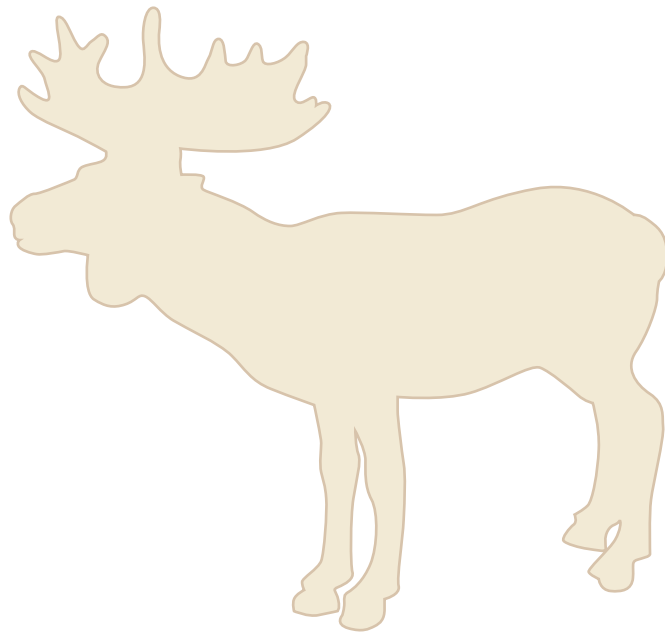


Cabin Activity Guide



Cabin Activity Guide

The area around Elephant Lake offers a wide variety of activities. The following is an index to this guide:

- Fishing** - good fishing on Elephant, Blackduck, and other nearby lakes
- Hunting** - great grouse and deer hunting
- Snowmobiling** - snowmobile “The Undiscovered Yellowstone” of the Midwest
- Bird Watching** - northern boreal birds
- Hiking/Biking** - great selection of scenic trails
- Canoeing/Kayaking** - Vermilion and Pelican Rivers, Voyageurs NP, BWCAW
- Skiing** - ski Giants Ridge on your trip north
- Swimming** - private “kiddie” sand beach located in front of your cabin
- Places to Go** - view wildlife, museums, etc.
- Outdoor Fun** - horseback riding, berry picking, etc.
- Golf** - scenic golf courses
- Shopping** - unique shopping
- Restaurants** - great food

FISHING

- Walleye, Crappie, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, etc.
- Fish Elephant Lake, and Blackduck Lake just 3 miles from your cabin
- Fish Pelican Lake and other area lakes, rivers, and streams
- Access Voyageurs National Park at Kabetogama Lake or Crane Lake, your cabin is centrally located between both access points
- Fish year around (great ice fishing)

A fish cleaning house is located onsite.

Inquire at Melgeorge’s Elephant Lake Lodge & Resort for fishing guide availability.

HUNTING

Superior National Forest and Kabetogama State Forest are at your doorstep, as are large plots of lumber company land.

- Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock
- Whitetail Deer
- Duck
- Black Bear

- Pheasant Preserve
(Udovich Guide Service, Greaney, MN, just southwest of Orr, MN,
www.udovichguideservice.com)
- Sporting Clays (Udovich Guide Service)

SNOWMOBILING

Snowmobile to your cabin door!

Your cabin is located on Arrowhead Trail – a snowmobile trail comes right by your cabin! And, you're on a trail hub that provides quick access to many locations in Voyageur Country.

Gas and great restaurant onsite! Contact Melgeorge's Elephant Lake Lodge & Resort for guided tours.

Voyageurs National Park and Surrounding Area, "The Undiscovered Yellowstone"

Trail Conditions:

www.snowmobilevacation.com

Voyageurs National Park (218) 283-9821

Voyageurs National Park & Orr Area Information Center, 1-877-254-4691

Toll-Free Snow Lines:

- International Falls, 1-800-FALLS-MN
- Kabetogama, 1-800-524-9085
- Ash River, 1-800-950-2061
- Crane Lake, 1-800-362-7405

-Iron Trail
800-422-0806

BIRD WATCHING

Birders and Bird Watchers will enjoy watching a wide variety of birds.

Around the lake you will commonly find Loons, Bald Eagles, Pelicans, Ravens, Turkey Vultures, Great Blue Herons, and many types of Ducks.

Northern Boreal Birds unique to our area include:

Ruffed Grouse, Snowy Owl, Great Gray Owl, Northern Hawk-Owl, Boreal Owl, Northern Goshawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Northern Shrike, Gray Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Boreal Chickadee, Bohemian Waxwing, Snow Bunting, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, Red and White-winged Crossbills, Hoary and Common Redpolls, Spruce Grouse, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Winter Wren, Sedge Wren, Le Conte's Sparrow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-winged Warbler, Mourning Warbler, and Connecticut Warbler.

Some unique bird watching opportunities:

- We are in close proximity to **Sax-Zim Bog** - One of the top birding locations in the state of Minnesota, which is **nationally famous**. Bird Watchers Digest named the Sax-Zim Bog as one of the **"25 Must-See birding hotspots in North America"**! There have been numerous Sax-Zim Bog Winter Bird Festivals (birders from many states attend) – winter is a great time to view birds!

(located south of Virginia, MN and west of Hwy 53, <http://moumn.org/sax-zim/>)

- Nearby Great Blue Heron Rookery.

- Close proximity to Voyageurs National Park, Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Superior National Forest, and Kabetogama State Forest (we have vast areas of wild and public lands that harbor boreal birds).

- We have an abundance of gravel roads that provide accessibility and a great opportunity to see Ruffed Grouse and many other birds.

- Our close proximity to the Pelican River results in a lot migratory birds in the fall (it's like a super highway for migration). Also, a beaver pond near the Pelican River holds many migratory birds, providing a unique viewing location.

There are three free bird watching pamphlets specific to our area:

- (1) Bogs to Rocks, Birding in Far Northern Minnesota

(http://www.rainylake.org/bogs_to_rocks.pdf)

- (2) Bird and Wildlife Viewing in Voyageur Country of Northeastern Minnesota

(<http://www.birdvnp.com/bird-guide.pdf>)

- (3) Birding & Wildlife Guide, The Iron Trail

(not the actual guide - <http://www.ironrange.org/nature/birding-wildlife/viewing-areas/>)

Plus, don't miss the unique American Bear Association's Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary. (www.americanbear.org)

HIKING/BIKING

Superior National Forest and Kabetogama State Forest are at your doorstep, as are large plots of lumber company land. See Melgeorge's Elephant Lake Lodge & Resort for mountain bike rentals.

- Bug Creek Walking Trails

Located 4 miles from your cabin on FR 203.

-Beaver Pond Trail

Located across the street from Melgeorges's Elephant Lake Lodge & Resort.

-Arrowhead Trail and Many Adjoining Trails

-Orr Bog Walk

The Orr Bog Walk is one of the region's nicest interpretive trails. It is located directly behind the Voyageur Country Visitor Center, on Highway 53, in Orr, MN. www.orrnm.com/htmls/places/bogwalk/

-Vermilion Falls

A 10-minute hike on a well-maintained interpretive trail puts the visitor at Vermilion Falls, a cascading torrent of water forced through a 10 foot wide opening in the granite. Located about 15 miles from your cabin. www.orrnm.com/htmls/places/falls/

-Vermilion Gorge

At a leisurely pace, this 3-mile round-trip trail can be easily hiked in 2 hours. The trail passes over rugged landscape of sheer granite cliffs and rock outcrops while paralleling the Vermilion Gorge. Interpretive signs along the trail describe the history of this area. www.orrnm.com/htmls/places/gorge/

-Echo Lake Trails

Located northeast of Orr, MN, near Echo Lake and the beginning of the Echo Trail (116).

-Herriman Lake Trail

Trailhead is located about 20 miles NE of your cabin on Nelson Road in the community of Crane Lake, MN.

-Gheen Hiking & Biking Trail

Located south of Orr, MN on Highway 53.

-Rainy Lake Bike Trail

Located near International Falls. Call 1-877-RAINY-LK for bike rentals.

-The Laurentian Divide Recreation Area and Trailhead

Located four miles north of Virginia, MN along the northbound lane of Highway 53/169.

-Echo Bay Trail in Voyageurs NP

Echo Bay Trail is located about 39 miles from your cabin. Go north on Highway 53 and turn right on 122 at the giant walleye. Turn left on Gamma/122 at the Pine Ridge Gift Shop. Turn right on Northern Lights Road/332.

-Kab-Ash Trail in Voyagers NP (also see "Down Ash River Trail" below)

Located on the way and close to Echo Bay Trail (see these directions).

-Down Ash River Trail, Visitor Center Entrance Road, Voyagers NP

-Voyageurs Forest Overlook (.5 mile loop)

-Beaver Pond Overlook (.2 mile one way) and Kab-Ash Trail (24 miles – one way & loops)

-Kabetogama Lake Overlook (.2 mile one way) and Blind Ash Bay Trail (2.5 mile loop)

CANOEING/KAYAKING

-Vermilion River

Elephant Lake to Vermilion River is about 5 miles.

-Pelican River

Elephant Lake to Pelican River is about 2 miles.

-Voyageurs National Park (Voyagers NP)

Elephant Lake to Voyagers NP is about 20 miles.

www.nps.gov/voya/

-Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW)

Elephant Lake to BWCAW is about 22 miles.

www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/superior/bwcaw/

SKIING

-Giants Ridge Ski Resort

Giants Ridge Ski Resort is a quick 10-mile detour off Highway 53, just south of Virginia, MN. Downhill and Cross-Country Skiing.

www.giantsridge.com

-Orr-Pelican Lake Ski Trails

Cross-Country Skiing.

-Echo Lake Trails

Cross-Country Skiing.

Located northeast of Orr, MN, near Echo Lake and the beginning of the Echo Trail (116).

-Ash River Falls Ski Trail

Cross-Country Skiing.

-Echo Bay Trail in Voyageurs NP

Cross-Country Skiing. Echo Bay Trail is located about 39 miles from your cabin. Go north on Highway 53 and turn right on 122 at the giant walleye. Turn left on Gamma/122 at the Pine Ridge Gift Shop. Turn right on Northern Lights Road/332.

-Kab-Ash Trail in Voyageurs NP

Cross-Country Skiing. Located on the way and close to Echo Bay Trail (see these directions).

-The Laurentian Divide Recreation Area and Trailhead

Cross-Country Skiing. Located four miles north of Virginia, MN along the northbound lane of Highway 53/169.

SWIMMING

-Elephant Lake Private “Kiddie” Sand Beach and Docks
Sand beach is located onsite.

-AmericInn Indoor Pool and Waterslide

Waterpark is 14 miles from your cabin in Orr, MN. 115’ waterslide, indoor pool, hot tub spa, sauna, kiddie pool and slide. Call for information on days and times available to the public.

www.americinn-orr.com/

-Orr City Park Beach

PLACES TO GO

-Voyageur Country Visitor Center

Stop in at a beautiful tourist center, located just south of Orr, MN on Highway 53, for information on everything there is to see and do in Orr and all around Voyageur Country, 218-757-3932.

-Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary

Home of the American Bear Association. Watch black bears in their natural habitat from the safety of an elevated viewing platform. Plenty of wildlife species to watch and photograph. Located 29 miles from your cabin and about 14 miles west of Orr, MN. Viewing/visitor time is only in evening.

www.americanbear.org

-Cold Springs Deer Farm

Located 26 miles north of your cabin on Highway 53.

-Visit and Ride the Giant Walleye

Go north on Highway 53 to 122.

-Take the Echo Trail to Ely

Elephant Lake to Ely is about 70 miles.

-International Wolf Center

www.wolf.org

-North American Bear Center

www.bear.org

-Dorothy Molter Museum

www.rootbeerlady.com

-Outdoor Supplies and Outfitters

-Take the Echo Trail to Ely and Loop Around the Southern Side of Lake Vermilion

The complete loop is about 148 miles – Elephant Lake to Ely and back on southern route.

-Fortune Bay Resort Casino

At Fortune Bay Resort Casino you can choose from a wide selection of the hottest new slot machines, plus blackjack, high-stakes bingo, electronic bingo, video keno and live poker tables.

www.fortunebay.com

-Bois Forte Heritage Center & Cultural Museum

Located near Fortune Bay Resort Casino, 218-753-6017.

-Soudan Underground Mine State Park

Located in Soudan, MN. A tour leads visitors through the world of underground mining. Visitors don hard hats and enter a "cage" for the descent into the mine. The 1 1/2-hour mine tour will take you half a mile down into the earth.

www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/soudan_underground_mine/index.html

-Tower Train Museum

Located in Tower, MN. www.irontrail.org/attractions/museums/tower-train/

-Take Highway 53 to International Falls

International Falls is about 55 miles from your cabin.

-Koochiching County Historical Museum & Bronko Nagurski Museum

-Sportsmen's Service "Finest Private Wildlife Collection in Minnesota"

(over 100 birds and 50 animals, Hwy 53, 218-283-2411)

-Smokey Bear Park

-Boise Cascade Papermill Tours

218-285-5011

-Fort Frances Museum, Fort Frances, Canada

-Grand Mound Center (possibly closed)

-Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Historical Centre

(Stratton, Ontario, located about 35 miles west of International Falls)

-Ranier, MN

Quaint lakeside village, east of International Falls.

-Voyageurs National Park

www.nps.gov/voya/, 218-283-9821

Elephant Lake to Voyageurs National Park (Voyagers NP) is about 20 miles. Voyageurs NP consists of thousands of acres of pristine lakes and northwoods beauty. In summer, the call of the Loon echoes over the water and across the many campsites. In winter, the park boasts some of the best and finely groomed trails in the country for snowmobiling, skiing, and snowshoeing. Some tourist attractions include:

-3 Visitor Centers: Ash River, Kabetogama Lake, Rainy Lake (open all year, 218-286-5258)

-Historic Kettle Falls Hotel, www.kettlefallshotel.com

-Boat Tours (check with Visitor Centers)

-Ellsworth Rock Gardens

-Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW)

Elephant Lake to BWCAW is about 22 miles.

www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/superior/bwcaw/

-Ironworld Discovery Center, Chisholm, MN

Ironworld Discovery Center, the largest museum complex on the Iron Range, is dedicated to collecting, preserving and interpreting the history of Minnesota's Iron Ranges.

www.ironworld.com

-Minnesota Museum of Mining, Chisholm, MN

www.fnbchisholm.com/mining

-Mineview in the Sky, Virginia, MN

www.irontrail.org/attractions/mining/mineview-in-the-sky/

-Hull Rust Mahoning Mine View, Hibbing, MN

www.irontrail.org/attractions/mining/hull-rust/

-World's Largest Authentic Hockey Stick, Eveleth, MN

www.irontrail.org/attractions/other/hockey-stick/

-U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame, Eveleth, MN

www.ushockeyhall.com

-Hill Annex Mine State Park, Calumet, MN

www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/hill_annex_mine/index.html

OUTDOOR FUN

-Horseback Riding

Elm Creek Farms, 4258 Schweiger Road, Orr, MN, 218-757-3342.

-4 Wheeling on the Many Area Trails

-Campfires

Campfires welcome in designated fire rings. Firewood available at Melgeorge's Elephant Lake Lodge & Resort.

-Boating, Paddle Boating, and Water Biking

Boat & motor rental and Pelican River & Blackduck Lake boat service available from Melgeorge's Elephant Lake Lodge & Resort. Paddle boat and water bikes are located onsite. Houseboat rentals available in Crane Lake.

-Berry Picking

Pick wild blueberries, strawberries, and raspberries. Ask about Blueberry Hill near Chub Lake.

-Snowshoeing in the Winter

-Fall Color Tours

GOLF

-Vermilion River Greens, Buyck, MN

-Wolfridge Golf Course

Wolfridge Golf Course is located halfway between Cook and Virginia, off Highway 53 in a secluded area on a dead-end road. 218-666-5455, Toll Free: 877-666-0218 www.wolfridgegolf.com

-Giants Ridge Golf Resort

Giants Ridge Golf Resort is a quick 10-mile detour off Highway 53, just south of Virginia, MN. There are two courses: The Legend and The Quarry. The Legend has been named Minnesota's #1 Public Golf Course. www.giantsridge.com

-Falls Country Club, International Falls, MN

Located along the Rainy River.

www.fallsccl.com

-The Wilderness at Fortune Bay

www.thewildernessgolf.com/

-Vermilion Fairways, Cook, MN

-Virginia Golf Course, Virginia, MN

-Eveleth Municipal Golf Course, Eveleth, MN

-Ely Golf Club, Ely, MN

SHOPPING

-Melgeorge's Elephant Lake Lodge & Resort Gift Shop

Located just a few feet down the trail from your cabin.

-Orr General Store & Mercantile, Orr, MN

Historic general store constructed to serve pioneer logging camps. Now offers unique northwoods gifts, coffee shop, ice cream parlor, art gallery, antiques, and homemade fudge.

-Pine Ridge Gift Shop

Go north on Highway 53 and turn right on 122 at the giant walleye. Look for on left side of road.

-Cold Springs, Inc.

Located 22 miles north of Orr, MN on Highway 53, 218-757-3191.

-Norman's One Stop, Orr, MN

(tackle, bait, ice cream, etc., 218-757-3291)

-Pelican Bay IGA, Orr, MN

(groceries)

-Orr Muni, Orr, MN
(on & off sale liquor)

-Lumber Orr Hardware, Orr, MN

-Ryan's Rustic Railings & Furniture
Log furniture and other furnishings, located just south of Orr, MN, 218-757-3329.
www.rusticrailings.com

-Voyageur Log Homes
Located 10 miles from your cabin at intersection of Highway 53 and County Road 180.
www.voyageurloghomes.com

-The Pumpkin Shell
Near Buyck, MN (chainsaw carvings)

-Natv Beadz & Thingz/Bois Forte Native Arts & Crafts, Orr, MN
(bead work, birch bark baskets & assorted gifts, 218-757-3430)

-Zup's, Cook, MN
(famous homemade sausage, freshest produce and meats)

-Lake Vermilion Trading Company, Inc. & Big Dipper Bait, Cook, MN
(fish, hunt, sport, gifts)

-The Historic Comet Theatre Mercantile Exchange, Cook, MN
(antiques, fine gifts & jewelry, movies, live theatre and music)

-Frank's Pharmacy, Cook, MN
218-666-5325

-Cook Dollar Barn, Cook, MN

-Much more in International Falls and Fort Frances, Canada
(right across border)

-The Arrowhead Store
(Canadian and American souvenirs & gifts, knives, candy shop, wild rice, Minnetonka moccasins, etc.)

-Border Bob's
(gifts and souvenirs from borderland)

-Ronning's
(sportswear, moccasins, souvenirs, Hudson Bay blankets, etc.) www.ronnings.com

-Sportsmen's Service
(tackle, T-shirts, hats, gifts)

-etc.

RESTAURANTS

-Melgeorge's Elephant Lake Lodge & Resort Restaurant

Enjoy a meal at a great restaurant just a few feet down the trail from your cabin.

-The Dam Supper Club, Orr, MN

-AmericInn Northern Skies Grill, Orr, MN

www.americinn-orr.com

-T. Pattenn Cafe, Orr, MN

Daily homemade soups, lunch and dinner specials. Home of the Big Doughnut.

-Ernie's Famous Pizza and Pub, Orr, MN

-A&W, Orr, MN

-Bait & Bite Restaurant

(on the way to Echo Bay Trail)

Note: The vast majority of listed activities are less than 1 hour driving distance from your cabin. All activities are within approximately 1.5 hours driving distance.