



This wild Black Bear was exploring a tree right by the viewing platform at Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary!



# Wildlife & Wilderness: Minnesota's Iron Range

July 29 - August 1, 2024 (4 Days)



Take in the incredible "Grand Canyon" like view at Hull Rust Mahoning Mine!



International Wolf Center - pictured is one of their arctic wolves

## MAP AT A GLANCE



## HIGHLIGHTS

- North Shore Scenic Railroad Ride
- Historic Hibbing High School Tour
- Hull Rust Mahoning Mine View
- Minnesota Discovery Center & Trolley Tour
- Vince Shute Bear Wildlife Sanctuary
- International Wolf Center
- Soudan Underground Mine Experience
- Canelake's Homemade Candies
- Judy Garland Museum

Canelakes Candies - 4th generation making caramel



Lake Winnepeg

## Day 1 - Home to Mountain Iron, MN

Today we make our way north to majestic Lake Superior. Along the way, we'll enjoy lunch at Tobies Restaurant & Bakery, a traveler's tradition since 1947! Next, we'll step back into the Golden Age of railroading as we find our first class seats in the luxury dome car aboard the North Shore Scenic Railroad! Imagine sitting high above the rails, under a dome of curved glass, as the panorama of Lake Superior, Duluth's pictured hillside and the majestic Northwoods passes all around us! Then we will head for the Mesabi Iron Range and check into our hotel in Mountain Iron for the next 3 nights. Our welcome dinner will be a great time to meet all our fellow travelers.

**Included Meals: Lunch, Dinner**

**Hotel: Comfort Inn & Suites (3 Nights)**

## Day 2 - Hibbing, Chisholm, & Orr areas, MN

After breakfast we are in for a real treat as local guides give us a fascinating tour of the city of Hibbing. A highlight will be touring the "Richest Gem in Minnesota's Educational Crown," the Hibbing High School. We'll quickly see that no expense was spared when building this impressive 93' high Northern Italian architecture school with its brass rails, solid marble entrance steps, auditorium modeled after NYC's Capitol Theater boasting a Barton pipe organ, solid glass chandeliers, and much more! Our guides will also take us to the world's largest open pit iron ore mine, the Hull Rust Mahoning, which is still operating today! As we take in the incredible, expansive views, we'll see why folks consider it the "Grand Canyon of the North." Did you know that as the Hull Rust Mine grew, 205 of Hibbing's houses & businesses had to be moved two miles south?! Next we'll enjoy a picnic lunch at a park pavilion. Just north of Hibbing is Chisholm, where we will find the Minnesota Discovery Center. Explore this beautifully landscaped property that houses a Civilian Conservation Corp Building and The Museum of the Iron Range to learn about the land, the mines, the people, and the work. Step aboard their authentic trolley for a historically narrated ride that offers spectacular views and interesting history during our stop at the Glen Location, a former mining community. Late this afternoon we are in for an incredible black bear experience as we continue north to the Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary. We'll learn about Vince, a humble logger who kept having bears break into his cabin, and how he eventually realized that "the bears aren't mean, just hungry!" Have your cameras ready as these wild, free-roaming black bears will be easy to observe from all around the outdoor viewing deck. This is truly a unique and special visit! A delicious Italian buffet dinner is served tonight.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Picnic Lunch, Dinner**

## Day 3 - Ely, Soudan, & Virginia areas, MN

Breakfast is served at the hotel before we travel to Ely, located on the edge of the Boundary Waters. A visit to the International Wolf Center is in order! We'll enjoy viewing the wolves through the large picture windows and learning all about these howling creatures. Then time will be given to shop & eat lunch along Ely's downtown strip. Afterwards we'll head to the Soudan Underground Mine, considered the "Cadillac of Mines" which its special, high oxygen content ore that was used to make high-quality steel. An elevator cage will take us underground to the 27th level where a small rail car ride waits to help us explore this remarkable history. We'll feel Minnesota pride about this oldest, deepest, and richest iron mine in our state that went one to produce over 17.9 million tons of high quality iron ore during its operation, which was especially important during wartime as it was used to build tanks, airplanes, and weapons. Thank you dedicated Minnesota miners! Who is ready for a treat? Next stop is Canelake's Homemade Candies, where we'll have the opportunity to step back in the kitchen and help! They've been making old-fashioned candy since 1905. Tonight's dinner will be at Kunnari's Kitchen, a family-owned restaurant.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Candy Treat, Dinner**



Our North Shore Scenic Railroad's dome car provides excellent views!



**"I believe there is iron under me. My bones feel rusty and chilly."**  
**Frank Hibbing,**  
**January 1893**



The history & iron ore at the Soudan Mine is sure rich! Right: One of Soudan's open pit mines

Ride an authentic trolley to Glen Location, an ore mining community



## Day 4 - Mountain Iron to Home

Have one last breakfast before we check out and travel south to Grand Rapids, the birthplace of Judy Garland. We'll enjoy a guided tour of a museum in her honor as well as her birthplace home. After a pizza buffet lunch, we'll return home having experienced the Wildlife & Wilderness of Minnesota's Iron Range!

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

*Wildlife & Wilderness:  
 Minnesota's Iron Range*



## 2024 DATES & PRICES

|   |  |                       |
|---|--|-----------------------|
| <b>DATES:</b>   | <b>July 29 - August 1, 2024 (4 Days)</b>   |                       |
| <b>PRICE PER PERSON:</b>                                      | <b>\$1,279 Double</b>  | <b>\$1,499 Single</b> |
|   | <b>\$1,219 Triple</b>  | <b>\$1,169 Quad</b>   |
| <b>PRICE INCLUDES:</b>  | <b>9 Meals &amp; Treat, Hotels &amp; Activities as stated in brochure, Luxury Motorcoach</b>         |                       |
| <b>DEPOSIT DUE PER PERSON:</b>                                | <b>\$100 per person deposit at time of reservation. Full payment due 30 days prior to departure.</b> |                       |
| <b>OPTIONAL TRAVEL PROTECTION P/P:</b>                        | <b>\$85 Double (per person) / \$85 Single</b>  |                       |
| <b>TOUR PACE:</b> <small>(See page 1 for description)</small> | <b>Moderate to Extensive Walking</b>   |                       |
| <b>R&amp;J TRAVEL BUCKS</b>                                   | <b>\$25 Travel Bucks Earned With This Tour</b>   |                       |

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