

10 fun ideas that are **absolutely FREE**



1. Gallery Hop

Grand Marais is a magnet for renowned artists, artisans, writers, actors and musicians—and taking in the scene doesn't mean taking out your wallet. Hop from gallery to gallery, window shop or take in a free concert. Outdoor art is everywhere! Chances are you'll find that inspiration is contagious.

[Galleries, Art Organizations](#)



2. Take a trip back in time

Grand Marais is filled with history. Once a home for fur traders and fishermen, our link to the past is preserved through our architecture, museums and the ancient cadence of the waves rolling onto the shores of the harbor. Make sure you swing by Bally's Blacksmithing, visit the Cook County Historic Society Museum and the buildings on the National Historic Register.

[History, Historical Photo Gallery, Chronology](#)



3. Snowy Beaches

You might not be able to work on your tan, but Lake Superior's shore is simply spectacular under a crystal cathedral of ice. From mountains of snow and ice-caked stones to crashing waves and picture-perfect photo-ops, there's more to see in winter on the shore. [View Photos](#)



4. "Outdoor Adventure and Theme Park"

Grand Marais sits smack dab on the north shore of Lake Superior, the largest body of fresh water in the world. We like to boast that the lake is our natural air conditioner, since it provides average summer temperatures of around 75 degrees, and lots of beautiful, white fluffy snow in the winter. Our geography, weather and trails of all kinds combine to give you hours of activity and pleasure. C'mon – does the mall do that?

[Hiking, Biking, Snowshoeing, X-Country Skiing](#)



5. Mother Nature's Zoo

Wildlife viewing is on everyone's list. Moose is at the top, but you may spot wolf, fox, pine marten, lynx, black bear, beaver, deer and even a family of otters (lucky visitors catch them on the boardwalk). Visit the area often, and you may see a cow moose with her calf (or twins), a bear lurching on blueberries, and hear a loon's cry announce the end of day. Yep, life gets pretty wild in and around Grand Marais.

[Wildlife Touring, Bird Watching, Scenic Touring](#)



6. Skip Rocks

The unofficial record of skips in the harbor from one rock is rumored to be 28, set by a vacationer from Idaho named Joseph Wetzler back in 1958. Think you can beat that?



7. Boat Watching

As a port community, we've been watching boats of every description steam past our shores and into our harbor since the middle of the nineteenth century. The sunrise and sunset views of the harbor and sailboats peacefully moored is worth far more than an hour with a therapist – and free.

[Marina/Harbor](#)



8. Mother Nature's Water Parks

Forget the canned, tourist-trap version. Here, we don't have "waterfall simulations" or "wave pools" – we have actual waterfalls and actual waves.

[Minnesota State Parks](#)



9. Winter Festivals

If you're going to be outdoors in winter, you've got to be active. And up here, between the Gunflint Trail and Lake Superior, you will be. We've got dozens of winter activities planned for the whole family—from the Volks Ski Fest, which celebrates the most trails of any Minnesota county, to Winter Tracks, an Olympic-sized outdoor extravaganza. [Events/Festivals, Volks Ski Fest](#)



10. Scenic Touring

Like they say, "It don't cost nuthin' to look." Take a leisurely drive along the North Shore Scenic Drive all the way to the Canadian border, or Gunflint Trail, or, well, pretty much any road around here that goes anywhere. There's always one more bend to go around. What will you find?

[Scenic Touring](#)