



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 27 - 30, 2026 (4 Days)

"This was my 2nd trip with R&J Tours and it was done so well and enjoyable. Everything went so smooth. Tour guides were so kind and knowledgeable and caring."

Linda Brozak, Red Wing
2025 Wildlife & Wilderness Traveler

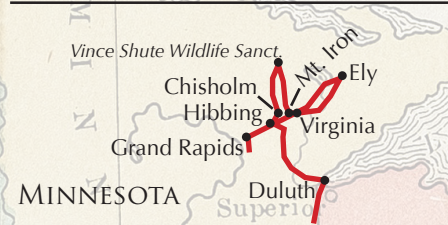


Take in the incredible "Grand Canyon" like view at Hull Rust Mahoning Mine!

International Wolf Center - learn all about these incredible creatures



MAP AT A GLANCE

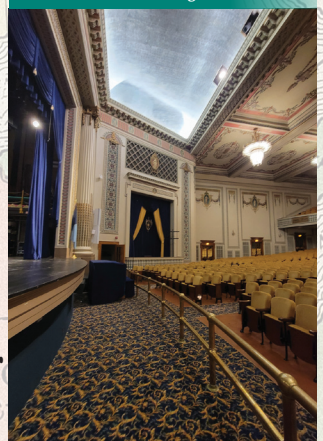


HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Historic Hibbing High School Tour
- ★ Hull Rust Mahoning Mine View
- ★ Minnesota Discovery Center & Trolley Tour
- ★ Vince Shute Bear Wildlife Sanctuary
- ★ International Wolf Center
- ★ Soudan Mine Experience
- ★ Judy Garland Museum
- ★ Lake Superior & Mississippi Railroad Co. River Train Ride

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Hibbing High School -
their theatre is stunning!



Judy Garland Museum



Day 1 - Home to Mountain Iron, MN

Our Wildlife & Wilderness adventure begins with lunch at Tobies Restaurant & Bakery, a traveler's tradition since 1947! Next we travel to Grand Rapids, the birthplace of Judy Garland. We'll enjoy a tour of a museum in her honor as well as her birthplace home. 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 at Kunnari's Kitchen, a family-owned restaurant.

Included Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Hotel: Comfort Inn & Suites (3 Nights)

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

After breakfast, we'll head just north of Hibbing to Chisholm, where we will find the Minnesota Discovery Center. 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. Next we are in for a real treat as local guides give us a fascinating tour of the city of Hibbing. They'll 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?! 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! Next we'll enjoy a catered picnic lunch in the historic High School cafeteria. 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! After a fun-filled day, we will enjoy a delicious meal together.

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 Mine, considered the "Cadillac of Mines" which its special, high oxygen content ore that was used to make high-quality steel. A fascinating, aboveground tour awaits as we learn about its rich history and the mining process. We'll feel Minnesota pride about this oldest, deepest, and richest iron mine in our state that went on 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! Tonight's dinner will be a pizza party at the hotel followed by a game night - join the fun!

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 - Mountain Iron to Home

Have one last breakfast before we check out and make our way east to majestic Lake Superior. A wonderful Italian meal is served at Valentini's in Duluth. Next we head to the Lake Superior & Mississippi Railroad Co. All aboard the Duluth River Train for a 6-mile rail journey along the scenic St. Louis River. You may wish to visit the open-air car to capture the sights with your camera



2025 Group at Hull Rust Mine



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



The history & iron ore at the Soudan Mine is sure rich!



Scenic view from North Shore Railroad!

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



Someone likes our coach!



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



Minnesota Discovery Center - Location House to explore during trolley stop

and to watch a second locomotive being coupled to the train to pull us back to the depot. We'll return home having experienced the Wildlife & Wilderness of Minnesota's Iron Range!

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Wildlife & Wilderness: Minnesota's Iron Range

2026 DATES & PRICES

DATES:	July 27 - 30, 2026 (4 Days)	
PRICE PER PERSON:	\$1,399 Double	\$1,679 Single
	\$1,329 Triple	\$1,279 Quad
PRICE INCLUDES:	9 Meals, Hotels & Activities as stated in brochure, Luxury Motorcoach	
DEPOSIT DUE PER PERSON:	\$100 per person deposit at time of reservation. Full payment due 30 days prior to departure.	
OPTIONAL TRAVEL PROTECTION P/P:	\$98 Double per person	\$140 Single
TRAVEL BUCKS:	\$25 per person on future travel with R&J	

TOUR PACE:

Moderate to Extensive Walking (See page 9 for description)

1-800-758-6877 or www.rjtoursonline.com

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