

2024

DEER RIVER

MINNESOTA

Gateway to the Chippewa

Maps Inside!



*No matter the season
there is always a reason*

COME RIDE WITH US!

and enjoy the great outdoors!



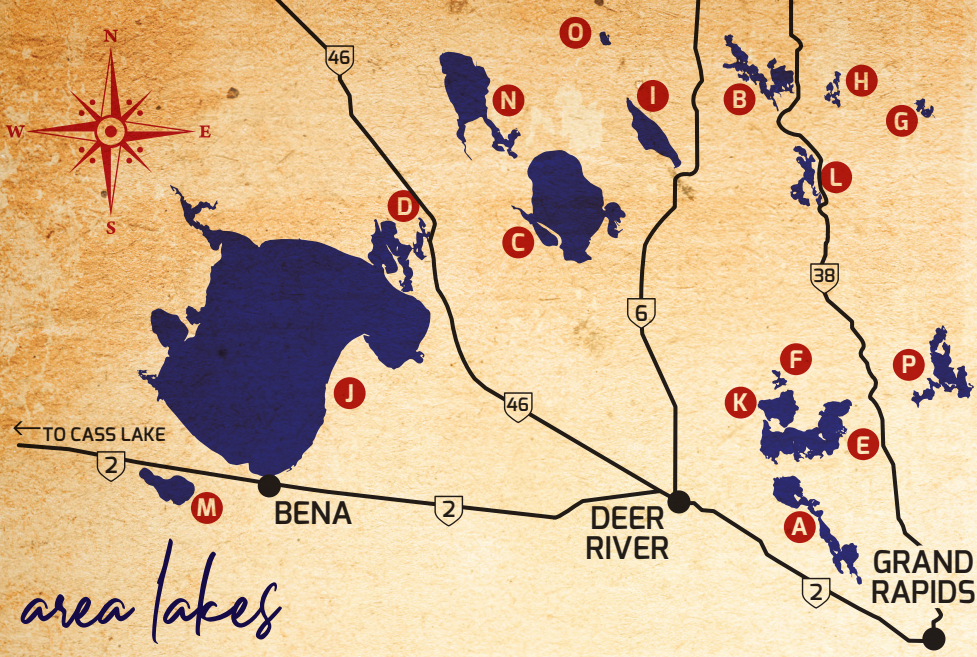
DEER RIVER
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



EXPLORE **m** MINNESOTA

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THE DEER RIVER CHAMBER ACKNOWLEDGES AND THANKS WHITE OAK CASINO FOR PARTIALLY SPONSORING OUR 2024 GUIDE

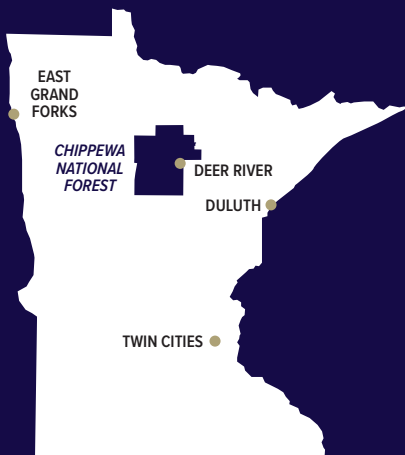


- A. Bass Lake
- B. Big Turtle Lake
- C. Bowstring Lake
- D. Cutfoot Sioux Lake
- E. Deer Lake
- F. Fawn Lake
- G. Fox Lake
- H. Jack the Horse Lake
- I. Jessie Lake
- J. Lake Winnibigoshish
- K. Moose Lake
- L. North Star Lake
- M. Portage Lake
- N. Sand Lake
- O. Spring Lake
- P. Wabana Lake



Miles to DEER RIVER

Canada	112
Duluth	93
Twin Cities	200
East Grand Forks	160
Chicago	595
Des Moines	460



Visit us at deerriver.org

Welcome

to the Gateway to the Chippewa National Forest! Growing up in this community then leaving for a short time solidified the feeling that the trees, water and wildlife are engrained in our DNA - there is truly a spiritual connectedness to

nature. I have been privileged to serve as the Deer River Chamber president since 2023, not only to support our local business and commerce, but also to share our region of the state with anyone who may wish to feel that same connectedness.

The Deer River area is surrounded by more than one million acres of forests, 1,100 lakes, and 923 miles of rivers and streams offering activities for everyone! We boast fishing, boating, kayaking and canoeing, hiking, hunting, cross country skiing and over 2000 miles of ATV/UTV, snowmobile, bike, horse and walking trails! Access to all of these natural amenities are right outside the back doors of many of our lodging properties, restaurants, cultural, and retail spaces.

The Deer River area is host to large, annual community events including the World's Largest Wild Rice Festival, Party in the Park, WinterFest and multiple Pow wows hosted by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. Additionally, Deer River is home to one of the four Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe casinos.

Our area offers a relaxed-paced lifestyle, affordable cost of living, and a friendly community with excellent healthcare and education. Residents and visitors alike enjoy breathtaking scenery, miles of unspoiled natural beauty, abundant wildlife, history, and culture with year-round recreation and hospitality.

We hope you enjoy your stay taking with you heartwarming memories to last a lifetime!

April Jespersen



President

Community Events

OFF-ROAD ON-TRACK ATV RUN

May 18, 2024 // deerriver.org

Come ride with the Deer River Chamber of Commerce as we work to raise funds for the area around our 'big fish.' We will take you on over 90 miles of scenic trails with stops at some of our best local establishments! While we hope to raise funds, the primary focus of this ride is to support local Chamber businesses that have been impacted greatly by our mild winter. We hope you join in the fun!

WORLD'S LARGEST WILD RICE FESTIVAL

July 12 – 14, 2024

Downtown Deer River // wildricefestival.com

Join us for our 75th year of celebrating the Mississippi River and our local resource of fresh, natural wild rice! Weekend activities include a pow wow, live music, street dances, fireworks, carnival midway, parade, and free outdoor concert on Sunday afternoon featuring **William Micheal Morgan!** This event is sponsored by the Deer River Lions Club.

4TH ANNUAL PARTY IN THE PARK

August 10, 2024

White Oak Antique Tractor Club // forwardhealthfoundation.org

Party in the Park is an outdoor, free family and community event celebrating our unique community. There will be a free pancake breakfast, Ninja Anywhere obstacle wall, youth and adult activities, Craft & Artisan Market, food trucks, local vendors and the list goes on!

131st ITASCA COUNTY FAIR

August 14 – 18, 2024

Itasca County Fairgrounds // itascacountyfair.org

Each day brings new adventure, fun to explore, midway rides, games, vendors, animals and performances throughout the grounds. Be sure to take advantage of the pre-fair discount tickets during the last week of July, for \$20.00 available at Northern Star Convenience Center. You don't want to miss the Itasca County Fair!

18TH ANNUAL WHITE OAK ANTIQUE TRACTOR SHOW

August 24 – 25, 2024

White Oak Antique Tractor Club // white-oak-antique-tractor-club.com

Come enjoy a pancake breakfast, a tractor parade, antique tractors, and equipment on display. Demonstrations throughout the day, a great farmers market, country store, crafts Food, drinks, and music. There is something for someone of all ages to come out and enjoy the fun!

LIGHTS IN THE PINES

November 15 & 16 - December 23, 2024

Itasca County Fairgrounds

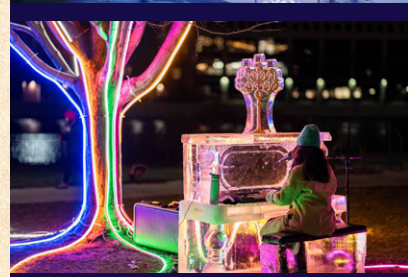
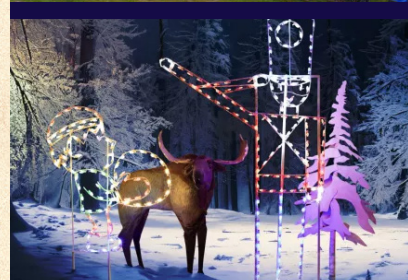
12 Nights of Northern Minnesota's Biggest Drive-Thru Light Spectacular. After you have seen all the lights, join us at NORTH POLE JUNCTION. You can find Santa and Mrs. Claus waiting for you too! Don't miss out on this great winter wonder adventure! Look for us on Facebook!

WINTERFEST

December 7, 2024

Downtown Deer River // deerriver.org

Join us as we welcome in the beautiful winter months in northern Minnesota. There will be kid and adult activities, smores, chilli cook-off, visits with Santa, downtown tree lighting and more!



Visit us at deerriver.org

Fly Fishing in the Northwoods

AS THE NIGHT CREEPS IN

The soft splat of my fly creates small ripples on the surface of the channel waters, my eyes strain to find the fly for darkness is consuming the summer day. A fish swipes my fly from the surface, waking me from the meditative slumber I was lost in. The fish puts a bend on my fly rod and heads for the weeds doing a quintessential spiral run and I know that this is a decent Bluegill. She has got fight and wraps my 2x tippet around weed after weed, steady pressure is kept and I slowly guide the fish out of the vegetation. After a few more tugs, pulls and attempts to dive I get the fish to the side of my paddle board and in the net. "Oh my," I say quietly to myself, as I look this fantastic Bluegill over which wears absolutely stunning bold colors. I admire its splendor, pull the barbless hook and release this beauty into the dark waters. Sitting back and pulling in a deep breath I take a moment to comprehend the darkness that is shrouding - being deep in my meditative state I hadn't realized just how long I had been fishing, I hadn't really noticed night creeping in. Peacefulness washed through me and around me, I sauntered in and out of reflective moments, as the waters of the mouth channel held calm and steady. There is nothing like being in the quiet of a fading day, feeling full of joy and gratitude, relaxed and content. The air was warm, a beaver was active making a ruckus in the channel behind me, an assortment of birds were vocal in the forest that surrounded, a faint hint of campfire was in the air - I imagined wonderful talkative faces affixed with crescent smiles and stardust eyes, I imagined the marshmallows being roasted, I imagined the fires embers reaching for the sky, I could see children with excitement exuding from their wild happy hearts.

I still had a good 25-minute paddle back home, so I decided it best to pack up and start for home. Through the channel



that connects the small lake, which I was on, to the much larger lake where home is,

I make my way. I paddle softly on the glass water, fall into reminiscence, the beaver moves swiftly in the grasses that line the channel, hints of stubborn light lit the way. I got about halfway through the channel when I noticed disturbances in the water caused by rising Bowfin - I had no choice but to pursue. I grabbed my 8-weight which had a black streamer fly on it and began the game of casting that streamer to the rising fish which were bubbling all around me. I made cast after cast after cast as the dark thickened, with no success to be had. Now with only sight from my headlamp I made a desperate long 50-foot cast to a now seldom rise and after a strip or two, I felt the weight, strip set, and the fight was on. With huge jumps, wiry darts, bold dives into the mud and angry head shakes; she, indeed, made me work for it. My heart raced, my hands trembled, as I netted my personal best Bowfin. I breathed heavily as she swam away leaving the light of my headlamp.

The resounding call of the Loon shattered through the stillness, stars were immense, a sliver moon hung solemnly - mysteriousness was as vivid as the flooding Milky Way while I paddled my way home through ocean deep darkness.

Written by Brent Gerlitz, Owner, Sand Lake Lodge

Your outdoor adventure starts here . . .

HIKING | HORSE BACK RIDING | CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

THE LOST FORTY

A day trip to the Lost Forty offers the opportunity to meander among 400-year-old virgin pine trees hidden in the Chippewa National Forest. The trip will lead you through up to 1.5 miles of some of the last remaining virgin red and white pines in Minnesota, some measuring up to 48" in diameter.

The history of the Lost Forty is as legendary as the trees! A surveying error in 1882 marked this area as Coddington Lake leaving the trees unharvested by loggers. They are a living reminder of our north woods forest history and continue to 'wow' visitors through their grandeur.

There is a free, but small parking area at the entrance to the Forest with a picnic area. The first quarter-mile loop weaves through old-growth pine while the back loop will take you along rolling hills and pine that grew after a forest fire around 1900.



Though the hike may not be long, the awe runs deep. Just like the sunsets over the lake, the flight of a majestic eagle, or the crackle of an evening fire leave you connected to the earth – likewise will these majestic pines.

Where the forests are majestic as your dreams!





*Step outside,
strap on your skis,
and discover...*

**MINNESOTA'S
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ROBIN BAKER BLUEBERRY HILLS

The Robin Baker Blueberry Hills cross-country ski trails include both intermediate and gentle hills with marked sport plunging downhills. The trails weave among high pines and cedar valleys. Directions: 2 miles north of Deer River on HWY 6, to right on Cty Rd 142 (Chase Lake Road).

<https://northernlightsnordic.org/trails/>

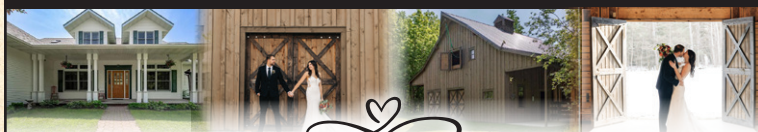


CUT FOOT SIOUX HORSE CAMP

Just past the Cut Foot Sioux Visitor Center north of Deer River on Hwy 46 lies the Cut Foot Experimental Forest. With over 120 miles of forest roads and recreational trails, the Cut Foot Trails system and Cut Foot Horse Camp, with over 34 camping sites, is available for horse trail riding in summer and fall. Directions: 3.2 miles past the Cut Foot Sioux Visitor Center along Highway 46, turn left on Forest Road 2171 and go three miles.



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**Carroll Funeral Home
and Crematory**
218-246-8181
carrollfuneralhomes.com

Deer River Laundromat
319 Main Ave West, Deer River
218-244-7060

Deer River Lumber
218-246-8405
deerriverlumber.com

Greater Insurance Service
218-327-1854
gismn.com

Iseman Homes
218-398-5067
isemanhomes.com

Malbay Estate Venue
218-259-9874
malbayestate.com

**New Beginnings
Pregnancy + Family Support**
218-246-2010
newbeginningspregnancy.com

Northern Star Cooperative
218-246-8296
northernstarcoop.com

Northland Portables
218-326-1662
northlandportablesmn.com

Northview Bank
218-246-8221
northviewbank.com

Paul Bunyan Communications
218-999-1234
paulbunyan.net

Stromberg Construction
218-259-2879
strombergconstruction.net

Winnie Trading Post
38499 State Hwy 46, Deer River
218-398-4939

Woodland Bank
218-246-2444
woodlandbank.com

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Deer River Healthcare Volunteers
115 10th Ave NE, Deer River
218-246-4387

Deer River Lions Club
drlions.com

Forward Health Foundation
218-246-4212
forwardhealthfoundation.org

Itasca County Agricultural Assn
itascacountyfair.org

United Way of 1000 Lakes
218-999-7570
uwlakes.org

**Vets Club-American Legion
VFW 2720 - Post 122**
12 First Street NE, Deer River
218-246-9116

White Oak Antique Tractor Club
218-398-7665
white-oak-antique-tractor-club.com

HEALTHCARE

Essentia Health
218-246-2900
essentiahealth.org

LODGING/ CAMPGROUNDS

Arcadia Lodge
218-832-3852
arcadialodge.com

Blueberry Hills RV Park
218-246-8010
golfdeerriver.com

Bowen Lodge
218-246-8707
bowenlodge.com

Cedarwild Resort
218-246-8680
cedarwild.com

Eagle Nest Lodge
218-246-8701
eaglenestlodge.net

Georgene's Haven
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georgeneshaven.com

High Banks Resort
218-244-5014
highbanks.com

Island View Resort
507-828-4203
islandviewresortonsand.com

**Jessie View Resort &
RV Campground**
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jessieviewresort.com

Lakewood Lodge
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lakewoodlodge.com

Moose Lake Resort
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mooselkresort.com

Nodak Lodge
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nodaklodge.com

**Northern Acres Resort
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**Northland Lodge Resort &
Campground**
218-246-8531
northlandlodge.com

Pine Grove Lodge
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pinegrovelodgemn.com

Rising Eagle Resort
218-832-3955
risingeagleresort.com

Sand Lake Lodge
718-755-8707
sandlakelodge.com

Sunset Point Resort
218-328-5334
sunsetpointresort.net

Timber Wolf Inn
218-832-3990
timberwolfinn.net

**Williams Narrows Resort
& Bobber's Bar**
800-325-2475 / 218-246-8703
williamsnarrows.com

RECREATIONAL SERVICES

Blueberry Bowl
44919 Golf Course Rd, Deer River
218-246-8048

**Blueberry Hills
Golf Course**
218-246-8010
golfdeerriver.com

Fred's Bait
360 Main Ave W, Deer River
480-263-0684

Miskyfish Guide Service
218-256-3009
miskyfish.com

Paddle Hoppers, Inc
218-326-5853
paddlehoppers.com

Visit Grand Rapids
855-944-7748
visitgrandrapids.com

White Oak Casino
800-653-2412 / 218-246-9600
whiteoakcasino.com

RESTAURANTS

Blueberry Bowl
44919 Golf Course Rd, Deer River
218-246-8048

**Bobber's Bar at
Williams Narrows**
218-246-8703
williamsnarrows.com

Timber Wolf Inn
218-832-3990
timberwolfinn.net

RETAIL

Daylily Gifts
115 10th Ave NE, Deer River
218-246-4342

L & M Fleet Supply
1400 S Pokegama Ave, Grand Rapids
landmsupply.com

Maggie's Thrift & Gift
4 First St NE, Deer River
218-368-3959

Northern Star Market Place
218-246-8296
northernstarcoop.com/northern-
star-market-place

Orty's Custom Meats
31136 Cty Rd 161, Deer River
218-246-9922



DEER RIVER

— CHAMBER OF COMMERCE —

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