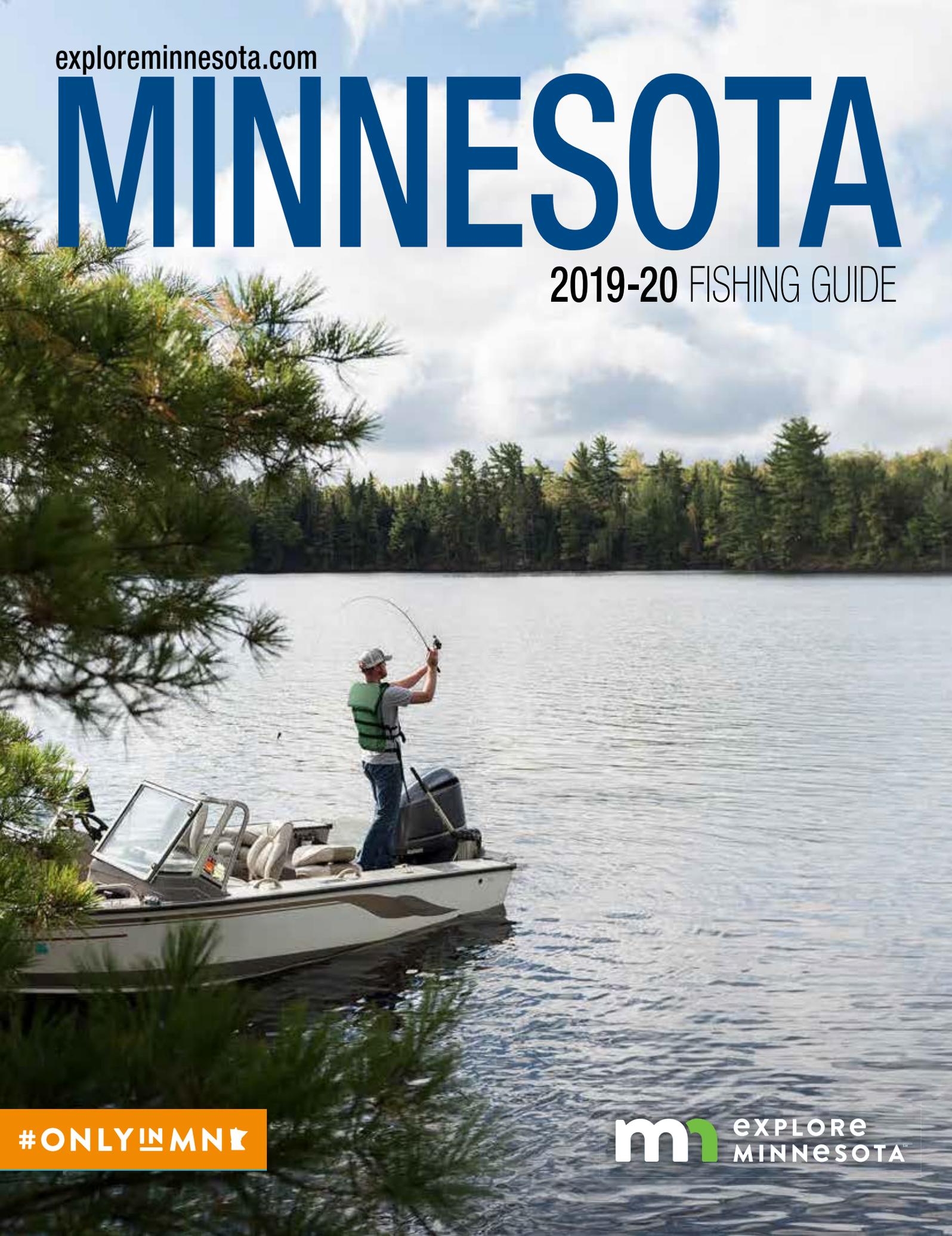


exploreminnesota.com

# MINNESOTA

2019-20 FISHING GUIDE



#ONLYINMN

**m** EXPLORE  
MINNESOTA

# Is this your year to catch the **FISH** of a **LIFETIME**?



Meet Fisher  
(yes, that's really his first name)  
with his first "fish of a lifetime".

**F**isher has been vacationing with his family at Pehrson Lodge since he was a little boy. His fishing career began with bluegills and the help of his dad. At age ten he broke into the big leagues with his biggest fish to date: this amazing muskie. We can't promise that everyone who casts Lake Vermilion will have Fisher's luck, but could this be your year? Join us at Pehrson Lodge and find out.



Renowned Lake Vermilion fishery: 40,000 acres of fishing paradise!



Here's Will with two beautiful "model" fish he caught for a Bass Pro photo shoot.



Working some of Vermilion's magnificent scenic shoreline.



Lakeside cabins and beautiful new lodge in a magnificent setting

**PEHRSON LODGE • LAKE VERMILION**

Go to [www.pehrsonlodge.com](http://www.pehrsonlodge.com) and see what we have to offer! **218-666-5478**



# WELCOME

Minnesota's great fishing starts with its many diverse bodies of water. The moniker "Land of 10,000 Lakes" only hints at that variety. In fact, the state has more shoreline than California, Florida and Hawaii combined, and consistently ranks as one of America's top inland fishing destinations.

America's greatest river, the mighty Mississippi, is only one of many, along with the Minnesota, St. Croix and Red River of the North, where anglers can reel in huge catfish or northern pike, smallmouth bass, walleye, panfish and more than 100 lesser-known species.

Use this guide to discover the many wonders of Minnesota fishing. For more information: [exploreminnesota.com/fishing](http://exploreminnesota.com/fishing)

#ONLYINMN

## CONTENTS

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Fishing Seasons & Licenses | 4 |
| Lodging & Camping          | 5 |
| Minnesota's Fish           | 6 |
| Places to Fish             | 8 |



|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Travel Listings | 12 |
|-----------------|----|

### Minnesota Fishing Guide 2019-20

Published by Explore Minnesota, an office of the State of Minnesota, 121 Seventh Place East Suite 360, St. Paul, MN, 55101  
888-VISITMN (847-4866)  
Copyright © 2019

COVER PHOTO Voyageurs National Park

**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

888-MINN-DNR (888-646-6367)  
651-296-6157  
info.dnr@state.mn.us  
mndnr.gov  
**LakeFinder mobile website:** [mndnr.gov/mobile/lakefinder](http://mndnr.gov/mobile/lakefinder)

**DNR RESOURCES**

**Fishing licenses and regulations:** Brochure and online information on fishing regulations, including seasons and limits and special regulations for border waters and other specific waters.

**Boating:** Guide to laws and rules related to boating.

**Outdoor recreation:** Information on state parks, trails and forests.

**Maps:** Public boat ramps/accesses, trout streams, canoe routes and fishing piers. On the DNR website, use the LakeFinder feature to download lake-depth maps and get fish surveys, stocking reports, and water level and clarity information. Lake and fishing maps can also be purchased from Minnesota’s Bookstore: [minnesotasbookstore.com](http://minnesotasbookstore.com)

**MINNESOTA FISHING LICENSES**

Residents and nonresidents 16 and older must have a fishing license. You must buy a trout stamp to fish any trout stream, trout lake or Lake Superior. Licenses are available from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and from sporting goods stores and some convenience stores. You can also buy your license with a credit card by phone at 888-665-4236, or online at [mndnr.gov](http://mndnr.gov).

**LICENSES AND FEES**

This information applies from March 1, 2019, to Feb. 29, 2020. Check with the DNR for later dates.

**Resident**

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Youth age 16 and 17.....                                 | \$5  |
| Individual (age 18 and older).....                       | \$25 |
| Individual 24-hour.....                                  | \$12 |
| Combination (married couple).....                        | \$40 |
| Trout-salmon stamp (not required with 24-hour license).. | \$10 |
| Voluntary walleye stamp.....                             | \$5  |

**Nonresident**

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Youth age 16 and 17.....                                  | \$5  |
| Individual 72-hour.....                                   | \$36 |
| Individual seven-day.....                                 | \$43 |
| Combination (married couple) 14-day.....                  | \$54 |
| Family (husband, wife, children under 16).....            | \$68 |
| Trout-salmon stamp (not required with 24-hour license)... | \$10 |

**MINNESOTA FISHING SEASONS**

Seasons effective March 1, 2019, to Feb. 29, 2020. Check with the DNR for later dates and details, particularly for border waters, which often have different rules.

**Trout in streams**

Jan. 1-April 12: Catch & release only in southeastern Minnesota\*  
April 13-Sept. 15: Harvest season in southeastern Minnesota  
Sept. 16-Oct. 15: Catch & release only in southeastern Minnesota  
April 13-Sept. 30: Harvest season in remainder of state

\*Southeast Minnesota includes Houston, Fillmore, Mower, Dodge, Olmsted, Winona, Wabasha and Goodhue counties.

**Lake trout**

Dec. 29-March 31, and May 11-Sept. 30: Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) lakes

Jan. 12-March 31, and May 11-Sept. 30: Remainder of state

**Stream trout in lakes**

May 11-Oct. 31; for winter, see lake trout

**Walleye, sauger, northern pike**

May 11, 2019-Feb. 23, 2020

**Largemouth and smallmouth bass in northeast\*\***

May 11, 2019-Feb. 23, 2020: Harvest season

**BOATING INFO**

**Boat, canoe and kayak licenses required:** All boats, canoes and kayaks (unless non-motorized and 9 feet or less) used in Minnesota must be licensed in Minnesota or the owner’s home state. Most states will register any boat upon request. Contact the Minnesota DNR at 800-285-2000 or [info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us) for information about licensing your boat.

**Boat access:** More than 1,900 public accesses have been built on Minnesota’s lakes and streams. Many of these are equipped with concrete boat ramps. The locations of most are shown on county water access maps, available from the Minnesota DNR Information Center: 651-296-6157 or 888-MINNDNR (646-6367).



Minnesota waters are threatened by many invasive species of plants and animals. It is illegal to transport any aquatic plants, zebra mussel, New Zealand mudsnail or other prohibited invasive species on public roads, or to launch a boat or trailer with these species attached.

**Required actions:**

- Remove visible aquatic plants and animals from your boat, trailer and other water-related equipment before leaving the water access (see diagram above).
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash – it is not legal to release bait into state waters.
- Drain water from your boat, motor, live well and bait containers before leaving the water access. Drain plugs, bailers, valves or other devices used to control the draining of water from ballast tanks, bilges and live wells must be removed or opened while transporting watercraft (marine sanitary systems are excluded from this requirement).

**Recommended actions:**

- Spray, rinse or dry boats and recreational equipment to remove or kill species that were not visible when leaving a water body.
- Before transporting to another water body: spray/rinse with high pressure and/or hot tap water, especially if moored for more than a day; or dry boat for at least five days.

**For more information:** contact the DNR Invasive Species Program, Division of Ecological and Water Resources, at 651-259-5100 or 888-646-6367 or visit [mndnr.gov/invasives](http://mndnr.gov/invasives).

**Remainder of state:**

May 11-24: Catch and release for largemouth and smallmouth

May 25, 2019-Feb. 23, 2020: Regular harvest season for largemouth

May 25-Sept. 8: Regular harvest season for smallmouth

Sept. 9, 2019-Feb. 23, 2020: Catch and release only for smallmouth

\*\*Northeast is defined as north and east of U.S. Hwy 53 from Duluth to International Falls and Pelican and Ash lakes in St. Louis County.

**Muskellunge**

June 1-Dec. 1

**Flathead Catfish**

April 1-Nov. 30

**Lake Sturgeon**

See DNR fishing regulations for specifics.

**Sunfish, crappie, perch, bullheads**

Continuous

*Note: Fishing regulations for waters along Minnesota’s borders differ somewhat from inland waters. Also, some inland lakes and streams have special regulations. For a more detailed listing of fishing seasons and information on other species, consult the Minnesota Fishing Regulations booklet, available where you buy your license, from the Minnesota DNR, or in PDF format at [mndnr.gov/fishing](http://mndnr.gov/fishing).*



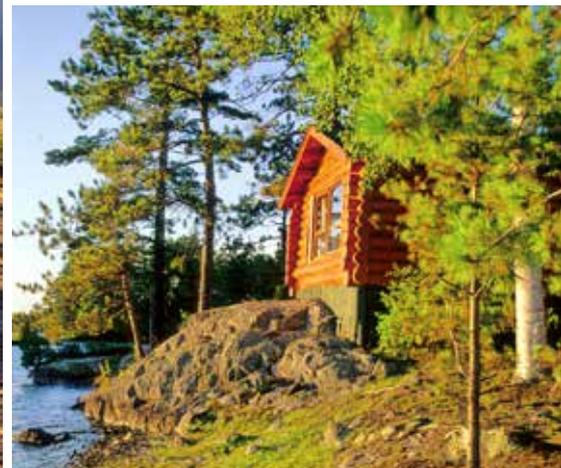
# GET AWAY IN MINNESOTA

Minnesota provides plenty of options for a fishing getaway. Find a lakeside resort or campground, or stay in a convenient motel or cozy historic inn. See the listings beginning on page 12 for more ideas on places to stay.

## CAMPGROUNDS

Whether you're pitching a tent or driving an RV, you'll find a bounty of beautiful lakeside campgrounds in Minnesota. Many resorts in the state also have campgrounds, giving campers access to other resort amenities, such as swimming pools or restaurants. Other campgrounds are operated by cities or counties. In addition, there's a wide choice of campgrounds at state parks, state forests and in Chippewa and Superior national forests. Some are rustic; others have showers, playgrounds, RV hookups and other modern amenities.

**Note:** Help protect our trees from bad bugs. Please buy firewood where you burn it; don't move firewood from another location.



## RESORTS

Staying at a Minnesota resort is like having your own lake cabin. There are hundreds of resorts to choose from. Some are large complexes with luxury suites and condos, on-site golf courses, gourmet restaurants and spas. Others are historic lodges. Many are small, family-operated resorts with several lakeside cabins or cottages. Most are family-friendly, with swimming beaches, playgrounds, game rooms and other activities for kids, and some offer large units to accommodate big groups.

For anglers, resorts typically rent boats and motors, and provide dock space if you bring your own boat. Many can hook you up with a fishing guide who's familiar with the local waters. On half-day or all-day trips, guides can show you where and how to fish the area's lakes or rivers, so you can go out on your own later to take advantage of what you've learned. Resort and bait shop owners also are good sources for where the fish are biting, and what they're biting on.

For more information on resorts, campgrounds and other places to stay, visit [exploreminnesota.com/places-to-stay](http://exploreminnesota.com/places-to-stay).



# MEET MINNESOTA'S FISH

## WALLEYE FAMILY

The walleye is Minnesota's state fish, and for good reason. They grow big and fight hard in lakes throughout Minnesota, and they make some tasty eating. Anglers catch walleyes in lots of ways—casting from a canoe in the northern wilderness, trolling live-bait rigs or crankbaits on weed lines and rocky reefs, bouncing jigs along the bottom of a swift-flowing river. If you don't have a boat, rent a spot on a commercial launch and have a party catching walleyes with other anglers. Minnesota's walleyes average 1 to 3 pounds, but sometimes exceed 10.



Walleye



Sauger

## TROUT AND SALMON

Whether rising through the crystalline current of a stream to sip a dry fly, or leaping across the blue expanse of Lake Superior, trout and salmon are pictures of grace and power. They live in some of the most beautiful water imaginable. Rainbow, brook and brown trout swim in the riffing woodland creeks of southeastern Minnesota's Bluff Country, and in the tumultuous streams of Lake Superior's North Shore. Trollers find lake trout, chinook and coho salmon in the cold waters of Superior itself. A brilliantly colored trophy "brookie" from a cold stream may measure only a foot, while a mature chinook from the big lake can easily push 20 pounds.



Brook Trout



Chinook Salmon

## PANFISH

Some of Minnesota's smallest fish win the greatest devotion. There are anglers who like nothing better than to search deep weed lines and tiny woodland ponds to catch "bull" bluegills. Others spend the evenings searching a big lake for elusive 1-pound crappies. Sunfish and crappies live in most Minnesota lakes.

Some of the state's largest lakes, known best for big walleyes, offer a surprise—jumbo yellow perch, some weighing more than a pound. When perch get that big, there's nothing finer in the pan—and that includes their big cousin, the walleye!



Bluegill



Pumpkinseed

## CATFISH AND BULLHEADS

Minnesota's catfish include some monsters. Flathead cats of the state's slow-moving southern rivers sometimes exceed 50 pounds. There's a lot of pull in a fish that big. Channel cats can grow bigger than 20 pounds and show up in some surprising places, including the Red River of the North along the state's northwest border. You'll find bullheads, the smaller cousins to catfish, in lakes throughout central and southern Minnesota—great sport for kids and even better for the frying pan.



Flathead Catfish



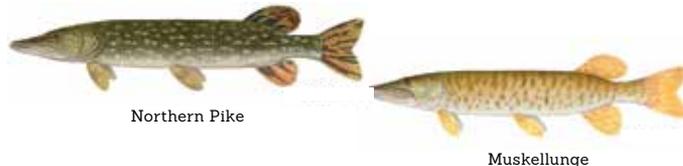
Brown Bullhead



## MUSKELLUNGE AND NORTHERN PIKE

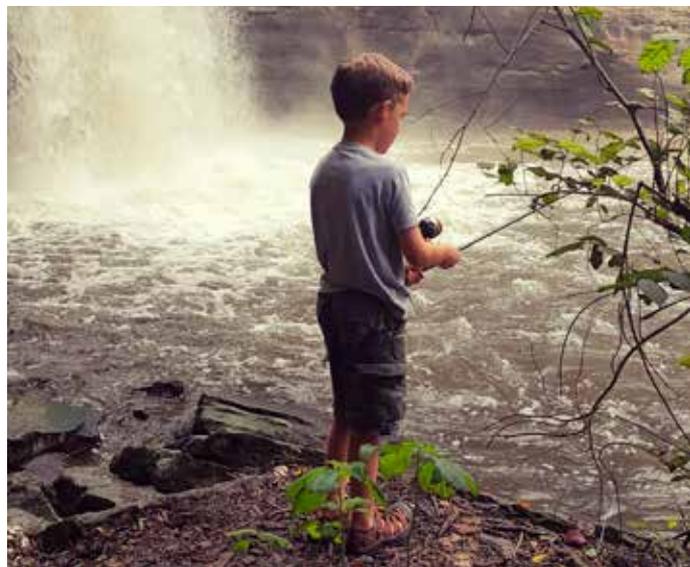
When a big northern pike or muskie slams into your bucktail like a semitruck, your heart leaps, your pulse rises, your hands shake. The big size, sharp teeth and lightning strike of these ferocious fish have that effect on an angler. They may be the most exciting of Minnesota's really big fish. Northern pike are one of the most widespread fish in the state. You'll find them all over, from the backwaters of the Mississippi to the wilderness lakes of canoe country. Anglers catch them on both live bait and artificial lures, by casting and trolling. They also make for great sport on a fly rod.

Minnesota muskies are bigger and more widespread than ever, thanks to successful stocking programs that have introduced them to new lakes. A widespread catch-and-release effort lets them grow big—sometimes over 50 pounds.



Northern Pike

Muskellunge



## LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS

In the Land of 10,000 Lakes, how many have bass? So many that nearly 100 are named Bass Lake. You won't catch a world-record largemouth in Minnesota, but you can find lots of the size that real anglers catch. Head out in a tricked-out bass boat and work the weed lines with plastic worms. Run spinnerbaits through the shallows, or row a boat along the lily pads and throw topwater plugs.

With so much focus on walleye, some people would say Minnesota lakes are underfished for bass. And a strong ethic of catch-and-release fishing has helped protect lots of fish in the 2- to 6-pound range.

Smallmouth bass are known for jolting strikes and spirited leaps. You'll find no harder-fighting fish in freshwater. In Minnesota you'll find many places and ways to catch them—running crankbaits over rocky reefs on a big lake, drifting baited jigs through a pool in a big river, or fly fishing with poppers while wading knee-deep in a rocky stream. Plenty of lakes and rivers produce smallies up to 5 pounds.

In some of these waters, you can spend the day without seeing another person. Fishing seems only to be getting better, because smallmouth anglers are a special breed who recognize that this fish is a resource worth protecting through catch and release.



Smallmouth Bass



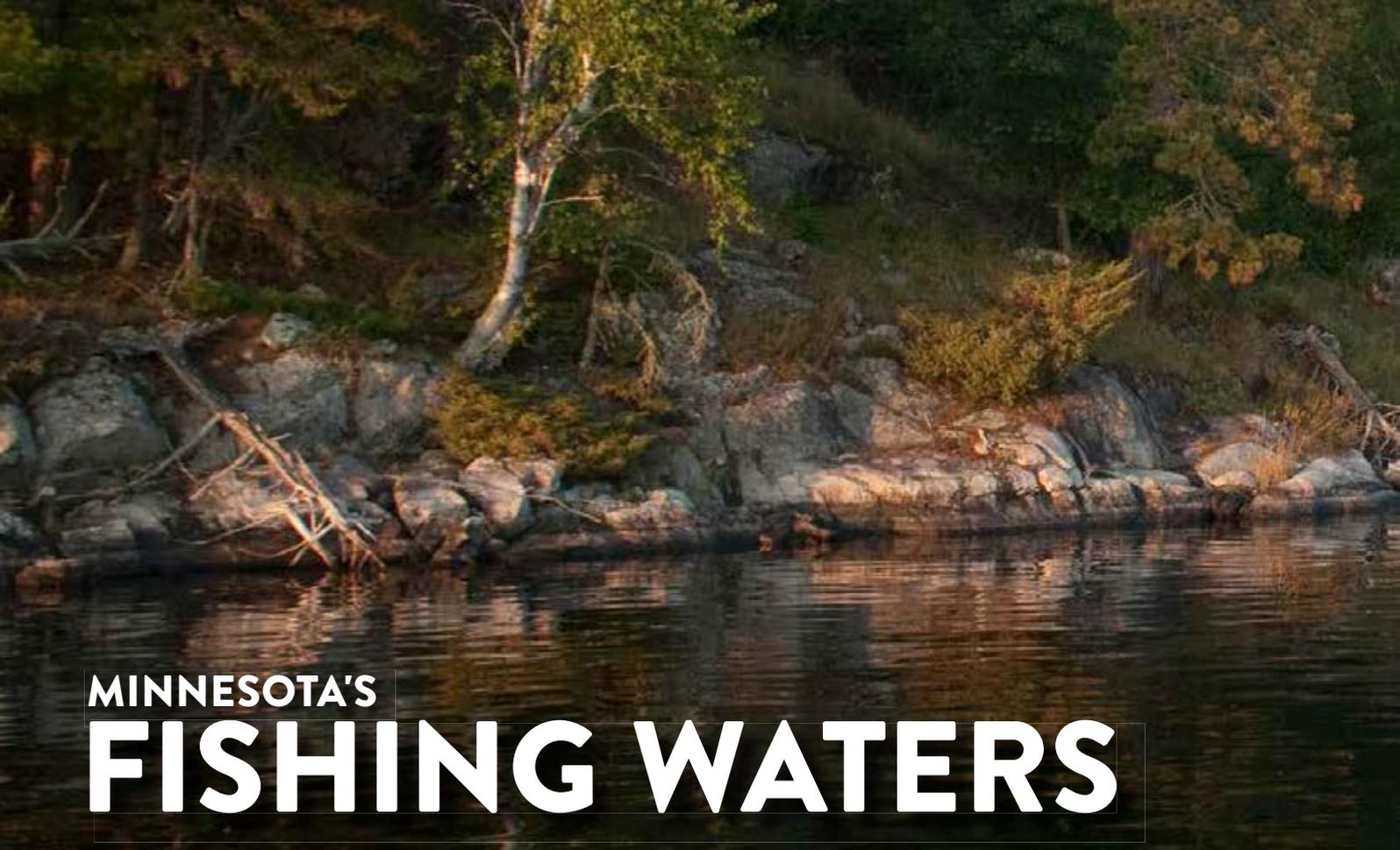
Largemouth Bass

## *I can* **FISH!**

Minnesota State Parks and Trails' "I Can Fish!" programs are all about the thrill of your kids learning to catch fish—and it's all free with a Minnesota State Parks

entrance permit. Programs cover all of the basics, taught by experienced anglers, and are designed for first-time anglers and those who would like a refresher. All equipment is provided, and most programs will have bait available. For more information, visit [mndnr.gov/ican](http://mndnr.gov/ican), or call the DNR Information Center at 888-646-6367.

Fish for free during "Take a Kid Fishing Weekend." One weekend every June (June 7-9 for 2019), Minnesotans 16 or older who take a child 15 or younger fishing don't need a license. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources schedules a variety of organized fishing opportunities that weekend throughout the state. The same policy applies during "Take a Kid Ice Fishing Weekend" in mid-January. For more information, contact the DNR at 888-665-4236, or visit [mndnr.gov/takeakidfishing](http://mndnr.gov/takeakidfishing).



# MINNESOTA'S FISHING WATERS



In northwest Minnesota, the Mississippi River begins its journey as a wilderness stream, winding through pine and hardwood forests studded with thousands of large and small lakes alive with bass, panfish, walleye, northern pike, muskie and more. The Red River of the North travels up toward Canada along the western border of the state, producing many of the above species as well as huge channel catfish. The diversity of waters leads to a great diversity of fishing experiences.

## BIG WATERS

The broad, fertile waters of Lake of the Woods, Leech Lake, Lake Winnibigoshish and Upper Red Lake draw serious anglers from across the nation, particularly for walleye and big northern pike, which find perfect breeding grounds on the lakes' windswept reefs and shorelines. Anglers take to the big water in deep-V boats, jiggling the flats and drop-offs, or trolling the reefs with crankbaits. Charters and fishing guides on Lake of the Woods are an easy and economical way to get out. There's also excellent fishing on Lake of the Woods among the sheltered islands on the Northwest Angle, the northernmost point of the contiguous United States.

Leech Lake is fabled for its notorious muskie "rampage," a few midsummer days when muskies hit just about anything in the water. Cass Lake has also been a top producer of big muskies. Lake Winnibigoshish is a large reservoir with 140 miles of mostly undeveloped shoreline. Called "Winnie" by its fans, the lake holds walleye, northerns, muskies and perch. Adjoining Winnie is Cut Foot Sioux Lake, and nearby are Bowstring and Ball Club lakes.

## NORTH WOODS LAKES

The big lakes are best known, but hundreds of smaller lakes rank among the favorites of those who fish them. They hold almost every kind of game fish Minnesota offers: walleyes, largemouth and smallmouth bass, pike, muskies, sunfish and crappies.

Among these are Detroit Lake and Lake Bemidji, the latter anchoring a popular state park across the lake from the town of Bemidji. These and several others have become muskie hot spots through carefully managed stocking programs. But the region's popular lakes are favored for their variety and the options they offer anglers. Near the town of Detroit Lakes are Cormorant, Melissa and Pelican lakes; Plantagenet and Blackduck lakes are near Bemidji. Not far from Park Rapids are Big Sand and Fish Hook lakes. All make good fishing destinations, as do others too numerous to name.

## RIVER FISHING

Northern Minnesota also has some red-hot river fishing. Float the Mississippi in a boat or canoe and catch everything from muskies to smallmouth bass. The river arcs through the North Woods linking several large reservoirs. The Red River of the North, hugging the state's western border, flows through a rural landscape into Canada. It's the northernmost catfish population in the state, giving up channel cats averaging well over 10 pounds. The Red Lake River also features a variety of fish, and the Rainy follows the Canadian border into big Lake of the Woods.



## WHILE YOU'RE HERE

There's more here than just big lakes and big fish. A must-see highlight of this area is the headwaters of the Mississippi River at Itasca State Park. If you enjoy gaming, there are several Ojibwe-owned casinos in the area. Towns such as Detroit Lakes, Park Rapids, Bemidji and Walker feature charming small-town shopping, dining, plus hundreds of small lakeside resorts and campgrounds.



## NORTHEAST

This corner of Minnesota has been dubbed the “Arrowhead” for its distinctive shape, formed by the Canadian border on one side and the craggy shore of Lake Superior on the other. In between is a wild land with deep forests of pine and birch dotted with thousands of lakes, where wolves still howl and loons call out across the water.

### WILDERNESS WATERS

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness holds more than 1,000 lakes linked by overland trails. Most lakes are paddle-only; motors are permitted on only a few. Boundary Waters visitors canoe to secluded campsites and fish for trophy walleye, northern pike and some of the finest top-water smallmouth bass fishing in the nation. In early spring, the deepest lakes provide light-tackle fishing for lake trout. Major gateways to this canoe country are Ely and the Gunflint Trail, a scenic byway that begins in Grand Marais.

Also along the state’s northern border is Voyageurs National Park, just east of International Falls. Voyageurs has beautiful rocky lakes, thick forest and great fishing. Travel is largely by motorboat; rent one from an area resort, or book a comfortable houseboat, the largest of which accommodate up to 12 people. Rainy, Kabetogama, Namakan, Crane and Sand Point lakes serve up walleyes, northerns, smallmouth bass and big crappies. Just west, anglers fish the Rainy River for walleyes, pike and sturgeon that can top 100 pounds.

### LAKE COUNTRY

Along the Iron Range, from Grand Rapids to Babbitt, abandoned mine pits have filled with clear spring water, forming lakes such as Lake Ore-be-Gone, now holding trout and big pike. The area is rich with natural lakes as well, some of which are managed for trout.

Long and narrow Birch Lake near Babbitt has great fishing for a variety of species, and is a favorite for houseboat rental. The island-studded beauty of Lake Vermilion is enhanced by its budding reputation for big muskies, as well as large perch, walleye and bluegills. In the North Woods between the Iron Range and Voyageurs, Pelican Lake near Orr has a lot of shallow structure for great fishing.

The forests around Grand Rapids are studded with lakes. North of town, the Edge of the Wilderness Scenic Byway winds among scores of lakes in Chippewa National Forest, including Trout Lake and Lake Wabana. Here is a place to fish walleyes, pike and bass in solitude. Just southwest of Grand Rapids is popular Pokegama Lake.

### LAKE SUPERIOR

The Arrowhead borders the largest freshwater lake in the world. Lake Superior’s cold, clear waters hold native lake trout, and stocked steelhead, chinook and coho salmon. The big lake is too open and windswept for many smaller boats, but charter fishing trips are available from Duluth and other towns along the North Shore.

### STREAM & RIVER FISHING

Stream fishing is also popular along the North Shore. In the thundering wilderness rivers that tumble into Lake Superior, anglers wade in to cast for resident trout, or drift-fish for spawning steelhead during their spring run. The St. Louis River near Duluth is a favorite for walleye, smallmouth bass and muskie. The St. Croix, a National Scenic River, is a great route to canoe and fish for smallmouth bass, northern pike and walleyes.



### WHILE YOU'RE HERE

Among the top attractions in this area are many state parks, waterfalls and Split Rock Lighthouse along the North Shore, and the International Wolf Center and North American Bear Center in Ely. The Commercial Fishing Museum in Tofte and the Great Lakes Aquarium in Duluth might be of special interest to anglers. Several of the state’s top golf courses are in this region.



## FISHING HEATS UP IN THE COLD

In Minnesota, the fishing stays hot even after the lakes freeze over. Just drill a hole in the ice (power augers help!), drop in a line and relax until a fish takes a nibble. For many anglers, this low-tech, no-fuss, boat-free fishing has a special appeal.

On a beautiful winter day, fish out in the open under a vast blue sky. For shelter from the cold and wind, fish from inside a cozy hut. On some of the larger lakes such as Mille Lacs, Lake of the Woods and Winnibigoshish, small villages of fish houses crop up in the winter. Ice fishing contests and other related activities play a part in winter festivals on many lakes where the sport is popular.

Some resorts rent fish houses— one-room shelters ranging from basic to downright homey—with heaters, carpeted floors, table and chairs. “Sleeper” houses also have bunks and a cook stove for overnight stays. If you’re new to the sport, resort staff can set you up with the gear, which is very basic, and teach you the simple principles of ice fishing.

Most of the species caught the rest of the year bite during winter, as well: walleyes, northern pike, yellow perch, sunfish, crappies, and, in the wilderness lakes of the northeast, lake trout. January and February are prime time for ice fishing; the ice needs to be thick and strong enough to support anglers and their vehicles.

Check with the DNR and local area resorts for the latest information about ice thickness and safety. To find listings of fish house rentals, or ice fishing-related festivals, call 888-VISITMN (888-847-4866) or go to [exploreminnesota.com/fishing](http://exploreminnesota.com/fishing). You can also sign up for free fishing reports via e-mail.



## CENTRAL

This is lake country, where the hardwoods of the south meet the pine forests of the north, and the rural countryside holds hundreds of lakes populated with a variety of fish. It’s a great family vacation destination, with much to do off and on the water.

### LEGENDARY LAKES

Located in the heart of the state, the Brainerd Lakes area has been a fishing destination for travelers for more than a century, and is home to fishing legends Babe Winkelman and Al Lindner, and *In-Fisherman* magazine. Tall tales of giant lumberjack Paul Bunyan say the lakes here sprang up to fill the footprints of his sidekick, Babe the Blue Ox. Among the bounty of good fishing lakes are Gull, Pelican, Whitefish, North Long and Round.

An unusual fishery has developed in the abandoned iron-ore mines of the Cuyuna Iron Range near Crosby, just northwest of Brainerd. Many of these deep open pits have filled with spring water and are now stocked with trout; some also harbor monster pike and smallmouth bass.

Mille Lacs Lake, east of Brainerd, is the second-largest lake within Minnesota and a popular fishing destination. Mille Lacs offers great fishing for smallmouth bass, muskies, walleyes, perch, northern pike and other species. Fishing launches large and small make it easy to get out on this big lake, providing bait, tackle and guidance on half- or full-day trips.

In the Aitkin-McGregor area north of Mille Lacs, several smaller lakes, including Big Sandy, Round and Minnewawa, are popular spots for walleyes, pike, largemouth bass and panfish. Cedar Lake is known for muskies.

### CENTRAL LAKES

The rural countryside south of St. Cloud serves up good fishing, too. Popular lakes are Rice, Koronis, Clearwater, Cedar, Sylvia and Pleasant, with a few resorts in the Paynesville area. There is another large cluster of lakes

in the countryside around Willmar, including Big Kandiyohi south of town.

One of the best is Green Lake near Spicer. A clear lake amid glacial hills, Green provides fishing for walleyes, northern pike, bass and panfish that compares favorably with most northern lakes. There are several lakeside resorts in the Spicer-New London area.

### GLACIAL LAKES

In the rolling countryside surrounding Alexandria and Fergus Falls, many glacial lakes dot the green hills. More than 1,000 lakes fall within the boundaries of Otter Tail County alone, including Otter Tail and Clitherall near Fergus Falls. Other well-known glacial lakes include Lake Minnewaska next to Glenwood, and Le Homme Dieu, Carlos, Darling, Ida and Osakis near Alexandria. These lakes offer a variety of species, from panfish to walleye.

Several lakes have become muskie hot spots through carefully managed stocking programs. Among these are Lake Miliona north of Alexandria and West Battle Lake in Otter Tail County.



### WHILE YOU’RE HERE

This region has hundreds of resorts, from classic lakeside cabins to large, full-service resorts with restaurants, golf courses, spas and water parks. The Brainerd Lakes area boasts excellent golf courses. See antique fishing gear at the Minnesota Fishing Museum in Little Falls and antique boats at the Legacy of the Lakes Museum in Alexandria. Cycle for miles on picturesque paved trails such as the Central Lakes State Trail, Glacial Lakes State Trail and Lake Wobegon Regional Trail.




## MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL

If you're staying in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, good fishing is within casting distance. Big smallmouth, walleyes and catfish swim in the Mississippi River where it passes through downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul. Angling for walleye and sauger is popular on the St. Croix River in the eastern part of the metro area. The Minnesota River just south of the Twin Cities is another good bet. In the area's lakes, you can catch muskies, walleye and largemouth bass over 5 pounds.

Extend your range just a few miles and you're within reach of some of the best fishing in the state. Lake Minnetonka and Lake Waconia, both west of Minneapolis, have long had the reputation as great bass lakes, and now they have muskies, too.

About 30 Twin Cities area lakes are stocked with pure-strain muskies or hybrid tiger muskies. Among the best are White Bear, Bald Eagle and Independence. Many lakes have walleyes, northern pike, bass and panfish. Among the most popular are the lakes of Chisago County, at the northeast edge of the metro area, including Green, Chisago, North Center and South Lindstrom lakes.

Minnesota has made special efforts to give city anglers opportunities to go fishing, even if they don't have a boat, or a car. The Fishing in the Neighborhood (FiN) program stocks fish, installs fishing piers, puts on fishing clinics, and identifies dozens of metro-area lakes and rivers that provide good fishing in a safe setting suitable for families. Many FiN facilities are reachable by bus and are wheelchair-accessible. Learn more about the program and area fishing opportunities on the Department of Natural Resources website at [mndnr.gov/fishing/fin](http://mndnr.gov/fishing/fin).



## SOUTHERN

Savvy anglers know the countryside of southern Minnesota holds some surprisingly good fishing lakes and rivers, as well as scenic and productive trout streams. These waters can make for a quick and easy fishing getaway.

### SOUTHERN LAKES

Many of the large lakes in the rolling farmland and valleys of the south are regularly stocked with walleyes. Most also have northern pike, largemouth bass and panfish. Some offer up dandy channel cats. And nearly every lake and pond down here has bullheads, perhaps the most popular fish in the region, celebrated at an annual festival in Waterville. Catching them is easy—all you need is a pole, line, hook and worm.

The rural landscape between Mankato and Faribault is splashed with numerous lakes, several of which are popular fishing waters, served by a handful of resorts in the area. Among the fishing lakes to try here are Tetonka near Waterville; Madison and Washington east of Mankato; Mazaska, Shields and Roberds near Faribault.

Some of the best and most popular of the prairie lakes farther south include Benton and Shaokotan west of Marshall, Okabena at Worthington, Lake Hanska south of New Ulm, and Budd, Sisseton and Hall near Fairmont. Farther east is Albert Lea Lake, at its namesake town.

### MINNESOTA & MISSISSIPPI RIVERS

As good as the fishing is in southern Minnesota's lakes, the biggest fish in the region come from the rivers and streams. The Minnesota River and major tributaries hold some monstrous flathead catfish. Drop a live minnow into a logjam on an outside river bend some evening, and you may soon find yourself wrestling a flathead over 30 pounds. Other game fish on the river include walleyes, saugers and channel cats. Try for

walleyes at Big Stone Lake, at the headwaters of the Minnesota River near Ortonville.

In the southeast, the Mississippi River, nestled between steep wooded bluffs, provides the main action. Its fishing is as impressive as the scenery, with walleyes, saugers, smallmouth bass and catfish. One of the most popular fishing holes is Lake Pepin, a great widening of the river. White bass are also common in the lake, and when schools smash baitfish at the surface, fishing can be furious. The tangled backwaters hold some big northern pike and good panfish.

### TROUT STREAMS

The spring-fed streams that riffle through the Bluff Country in the far southeastern corner of the state offer Minnesota's best trout fishing. Brown trout of 2 pounds and larger live in large streams such as Whitewater and upper reaches of the Root, as well as clear tributaries so small you can leap across. The streams wind through valleys of hardwood forest. Fly fishermen love these streams for their beautiful surroundings, plentiful trout and frequent aquatic insect hatches.



### WHILE YOU'RE HERE

Visitors have a wide choice of campgrounds and hotels, some country resorts, and several historic inns and B&Bs. Favorite activities in this area include antique shopping, visiting historic sites and biking the region's scenic paved trails. Among the area's many attractions are the National Eagle Center in Wabasha, historic Schell's Brewery in New Ulm and the National Trout Learning Center in Preston.



### WHILE YOU'RE HERE

Visitors will find upscale lodging, dining and award-winning theater, all in an area with dozens of parks, trails and green space including the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, a national park site that boasts 72 miles of public riverfront. Shopping is plentiful at Bloomington's Mall of America, in Minneapolis' Uptown area, St. Paul's Grand Avenue, Stillwater, and elsewhere throughout the region.



# PLAN YOUR FISHING TRIP

Browse these advertiser listings to find a great place for your fishing getaway.



## TIMBER BAY LODGE & HOUSEBOATS

8347 Timber Bay Road  
Babbitt, MN 55706  
218-827-3682  
[timberbay.com](http://timberbay.com)

Enjoy great fishing on pristine Birch Lake. Walleye, northern and smallmouth bass aplenty. Vacation on a houseboat or in a deluxe cabin. It's a tradition!

## PEHRSON LODGE RESORT

2746 Vermilion Drive  
Cook, MN 55723  
218-666-5478  
[pehrsonlodge.com](http://pehrsonlodge.com)

Legendary Lake Vermilion fishery. New lodge, beautiful lakeside cabins, magnificent setting. Expansive boat fleet, harbor service, natural sand beach, pet-friendly cabins, spring/fall rates.

## EAGLE NEST LODGE

58671 Eagles Nest Road  
Deer River, MN 56636  
218-246-8701  
[eaglenestlodge.net](http://eaglenestlodge.net)

Popular year-round, full-service resort with world-class walleye and jumbo perch fishing on Lake Winnibigoshish and Cutfoot Sioux Lake. Great ice fishing, waterfront cabins.

## VISIT COOK COUNTY

116 W Hwy 61  
P.O. Box 1330  
Grand Marais, MN 55604  
218-387-2524  
[visitcookcounty.com](http://visitcookcounty.com)

Love Lake Superior? Boundary Waters? Moose? Waterfalls? Trails galore? Minnesota's mountains? Visit Lutsen, Tofte, Schroeder, Grand Marais, Gunflint Trail and Grand Portage.

## INTERNATIONAL FALLS, RANIER & RAINY LAKE CVB

301 2nd Ave.  
International Falls, MN 56649  
218-283-9400  
[rainylake.org](http://rainylake.org)  
800-325-5766

Walleye, smallmouth bass, crappie, northern pike and sturgeon are all popular game fish on Rainy Lake and Rainy River here in "Minnesota's Vacation Paradise."

## KABETOGRAMA LAKE ASSOCIATION

9303 Gamma Road  
Kabetogama, MN 56669  
218-875-2621  
[visitkab.com](http://visitkab.com)

Enjoy fishing walleye, northern pike, perch, bass and crappie on Lake Kabetogama in Voyageurs National Park. Fish amongst the undeveloped shorelines of beautiful Lake Kabetogama.

## NORTHERN LIGHTS RESORT & OUTFITTING

10179 Bay Club Drive  
Kabetogama, MN 56669  
218-875-2591  
[nlro.com](http://nlro.com)

Enjoy fishing the pristine shorelines of Lake Kabetogama, located in the heart of Voyageurs National Park. Year-round lodging accommodations available for your perfect vacation.

## ANCHOR INN RESORT

55960 County Road 4  
Spring Lake, MN 56680  
218-659-2718  
[anchorinnresort.com](http://anchorinnresort.com)

Legendary walleye, northern, bass, crappie and panfish fishing on Sand, Little Sand, Rice Lake and Bowstring River. Cabins, lodges, tent and RV sites. Boat launch available.

## EVERETT BAY LODGE ON LAKE VERMILION

1820 Everett Bay Road  
Tower, MN 55790  
218-753-5115  
[everettbaylodge.com](http://everettbaylodge.com)

Excellent walleye, muskie, bass, perch and northern fishing at Lake Vermillion. Cabins, boat rental, dock with electric launch, heated pool. Fishing, families, fun!



## LAKE OF THE WOODS TOURISM

P.O. Box 518  
Baudette, MN 56623  
218-634-1174  
[lakeofthewoodsmn.com](http://lakeofthewoodsmn.com)

Plan your next adventure to the "Walleye Capital of the World." Four seasons of world-class fishing, full-service resorts, ice fishing, charters and guides.

## KOHL'S RESORT OF BEMIDJI

15707 Big Turtle Drive NE  
Bemidji, MN 56601  
218-243-2131  
[kohlsresort.com](http://kohlsresort.com)

Located on Big Turtle Lake in the Buena Vista State Forest. Boats and guides available. Enjoy the Liar's Lounge bar/grill, indoor pool and outdoor Jacuzzi.

## SUPER 8 HOTEL

1815 Paul Bunyan Drive NW  
Bemidji, MN 56601  
218-751-8481  
[bemidjisuper8hotel.com](http://bemidjisuper8hotel.com)

Recently renovated, amidst hundreds of lakes for great fishing or ice fishing. Restaurant nearby, sauna and hot tub, breakfast bar, boat parking and free Wi-Fi.



### DETROIT LAKES REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

700 Summit Ave.  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
218-847-9202  
[visitdetroitlakes.com](http://visitdetroitlakes.com)

Year-round, Detroit Lakes-area fishing fun on 400+ lakes. Pan, game fish and trophy-size muskie. Complete your stay with warm accommodations, dining, shopping and attractions.

### SUNSET LODGE

3179 Oak Island  
Oak Island, MN 56711  
855-634-1863  
[sunsetlodgeresort.com](http://sunsetlodgeresort.com)

Northwest Angle on Lake of the Woods. Open year-round renting cabins and condos. Full-service bar and restaurant. Enjoy summer and winter fishing packages.

### ITASCA AREA LAKES TOURISM ASSOCIATION

Park Rapids, MN  
[itascaarea.com](http://itascaarea.com)  
Quality resorts and campgrounds for your stay in the area. Serving Itasca State Park and Park Rapids, with many lakes and great fishing awaiting you.



### TIMBER TRAILS RESORT

3014 S Boy Lake Drive NE  
Remer, MN 56672  
218-566-2376  
[timbertrailsresort.com](http://timbertrailsresort.com)  
In the Chippewa National Forest, Big Boy Lake has 3,400 acres and 26 miles of shoreline. Abundant walleye, northern, bass and crappie. Cabins and campsites.



### LEECH LAKE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

201 Minnesota Ave.  
Walker, MN 56484  
218-547-1313  
[leech-lake.com](http://leech-lake.com)  
Experience the thrill and excitement when the last cast snags the big one. Walleye, northern pike, muskie, bass and panfish—Leech Lake has it all.



### ALEXANDRIA LAKES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

206 Broadway St.  
Alexandria, MN 56308  
320-768-3161  
[vacationalexandriamn.com](http://vacationalexandriamn.com)  
Fishing in Alexandria is excellent year-round, with over 300 lakes to choose from. Come and catch some memories that will last a lifetime.

### CRAGUN'S RESORT

11000 Cragun's Drive  
Brainerd, MN 56401  
218-825-2854  
[craguns.com](http://craguns.com)  
On Gull Lake, a family fishing favorite. Royal Karels' guide service, full- and half-day trips available. Full-service marina—bait, tackle, boat rental.

### GULL FOUR SEASONS RESORT

4132 St. Columbo Road  
Brainerd, MN 56401  
218-963-7969  
[mnrresortcabins.com](http://mnrresortcabins.com)  
Great fishing, boat and pontoon rentals, guides. Walleye, bass, northern pike, panfish. Affordable vacations on beautiful Gull Lake, indoor and outdoor pools, beach, reunion facilities.

### LAKE OSAKIS RESORT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 179  
Osakis, MN 56360  
800-422-0785  
[lakeosakismn.com](http://lakeosakismn.com)  
Explore Lake Osakis, the state's finest fishing and vacation area, just off I-94 in central Minnesota. Resorts, fishing, boating and antiques.

### PERHAM AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

185 E. Main St.  
Perham, MN 56573  
218-346-7710  
[perham.com](http://perham.com)  
Surrounded by 1,048 lakes in Otter Tail County, the Perham area makes it easy to catch walleye, bass, northern, crappie and sunfish! Visit [Perham.com](http://Perham.com) today.

### WILLMAR LAKES AREA CVB

2104 E. Highway 12  
Willmar, MN 56201  
320-235-3552  
[willmarlakesarea.com](http://willmarlakesarea.com)  
Find great year-round fishing in the Willmar Lakes Area. Home to a variety of excellent fishing lakes filled with walleye, northern, bass, crappie and sunfish.



### VISIT LAKEVILLE

19950 Dodd Blvd. Suite #101  
Lakeville, MN 55044  
952-469-2020  
[visitlakeville.org](http://visitlakeville.org)  
Fish year-round at Lake Marion, Valley or Orchard for northern pike, crappie, sunfish and largemouth bass! Enjoy swimming beaches, boating, trails and picnic shelters.



### VISIT FAIRMONT

323 East Blue Earth Ave.  
P.O. Box 976  
Fairmont, MN 56031  
507-235-8585  
[visitfairmontmn.com](http://visitfairmontmn.com)  
Fairmont, considered Southern Minnesota's walleye destination, also weighs in as a top contender for family fishing excursions with abundant panfish and easy access on I-90.

### LANESBORO AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

100 Milwaukee Road  
Lanesboro, MN 55949  
218-387-2524  
[lanesboro.com](http://lanesboro.com)  
Lanesboro's Root River Valley is filled with mineral-rich, spring-fed creeks supporting a world-class trout fishery with abundant populations of trout.

**#ONLYINMN**



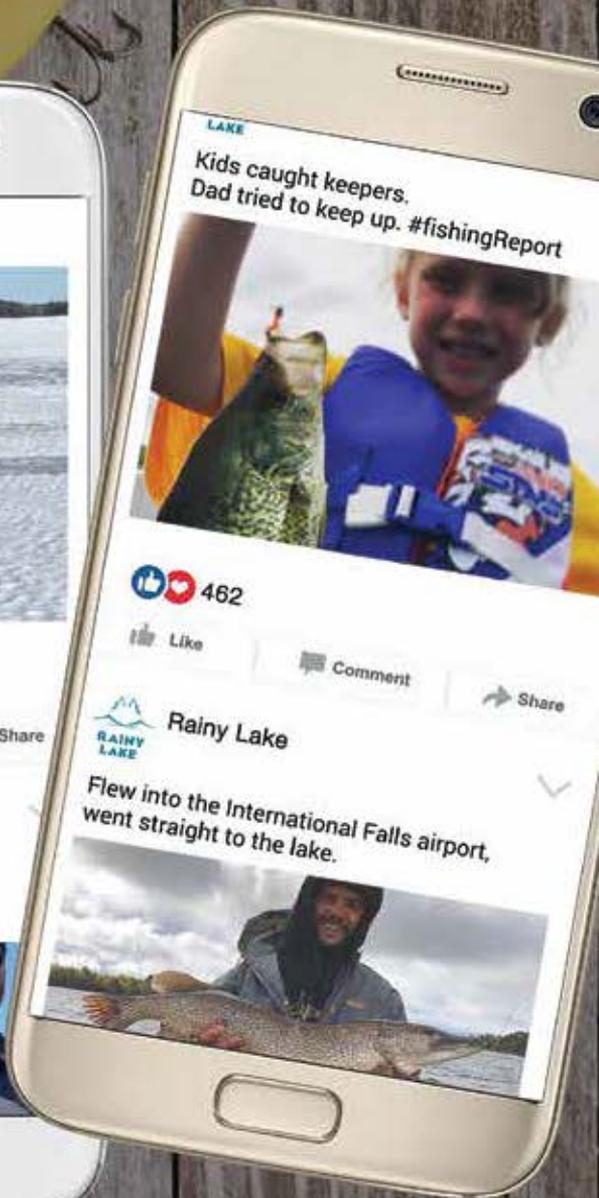
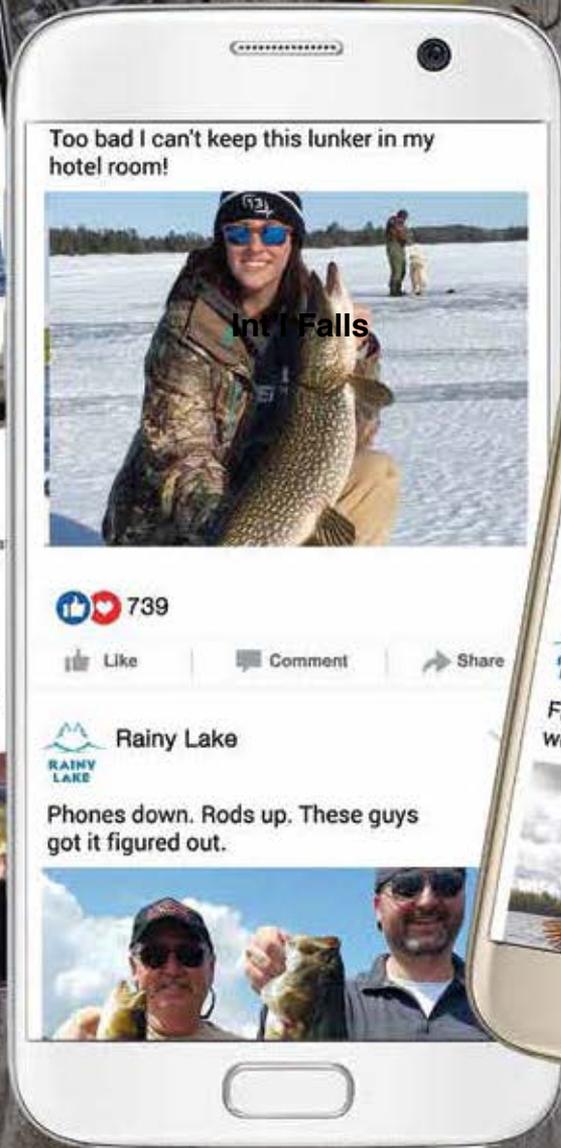
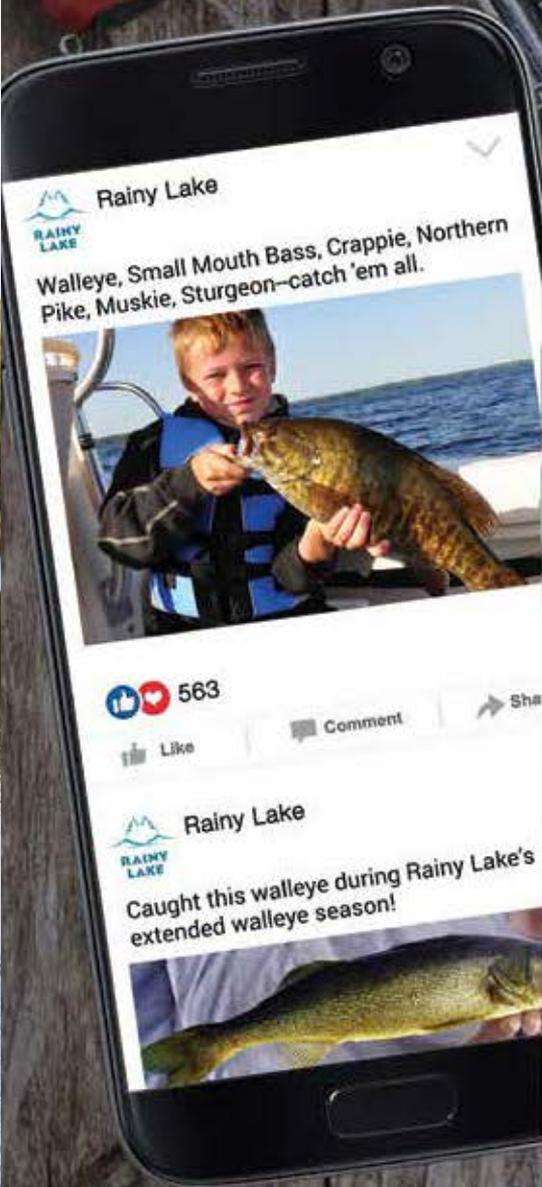
**Big lakes to scenic trout streams to the mighty Mississippi.  
Large and smallmouth bass, sturgeon, panfish, northern pike,  
muskie, and of course, walleye. It's easy to lose yourself in one of  
the serene settings found only in Minnesota.**



**#ONLYINMN**

PLAN YOUR MINNESOTA VACATION AT [EXPLOREMINNESOTA.COM](https://www.exploreminnesota.com)  
TALK TO A TRAVEL COUNSELOR AT 888-847-4866

# Phones down. Rods up.



YOUR INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY  
Falls International  
Airport

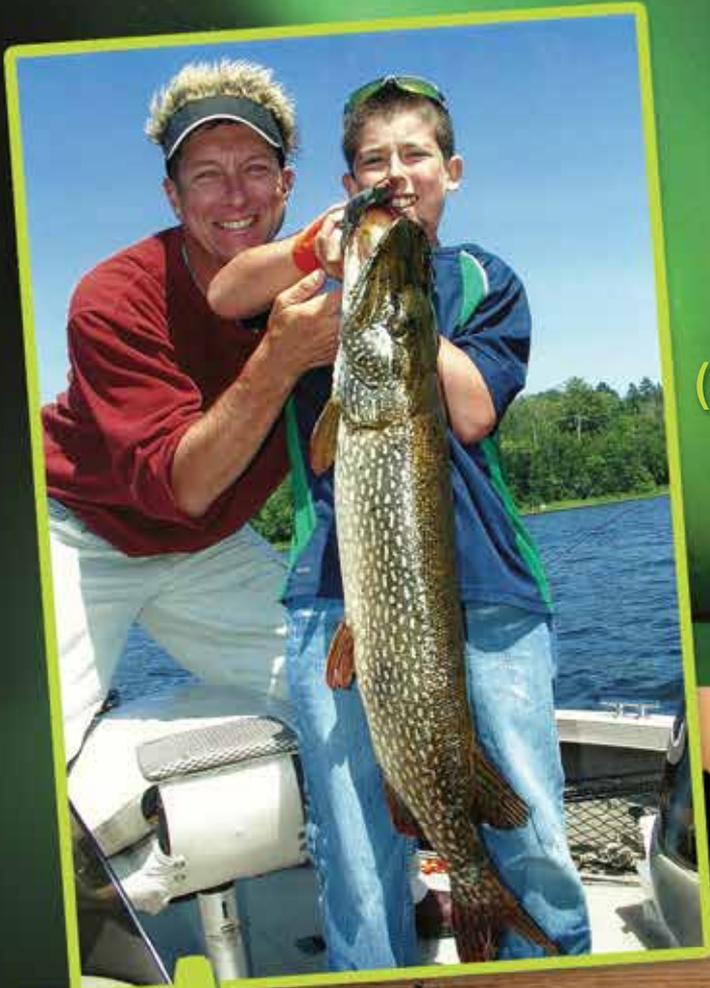


LODGING + INFO RAINYLAKE.ORG 1-844-GO-RAINY

# NORTHERN LIGHTS



## Resort



Let us make your vacation an *unforgettable* experience!

(800) 318-7023 | [www.NLRO.com](http://www.NLRO.com)

Explore  
**65 miles**

*of pristine, uninhabited wilderness waterways on Lake Kabetogama and Voyageurs National Park!*



### FISH • HIKE • SWIM • PLAY

- Floating water park
- Youth Quest Activities
- Complimentary canoes & kayaks
- High quality boats & cabins for rent
- Enjoy the sandy beach & beautiful lodge

“ *The cabins & setting are so nice I'm bringing my wife & kids next year.* ”

-Tom, avid fisherman from Illinois



**Go to [WWW.NLRO.COM](http://WWW.NLRO.COM)  
CHECK-OUT SEASONAL BOAT & CABIN PACKAGES!**