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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Discover Epic Cross Country Skiing on Minnesota's Gunflint Trail

Explore northern Minnesota's wilderness along the 57-mile national scenic byway.

January 25, 2024 - Gunflint Trail, Minn. — Winter has arrived, and the cross-country ski trails near the Gunflint Trail have opened after the first few snowfalls of the season. Visit Cook County invites skiers of all abilities to plan an epic cross country ski adventure in the northernmost reaches of the state.

“Winter may have had a soft start this year, but we’ve got snow on the ground up the Gunflint Trail, and cross-country skiers will find a number of opportunities to hit the trails in Cook County,” said Linda Jurek, Visit Cook County Executive Director. “We’re expecting more snow, so now is the perfect time to plan a winter getaway to Cook County.”

The Gunflint Trail is a [57-mile paved National Scenic Byway](#) that winds through the heart of the Superior National Forest at the edge of the [Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness \(BWCAW\)](#) and [Canada's Quetico National Park](#). The [Central Gunflint Ski Trail System](#) is located midway up the Gunflint Trail and features more than 77 kilometers of beautiful, groomed trails through the woods and wilderness. Additionally, the privately maintained [Upper Gunflint Ski Trail System](#) contains some of the most varied trails in the region and includes over 70 kilometers of incredible Nordic skiing.

In addition to cross country skiing, visitors will find [dog-sledding](#) and access to some of the best [ice fishing](#) lakes in the state.

Whether for a day or a week, solo or with family, the Gunflint Trail is the place to experience nature at its best and most pure—especially during winter. From quaint cabins nestled into the wilderness to [stunning lodges and outfitters](#) ready to supply epic adventures, visitors will be feeling at home in no time. Plus, with some of the region's best [dining](#) and opportunities to [immerse in the wilderness](#), there's truly something for every visitor to enjoy. It's the perfect place for adrenaline-filled adventures and relaxing, cozy evenings with friends and family.

If visitors are seeking more trails, they can explore the [Pincushion Mountain Trail System](#), a 25-kilometer trail system perched high above Lake Superior, 2 miles north of Grand Marais.

While here, visitors should can check out exciting winter events between sessions on the trails:

- February 1-29 - [Fireplace Tour of Cook County](#)
- February 3 - [Snowmobile Club Fun Run](#)
- February 3 - [Grand Marais Pond Hockey Tournament](#)



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- February 3-14 - [Hygge Festival](#)
- February 16-18 - [218 Days - 2nd Annual Celebration of the Bold North](#)
- February 19 - [Pincushion Winter Festival Ski Race and Tour](#)
- February 19 - [Annual Pincushion Women's Ski](#)
- March 2 - [Annual Trout Derby](#)

Cross Country Skiing in Cook County, Minnesota

Across the four communities, Cook County is one of the nation's top cross country ski destinations. With a [Minnesota Ski Pass](#), skiers can access over 240km of publicly managed trails throughout the region. Additionally, for a small fee, skiers can explore one of the stunning privately maintained trails on the Gunflint Trail. From perfect paths of well-groomed corduroy to more rugged backcountry trails with thigh-burning climbs, there's truly something for everyone.

No gear? No problem! Many local [resorts and outfitters](#) offer rental equipment for as little as \$40/day. Some resorts even offer complimentary rentals with a stay.

Browse the [Cook County Trails and Maps Library](#) for details on the beautiful trails spread throughout the Arrowhead region. For convenience, georeferenced ski trail maps are available on the [Sugarbush Ski Trail System](#) and the [Pincushion Ski Trail System](#) near Grand Marais.

The Visit Cook County team looks forward to welcoming visitors to our region for cross country skiing, outdoor adventures and more. Plan a getaway and find a complete list of area trails and maps at [VisitCookCounty.com/XC](#).

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About Visit Cook County

Visit Cook County encompasses the northeastern Minnesota communities of Lutsen, Tofte, Schroeder, Grand Marais, the Gunflint Trail and Grand Portage, commonly referred to as "the Arrowhead" and the "North Shore of Lake Superior." Grand Marais, Minn., has earned several national accolades — most recently, it was named [America's Best Small Lake Town](#) by Travel & Leisure Magazine, USA Today's [Best Midwestern Small Town](#), and Outside Magazine's [The 16 Best Places to Live in the U.S. 2016](#). Rekindle your sense of adventure by exploring the Superior National Forest or paddling through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Discover what makes the communities of Cook County, Minn. "Naturally Unforgettable." Connect on social media using #donorthmn, Twitter [@CookCoVisitors](#), [Facebook](#), or Instagram [@donorthmn](#). Learn more at [VisitCookCounty.com](#).

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