

Minnesota



Photo Credit: Corey Brouwer

Experience the Breathtaking Boundary Waters and Superior's Shore

DATES

September 15 – 22, 2022

PRICE

Double Occupancy: \$4,490

Single Occupancy: \$5,530

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

View the dramatic beauty of Northern Minnesota landscape sculpted by glaciers. The one-million-acre Boundary Waters Wilderness encompasses rugged cliffs, rocky shores, and countless lakes. We will travel up the shore of Lake Superior, the centerpiece of this journey, to find picturesque beaches, lush forests,

and historic lighthouses. In addition to exploring the region's natural history—its flora, fauna, geography, and geology—we will learn about its culture and the American Indian, voyageurs, miners, loggers, and resort owners who shaped its destiny.

TNC TRAVEL VALUES

ACCESS:

Travel with renowned Conservancy experts and local partners for an exclusive, behind-the-scenes experience. You won't just see amazing places, you'll see how you are helping save them.

IMPACT:

See how your commitment to our planet and your passion for conservation are making a difference. You will see the wild places and the communities you are impacting.

KNOWLEDGE:

Learn how we are applying the latest cutting-edge science to affect global change and drive conservation.

INSPIRATION:

Immerse yourself in local cultures and awe-inspiring landscapes to foster your own connection to our world.

GLOBALLY MINDED:

Elevate your understanding of our work by seeing first-hand how TNC and our partners act locally and how we turn local results in to global impact by scaling solutions that work.



Photo Credit: Harold Malde



Photo Credit: TNC

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

BIRD WATCHING

Hike along the flora and fauna of Hawk Ridge and watch birds of prey such as the broad-winged and sharp-shinned hawks that soar overhead during their annual migration.

GUNFLINT LODGE

Stay in the heart of the boundary waters in modernized log cabins at the end of Gunflint Trail on a pristine lake at Gunflint Lodge.

FOREST RESTORATION

Learn about TNC's forest restoration on public and private lands. You will get the chance to see one of the best examples of old-growth white pine and white cedar trees in Minnesota.

Your trip supports the local communities you're traveling in and The Nature Conservancy's efforts locally and globally. This trip has been planned specifically by The Nature Conservancy's team of scientific experts and travel liaisons to immerse you in the work the Conservancy is doing on the ground that has global consequences.



THE CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE

MINNESOTA'S NORTHWOODS

Minnesota's trees and forests enrich our lives in so many ways. Beyond their visual splendor, they provide shade, wildlife habitat, and places to walk, bike, hunt, and enjoy the outdoors. They are nature's own purification system, absorbing pollutants and trapping sediment before they damage lakes, rivers, and drinking water supplies.

Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it for hundreds and even thousands of years. They also provide timber products, food and medicine, and generate jobs and economic opportunities. Due in part to turn-of-the-century logging, slash burning, wildfires, and modern harvesting practices, they have become greatly simplified in the diversity of tree species and age. This makes our forests less resilient and more vulnerable to stresses like invasive species, disease, insect infestations and changes to the climate.

The Nature Conservancy is working with partners to help bring back white pine and other long-lived conifers to Minnesota's Northwoods, benefiting both the forest and forestry. That means planting conifer seedlings, protecting them from deer and pruning young trees to discourage diseases like blister rust. Over time, these practices will create a mosaic of trees in all growth stages, producing a range of habitats like that found in nature. More habitats mean the forest can support more kinds of Northwoods species like moose, pine marten, Canada lynx, northern goshawk, and spruce grouse.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 – Thursday, September 15th | Arrive in Duluth by the afternoon. Upon arrival at the airport, you will be welcomed by your guide. Make a quick visit to Hawk Ridge, where you may witness the raptor migration as they traverse the ridge and congregate along Lake Superior. After a short drive, check into your hotel and enjoy a welcome dinner with your fellow travelers and TNC hosts.

OVERNIGHT HAMPTON INN, DULUTH

DAY 2 – Friday, September 16th | After breakfast, begin the day with a short drive up the coast of Lake Superior to an old-growth pine forest. Learn about TNC's work to help bring back white pine and other long-loved conifers to Minnesota's Northwoods. Be inspired by the lake shore during a picnic with your fellow travelers. In the evening, settle into cozy accommodations and enjoy dinner at a restaurant on Lake Superior.

OVERNIGHT AT GRAND MARAIS

DAY 3 – Saturday, September 17th | After a quick breakfast, meet with naturalists and experts as you hike to stunning waterfalls within Cascade State Park. By a small coastal pond, take a stroll to catch a glimpse of a rose-breasted grosbeak or a migrating warbler as blue jays utter their iconic calls and elegant cedar waxwing strip berries from the trees. Listen to a special talk with a local ecologist.

OVERNIGHT AT GRAND MARAIS

DAY 4 – Sunday, September 18th | Enjoy breakfast and depart for Grand Portage. Drive along Lake Superior's scenic coastline stopping for photos along the way. Visit with local Ojibwa tribal members at their sacred spirit tree, learning about their history and culture. After lunch, listen to an ecological talk at Susie Island Overlook before driving back to our lakeside accommodations for the evening. After dinner, stroll out to peek at the stars.

OVERNIGHT AT GRAND MARAIS

LODGING



Photo Credit: Hampton Inn



Photo Credit: Mark Godfrey



Photo Credit: Gunflint Lodge

ITINERARY, CONT.

DAY 5 – Monday, September 19th | Today, travel further inland to the Gunflint Trail with a special stop at the Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center nestled in the pristine 50-acre forest. Walk the many trails and immerse yourself in Minnesota's north woods while studying the local flora and fauna. Enjoy a picnic lunch before making your way to Gunflint Lodge. In the afternoon, search for moose from a canoe and settle into your room before a delightful dinner.

OVERNIGHT AT GUNFLINT LODGE

DAYS 6 & 7 – Tuesday, September 20th & Wednesday, September 21st | Continue to explore Gunflint's Lodge area. Take a nature walk around the lodge's property, paddle in a canoe listening to loons, or simply read a book on the porch overlooking the lake. The afternoons are at your leisure and dinners are enjoyed at Gunflint Lodge.

OVERNIGHT AT GUNFLINT LODGE

DAY 8 – Thursday, September 22nd | Enjoy a last morning with loons and lakes waking up at Gunflint Lodge. We enjoy a good breakfast then head back to Duluth, making a scenic stop at Tettegouche State Park. We plan to arrive in Duluth at noon for flights out after 1:30 PM, or we can drop you at the hotel of your choice if you want to stay on to explore a bit more of this delightful lakefront town.

PLEASE NOTE: This itinerary is representative of your trip, and like all-natural history excursions, activities are subject to modification based on weather and unforeseen. We will do our best to keep you informed on any necessary changes.

When considering whether this trip is right for you, look closely at the itinerary and consider your ability level. Travelers should be able to walk as much as a mile or two over uneven terrain and get in and out of vans and boats in order to participate in all activities. Expect to spend 4 to 8 hours outdoors most days, including significant time on boats. The climate in Minnesota is temperate, so prepare for cold evenings and the potential for rain. Please pay special attention to the trip materials and pack accordingly.



Photo Credit: Gunflint Lodge



Photo Credit: Kent Mason

PRICE DETAIL

Double Occupancy \$4,490
Single Occupancy: \$5,530

Price **includes** all lodging, domestic transportation, activities, meals, TNC expert staff and local guides. Price does **not include** your roundtrip flight to Minnesota.