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VISITOR'S GUIDE
Memories Happen Here!

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Downtown Ironwood 1930s

WELCOME to Ironwood, Michigan! In this Visitor's Guide, we will share with you some of the best places to seek adventures, discover our unique historical past, and some tips on finding those "road less traveled" experiences.

You can use this guide as a wayfinder for the Ironwood area's most intriguing offerings. Vacations here offer special delights, whether in taking in the unique deep blue of the northern sky, the hushed quiet of an old-growth forest, Lake Superior's waves cascading on a sandy beach, or in finding that truly out-of-the-way artisan shop which offers authentic "up-north" craftsmanship.

Please stop in and see us at the Ironwood Depot Museum and Chamber of Commerce Information Center. We have maps, attraction guides, local business brochures, and in-season local staff to answer your questions about Ironwood and the great Gogebic Range. Check out our website: ironwoodchamber.org or click on the Ironwood Chamber Facebook page. Our page is full of local business announcements,

event postings, photos, U.P. history and culture, and links to a variety of related sites. Look over our events listings: the Ironwood area boasts a wide range of community happenings, from summer's Festival Ironwood to winter's Jack Frost Parade and SISU Ski Fest.

With its unique historic landmarks, growing trail systems, and expanding commercial sector, our western region of the Upper Peninsula draws visitors from all over the United States, Canada, and abroad. We encourage you to visit anytime for a relaxing vacation, weekend getaway, or maybe even to agree with us, that Ironwood is a place that you would be happy to call home!



This Guide is made possible by funding from the Ironwood Area Chamber of Commerce and its members.

Cover Photo courtesy of SANDY HARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY
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Nestled amidst the hills of the Gogebic Range, Ironwood is the heart and soul of the Northwoods. Ever since iron ore was discovered here, there have been booms, busts, fires, freezes, and (always) enough snow to test the spirit hardiness of those who settle in this unique landscape. Ironwood was named after James "Iron" Wood, an early businessman who, in the mid-1880's, gained a reputation as a deal maker with mining companies that earned him the nickname "Iron" Wood.

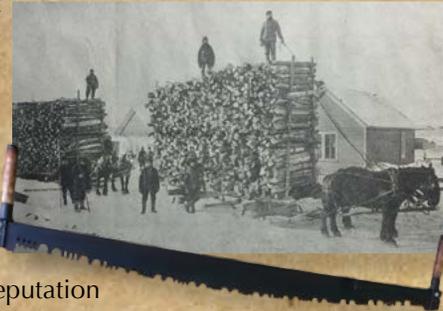
Raphael Pompelly validated an iron ore formation at the Newport location in 1871, and a decade later Dick Langford discovered a rich ore body in what would become the Colby mine on the Gogebic



Range. Late in 1884, with vital railroad linkages complete, immigrant pioneers, many from Finland and Italy, settled in the area to tap the ore that lay beneath the forests. With the incorporation of

Ironwood in 1889, a city was born! Tragedy came to the heart of downtown Ironwood in 1887 as a devastating fire leveled the business district in only 90 minutes. The young community quickly rallied and rebuilt the town.

The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Depot



was built in 1893, and is now home to the Depot Museum, the Ironwood Area Historical Society, and the Ironwood Area Chamber of Commerce.

The first substantial school, Central School, was built in 1887, but burned in 1913. It was replaced by a new Central School and the Luther L. Wright High School, the latter of which is one of Ironwood's "must see" architectural treasures.

In 1902, iron and steel baron Andrew Carnegie provided funds for one of the first Upper Peninsula Carnegie Libraries. Today, this venerable building stands as the



oldest continuously operating Carnegie Library in the state of Michigan.

Airplanes came to Ironwood in 1919, when the American Legion post put a Curtis Jenny bi-plane in the air. The Ironwood airport was built in 1931, and Ironwood today enjoys daily air service to Chicago and Minneapolis.

Ski jumping in the Ironwood Area took off with the building of a professional ski jump on Curry Hill. Over the years, ski jumping evolved into ski flying, which led to the construction of the Copper Peak ski flying jump, the largest in the Western hemisphere.



Numerous national and international ski events have been held at Copper Peak and a drive is underway to rebuild the facility to present competition standards.

Downtown's Historic Ironwood Theatre was built in 1928. Now almost completely restored, it is the city's artistic focal point, offering a wide range of local and touring performance groups, as well as silent films accompanied by the restored original 7 rank Barton theatre organ.



Completed in 1924, the Memorial Building is Ironwood's crowning architectural landmark. With its white stone facade, stained glass windows, hand-painted murals, and acoustically splendid auditorium, the Memorial Building today houses municipal offices, Ironwood mining and history exhibit and is the setting for a large number of community events.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES



There is nothing quite like the outdoor summer experience in Ironwood.

The recreational possibilities are endless: fishing, boating, kayaking, hiking, biking, golfing, camping, and camping in the Ottawa National Forest, a million acre landscape.



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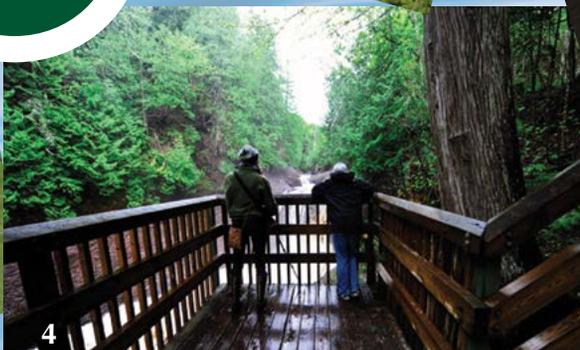
FUN ON LAND



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EXCITING WATER ADVENTURES



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- 1 Camping in the Ottawa National Forest** - A million acre landscape.
- 2 Copper Peak Adventure Ride** - Enjoy the highest, most awe-inspiring, vista in the Midwest, overlooking 2,500 square miles, 3 states and even Canada on a clear day. Enjoy the ever-increasing network of IMBA mountain bike trails.
- 3 Golfing at Gogebic Country Club** - This 18-hole course features 6,030 yards of golf for a par of 71. Open to the public, and featuring summer golf tournaments.
- 4 Hiking Gorge Falls** - This "Grand Canyon of the U.P." is at the National Black River Scenic Byway.

- 1 Kayaking** - Many area lakes and rivers provide constant fun for all skill levels.
- 2 Sportfishing on Lake Superior** - Experience the "great lake" and catch lake trout, salmon and rainbows.
- 3 Swimming fun** - Revel in the refreshing waters of area lakes and rivers.

Find the latest activities: ironwoodchamber.org

Getting Around... IRONWOOD

Michigan



Cultural Attractions

- A** Depot Museum & Park
Ironwood Historical Society
Ironwood Chamber of Commerce
- B** Hiawatha Indian/Park
- C** Historic Ironwood Theatre
- D** Ironwood Carnegie Library
- E** Miners Memorial Heritage Park
- F** Miners Memorial Mural
- G** Theatre North
- H** Stormy Kromer Factory Tour

Parks/Recreation

- I** Curry Park
- J** Gogebic Country Club
- K** Gogebic Co. Fairgrounds
- L** Mt. Zion Ski Area
- M** Norrie Park

Regional Attractions

- A** ABR Ski Trails
- B** Big Powderhorn Mtn.
- C** Black River Harbor
- D** Blackjack Ski Resort
- E** Copper Peak
- F** Indianhead Mtn.
- G** Little Girl's Point
- H** Lost Lake Park
- I** Miljes Ski Trails
- J** Wolverine Ski Trails

OTTAWA NATIONAL FOREST





Nature puts on a great show in the old timber forests, with autumn colors followed by winter white.

Locals and returning vacationers alike know the awe-inspiring beauty of the "great white North." Ironwood is the ski and snowmobile capital of the Midwest!



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- 1 **Blackjack Ski Resort** - 31 runs, 6 lifts, 465 ft vertical
- 2 **Big Powderhorn Mountain Resort** - 33 runs, 10 lifts, 600 ft vertical
- 3 **Mt. Zion Ski Area** - 9 runs, 2 lifts, 300 ft vertical, snow tube park
- 4 **Indianhead Mountain Resort** - 30 runs, 9 lifts & tows, 638 ft vertical
- 5 **The Whitecap Mountains** - 43 runs, 6 lifts, 400 ft vertical



With over 2,000 miles of groomed trails, the U.P. (and Ironwood) is the place to be for outstanding snowmobile adventure.

- 1 **Gogebic Range Trail Authority groomer**
- 2 **Trail riding**



1



2

- 1 **ABR Trails** - 60 km of groomed ski trails, 10 km snowshoe trails
- 2 **MECCA Cross-Country Ski Trails** - 8 km of groomed ski and snowshoe trails
- 3 **Miljes Ski Trails** - 16 km of groomed ski and snowshoe trails
- 4 **Wolverine Ski Trails** - 25 km of groomed trails, 12 km snowshoe trails
- 5 **Miners Memorial Heritage Park** - 4.3 km of ski and snowshoe trails
- 6 **Wolverine Ski Trails** - snowshoe race

Experience Ironwood anytime by visiting our live webcam! ironwoodchamber.org

CELEBRATE FOUR SEASONS OF FESTIVALS & EVENTS



SISU Ski Fest



Shovel Brigade
Jack Frost Parade



Festival Ironwood Vintage Car Show

The Ironwood area has a festival for every season.
Life up north is great, why not make it a party?

Locals get a chance to celebrate, show off their talents, and welcome both new visitors and returning friends and family.

ANNUAL FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Jan	SISU Ski & Snowshoe Race, Ironwood, MI	sisuskifest.com
Jan	Vintage Snowmobile Racing, Ironwood Fairgrounds	ironwoodsnowmobileolympus.com
Feb	Historic Ironwood Theatre Wine & Beer Festival	ironwoodtheatre.net
May	Memorial Day Weekend ATV Rally, Hurley, WI	hurleywi.com
May	John Jarvi Jr. Memorial Run, Ironwood, MI	northlandrunner.com
June	Annual Saxon Harbor Fishing Tournament	saxonharborboatingclub.org
June	Hurley Rollin' Iron Bike Fest	hurleywi.com
June	National Trails Day geocaching-Miners Memorial Heritage Park	fmmhp.com
June	Log Cabin Day, Old Victoria, Rockland, MI	oldvictoria.net
June	Art in the Miners Park	fmmhp.com
July	Wakefield 4th of July Celebration, Wakefield, MI	wakefieldmi.org
July	Bessemer Blast Fourth of July celebration	bessemer4th.com
July	Tour da Lake bicycle tour around Lake Gogebic	hobbywheel.com
July	Lake Gogebic fireworks display, Bergland, MI	lakegogebicarea.com
July	Ramsay Fourth of July Fireworks, Ramsay, MI	
July	Light'n the Night Fireworks Extravaganza, Hurley, WI	hurleywi.com
July	Festival Ironwood	ironwoodchamber.org

July	North Country 100 Bicycle Tour, Wakefield	wakefield-chamber.com
July	Range Art Association Art Show, Hurley, WI	rangearts.com
July	Iron County Heritage Festival, Hurley, WI	ironcountywi.com
July	Depot Park Farmers & Artisan Market, Ironwood	cityofironwood.org
July	Iron County Fair, Saxon, WI	ironcountywi.com
Aug	Paavo Nurmi Marathon, Hurley, WI	hurleywi.com
Aug	Gogebic County Fair, Ironwood, MI	gogebiccountyfair.com
Aug	Annual Old Victoria Craft Fair, Rockland, MI	oldvictoria.net
Aug	Porcupine Mtn Music Festival, Silver City, MI	porkiesfestival.org
Aug	Festivale Italiano, Hurley, WI	hurleywi.com
Sept	Gogebic-Iron County Airport Day	flyfromironwood.com
Sept	Michigan Trails Week	michigan.gov/trailsweek
Sept	Bessemer Pumpkinfest, Bessemer, MI	bessemerpumpkinfest.com
Nov	Jack Frost Festival tree lighting, Depot Park	ironwoodchamber.org
Dec	Opening of Upper Peninsula Snowmobile Trails	michigan.gov
Dec	Tree of Love Lighting Ceremony, Aspirus GrandView Hospital	aspirusgrandview.org
Dec	Jack Frost Festival – Festival of Lights Parade	ironwoodchamber.org



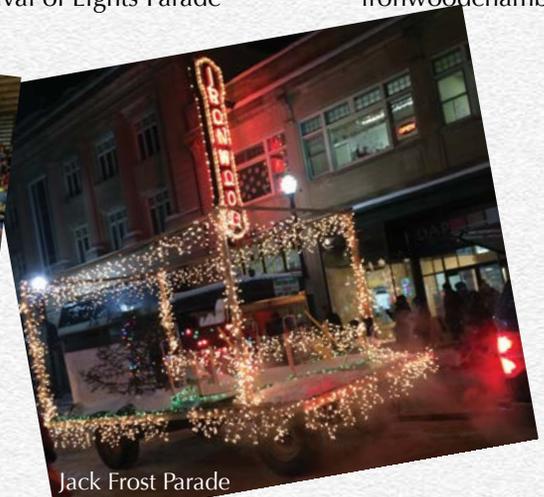
Ironwood Snowmobile Olympus



Downtown Art Place
Gingerbread House Contest



Gogebic County Fair



Jack Frost Parade

Visit ironwoodchamber.org for a more complete and detailed list of all festivals and events.



Northeast of Ironwood lies the Black River National Forest Service Byway (Black River Road), which is home to 5 beautiful waterfalls. Walking trails to the falls from the convenient roadside parking areas range from 1/8th mile to 3/4 mile, with Potawatomi Falls being barrier-free, and including a site restroom.

Black River Road ends at Lake Superior's Black River Harbor and Marina, where campgrounds, picnic areas, and wonderful Lake Superior await!

Ever wanted to actually start something from the beginning? Ironwood is "mile 0" of Michigan's Iron Belle Trail. Whether hiking or biking, the Iron Belle Trail offers amazing landscape vistas as well as visual historic links between Michigan communities.



Stop in at the Depot Museum in downtown Ironwood, park your car, and begin your hiking/biking adventure on the Iron Belle Trail.



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The Miner's Memorial Heritage Park encompasses the former iron ore mining locations within the City of Ironwood. Interpretive signs and works of art along the non-motorized trails inform visitors of the buildings and mine shafts that for many decades were the economic heart of Ironwood.

On the web, check out *fmmhp.com* to learn all about this unique park. Then come and hike the trails over this historic landscape which literally is "hollowed" ground!

Based on the character from Longfellow's epic poem, this 52' tall statue of Hiawatha stands high on a central Ironwood hill and looks out toward the lake "Gitche Gumee" (Lake Superior).

Crafted and erected in 1964, this statue stands in honor and memory of those nations of peoples who occupied and cared for this great landscape for thousands of years before the arrival of the Europeans. Always a "never miss" stop for Ironwood Visitors, Hiawatha stands proud, with an open, outstretched hand of welcome!



Experience Ironwood anytime by visiting our live webcam! ironwoodchamber.org



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