

North Shore Scenic Drive

This byway follows the majestic shoreline of Lake Superior, the world's largest freshwater lake. Experience some of the most spectacular scenery in the country. The drive provides access to eight state parks, and the Superior National Forest and offers unlimited opportunities to enjoy the outdoors in all seasons.



Length: 154 miles / 246.4 km

Time Take three hours to drive
to the byway or one to two
Allow: days to enjoy stops along
 the way.

Local Information

Explore Minnesota Tourism

612-296-5029

888-TOURISM

Visit Duluth

800-4DULUTH (438-5884)

Send E-mail

Visitor Services

Fees



There are no fees along the byway itself. Charges may apply at various points of interest.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



The byway has sidewalks and six and/or eight-foot shoulders in places along the route which provide safe biking and pedestrian opportunities. Most pedestrian traffic concentrates around the various state parks. Trails and pedestrian warning signs and crossings are in place. Cyclists and pedestrians should be aware that this is a major transport route both to and from the Canadian Border. Large semi-trucks and other similar vehicles are frequently seen along the byway. Remember, it takes those larger vehicles longer to stop in an emergency.

Camping



Visitors will find several places to camp along the North Shore. Among the most popular are: * Gooseberry Falls State Park * Split Rock Lighthouse State Park * Tettegouche State Park near Little Marais * Temperance River State Park near Pike Lake * Cascade River State Park at Kimball Lake * Judge C.R. Magney State Park There are several other campgrounds near the byway where visitors will be able to find a place for tents and RVs. * To reserve a site

at a campground, visit [recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov/) and search for the campsite by name and state.

Food



From cafes to fine dining to fast-food, visitors should be able to find any cuisine to suit their fancy on the North Shore.

Gasoline



Gasoline is available.

Information



Visitors will find information on many individual sites, at visitor centers, and on informational kiosks along the North Shore Scenic Drive.

Lodging



Visitors will find hotels, bed & breakfasts, and every other kind of accommodation along the North Shore Scenic Drive.

Phone



Public phones are available along this byway.

Restrooms



There are toilet facilities along this byway.

Retail



Gift shops and boutiques offer visitors a memory or two that they can take with them when their tour of the North Shore is complete.

Special Considerations

As of January 1, 2007, a passport is required for identification purposes to cross the border into the United States.

The weather along the shore can be quite cool at times, so a jacket is recommended. Each town along the byway offers plenty of visitor services, including gasoline and lodging.

Also, the North Shore Scenic Drive is a highly traveled paved route that serves as a primary north/south corridor for both commercial and tourist traffic. There are twelve pull-offs along the route where a vehicle can safely park and the occupants can explore the lakeshore.

Restrictions

The North Shore Scenic Drive can be traveled year-round with little trouble due to weather. There are times in the winter when there is heavy snowfall. However, due to the homes and businesses along the route, the plowing of this road is a priority. All of the route segments along the North Shore Scenic Drive safely accommodate two-wheel drive automobiles with standard clearances. There is minimal conflict with commercial

vehicles along the route due to the presence of the expressway between Duluth and Two Harbors.

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

Late spring through late fall are the best times to drive the byway, as winter weather can be unpredictable. However, each season offers a unique experience along the route.

High Season

Summer months (May-August) are the busiest along the North Shore.

Map and Directions



Legend:

Point of Interest	Campground	Featured Byway	Water	State Border
Park	Picnic/Rest Area	America's Byways	Wildlife Refuge	Urban Area
Mountain	Interstate	Other Byway	Wilderness Area	Tribal Nation
City	U.S. Highway	Other Road	Other Federal Lands	Military Base
Capital	State Highway	Trail	Other State Lands	

Driving Directions

The North Shore Scenic Drive is comprised of the northern 150 miles of Minnesota Trunk Highway 61, from Duluth to Two Harbors all the way to Grand Portage near the U.S./Canadian Border.

In Duluth

- From Canal Park in Duluth follow Canal Park Drive over Interstate 35 to Superior Street.
- Take a right on Superior Street.
- Follow this road through a portion historic Downtown Duluth past the refurbished Fitger's Brewery Complex, with its many fine shops and restaurants.
- To continue along the byway, take a right onto London Road from Superior. (This intersection is at 10th Avenue East and Superior Street.)
- Follow London Road for the next 5.4 miles, driving past Leif Erikson Park, which contains the Rose Garden.

The Way to Two Harbors


- To continue on the route, follow the signs for the North Shore Scenic Drive. (The route proceeds along the lake, passing through small settlements and stunning lake vistas. There are six main rivers that cross under the byway during this 19-mile segment to Two Harbors.)
- Connect with the byway loop in downtown Two Harbors by turning right onto Highway 61 just west of town.
- Follow Highway 61 to 6th Street (Waterfront Drive), where you take a right and pick up the byway once again.
- Follow 6th Street to South Avenue, where you take a left. (Prior to taking a left, be sure to stop at the 3M Museum.)
- As you drive down South Avenue, notice the massive ore docks that extend from the waterfront.
- Continue on the route by taking a left onto First Street (Park Road) and follow it to Highway 61. (First Street takes you past hiking trails along the shoreline.)
- Take a right on Highway 61.
- Continue on that route as it takes you along the remainder of the North Shore Scenic Drive All-American Road, which ends approximately 122 miles later at the Canadian border.

Getting to the Byway



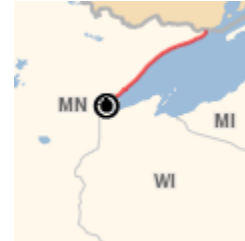
Nearby cities

Duluth, MN (On the byway)


Start:  I-35 and MN-61, Duluth, MN
N 46.778° W 92.106° [?]

Directions:

- In Duluth, the byway runs along I-35 and MN-61.




Minneapolis, MN (153 miles / 246.23 km, 2 hours 24 minutes)

Start:  I-35 northbound, Minneapolis, MN
N 44.975° W 93.247° [?]

Directions:

- Take I-35 north to Duluth where the byway begins.



Junction with byway:  I-35, Duluth, MN
N 46.778° W 92.106° [?]

Road Trip: North Shore Tour

Departure: Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center, Minnesota

Destination: Grand Portage State Park, Minnesota

Time to allow: 1 day

Take a tour of Lake Superior along the North Shore Scenic Drive and soak in the spirit of the northern forests from Duluth all the way to the Canadian Border.

Day 1

- **Start: Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center**



Suggested time at this stop:

45 minutes

The Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center, located at the beginning of the North Shore Scenic Drive on Canal Park Drive in Duluth, is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The museum offers an excellent introduction to the shipping industry for a new visitor to the North Shore.

After your tour of the visitor center, spend some time watching the one-of-a-kind Aerial Lift Bridge and Duluth Ship Canal and see giant freighters pass within mere feet of the elevated steel beams.

• **Stop 2: Glensheen**

From previous stop: 11 minutes / 3.5 mi (5.6 km)

Directions:

From the Lake Superior Maritime Visitors Center:

- Head northwest on Lake Avenue for 0.4 miles towards I-35.
- Turn left onto Canal Park Drive.
- Turn right onto Superior Street and continue for 0.8 miles.
- Turn right onto 10th Avenue.
- Continue for 2 miles to Glensheen, located at 3000 London Road.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour 30 minutes

Glensheen, featured on the popular A & E program, "America's Castles" was built between 1905 and 1908 by Chester Congdon. The house, located on tree-lined London Road, resembles an early seventeenth century English country estate. Most of the original furnishings of 1908 are still in the home. Take a tour through 1908 luxury, including a dark-paneled billiard room, an elegant formal dining room, and carefully manicured grounds.

• **Stop 3: 3M Museum**

From previous stop: 35 minutes / 24.22 mi (38.8 km)

Directions: From Glensheen:

- Turn north on London Road/MN-61.
- Continue to follow MN-61 for 23.8 miles.
- Turn right onto 6th Street in Two Harbors.
- The 3M Museum is located at 201 Waterfront Dr, Two Harbors.

Suggested time at this stop: 30 minutes

Next along the route is the birthplace of Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing (3M), and the world's only museum dedicated to sandpaper. John Dwan was one member of the board of trustees who started a business to mine corundum, a mineral used in abrasives. After mining commenced, however, they found that there wasn't any corundum after all.

From the brink of bankruptcy, 3M emerged as one of the most innovative corporations worldwide, developing items such as Scotch tape, reflective paint for road lines, plastics for hospitals, and much more. Tour the 3M museum to see how great ideas can come from humble beginnings.

• **Stop 4: Edna G. Tugboat**

From previous stop: 1 minute / 0.3 mi (0.5 km)

Directions: From the 3M Museum, continue down Waterfront Drive to the marina on Agate Bay, where the Edna G. Tugboat is docked.

Suggested time at this stop: 20 minutes

The Edna G. served Two Harbors from 1896 to 1981. It was designated a National Historic Site in 1974, as the only steam powered tug still operating on the Great Lakes.

Now retired, the Edna G. features seasonal tours where visitors can see her beautiful interior decor of wood paneling and brass fittings. Visitors will get a look at the captains quarters, the engine room, the crew's quarters, the galley, and the pilot house.

• **Stop 5: Split Rock Lighthouse**



From previous stop: 26 minutes / 18.5 mi (29.6 km)

Directions: From the Edna G. Tugboat:

- Head back north on Waterfront Drive for 0.6 miles.
- Turn right onto 7th Avenue, which will become MN-61.
- Continue to follow MN-61 for 17.2 miles.
- Turn slight right onto MN-61 to access the Split Rock Lighthouse at 3755 Split Rock Lighthouse Road, Two Harbors

Suggested time at this stop: 45 minutes

As one of the best known landmarks for the North Shore Drive, Split Rock Lighthouse is a beacon in more ways than one. Built in 1909 as a result of so many shipwrecks resulting from storms, the lighthouse now operates a historical site where you can tour the structure and learn more about life in a lighthouse.

In addition to this intriguing historical site, sites are provided for camping and picnicking. You can try your luck at fishing, or take some time to explore the Superior Hiking Trail.

• **Stop 6: Little Marais**

From previous stop: 27 minutes / 21 mi (33.6 km)

Directions: From Split Rock Lighthouse, continue along MN-61.

Suggested time at this stop: 30 minutes

As you leave Two Harbors and the Split Rock Lighthouse, enjoy the quiet solitude of the northern woods as you journey along the North Shore Scenic Drive. The route passes several opportunities for further exploration, including Tettegouche State Park.

- **Stop 7: Grand Marais**



From previous stop: 55 minutes / 44.2 mi (70.7 km)

Directions: From Little Marais, follow MN-61 until you reach Grand Marais.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

After enjoying the drive to Grand Marais, take some time to experience some of the local art galleries and shops. Grand Marais is one of the cultural centers of the North Shore.

- **End: Grand Portage State Park**

From previous stop: 51 minutes / 41 mi (65.6 km)

Directions: From Grand Marais, continue along MN-61 until you reach Grand Portage.

Suggested time at this stop: 45 minutes

Grand Portage State Park features the tallest waterfall in Minnesota, which makes a suitable finale for our tour of the North Shore Scenic Drive. Hike the Grand Portage, or the trail from the top of the High Falls to the Pigeon River below.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 152.72 miles / 244.4 km

Total Travel Time: 3 hours 26 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 6 hours 5 minutes