



Fall is upon us and the best way to enjoy the beauty of the season is a getaway to Wisconsin's Northwoods. With thousands of acres of forests, dramatic fall color and endless activities, a road trip through Wisconsin's small towns of Hayward, Cable or Ashland may just be the best thing you do all year.

What To Do

There's no shortage of fun in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. Get in touch with your inner-outdoorsmen and take a canoe trip down the St. Croix Scenic Riverway. Climb into the mouth of a giant fiberglass fish at the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in Hayward, or view some unique artwork at the Ashland Mural walk. Whatever you do, don't forget to bring your camera. This is peak fall color season after all.



St Croix National Scenic River fall color. Photo courtesy: RJ & Linda Miller

Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum

Where else can you climb into the mouth of a giant 5-story tall fiberglass fish? Whether you're a seasoned fisher, newcomer or just want to see the famous "Big Muskie" statue, the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame in Hayward is a Northwoods favorite attraction. The hall of fame serves as an international headquarters for education, recognition and promotion of fresh water fishing. The museum holds over 50,000 sport fishing historical artifacts from lures, rods, reels and accessories. Not to mention, there are over 300 mounted fish and 1,000 antique motors on display. 715-634-4440; www.freshwater-fishing.org



Big Muskie at the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum. Photo courtesy: TravelWisconsin.com

Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway

Stretching all the way along the western Wisconsin border from Prescott to Cable, the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is a more than 150-mile wonder. Known for its calm waters, especially its tributaries, the St. Croix is the perfect river to spend a day on the water. For a leisurely day outdoors, rent a canoe or kayak from Bear Country Boat Rentals in Hayward. A three-hour tour on the Namekagon River tributary is \$40 for a canoe, and \$35 for a kayak. As you make your way down the peaceful Namekagon, you'll see an abundance of wildlife and gorgeous fall color. 1-888-847-7869; www.bearcountysportinggoods.com/boatrentals.htm



Kayaks on the St. Croix River. Photo courtesy: Glenn Sanderson

Ashland Mural Wall

A small but must-see stop on your way around the Northwoods area is the Ashland Mural Wall. The eight-block business district of downtown Ashland is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the backdrop for this unique wall. View a collection of 13 murals by local Ashland muralists Kelly Meredith and Susan Prentice Martinsen. 715-682-2500; www.visitashland.com

There's plenty more adventure waiting for you in Wisconsin's Northwoods. Start planning your trip at www.TravelWisconsin.com.

Where To Eat

Contrary to popular belief, restaurants in deep wooded areas in the Midwest don't always cater to lumberjacks. Check out these unique restaurants, serving up more than just flapjacks.

The Original Famous Dave's

Famous Dave's humble roots began in the beautiful back woods of Hayward, a small town of only 1,800 people. Famous Dave of the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibway Tribe opened his first restaurant here, and today it remains the original Famous Dave's. Serving up all-American barbeque feasts on a garbage can lid the way Dave used to do it, to delicious award-winning bread pudding with praline sauce, this small hometown restaurant quickly became a favorite. Its instant success has given Famous Dave's national status, and it is now a chain serving up barbeque favorites across the country. The Famous Dave's in Hayward, now privately owned, still remains the original restaurant and attracts 4,000 to 5,000 visitors a week. 888-774-2674; www.famousdaveshayward.com

Where To Stay

Road tripping can be tiring. Do yourself a favor and opt for one of these great lodges in the Northwoods area. No need to count sheep here. You'll be asleep as soon as your head hits the pillow.

Lakewoods Resort, Cable

This four-season resort is located in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and offers an abundance of activities for travelers. Sitting right on Lake Namekagon, Lakewoods has its own marina with over 40 boat rentals and guided or self-guided boat tours. Don't miss out on Lakewoods' 18-hole golf course, with fairways spread throughout the wooded area. In the fall, the resort offers golf, fishing and hunting packages. Sit back by the pool, or soak in the hot tub without a worry in your mind. 800-255-5937; www.lakewoodsresort.com

Spider Lake Lodge, Hayward

Opened in 1923, this peaceful retreat in the woods is the perfect combination of rustic and luxurious. Each of the eight cabins is furnished with a woodsy touch. Greet the morning with a hearty country style breakfast, served to you in the beautiful dining room with a lakeside view. Enjoy the rest of the day outdoors. 1-800-OLD-WISC; www.spiderlakelodge.com

Rookery in Cable

The No. 1-rated area restaurant on Trip Advisor, the Rookery in Cable offers some of the most creative and flavorful foods in the area. Located at the Cable Nature Lodge, the pub's ever-changing menu features weekly fresh fish specials, beef and bison steak, handmade pasta, specialty salads, vegetarian and vegan entrees all made with ingredients from local producers. Is your mouth watering yet? 715-794-2062; www.rookerypub.com

Deep Water Grille and South Shore Brewery

South Shore Brewery was northern Wisconsin's first brewery and produces its famous Nut Brown Ale as well as other seasonal delights. Stop for lunch at the restaurant on site, Deep Water Grille, and you'll find a menu with flavorful grill sandwiches and delicious soups. For dinner, the menu includes items like the Grilled Marinated Duck Breast or the Brewery Malt Crusted Pork Tenderloin. While you're there, don't forget to take a tour of the brewery. Tours are free, and can be scheduled in advance over the phone. 715-682-4200; www.southshorebrewery.com/contact.html



Lakewoods Resort. Photo courtesy: Jon McCullough

Cable Nature Lodge, Cable

Located in the heart of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, the Cable Nature Lodge is a truly green experience. The lodge is certified Travel Green Wisconsin and offers beautiful forest views from any of its seven deluxe cabins. Enjoy amenities such as vaulted ceilings, jet tubs, plush beds and high speed internet. Each room is designed to mirror the spirit of the area's natural heritage. 866-794-2060; www.cablenaturelodge.com