

IronRange.org

MESABI



DAY TRIP CYCLING ITINERARIES



3

Giant Bicycle Tours of
Minnesota's Land
of Iron, Steel,
Sky Blue Water,
and Story.

Photo by Jim Brandenburg

#MESABI IS MAGIC 





The Mesabi Trail opened in 2005 and uses abandoned railways and old mining and logging roads for numerous segments between Grand Rapids and Biwabik. Located in northeastern Minnesota, the Mesabi Trail winds through some of the state's prettiest regions. When completed, the trail will travel to Ely, traverse over 155 miles, and connect 28 communities—making it one of the longest trails in the United States. It is a paved trail that is well-mapped and well-maintained.

Check out the Mesabi Trail Shuttle Service. They'll pick up you and your bike or bikes and transport you back to your lodging. www.mesabitrail.com/trail-activities/shuttle-service/

For overnight accommodations, visit IronRange.org

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Hibbing to Chisholm = 7 miles (hill after Chisholm, up to 8% grade)
Total day trip: 7 miles

HIBBING

Hibbing Mesabi Trail (MT) access:

Parking lot at the Greyhound Bus Museum, 1201 Greyhound Blvd.

Greyhound Bus Museum:

Hibbing is the birthplace of the U.S. bus industry. The museum has many buses to tour, plus memorabilia and exhibits. Some claim the museum is haunted! 1201 Greyhound Blvd. MT access is in the museum's parking lot.

(2) Sunrise Bakery and Deli:

Minnesota's oldest Italian bakery—more than 100 years—and still using authentic family recipes! 1813 3rd Ave. E—3 minutes by bike from the Hibbing MT access.

Hibbing High School:

The "Castle in the Woods" was built in the 1920s for \$4 million (\$50 million if it were built today). It's on the National Register of Historic Places. Seat J-47 in the auditorium is rumored to be haunted. Open to the public Mon.–Fri., 7am–3pm. Summer guided tours Tues. & Fri., noon–3pm. 800 E. 21st St.—7 minutes from the MT access.

(1) Hull Rust Mine View:

View an eight-mile-long, manmade mine pit, called the "Grand Canyon of the North." Less than a mile from Hibbing's MT access. From access, travel north on 3rd Ave. E to Penobscot Rd.

(3) Selfie Stop:

Bob Dylan's childhood home, located on Bob Dylan Drive (formerly 7th Ave. E) and 25th St. The private home isn't open to the public, but check out the Bob Dylan exhibit at the Hibbing Public Library. Open Monday–Friday at 10 am. 2020 E. 5th Ave.—6 minutes from the MT access.

Sammy's Pizza:

Sammy's Pizza began in Hibbing in 1954. Daily buffet, broasted chicken, pasta—even gluten-free! Fill up and hit the trail. 106 E Howard St.—4 minutes from the MT access.

CHISHOLM

Chisholm Mesabi Trail (MT)

access: Parking lot at Lake St. and 1st Ave. SE.

(4) Discovery Center:

The story and mining heritage of the Iron Range. At 660 acres, it is Minnesota's largest museum campus outside the metro area. Ride the trolley (#7 on the map) to a former mining community. Hwy. 169 West—13 minutes by bike from the Chisholm MT access.

Hibbing Taconite Mine Tour:

Tour departs from the Discovery Center, Thursdays from the end of June until mid-August. Reservations recommended. No children under 10. Admission includes entry to the Minnesota Discovery Center and the Museum of the Iron Range, both located in Chisholm.

Bruce Mine Headframe:

The massive structure held the wheels to operate the cables to lower and raise the cages from the underground mine. One of three in the state, it's on the National Register of Historic Sites. Iron Dr. and West Dr., Hwy. 169 near the east entrance to Chisholm—5 minutes from MT access.

Minnesota Museum of Mining:

Enter via a stone castle constructed in 1933. Climb aboard equipment used to mine iron ore, see a 1907 steam locomotive, a replica underground mine, and a mining town. 900 W Lake St.—6 minutes from the MT access.

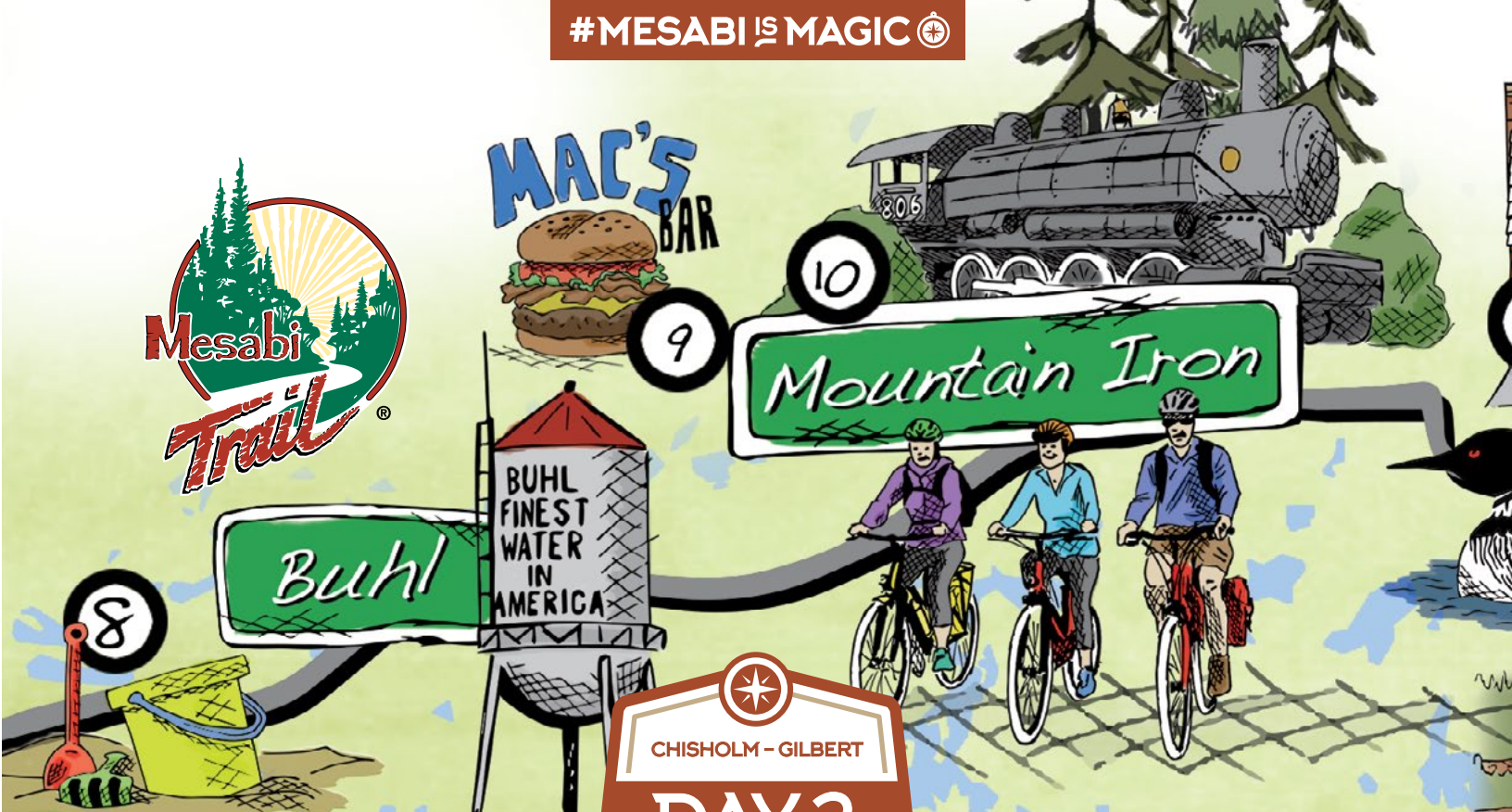
(5) Selfie Stop:

Iron Ore Miner Statue across from the Discovery Center. At 81 feet high and 150 tons, it is the third-largest freestanding statue in the nation.

(6) Valentini's Supper Club:

A family restaurant since 1934, a Mesabi "must stop" for authentic Italian cuisine. From fast and casual meals to entrees to savor and linger over. 31 W. Lake St.—1 minute from the MT access.

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Chisholm to Buhl = 5 miles
 Buhl to Mt. Iron = 9 miles
 Mt. Iron to Virginia = 4 miles
 Virginia to Gilbert = 7.2 Miles
 (hill before Gilbert, up to 8% grade)
 Total Day Trip: 25.2 miles

BUHL

Buhl Mesabi Trail (MT) access:
 From Hwy. 169, exit onto Pennsylvania Ave. or Forest St. Parking and MT access at State St. and Culver Ave.

Drink up!
 Buhl boasts “The Finest Water in America,” which comes from a glacial river 700 feet underground.

(8) Stubler Beach & Campground:
 Swimming beach and 8 rustic campsites. Restrooms, pavilion, fishing docks, swim area, and changing rooms. Adjacent to the trail—5 minutes southwest of the Buhl MT access.

Billy’s Pit Stop Pub n’ Grub:
 Home of good food, friendly service, and daily specials. On State St.—1 block south of MT access.

MOUNTAIN IRON VIRGINIA

Mountain Iron Mesabi Trail (MT) access: From Hwy. 169, exit north to Hwy. 102, go 3/4 mile into downtown. Turn left, go 2 blocks on Main St. Turn right at Mountain Ave. Trail access and parking 1 block ahead at Mountain Iron Park.

(9) Mac’s Bar Burgers:
 Great burgers, apps, and more. 8881 Main St., two blocks from MT access.

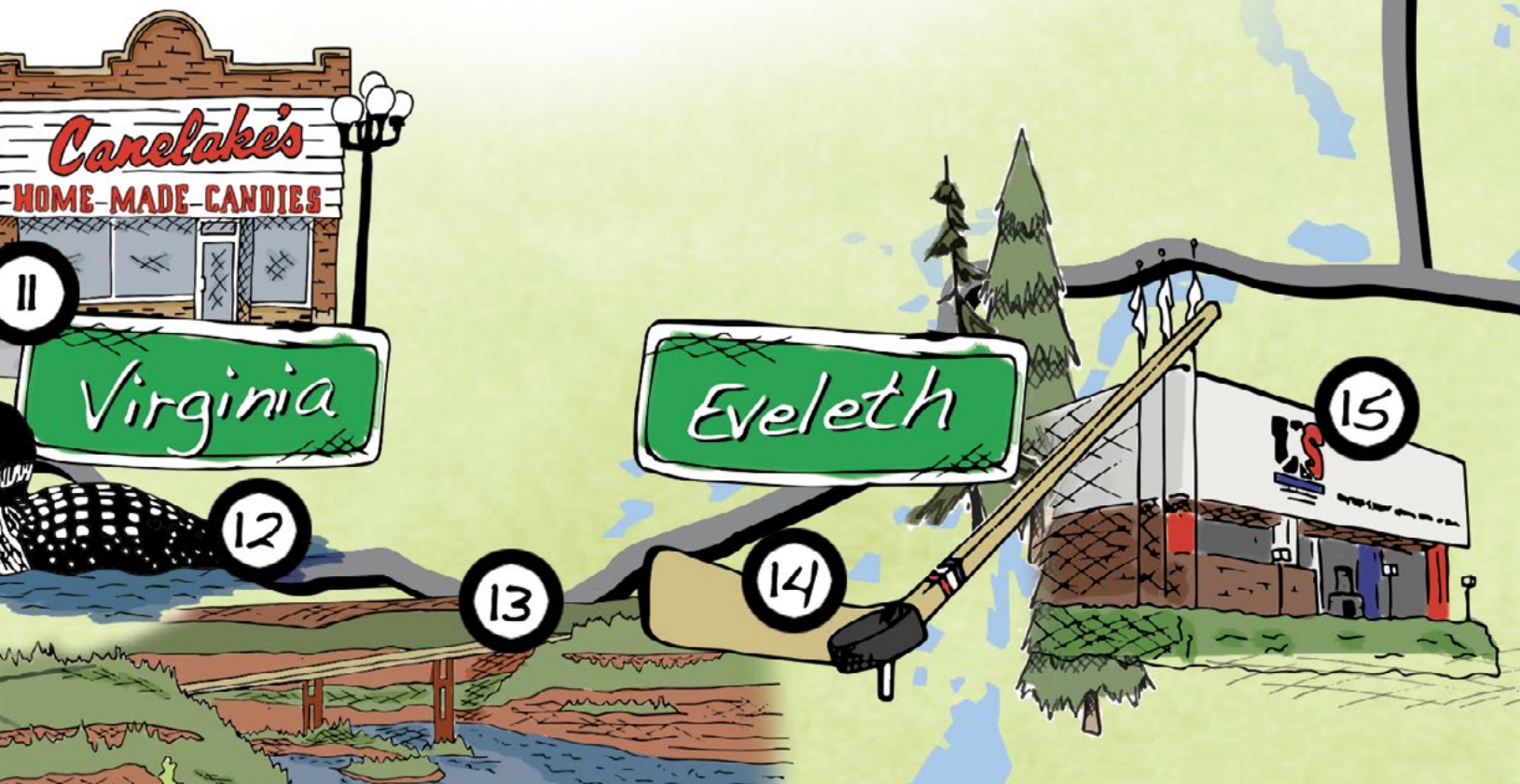
(10) Mountain Iron Locomotive Park and Scenic Overlook:
 1910 Locomotive and historic overlook where Leonidas Merritt first discovered iron ore on the Mesabi Range in 1890.

Virginia Mesabi Trail (MT) access: From Hwy. 53, exit east on 9th St. N, 3/10 mile to trail access kiosk and parking lot on left.

Olcott Park and Virginia Greenhouse:
 Flowers, shade trees, picnic areas, playground, and free City Band summer concerts. Virginia Greenhouse is located in Olcott Park next to the Heritage Museum—thousands of plants, including exotics. On the trail just after the MT access.

(11) Canelake’s Candies:
 Homemade candymakers since 1905 and still using the original recipes. Individually hand-dipped candies, hand-roasted nuts, and Minnesota gifts. 414 Chestnut St.—6 minutes from Virginia MT access.

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(12) Loon in the Lake:

A giant, 20-foot loon floats in Silver Lake, located in Olcott Park, across from the MT access.

Finntown Overlook & Park:

Walk through a 50-foot caged safety bridge into the midst of the historic Rouchleau group of open-pit mines. The mining canyon is nearly three miles long, a half-mile wide, and 450 feet deep. Access at the east end of Third St. Finntown Overlook is a trailhead with MT parking.

Dave's Pizza:

A Mesabi tradition for 40 years. 201 3rd St. S—9 minutes from MT access.

Natural Harvest Food Co-op:

Locally owned and featuring organic fare. Wraps, salads, gluten-free, retail, and deli-style. Between Bailey and Silver lakes, 505 3rd St. N—7 minutes from MT access.

(13) Selfie stop:

Highest Bridge in Minnesota. The Highway 53 bridge being constructed south of Virginia over the Rochleau Mine Pit will be Minnesota's highest bridge—200 feet over water level and more than 1,100 feet long. It includes a bike/snowmobile lane. To be completed November 2017.

SIDE TRIP AND 2017 DETOUR:

Mt. Iron to Eveleth = 12.3 miles via US 169 N, Hwy 7, and CR 101.

Eveleth to Gilbert = 4.2 miles

Total Side Trip/Detour: 16.5 miles

EVELETH

Eveleth Mesabi Trail (MT)

access: From Hwy. 53, exit Hwy. 37/ Fayal Road. Turn left at Fayal Pond Park or continue to Fayal Ave. and follow the signs to Southside Park.

(14) Selfie Stop:

Take a selfie with the World's Largest Hockey Stick and rubber puck. The stick weighs over three tons and measures 107 feet long. (Located downtown at Eveleth's Hockey Plaza, 412 Monroe St.)

(15) U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame:

Experience the 1980 "Miracle on Ice" Wall of Fame, Olympic display, hockey memorabilia, and more. It's a "must-see" for hockey fans. Located off Hwy. 53 on Hat Trick Ave.

Leonidas Overlook:

Former mine sites, an active mine, and 15 miles of scenic views. Named for Leonidas Merritt, one of seven brothers who discov-

ered the Mesabi Iron Range, the Leonidas Mine began production in 1908. The largest manmade point in the area. South of Eveleth, take Fayal Road/Hwy. 101 for one mile—8 minutes from MT access.

BoomTown Woodfire Pizza:

Smoking-hot woodfire pizza, beverages, gluten-free options. 501 Hat Trick Ave.—4 minutes from MT access.

Paul's Market:

Fuel up with beef pasties made fresh Tuesday–Friday. Call to see when a batch is hot from the oven or pick up homemade sausages to throw on the campfire. 623 Garfield St.—3 minutes from MT access.

Veteran's Park Campground:

Fishing pier, swimming beach, 50 campsites, and pavilion. On Ely Lake off CR 132. Take Mesabi Trail 21 minutes southwest of MT access.

Eveleth IGA:

Great porketta available as a deli item on Thursday or daily at the meat counter to take home. Adjacent to MT access at Southside Park.



Gilbert to McKinley = 3 miles
McKinley to Biwabik = 5.5 miles (to be completed 2017, detour to shoulder of Hwy. 135)
Biwabik to Giants Ridge = 4 miles
Total Day Trip: 12.5 miles

GILBERT

Gilbert Mesabi Trail (MT) access: From Hwy. 37 (Broadway) turn east on Wisconsin Ave. to trail access. Bathrooms, parking, and water at Sherwood Forest Campground.

Sherwood Forest Campground:

Located on Lake Ore-Be-Gone, with walleye, northern, and trout. 57 sites, full-service to rustic, plus boat launch, and swimming beach. Mesabi Trail runs through the campground.

(17) Iron Range OHV Recreation

Area: Take a side trip off the bike and get your ATV/OHV on at MN's first off-road park. 1,200 acres of recreational trails, hill climbs, rock crawls, scramble areas, training, and events. Varied terrain for all skill levels. Rentals at Adventure Rentals in Gilbert. The recreation area is off Hwy. 135 on Enterprise Trail.

(16) Whistling Bird Restaurant

and Bar: Enjoy authentic Jamaican food in a fun, colorful atmosphere. Jerk flavors, apps, specials, and more. 101 N Broadway Ave.—4 minutes from Gilbert MT access.

Koshar's Sausage Kitchen:

Family butcher shop since 1921. Some say it's the best place to get Polish sausage on the Range. Grab some for the grill, plus ready-to-eat Polish jerky for the road! 101 S Broadway Ave.—4 minutes from MT access.

McKINLEY

McKinley Mesabi Trail (MT) access: From Hwy 135, turn south on CR 20. Parking is one block south.

BIWABIK

Biwabik Mesabi Trail (MT) access: From Biwabik, go east one mile on Hwy. 135. Trail access and parking on right at Vermilion Trail Campground on Embarrass Lake.

Vermilion Trail Campground:

40-plus sites full-service to rustic. Fishing, beach, playground, boat access, and dock. Flush toilets, hot showers.

(18) Selfie Stop:

In Biwabik, take a selfie with Honk the Moose, the giant statue created from a 1935 children's book that was based on a true story using Biwabik locations. 100 5th Ave. S—7 minutes from MT access.

(19) Vi's Pizza:

Vi and Frank's original recipe since 1959. Vi's started when Vi made pizza at home and distributed it from the back door. Now it continues with the fourth generation and a historic Biwabik location. Some say it's the best pizza on the planet. 107 North Main—8 minutes by bike from MT access.

Poor Gary's Pizza:

A tucked-away pizza spot sure to please your hungry crew. Pizza, grilled sammys—even a porketta sandwich! 215 Main St. 8 minutes from MT access.

GIANTS RIDGE

Giants Ridge Mesabi Trail (MT) access: 27 minutes from Biwabik MT access at Vermilion Trail Campground.

(20) Giants Ridge amenities include:

Golf at Giants Ridge:

Two nationally recognized Minnesota golf courses, The Legend and The Quarry—challenging play amid picturesque forests and lakes.

Disc Golf:

The 9,000-foot, 18-hole Giants Ridge Course is the first alpine disc course in Minnesota.

Mountain Biking:

Climb 40 km of maintained mountainside trails, utilizing single track, cross country ski trails, snowmobile trails, and abandoned logging roads.

Boating & Water Action:

Canoeing, kayaking, and paddle boarding. (Rentals and guided tours available.)

Fish Three Lakes:

Embarrass, Sabin, and Wynne lakes—loaded with walleye, crappie, bluegill, and northern pike. Guides available.

Wacootah Grille:

Dine at The Quarry Clubhouse at Giants Ridge with indoor and outdoor seating that overlooks the 18th green with views of Lake Mine.

Sleeping Giant:

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner—even morning cocktails. Something for every appetite! Located in The Lodge at Giants Ridge.

Burnt Onion Kitchen and Brews:

Dine at the new chalet at Giants Ridge, featuring specials, events, and a menu for all tastes.

SIDE TRIP TO AURORA:

Biwabik to Aurora = 6 miles one way. Return trip to trail is 4 miles. 10 miles total

This scenic side trip to Aurora travels around The Quarry at Giants Ridge Golf Course, crosses Hwy. 100, loops around the lake, and ends in Aurora.

Rudy's:

Broasted chicken, pizza—even a homemade porketta sandwich. 116 Main St. N.

(21) Copper Nickel:

Steakhouse bar and grill—from apps to entrees. 111 Main St. N.

A & W Drive In:

Quench your thirst with a frosty mug of rootbeer. 103 Main St. S.

Fisherman's Point Campground:

70 sites, RV to rustic, many with lake access. Located on a wooded peninsula on Whitewater Lake. Boat ramp, docks, and fishing pier. Reservations recommended.

Colby Lake:

Minutes from downtown, Birch Cove Beach has lifeguards, swimming, picnic, volleyball, and tennis courts. Boat ramp with parking.

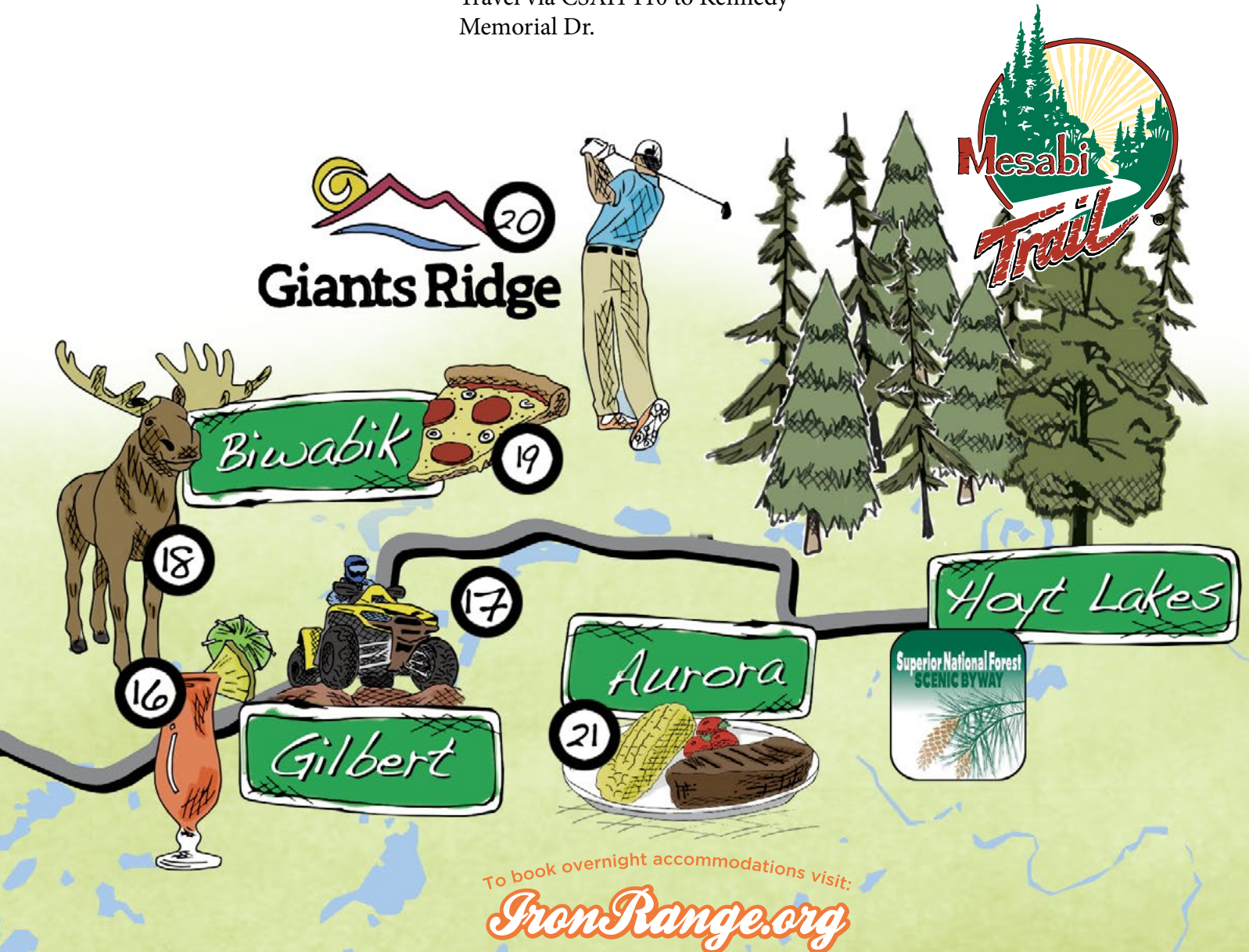
Hoyt Lakes Golf Course:

Fun 9-hole par 36 municipal golf course.

HOYT LAKES

Aurora to Hoyt Lakes = 5.5 miles

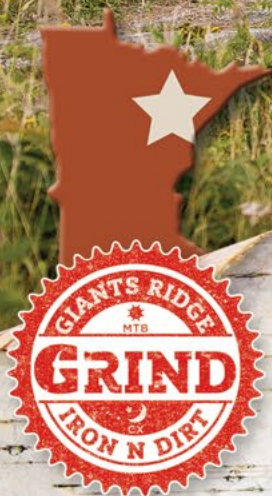
Leave the trail at Aurora and bike to Hoyt Lakes for more adventure. Travel via CSAH 110 to Kennedy Memorial Dr.



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CYCLE MESABI'S GIANT NORTH.

Mesabi elevation is good for the soul. The view atop Giants Ridge.



Buckle up mountain bikers. Introducing the GRIND.

The GRIND (Giants Ridge Iron-N-Dirt) gears up Labor Day weekend with races ranging from 20 - 40 miles, a Kids' "Miners" Race and Night Cross. Visit RaceTheGrind.com to register then visit GiantsRidge.com to learn about trails, lakes and golf at Giants Ridge.



Welcome to Family-Sized Cycle Touring Fun.

Ride for the fun or ride for the challenge, either way mark your calendar for Saturday, August 5, 2017 for the Great River Energy Mesabi Trail Tour - the most fun you can have on two wheels! Choose from four different routes ranging from 67 to 14 miles, kids ride FREE! Visit MesabiTrail.com



Not your typical Minnesota paved trail. The unmatched Mesabi Trail.

