, Hinckley, MN 55037 | grandnationalgolf.com | 320-384-7427

Grand National Golf Club is one of the most beautiful and challenging 18-hole courses in the state.

Grand Casino Hinckley | 777 Lady Luck Drive, Hinckley, MN 55037 | grandcasinomn.com | 1-800-472-6321

Grand Casino Hinckley offers gaming, relaxation, dining and more.

- Continue north on Interstate 35

EXPLORE DULUTH:

Thompson Hill Welcome Center | 8525 West Skyline Pkwy, Duluth, MN 55810 | 218-723-4938

Maps, brochures, and Travel Counselors are available to give directions and information.

Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center | 600 Canal Park Drive, Duluth, MN 55802 | lsmma.com | 218-788-6430

This is the most visited marine museum on the Great Lakes with exhibits and programs on commercial shipping, the Duluth Ship Canal and Aerial Bridge, three replica cabins and pilothouse from ships, two-story steam engine, 50 scale models and many interactive displays. One thousand foot freighters pass within 200 feet of the building. Open daily throughout shipping season. Always FREE.

Lake Superior Zoo | 7210 Fremont St, Duluth, MN 55807 | lszooduluth.org | 218-730-4500

Visit Duluth's Wild Side! Over 400 animals and 200 different species await you. See numerous endangered and threatened animals such as snow leopard, Amur tiger, swamp money and more.

Great Lakes Aquarium | 353 Harbor Drive, Duluth, MN 55802 | glaquarium.org | 218-740-3474

GLA is home to a variety of species found primarily in the Great Lakes Basin. Additional exhibits showcase animals from both freshwater and marine habitats around the world. Visit to learn more about river otters, a variety of regional birds, freshwater fish from Lake Superior and the Amazon River, and our special saltwater feature, seahorses.

Glensheen Mansion | 3300 London Rd, Duluth, MN 55804 | glensheen.org | 218-726-8910

Glensheen Mansion sits on the shore of Lake Superior, featuring 39 rooms with original furnishing, trails, gardens and beach access. Come see why this family-friendly attraction is rated the best museum in the Northland.

Lake Superior Railroad Museum | 506 W Michigan St, Duluth, MN 55802 | lsrm.org | 218-727-8025

Voted by USA Today as the "BEST Transportation Museum in America", the Lake Superior Railroad Museum collection includes the world's most powerful steam locomotives, the first steam engine in Minnesota, cabooses, freight cars, a railway post office, and one of the nation's largest displays of dining car china. The Museum is housed in the historic Union Depot in downtown Duluth.

ROUTE 2A: DULUTH TO GRAND RAPIDS.

(To explore the Iron Range and International Falls, see route 2b.)

- Go west on US Highway 2 towards Proctor/Grand Rapids

EXPLORE GRAND RAPIDS:

The Judy Garland Museum

2727 Pokegama Ave South, Grand Rapids, MN 55744 | judygarlandmuseum.com | 218-327-9276 or 1-800-664-5839

The Judy Garland Museum is home to one of the world's largest Judy Garland collections featuring exhibits, artifacts, Museum Store, and the Lincoln Carriage, featured in the "The Wizard of Oz." The museum is designed with all ages in mind.

Children's Discovery Museum 2727 Pokegama Ave South, Grand Rapids, MN 55744 | cdmkids.org | 218-326-1900

The Children's Discovery Museum features all hands-on exhibits for children ages 0-12, including Treesa the Talking Tree, Mississippi River water table, a dinosaur dig, river town for kids, and the "Lions and Tigers and Bears Exhibit".

Forest History Center | 2609 County Road 76, Grand Rapids, MN 55744 | mnhs.org/foresthstory | 218-327-4482

Discover the past, present and future of Minnesota's forests through guided tours of a 1900s era logging camp. Board the moored river "Wanigan", a floating cook shack, take a seat on the porch of a 1930s Minnesota Forest Service patrolman's cabin, climb a 100-foot fire tower, and explore the site's self-guided trails.

Itasca County Historical Society

201 North Pokegama Ave, Grand Rapids, MN 55744 | itascahistorical.org | 218-326-6431

Museum exhibits interpret life at the turn of the century, including logging, mining, immigrants, homesteading, and Native Americans of this region. There is also a Judy Garland exhibit and an exhibit telling the story of how the picture, GRACE, became the Minnesota State Photograph.

- Continue west on US Highway 2
- Go north on MN Highway 46
- Head south on US Highway 71
- Proceed west on MN Highway 1
- Then go north on MN Highway 72

EXPLORE BIG BOG STATE RECREATION AREA

Big Bog State Recreation Area | 55716 MN Highway 72, Waskish, MN 56685 | mndnr.gov/parks | 218-647-8592

Called Minnesota's last true wilderness, the 500-square-mile peat bog is the largest in the lower 48 states. A mile-long boardwalk enables visitors to get a first-hand look at the unique plant and animal life of this rare resource, from orchids to carnivorous plants and rare birds. Fishing is excellent at this recreation area.

- Continue north on Highway 72 to Lake of the Woods

ROUTE 2B: DULUTH TO THE IRON RANGE AND INTERNATIONAL FALLS

- From Duluth, proceed north on US Highway 53

EXPLORE THE IRON RANGE:

United States Hockey Hall of Fame

801 Hat Trick Ave, Eveleth, MN 55734 | ushockeyhall.com | 218-744-5167 or 1-800-443-7825

The United States Hockey Hall of Fame Museum is America's hockey showcase. Experience the thrilling game action and inspiring achievements via physical displays, exhibits, video, theater and memorabilia.

Heritage Museum 800 9th Ave N, Virginia, MN 55792 | virginiamnmuseum.com | 218-741-1136

Located in beautiful Olcott Park, the museum complex consists of the former park superintendent's residence, a Finnish log house and a 1930s tourist cabin. Permanent exhibits depict logging and lumbering industries and Virginia's fires of 1893 and 1900.

Greyhound Bus Museum

1201 Greyhound Blvd, Hibbing, MN 55746 | ironrange.org/attractions/greyhoundbusmuseum | 218-263-5814

Featuring 18 historical buses and a 1914 Hupmobile, AV exhibits, hundreds of artifacts and memorabilia, diorama of a 1916 bus being built, and outside exhibits of 1940 Art Deco Terminal and 1921 Flag Stop Station.

Minnesota Museum of Mining | 701 West Lake St, Chisholm, MN 55719 | mnmuseumofmining.org | 218-254-5543

The museum features an outdoor mining “truck park”, huge mining shovels, a 1907 steam locomotive, ore cars, cabooses, and other mining heavy equipment. Inside the display buildings are a recreated mining town with offices, shops, and immigrant memorabilia, an authentic Finnish sauna, an extensive rock and mineral collection, and the simulated underground mine is a must-see. The museum also boasts the first Greyhound bus (made of wood!) as well as a vintage fire truck.

Minnesota Discovery Center | 1005 Discovery Drive, Chisholm, MN 55719 | mndiscoverycenter.com | 218-254-7959

Minnesota Discovery Center’s permanent exhibits feature displays on many Iron Range topics, including immigration, underground and open pit mining, the taconite process, logging, transportation, schools and saloons, and geology.

- Continue north on US Highway 53

EXPLORE INTERNATIONAL FALLS:

Voyageurs National Park | 306 Highway 11 East, International Falls, MN 56649 | nps.gov/voya | 218-283-6600

A water-based park for recreation and experiencing the natural and cultural history of the Ojibwe, voyageur canoe-men, and viewing the spectacular scenery of the North Woods and Precambrian rock. With over 40% of the park water, Voyageurs is a maze of interconnected water highways. Plan ahead before coming to this water park by bringing your own watercraft, reserving a watercraft, or reserving a park ranger boat tour.

Koochiching County Historical Museum

214 6th Ave, International Falls, MN 56649 | koochichingmuseums.org | 218-283-4316

The Museum Galleries document the northern Minnesota region, including Native history and culture, European settlement, and the exploitation of natural resources through the fur trade to modern forestry. There is also a horse-drawn Steam Fire Engine and an annex dedicated to favorite son and charter NFL hall of famer Bronko Nagurski.

- Proceed south on US Highway 71
- Head West on Minnesota Highway 11
- Arrive at Lake of the Woods