

A Trip through History Featuring the Lake Country Scenic Byway 2-Day Tour - Tour 1

The Park Rapids area is unique in the diversity of historical elements that have carved our land, portaged our waters and settled our soil. This two-day itinerary will walk you down the paths that were traveled long ago by our Loggers, our Native Americans, our Pioneers and our Families.

Rapid River Logging Camp Breakfast and Tour. Start your day in the same fashion the lumberjacks did a half century or more ago. Then spend an hour or two touring the "Camp," where you will see the equipment and methods used to move the massive logs. Plan on a short hike to the original landmarks overlooking the river from the early logging days. Visit the Cook Shanty, where lumberjack cookies are baked daily in the same tradition used years ago. And stop by the Souvenir Shop, where you'll find more antiques and artifacts from the logging era.

Lake Itasca Boat tour. This boat tour aboard the historic "Chester Charles" is narrated from a unique perspective. A Native American is your guide; in the same way that an Ojibwe guide named Ozawindib led Henry Rowe Schoolcraft to the sought-after headwaters of the main transportation route of trappers, Natives and fur traders...the Mississippi River.

Lunch at Douglas Lodge. Any meal at the historically impressive Douglas Lodge is a memory you'll keep. Blueberries, wild rice and other native foods appear on the menu and the tranquil view is second to none.

Itasca State Park Drive. A park naturalist can be requested to board your coach or you can schedule your trip to coincide with a naturalist program and they will lead you to the highlights of Itasca's multi-faceted treasures. Preachers Grove, the Pioneer Cemetery, the Wegman Cabin ruins, and so much more just waiting for you to discover.

Shop at **Lake George.** Located just outside Itasca State Park, this is one of the earliest settlements in the area. It is named after H.R. Schoolcraft's brother, George, and has emerged as a souvenir rendezvous.

Travel south on Hwy 64 to Akeley:

Visit the **Red River Museum** to see a recreation of Akeley and the Red River Lumber Company during the logging days. Lots of logging antique equipment, too. Museum is attached to Bunyan's gas/convenience store on Hwy 34.

Paul Bunyan photo op in Akeley. The largest statue of Paul Bunyan stands in Akeley, Paul's birthplace. In fact, his huge cradle is still there. The kneeling statue extends its right hand to create a kind of chair, providing the chance for a perfect picture to take home. Visit the **Akeley Museum** located behind Paul in the city park.

Enjoy Lunch or Dinner at the Brauhaus German Restaurant & Lounge. Have fun while you discover how much more there is to traditional German cooking. Daily specials and terrific deserts. Wine list.

Travel West on Hwy 34 to Nevis

Northland Bison Ranch Tour. Bison have been called the most important wild animals in the development of North America. This tour will bring you up close and personal to these majestic creatures that were once close to extinction.

Dorset House. Enjoy lunch or dinner in the old-fashioned soda fountain or Harness Room setting at Dorset House, the oldest restaurant in the "Restaurant Capital of the World." Dorset has a year-round population of approximately 14, so on a per capita basis it more than qualifies for its auspicious claim to fame. You might want a picture to remember your visit and Professor Nils' Photo & Gift Emporium is available across the street.

In Park Rapids

Visit Hubbard County Museums. The Hubbard County Historical Museum, Hubbard County Genealogical Society and North Country Museum of Arts are located on Court Avenue in the old, historic, Hubbard County Courthouse. This tour offers a unique, educational experience. The Museum of Arts features Minnesota's finest collection of Renaissance paintings outside the Twin Cities. Enjoy ever-changing exhibits from modern art to the roots of our history; this is who we are and a must-see attraction.

Shopping in Park Rapids. Known for its unique shops and its one-of-a-kind items, where people still park down the center of Main Street. This oversized Main Street is due to our logging history and the need to take the horse teams, hauling logs, down and turn them around for the return trip. Park Rapids shopping is an experience not to be missed. Visit more than 55 unique stores offering everything from gifts, jewelry, collectibles, and items for the home or cabin, furniture, moccasins and more. Enjoy homemade candy, hand-dipped ice cream cones or a malted at a '50s & '60s era soda fountain, an espresso, a healthy smoothie and/or delicious lunch when your package-toting demands you take a short break!

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
chamber@parkrapids.com
(800)247-0054