Hiking Trails in Bayfield County

Hiking opportunities abound! Miles and miles of hiking trails lead you through natural beauty that will renew your spirit and refresh your senses.
1. **Ahmeek Lake Walking Trail**
   Follow Hwy 2 west from Iron River 4 miles. Turn right (south) on Hughes Town Hall Road, proceed 2 miles and continue south after stop sign for .5 miles. Trails are on the east side of the road.

2. **Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Island Trails**
   Hikers can enjoy more than fifty miles of maintained trails on the islands of the National Lakeshore. These trails provide access to lighthouses, abandoned quarries, old farm sites, historic logging camps, beaches, campsites and scenic overlooks. Besides trails, there are numerous sandy beaches that are great for walking and exploring. Stop at the Apostle Islands Visitors Center (one block off Wisconsin Route 13 in the city of Bayfield) for more info on island hikes and access to islands. Call 715-779-3397 or visit [www.nps.gov/apis](http://www.nps.gov/apis)

3. **Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Mainland Trail**
   This trail extends 4.5 miles, from Meyers Road past the cliffs above the mainland sea caves, and about half-way along the Lakeshore's mainland unit. This trail is a rugged path for use by experienced hikers, with stream crossings and steep slopes along the way. Meyers Beach Road is off Highway 13 about 2.5 miles east of Comucopia. Call 715-779-3397 or visit [www.nps.gov/apis](http://www.nps.gov/apis)

4. **Bass Lake Interpretive Trail**
   Located on the east side of the beautiful 1,323-acre Lake Owen, this 1.5 mile hiking trail goes around Bass Lake. *Directions:* From Drummond, follow forest Road 213 (Lake Owen Drive) southeast to Two Lakes Campground. Call 715-373-2667 or visit [www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnn/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnn/)

5. **Big Ravine Trail**
   (2 miles round trip) Hike uphill along the steep rim of the big ravine. Enjoy the gorgeous old-growth hemlocks which thrive on the precipitous sides of the ravine, but be sure to take young children by the hand! From downtown Bayfield, follow 4th St uphill to the Bayfield School. Turn left on Sweeny and park at the baseball field. The trail begins behind the outfield fence on your right. Call 800-447-4094 or visit [www.bayfield.org](http://www.bayfield.org)

6. **Big Rock County Park**
   Located on the Sioux River, a first class steelhead trout stream. The park generates heavy bank and stream fishing and offers a spot for picnicking, wildlife viewing, hiking and rugged camping. Take Hwy 13 to County C in Washburn. Go 3 miles on County C to Big Rock Road. The park is 1.5 miles down the road.

7. **Birch Grove Campground**
   The campground is nestled between East Twin Lake and West Twin Lake. The hiking trail is approximately 1 mile and encircles East Twin Lake. Trailhead is accessible at either boat landing. From Washburn, follow Hwy 13 south 1 mile, turn right (west) on Wannebo Road for 8 miles. Turn right (north) on Forest Road 252 for 2 miles and right (east) on Forest Road 435 for 1 mile. Call 715-373-2667 or visit [www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/)

8. **Birkebeiner Trail**
   The trail is 2 miles east of Cable on Co Rd M, to Telemark Road.

9. **Brownstone Trail**
   (5 miles round trip) Easy walking and biking on an old railroad bed which skirts the lakeshore just south of Bayfield. The trail begins at the kiosk just kitty-corner from Maggie’s Restaurant in Bayfield. The south section of the trail emerges onto Chequamegon Road; it then narrows to a foot path into Waterford Condos, Pike’s Bay and Port Superior Marinas. The trail features some beautiful views of Madeline Island, boats crossing the channel and maybe even a black bear in the spring and fall. Segments of the trail cross private property. Please respect owners’ privacy by remaining on the trail. Call 800-447-4094 or visit [www.bayfield.org](http://www.bayfield.org)

10. **Drummond Ski Trails**
    During the summer, this is a nice place to hike or ride a mountain bike. The Drummond Ski Trail system is located on gentle terrain. The trail is located in a northern hardwood forest that has inclusions of large white pine. The North Country Trail loop, the Racetrack and Playground are located in more rolling terrain. Trail lengths: Boulevard 9 km, Antler 3.2 km, Antler Chute 2.6 km, Jackrabbit 6 km, Racetrack 4.5 km, Playground 4.5 km, North Country Trail Loop 0.9 km. From Drummond drive southeast 1 mile on FR 213. Turn left (east) on the access road and continue 0.1 mile to the Drummond Trailhead. Call 715-373-2667 or visit [www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/)
11 **Drummond Woods Trail/ Virgin Pine Trail**
A short interpretive trail (.75 miles) near the village of Drummond. The trail is relatively flat and easy to hike. The trail traverses through a northern hardwood forest and is a wonderful short hike for those who wish to see fall colors but don’t want to go a long distance. It has several interpretive stops with information signs at each stop. From Drummond drive northeast 1 mile on Highway 63 to Old 63. Turn left (west) and the trailhead is on the right side of Old 63. Call 715-373-2667 or visit [www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/)

12 **Fish Hatchery/Pikes Creek**
(2 miles round trip) Combine a walk along Pikes Creek with a visit to the state fish hatchery where you’ll find two large aquariums with native Lake Superior fish. **Trailhead access:** Two miles south of Bayfield at the State Fish Hatchery. Park in the lots near Highway 13. Walk between the buildings towards the fish ponds—a good place to view spawning salmon in the late fall. Continue along the creek past the service building to the Red Dam where the trail narrows and takes you to several good fishing/viewing spots. Call 715-779-4021.

13 **Flag River Walking Trails**
Take Hwy A north from Iron River 3 miles. Turn right on Lavin Road for 1.5 miles and turn left on Battle Axe Road. Proceed on Battle Axe Road for 6 miles. Turn left on Flag Road. Trails start about .5 miles down Flag Road on the west side of the road.

14 **Forest Lodge Nature Trail**
Maintained in cooperation with the Cable Natural History Museum, this is one of the best interpretive trails in northern Wisconsin. Trail length: Forest Lodge Nature Trail - 1.5 miles; Extended Nature trail adds 0.5 miles, Conservancy Trail - 2 miles. The nature trail begins in an old field south of Garmisch Road. The interpretive booklet is excellent and aids the novice in learning about the northern environment. **Directions:** From State Highway 63 in Cable, drive 8.6 miles east on Co Hwy M, turn left on Garmisch Road and drive 1 mile to the trailhead which is on the right side of the road. Call 715-798-3890 or visit [www.cablemuseum.org/properties.html](http://www.cablemuseum.org/properties.html)

15 **Henkens Road Walking Trails**
Go 7 miles north of Washburn on Hwy 13. Turn left on Hatchery Rd for 1 mile. Turn left on Star Route Road. After 5.5 miles turn right on Henkens Road. Trails are on the west side of the road 1.5 miles north along Henkens Road.

16 **Houghton Falls**
The narrow trail is well signed. After a short walk (which may be muddy during rainy periods) you’ll come upon an ancient riverbed area called Echo Dells. Take your time exploring the rock formations, pools and gravel beds. Try singing your favorite tune and enjoy the cathedral-like acoustics. Further on you’ll cross a bridge and follow a narrow path to Houghton Point. Enjoy the huge old-growth pines and hemlocks, rocky shoreline and views of Lake Superior. Return via the same route. **Directions:** Drive 2.5 miles north of Washburn on Hwy 13. Turn right on Houghton Falls Road and go 1/2 mile to the Houghton Falls Nature Preserve parking lot.

17 **Iron Bridge Nature Trail (aka Gil Larsen Trail)**
Short but sweet (3/4 mile), this beautiful trail follows the ravine creek under the old Iron Bridge uphill and across the creek to an overlook. Benches provide good listening points. **Trailhead access:** Uphill from the ferry-boat landing on Washington Ave. in Bayfield. You’ll see the Iron Bridge and parking area on your right. Call 800-447-4094 or visit [www.bayfield.org](http://www.bayfield.org)

18 **Iron River National Fish Hatchery Trail**
6 ½ miles north of Iron River on Co Rd A, then left on Fairview Rd to Fish Hatchery.

19 **Jerry Jolly/Pikes Creek Trail**
(11 km). In 2005 Jerry Jay Jolly donated 73 acres to the people of Bayfield County. You can now walk 42 km of ski trails crossing from Star Route Road over to Mt. Ashwabay, connecting with the ski resort’s trail system. Access is via Highway 13 between Washburn and Bayfield. As soon as you pass the State Fish Hatchery, take a left on Hatchery Road and head up the hill until you come to a 4-way intersection & stop sign. Turn left on Star Route Road and follow for 2.25 miles. The Jerry Jolly Trail parking lot is on the left. Parking, maps and a restroom are provided. Call 800-472-6338 or visit [www.travelbayfieldcounty.com](http://www.travelbayfieldcounty.com)

20 **Lost Creek Falls Walking Trail**
Take Hwy C south of Cornucopia 1.5 miles and turn right on Trail Drive to trail head parking lot.

21 **Long Lake Picnic Area**
A nice easy hike around the lake (1.2 miles) with a boardwalk across a marshy area. Trail is accessible from the parking lot at picnic area or at boat landing parking area. Parking fee required. Call 715-373-2667 or visit [www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/)
22 Mt Ashwabay Recreation Area
(Distances vary) A range of hiking opportunities on cross-country ski trails - easy to challenging depending on your route. Trails may not be mown. Mountain biking is allowed on specific trails - watch for signs. Trailhead access: Take Highway 13 three miles south of Bayfield to Ski Hill Road. Turn right and continue to the Mt. Ashwabay Recreation Area. The Raven trail winds through stands of birch and balsam, eventually bringing you to the top of the ski hill and a spectacular view of the Apostle Islands - a great place for a picnic. Be warned, The Deer Path Trail veers off to your left and continues around the top of Mt. Ashwabay on a 9 mile loop back to the chalet. To your right, as you face the ski hill, the Sugarbush and Anchor trails offer fairly level terrain out to the Nourse Sugarbush State Natural Area, a beautiful stand of old growth maple and hemlock. Call 715-779-3227 or visit www.mtashwabay.org/

23 Mt Valhalla Recreation Area
This ski trail is centered around the Valhalla chalet located outside of Washburn on County Hwy C. The Teuton Ski Trails are located in an oak forest and have relatively long uphills and downhills. The trails begin at the parking lot and climb with no flats until they reach the top. The Valkyrie Ski Trails are located in an open red pine stand north of Highway C. The Valhalla Chalet provides a place out of the weather and a warming fire. During the snow-free season, mountain biking, hiking and running are allowed on both trail systems. Trail lengths: Teuton Ski Trails: Loop A 3.5 km, Loop B 5.3 km, Loop C 6.6 km, Benchmark Loop 3.5 km. Valkyrie Trails: Loop A 2 km, Loop B 3.5 km, Loop C 9.9 km. Directions to Valhalla Trailhead: From Washburn, drive 8.5 miles west on Hwy C. The parking lot is on the left (south) side of the road. Parking fee required. Call 715-373-2667 or visit www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/

24 Namakagon Trail
Directions to parking lot: From Cable, drive 11 miles east on County Hwy M to County Hwy D. Turn left on D and drive 5.5 miles to Forest Road 209. Turn left and drive 0.5 miles to the trailhead on the right side of the road. Call 715-634-4821 or visit www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/

25 North Country Scenic Trail
This trail is managed primarily as a long distance hiking trail with 61.4 miles inside the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. For those who don't want to hike the entire distance within the forest, there are some interesting shorter segments to hike. Trailhead directions: From Drummond drive 3.6 miles SE on FR 213. turn right on the access road and continue 0.1 mile to Lake Owen Picnic Area (parking fee required). Visit www.northcountrytrail.org/

26 North End Trail
Take County Hwy. M east from Cable. Go 2 blocks and turn right on Randysek Rd. Go 2 miles south to North End Trail Head. Visit www.orwiski.co/northend/trail_map.html

27 Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center
The Center's Boardwalk Trail offers great wildlife viewing opportunities of birds, waterfowl, muskrat, frogs and turtles. The trail is open year-round and visitors are welcome to walk, snowshoe or cross-country ski. The trail has two loops; the north loop is 0.5 mile, the south loop 0.5 mile, and the distance around the perimeter is 0.7 mile. The trail is relatively level with a firm surface allowing for easy access for people of all abilities. The trail winds through mature cedar and black ash forests with vistas of sedge meadow and wetland habitats. Benches every 400 feet allow for reflection and relaxed viewing opportunities. Interpretive wayside exhibits tell the story of glacial history, forests, wildlife and wetland habitats. Guided nature walks are offered during the summer months. Directions: From Ashland, drive 2.5 miles west on US Hwy 2 and turn right (east) on county Hwy G. Travel 100 feet and turn right (north) to the Visitor Center parking area. Call 715-685-9983 or visit www.northerngreatlakescenter.org/

28 Point De Tour
A walking trail in the campground runs along the shoreline and terminates at a stairway to the actual Point Detour, a rocky perch with an even better view of the lake and the Apostle Islands wilderness area offshore. Be careful if you leave the trail for a closer look before you reach the staircase. There’s about a 30-foot drop from the side of the trail to the red sandstone and granite boulder-filled shoreline below. 9 miles north of Red Cliff on Highway 13 and County Rd K. Call 715-779-3712 or visit www.legendarywaers.com

29 Rainbow Lake Wilderness Area
This area includes slightly more than 6 miles of the North Country National Scenic Trail as it crosses this wilderness from northwest to southeast. The trail passes by Wishbone, Reynard, Bufo, Rainbow and Tower lakes. Much of the trail follows old narrow gauge logging railroad beds. Bufo Lake is particularly scenic. Anderson Grade is the only other maintained pathway, crossing from east to west for about 4 miles. Hiking is relatively easy in rolling terrain cloaked in northern hardwoods, balsam fir, pine and paper birch. Multiple access to wilderness along Delta-Drummond Rd, Reynard Lake Rd. or other perimeter roads. Call 715-373-2667 or visit www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/
30 Raspberry River Walking Trail
Take Hwy 13 west of Red Cliff 3 miles and turn right on Old Cty Hwy K for 3.5 miles. Trail head is the intersection of Old K and Rowley Rd.

31 Rock Lake National Recreation Trail
This trail is managed primarily as a classic style cross country ski trail. Hiking on the Rock Lake Trail is best in the short segments between Forest Road 207 and the lakes - Rock Lake, Frels and Hildebrand Lakes or Spring Lake. The Rock Lake Trail is a narrow trail that traverses rolling to hilly terrain. The two longest loops pass a number of small scenic lakes. The trail is located in a maple and oak forest that has occasional stands of large white pine. Trail length: 2 km, 4 km, 7.1 km, 11.5 km, 16 km. Directions: From State Hwy 63 in Cable, drive 7.5 miles east on County Hwy M. The parking lot and Rock Lake Trailhead is on the right (south) side of the road (parking fee required). Call 715-373-2667 or visit www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnn/

32 Ruth Lake Walking Trails
Take Hwy A south of Iron River for 5 miles. Turn left on Ruth Lake Rd. Trails begin on both sides of the road after .5 miles.

33 Sioux River Flats Beach Trail
(3.8 miles round trip) Take off your shoes and scunch some sand as you walk the Lake Superior shoreline from Bayview Park Road to the Sioux River. Beach Access: Follow Hwy 13 south from Bayfield five miles. Take a sharp left on Bayview Park Road and park under the pines or on the sandy spur road to the beach. Walk south along this pristine stretch past the wetlands to the Sioux River and back. This is a great place to launch your canoe or kayak; don’t forget your swimsuit! Watch out for poison ivy growing along the tops of the dunes. Call 800-447-4094 or visit www.bayfield.org

34 Spring Creek Walking Trails
Take Hwy C south from Cornucopia 3.5 miles. Trail head is on the east side of the road.

35 Telemark
2 miles east of Cable, on Co Rd M to Telemark Road.

36 Tomahawk Lake Trail
Take Hwy A south from Iron River 12 miles. Turn right on Barnes Rd. Take Barnes Rd for 3 miles. Proceed straight onto Island Lake Rd when Barnes Rd turns south. After 1 mile, turn left onto Moore Rd. Take Moore Rd for 1.5 miles. Trails are on both sides of the road.

37 Tri-County Corridor
A 62-mile, improved multi-use railbed trail (graveled surface) from Ashland to Superior. Trail passes through scenic terrain in Ashland, Bayfield and Douglas Counties. Access in Iron River, Forest Road 242 in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and Bayfield County Hwy G.

38 Washburn Lakefront Walking Trail
A 1.34-mile long non-motorized, moderate hiking trail with a packed limestone surface. The trail extends from Thompson West End Park, winding its way through the Washburn Marina, past the ball park on Pumphouse Road and finally through to Memorial Park. The first section of the trail is wheelchair accessible up to Washington Avenue with entrances at both ends. Besides the three alluring, sandy beaches along the way, there are also interesting signs with historical information. Call 800-253-4495 or visit www.cityofwashburn.org/parks.htm

Go take a hike!