

Interesting things along the shore leaving Northern Rail and heading North on Hwy 61:

- Silver Creek Cliff Tunnel - the bike trail (non-motorized) is under construction and is being completed in sections and phases. There is a very short but nice section done around the cliff - it is a short hike for a great look-out over the lake. There is a parking area on the right just after you go through the tunnel. At this point the longest stretch of trail runs from Gooseberry Falls to Silver Bay - about 18 miles of paved trail! **When completed** this bike trail will run 86 miles from Two Harbors to Grand Marais and will most likely get international recognition as a premiere trail!
- About 7 miles from the first tunnel is a shop on the left side of the highway called Northwoods Pioneer Gallery and Gifts - (Right across from Grand Superior Lodge). This shop is a Co-op (the first art Co-op in the state!) and has been around since 1972. Everything in this store is **handmade** by part-time and full-time local residents (with a few members from out of the area). This shop carries everything from quilts to wood items to pottery to jewelry to art of all kinds! If you get as far as Gooseberry Falls and haven't seen this shop then you've missed it.
- Gooseberry Falls is about a mile and a half farther up Hwy 61 from the gift shop. They have a great visitor's center and many trails to hike around the falls. The falls are at their most spectacular in the spring with the snow melt and any day after a good rain. In the winter there are trails for snowshoeing and skiing and the falls look pretty great when they are frozen! **Why is the water brown?** North Shore Rivers carry a heavy load of clay soil during high water. In low water, tannins from swamps and decaying vegetation keep the water its characteristic amber brown color.
- Iona's Beach lies on a narrow strip of Lake Superior's North Shore between Gooseberry Falls and Split Rock Lighthouse at mile marker #42. It is named after Iona Lind, former owner of Twin Points Resort (which previously occupied the current parking area). Few beaches of significant size exist in St. Louis and Lake Counties. This one begins at a northern shore cliff of pink rhyolite and felsite bedrock, and stretches over 300 yards nearly straight south to a cliff and headland of dark grey basalt. Prevailing storm winds and waves have gnawed slabs of pink rhyolite from the northern cliff, smoothed them into flattened pebbles or "shingles," and tossed them down shore, high up on the beach, ultimately at the south end against the basalt formation. As the waves recede, the shingles come to rest with a tinkling sound unique to this beach. Back of the beach, now 15 to 20 feet high, lies a moist swale of alders, paper birch, balsam poplar, currants, and dogwood. Waves hurl rocks, wind, and water ever higher into that vegetation, nibbling the earth away from a fringe of roots now exposed.
- Next is Split Rock Lighthouse - they have a wonderful conducted tour of the lighthouse and the outbuildings where the light keeper lived. Open from Memorial Day weekend through early fall.
- After Split Rock is Beaver Bay. As you enter Beaver Bay there is a motel/apt building on the left and after that is the Beaver Bay Community Center. On the lower level at the right end of the building is Lemon Wolf Café - (Cyndi's favorite!) highly recommended if the timing is right for you!
- Next is East Beaver Bay then Silver Bay. Just after Silver Bay is "Black Beach". On the right is a large sign and then smaller road signs to find this unique beach. Park in the third parking lot to get to the best access to the beach!
- Farther up HWY 61 is Tettegouche State Park and the mouth of the Baptism River. Between there and Grand Marais there are a lot more places to stop.

Whichever way you go or whatever you decide to do today - make it a great day and have a lot of fun!!!!!!

Interesting things along the shore leaving Northern Rail and heading **South** on Hwy 61:

Just after you get on Hwy 61 you will see Betty's Pies. Started by Betty Lessard and her father Aleck in 1956 as a place for fishermen to get a bite to eat, Betty's Pies has become one of the most famous eateries on the North Shore.

As you approach Two Harbors if you turn left onto Park Street/1st Street (at the campground) you will find Burlington Bay Beach. It is the prime public beach access for the community of Two Harbors. You probably won't see anyone swimming - the water is a little on the chilly side with an average annual water temperature of 45 degrees. Cautious toe dipping is recommended!

To find the other harbor of "Two Harbors" continue on Park Street/1st Street to 1st Avenue and make a right. Follow the brown signs to the Lighthouse. There you will find the Two Harbors Lighthouse B&B and gift shop. You will also find the break-wall where you can walk on out to the end and look out on Lake Superior. The three large structures across the harbor are the ore docks. The two larger ones are in use - the smaller one on the left is retired. This is where the big "lakers" (ships) come to load up with iron ore pellets called taconite. Taconite is the only thing shipped out of Agate Bay in Two Harbors. You will also see a yellow and maroon tug called the "Edna G". She used to be a working tug in the harbor navigating ships in and out before technology advanced to where the lakers can turn on a dime and navigate without any tugboat assistance! Ask at the front desk for information on ship arrivals.

There are shops in Two Harbors in the downtown area (1st Avenue) and on the main road through town (7th Ave/Hwy 61). Leaving Two Harbors and heading towards Duluth it is recommended that you take Scenic Hwy 61 for the view of the shore and the unique shops and restaurants along the way. As you leave Two Harbors at the edge of town there is a construction site on the right where they pre-assemble log buildings - the access to Scenic 61 is on the left - if you miss the turn you can take almost any road on the left and it will take you to the scenic road.

A couple of recommended stops are:

- B.E. Nelson Designs at 583 Scenic Hwy 61. You will recognize this place by the Scandinavian styled buildings. The proprietor, Brad Nelson, is a silversmith and importer of Scandinavian artworks, gifts and toys. Very unique shop!
- In Knife River a great stop is Great Lakes Candy Kitchen! All fresh made candy owned and operated by twin sisters Pamela and Patricia. They are keeping the family tradition of candy making alive and well! Try the homemade caramels - yuuuummy! They are open May-December only.

Once you get to Duluth there are plenty of things to see & do - The Depot Train museum and Children's Museum, the Aquarium (freshwater fish), The Irvin (tour a laker), lots of shops, Park Point, more shops, Canal Park and the Aerial Lift Bridge, and yep - there's a few more shops! Downtown Duluth has a lot of wonderful little shops and businesses. There's also Fitger's Brewery that has been converted into a shopping/dining center. To get to the less unique shopping stores (Target, Wal-Mart, Miller Hill Mall) take Hwy 53 to the "hill" - you really can't miss the shopping area. Most stores are visible from Miller Trunk Highway (Hwy 53).