

















FALL COLOR IN THE HIAWATHA NATIONAL FOREST

The Hiawatha National Forest sits at the heart of the Upper Peninsula.

Her thick forests, waterfalls and wonders stretch from the ghost town at Fayette Historic State Park to the grand sandstone cliffs of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. It has miles of roads that take you to the best fall color day drives in the Upper Peninsula. Spanning two counties filled with lakes, rivers trails and camping sites, this pristine forest is a beauty to behold. View nature from beneath the canopies of her trees and along her winding roads. Spend a day in the majesty of The Hiawatha National Forest. This natural wonder is the real Upper Peninsula: as it always has been and always should be.

YOUR STEP BY STEP GUIDE

Please Note: Much of the Hiawatha National Forest does not have cell phone service.

1 FAYETTE HISTORIC STATE PARK

The best place to start your Hiawatha Fall Color Adventure is on the shores of the Great Lakes at one of the nation's premier historic company townsites. Located at the tip of the Garden Peninsula, Fayette Historic State Park is an 1800s iron smelting village townsite that has a visitor center and 20 buildings stuck in time, full of folklore and mystery. These well-preserved buildings tell the story of another time when the village thrived as an iron smelting company town between 1867 and 1891.

2 NAHMA

Located on the shores of Lake Michigan, the village of Nahma was once an 1800s lumber town with close proximity to the prime forests of the Upper Peninsula. In recent years, the beautiful and historic Nahma Inn has become a musical hotbed — hosting performances by artists from around the world.

3 FEDERAL FOREST HWY 13

Forest Highway 13 runs directly through the center of the forest and has spectacular fall color photo locations along the way. The Midway General Store is the perfect place to stop for supplies ... or ice cream! In addition, it has all of the equipment you would need for your fishing, camping or hiking adventure into the forest.

4 BRUNO'S RUN

The lakes and rivers in the heart of the Hiawatha are the perfect place for a fall color hike or kayak ride. Bruno's Run, 10 miles past Wetmore, offers spectacular views and very easy access. This is one of the most scenic stops on the drive!

S WAGNER FALLS SCENIC SITE

At the northernmost point on your Hiawatha Fall Color Adventure sits Wagner Falls Scenic Site. This scenic waterfall is nestled among virgin pine and hemlock trees; a half-mile trail takes you to an observation deck overlooking the falls. Wagner Creek cascades over a stratum of erosion-resistant dolomite then flows into a shallow gorge containing the Anna River — a spectacular place for selfies!

6 RAPID RIVER TRUCK TRAIL

The Rapid River Truck Trail is a well-maintained gravel and paved road that runs from M-94 to Rapid River. This path less traveled takes you deep into the canopy of oak, maple and pine forest. This trail is pure nature.

7 BAY DE NOC TO GRAND ISLAND NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL

The Bay de Noc to Grand Island National Recreation trail runs directly through the heart of the Hiawatha National Forest. This bucket-list item follows the path of the early native Americans who used this trail from Lake Michigan to Lake Superior for thousands of years. With easy-to-access trailheads along the way, spend some time on this legendary trail and see The Upper Peninsula for what it has always and will always be: historic and beautiful.

8 HAYMEADOW CREEK & FALLS

Haymeadow Falls Trail is located where the paved road starts once again. This classic Delta County hike is well maintained and not too challenging. Take time to venture off into the color-filled forest on foot, listen to the sounds and enjoy the fresh air of the Hiawatha National Forest at Haymeadow Creek.

9 RAPID RIVER

The town of Rapid River is famous for its great lakes fishing adventures — on the water and the ice! Sitting between the Rapid and Tachoosh Rivers, this classic small town has ice cream shops, pubs and restaurants to enjoy after a beautiful drive through the forest.