

Make History Tour 2 - See the historical true "Up North" of the Northwoods

Start the day off with a hardy logger's breakfast at the Rapid River Logging Camp. Family-style breakfast is served on long tables with benches for seats. Drink your beverage from a tin cup and dine from heaping platters as the loggers once did to afford them the energy and strength necessary to work. Lunch and dinner offers an even larger choice of meals.

Visit our Museum, our own Historic Landmark, housing Hubbard County's early beginnings including a one-room pioneer house, one-room school, and much more memorabilia & Dr. Kotowski's Civil War collection. Upstairs in the original historic Hubbard County Courthouse is the North Country Museum of Arts hosting a wonderful Renaissance Collection as well as traveling exhibits and local artists' works at times.

Visit Park Rapids' Main Avenue downtown which hosts center street parking. This unique parking is due to the need for streets wide enough to turn horse teams around as lumbermen hauled logs into town. While checking this out, you'll want to visit our many unique shops with "Up North" flair to "Grandpa's Cabin," it's all there.

Next, head up 71 North to Itasca State Park, the headwaters of the Mississippi River. Many of the buildings and work at Itasca was carried out by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Walk across the headwaters, rent bikes, canoes, boats, motors, skis or snowshoes to tour and enjoy the parks. Take the historic 1948 "Chester Charles II" with its daily departures, Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day, follow the same route that Ozawindib took Henry Rowe Schoolcraft on when they recorded the source of the Mississippi River in 1832 with a naturalist narrating the 2-hour trip. You can finish your day with dinner and/or even lodging at historic Douglas Lodge.

Enjoy nature at its best in all 4 seasons, bike it 3 seasons and snowmobile along the Heartland Trail, a former railroad bed, 49 miles to Cass Lake and back. Park Rapids Train Depot had a unique turn table that allowed passengers and freight to journey.

Should you decide to stop off in Dorset, the "Restaurant Capital of the World" for lunch, make sure to treat yourself at the old-fashioned soda fountain, in season. Zhateau Zorbaz, just north of Dorset, is on the site of a fur trading post in earlier days and is open for lunch and dinner 7 days a week. Record history at Professor Nils' Photo & Gift Emporium, dress in olde tyme clothing and have your picture taken.

Dine on a meal of old-time ethnic flavor offering German cuisine at its finest is available at The Brauhaus German Restaurant & Lounge. Open for lunch and dinner, it's located between Nevis and Akeley along the Heartland Trail as well.

While headed that direction you can travel the Lake Country Scenic Byway farther west and hike in the Chippewa National Forest. People have inhabited the forest land for thousands of years. Today, the Forest and Leech Lake Reservation share boundaries, offering visitors a chance to experience Anishinabe culture as well as logging history.

Venturing further east to the community of Akeley you can see a restoration of Akeley from 1899-1918. The town of Akeley was once the site of one of the largest sawmills in the world. Akeley claims to be the birthplace of Paul Bunyan and Tall Tales. You may view his cradle and have your picture taken sitting in the palm of his hand.

Should you choose to lodge in one of the communities along the trail you can take in a little more history in Dorset and Nevis as well:

Dorset's Heartland Trail Bed & Breakfast was built in 1920 as a school. The renovated B&B's rooms are named after the grades of classrooms. They are welcoming people to this unique hamlet now hosting your stay all 4 seasons.

Nevis' The Park Street Inn is a home built in 1912 and is filled with country antiques and handmade quilts combining the comforts of today with the romance of yesterday. The Inn's woodwork of craftsmen from bygone days hosts a Mission-style oak fireplace adding warmth to the parlor on cool evenings.

Visit the Northland Bison Ranch near Nevis. Learn the history of our bison/buffalo in their natural environment. Their gift shop and art gallery offers bison mounts and Native American crafts from tanned bison leather. Scheduled tours take place mid-June through Labor Day.

Many of our resorts offer short stays and are rich in history as well, some of them dating back a hundred years. You can look at accommodations the area has to offer online at: www.parkrapids.com

If you would like to travel the Lake Country Scenic Byway to the west, The Smokey Hills Wilderness Retreat offers unique lodging in themed cabins. For instance, there's a trappers cabin and others with lots of "Up North" features. They host a chuckwagon cinner and music show, singing around the campfire like the cowboys did many years ago.

Our Web Site: www.parkrapids.com

Many of the above listed activities are by special arrangement, especially for large groups.

Be sure to contact:
Our Friendly Chamber Staff
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