

Self-Tour Visitor Guide

Minnesota Discovery Center

telling the story of the iron range

The Land. The Mines. The People. The Work.

The Facility & Grounds

1 SUMMER ADMISSIONS

Welcome! You are here. You can purchase trolley and mini-golf tokens or find out any information you might need before you begin your tour.

2 TROLLEY STATION

All aboard our vintage trolley for an hour+ journey to the past to an old, authentic mining location. The views are spectacular. Hop on for a nostalgic trip to yesteryear. Tickets can be purchased at Summer Admissions.

3 CCC HISTORY CENTER

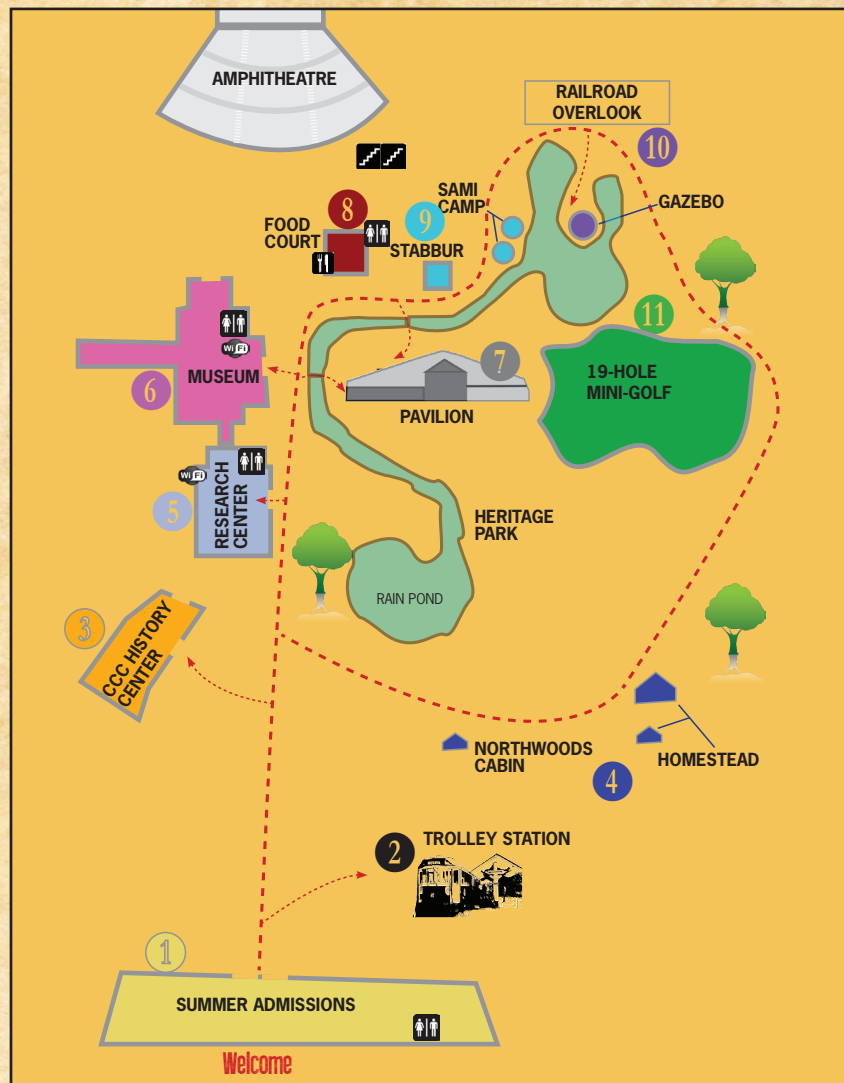
Stop here to learn about the heritage of the Civilian Conservation Corp. America would be a very different place without the hard work and innovation of those who served. View the permanent exhibition on the CCC history and contributions.

4 NORTHWOODS CABIN & HOMESTEAD

The setting that sets the stage of early pioneers on the Iron Range. Those who lived here were often single men who worked in logging camps during winter months and hired themselves out as fishing and hunting guides the remainder of the year. These cabins were the original "hunting shack."

5 IRON RANGE RESEARCH CENTER

Some wonderful discoveries are waiting for you. Here we have one of the largest collections of genealogical and local history research materials in the Upper Midwest. Find out more about your ancestors and discover more about yourself.



6 MUSEUM

Please turn page over for inside of Museum Self-Tour.

7 PAVILION

The building with all the windows is used for special events, expos, weddings, etc. Feel free to walk across the bridge and relax on the benches.

8 FOOD COURT

Our food court is open during special events. We also have great food Thursday evenings from 5 to 9 p.m. at our Acoustic Cafe along with live music (lower level of Museum). Join us!

9 STABBUR AND SAMI CAMP

Observe our Stabbur, a replica of a Norway storehouse, and Sami hut. Take a look at what life was like for these Northern Scandinavians.

10 GAZEBO & RAILROAD OVERLOOK

Take time to enjoy the scenic overlooks and sights of nature. The grounds at Minnesota Discovery Center are made for photos. Feel free to capture the time you spend here.

11 19-HOLE MINI-GOLF

Everyone loves a game of mini-golf. It's a fun (and challenging) course built around a regional theme. Putt your way through holes like Blasting, Crushing, Grand Canyons and more! Purchase your tokens at Summer Admissions or the Iron Range Research Center.

It is said that people from as many as 43 different nations immigrated to the Iron Range. The flags that you see throughout the park represent and honor the people from those nations.

Learn about our events or have your special event here! Ask for details!



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www.MNDiscoveryCenter.com

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The Museum

Upper Level

RUDY PERPICH MEMORIAL

This memorial is dedicated to Rudy Perpich who served as governor of Minnesota from 1976-1978 and again from 1982-1990. He was Minnesota's longest standing governor and the first person of Croatian ancestry, the first person from the Iron Range, and the first Catholic to serve in this office. Rudy worked as a dentist in Hibbing until the time he became governor.

THEATER

Watch a documentary about the Iron Range, "Iron Range: Minnesota Building America." Created by the Minnesota Humanities Center and Twin Cities public TV station. In 2009, this movie won a regional Emmy award for best cultural documentary.

SLOVENIAN MINERS MEMORIAL

This memorial was donated to Minnesota Discovery Center and symbolizes the hard work and dedication of Slovenian miners who came to the region seeking a new start for their families.

OVERLOOK

The end of our observation deck overlooks the now abandoned Glen Mine #2. This open pit mine is 250 – 300 feet deep. Underground Mining began in the Glen #1 in 1902 under our very feet. Eventually open pit mining proved to be more profitable and the industry began creating the giant canyons seen across our landscape. Approximately 13.5 million tons of ore were shipped from the Glen #2 until the natural ore reserves were exhausted and the mine was closed in 1957.



Enter the Lower Level of the museum and you will see the 1923 Buick 5 passenger Touring Car, donated by the Jacob Usan's family in his memory. He founded The Peerless Auto Top & Body Company in Virginia in 1914. His creative conversion of early cars left a transportation legacy. Usan and his employees elongated the five passenger Touring Car to carry ten passengers. The Mesaba Transportation Company, later the Greyhound Bus Company, used these converted vehicles to transport people on the Iron Range from town-to-town.

1 TACONITE MINING

E. W. Davis developed a process to extract iron from taconite rocks. When rich iron ore deposits were depleted, the demand for iron remained. The taconite pelletizing process meets those demands through a repackaged product, taconite pellets. The process utilizes innovations throughout history from other industries including the invention of the blasting cap, the work of milling and grinding, and the creative packaging of unrelated items.

2 UNDERGROUND MINING

Many open pit mines you see on the Iron Range today began as underground mines. With candles for light, miners shoveled iron ore into small tram cars. The filled car was pushed by a mule to the nearest shaft where the ore was raised to the surface. The ore car on display was from the Leonidas Underground Mine, near Eveleth.

3 OPEN PIT MINING

The sheet of earth rich with iron made it possible for open pit mining. Miners blast the outer layers to reach the ore. Unwanted rocks, called tailings, are removed and placed in piles creating the tall hills you see along the highway and in the horizon. After collecting iron ore, the miners dumped them onto trains heading to Lake Superior ports. At the ports, the iron ore is loaded onto ships going to Eastern United States steel mills. Featured is a model of the William A. Irvin, which hauled iron ore and coal to Great Lakes ports for over 40 years.

4 LOGGING

Before it could be mined, the Mesabi was logged of its white pine. Besides being hauled away to build the great cities of America, timber was used locally for building mining towns, railroads, loading docks, for cribbing in the underground mines, and for other mine and city structures. By the late 1920's much of Minnesota's supply of pine had been used up, and the state became an importer of wood.

5 SCHOOL HOUSE & SALOON

early development of Range towns, the saloon and school were often the first two buildings to be built. The saloons served as a social and entertainment

6 EMIGRANT JOURNEY

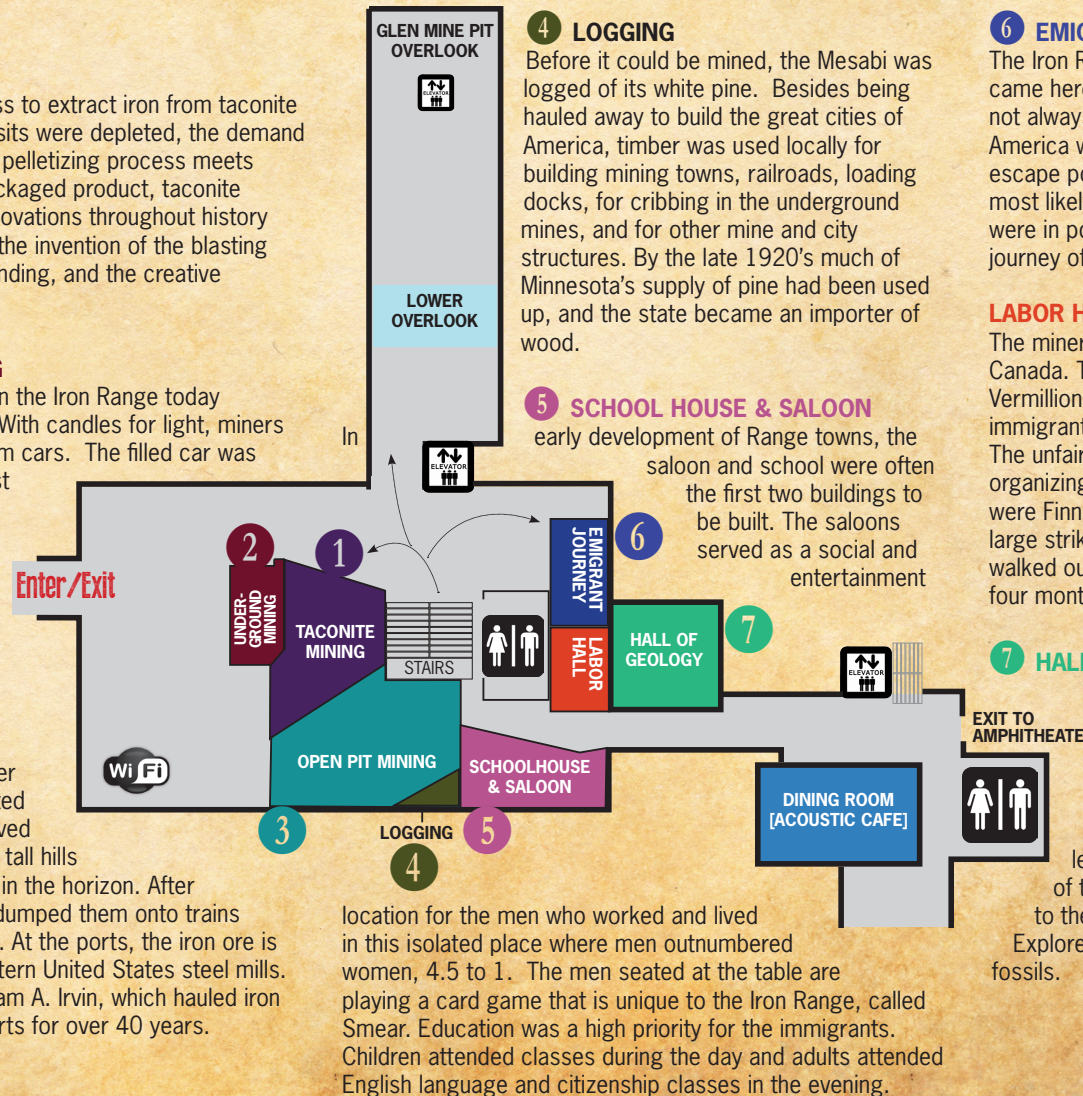
The Iron Range community was home to immigrants who came here for work in the mines. The journey to America was not always easy. They left their countries for many reasons; America was a new place they could find freedom, call home, escape poverty and conscription, or to explore. Immigrants most likely traveled on ships in close quarter steerage that were in poor conditions. Pick up a passport and follow the journey of one emigrant.

LABOR HALL

The miners on the Iron Range came from Michigan and Canada. They worked in the underground mines of the Vermillion Range. Later, unskilled workers, who were often immigrants, replaced the skilled miners and were paid less. The unfair labor practices and low pay eventually led to organizing by the workers. One of the most active groups were Finnish immigrants. Strikes began in 1905. In 1907 a large strike shut down the mines and in 1916 6,000 miners walked out in protest. There were violent confrontations, but four months after the strike, wages were increased by 10%.

7 HALL OF GEOLOGY

Minnesota has a greatly diverse landscape due to its central location. Billions of years ago, volcanoes and the ocean could be seen. Over 10,000 years ago glaciers covered and crushed those mountains and were carved into the land. When the earth warmed up, the glaciers receded, leaving fresh water lakes in the holes it left behind. All of these activities over billions of years ago contributed to the diverse rocks, iron ore, and physique of Minnesota. Explore the Hall of Geology to see rock specimen and fossils.



Lower Level >>>

Learn More at MNDiscoveryCenter.com

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