

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

- Silver Creek Cliff Tunnel (the 1st of two tunnels) - The Gitchi Gami State bike trail (non-motorized) is under construction and completed in pieces up the shore. This is a very short but nice section done around the cliff - it is 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 8 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! Check hours at www.pioneercrafts.com 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! So, 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. It looks a bit like beer - or iced tea for non-drinkers!
- 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. It is open from Memorial Day weekend through early fall.
- Next is East Beaver Bay then Silver Bay. Just after the light at Silver Bay you will see the signs for Black Beach and then Palisade Head scenic overlook after that.
- 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:

- 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 Agate Bay and 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!
- 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. Turn left onto Scenic 61 a little after you see the Weldon's Chicken statue!
- A couple of recommended stops are:
 - B.E. Nelson Designs at 583 Scenic Hwy 61. Unfortunately, this is no longer open to the public but seeing the building is worth a drive by. You will recognize this place by the Scandinavian styled buildings. The owner, Brad Nelson, is a silversmith.
 - 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.
- There is an Amish furniture store and several little shops along the way.
- Tom's Logging Camp is a fun family stop with logging scenes and history along with some critters and the Northwest trading post.
- Once you get to Duluth there are plenty of things to see & do - The Depot Train museum, Children's Museum, the Aquarium, 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).