

Photography Guide – U.P. of Michigan

Porcupine Mountains
Pictured Rocks National
Seashore

&

Tahquamenon Falls

By Bill Welch

The U.P. of Michigan

- Michigan's Upper Peninsula (the U.P.) is a forest covered wilderness almost surrounded by Lakes Superior, Huron & Michigan.
- The Peninsula is only connected to land via a remote section of Wisconsin, and the only connection to the rest of Michigan is via the 5 mile long Mackinac Bridge.
- The U.P. is greater in size than the combined states of Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.
- The U.P. stretches 384 miles across its width and 233 miles from Menominee (to the south) and Copper Harbor at the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula.

Fall in the U.P.

- Over 50 varieties of trees grow in the U.P. but the maple, birch and aspen turn the landscape into a tapestry of red, gold, orange and yellow.
- These bright colors are usually offset by the evergreens of pine, spruce, hemlock and balsam.
- The U.P. has over 150 waterfalls and over 4,000 clear blue lakes.
- The best time to visit the U.P. for the best fall color is from mid-September to mid-October, with the peak usually being the last week of September through the first week of October.

Where to Go

- Beautiful fall color can be found throughout the U.P.
- The top 3 locations.
 - Porcupine Mountains.
 - Pictured Rocks National Seashore.
 - Tahquamenon Falls

Fall in the U.P.

- Over 50 varieties of trees grow in the U.P. but the maple, birch and aspen turn the landscape into a tapestry of red, gold, orange and yellow.
- These bright colors are usually offset by the evergreens of pine, spruce, hemlock and balsam.
- The U.P. has over 150 waterfalls and over 4,000 clear blue lakes.
- The best time to visit the U.P. for the best fall color is from mid-September to mid-October, with the peak usually being the last week of September through the first week of October.

Porcupine Mountains (the Porkies)

- 58,000 acres of rivers, waterfalls, gorges and lakes along the shore of Lake Superior.
- Largest virgin stands of pine and hemlock in the world!
- Largest wilderness area between the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains.
- The best time to visit the U.P. for the best fall color is from mid-September to mid-October, with the peak usually being the last week of September through the first week of October.

Porcupine Mountains



Pictured Rocks National Seashore

- Sandstone cliffs of ochre, tan, & brown sandwiched with layers of white and green, towering to 200 feet above Lake Superior.
- The first national seashore authorized in 1966 to preserve the shoreline, cliffs, beaches and dunes.
- “Pictured Rocks” refers to streaks of minerals that stain and decorate the face of the sculptured cliffs.

Pictured Rocks National Seashore and the Surrounding Areas

- Variety of photographic opportunities including a lighthouse, sand dunes and the Sable Waterfall.
- Most people photograph the seashore itself with the cold blue-green waters of Lake Superior in the image.
- One of the best ways to photograph Pictured Rocks is from the water. From September 1 through October 10 there are 2 boat rides daily.
 - The boat rides last about 3 hours and take you as far as Chapel rock.
 - The boat maneuvers close to the cliffs for excellent views.
- The surrounding area also offers excellent opportunities to photograph the fall foliage, reeds in the water and ponds along the side roads.

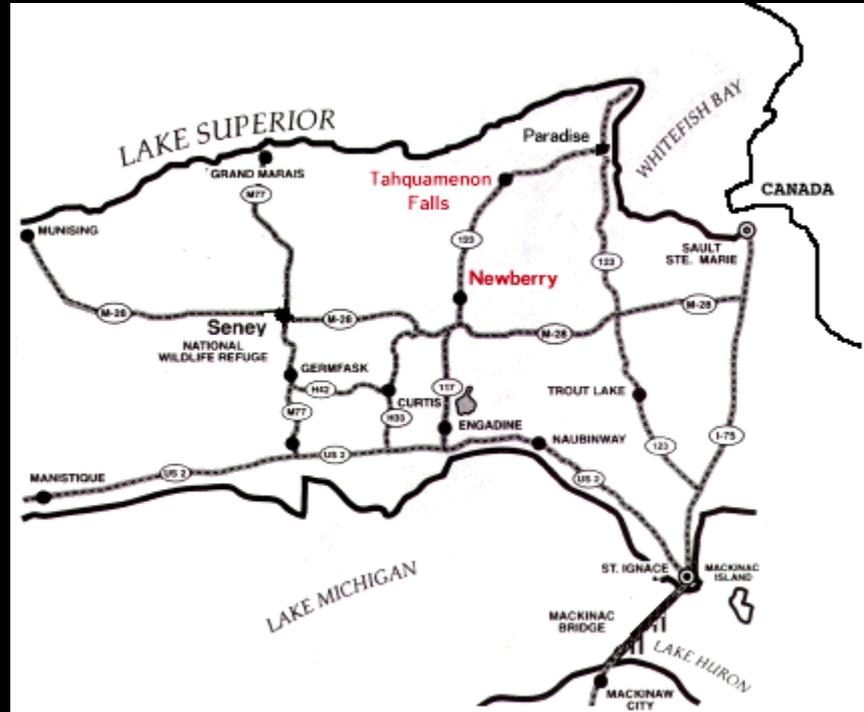
Pictured Rocks National Seashore



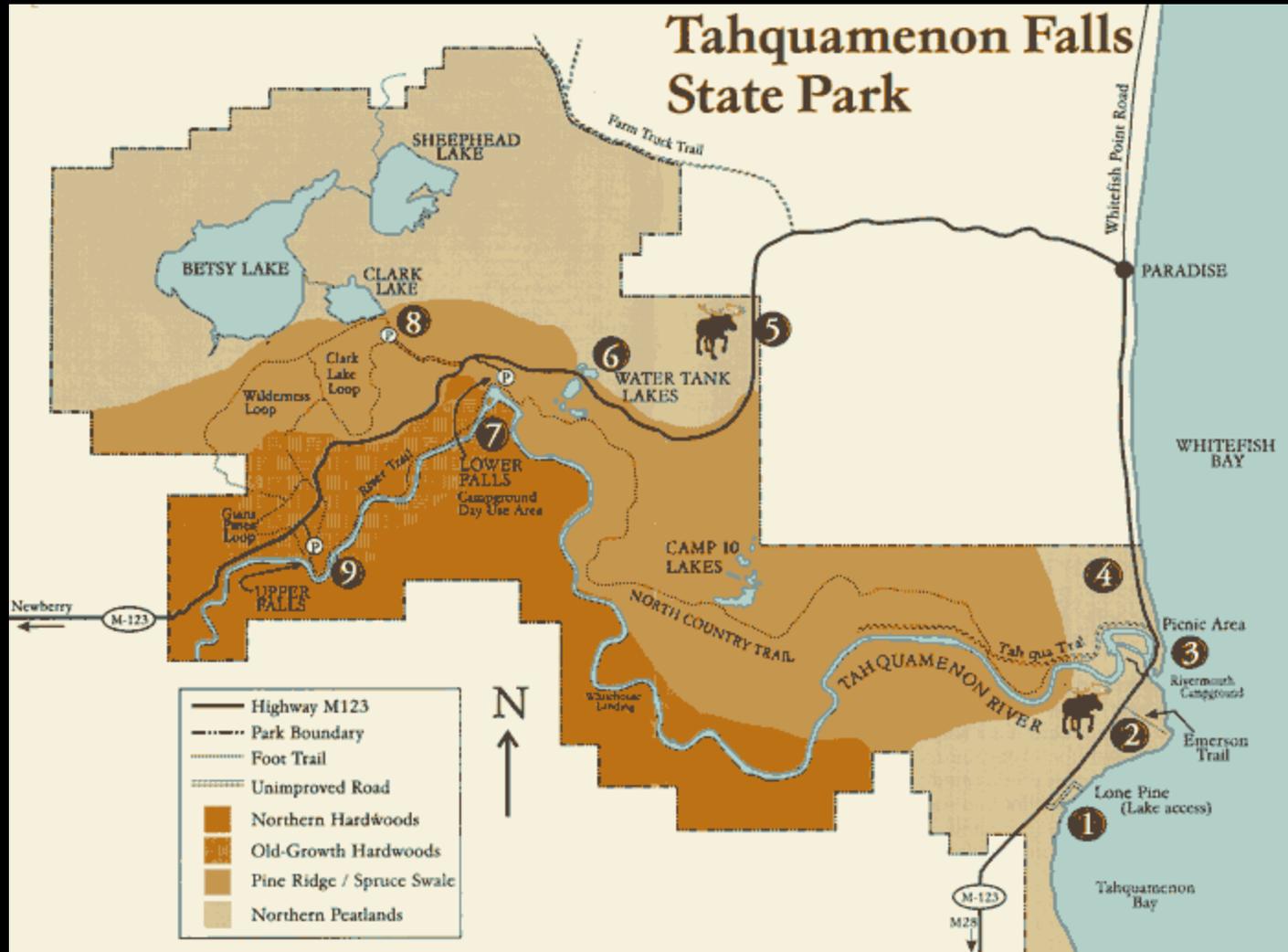
Tahquamenon Falls

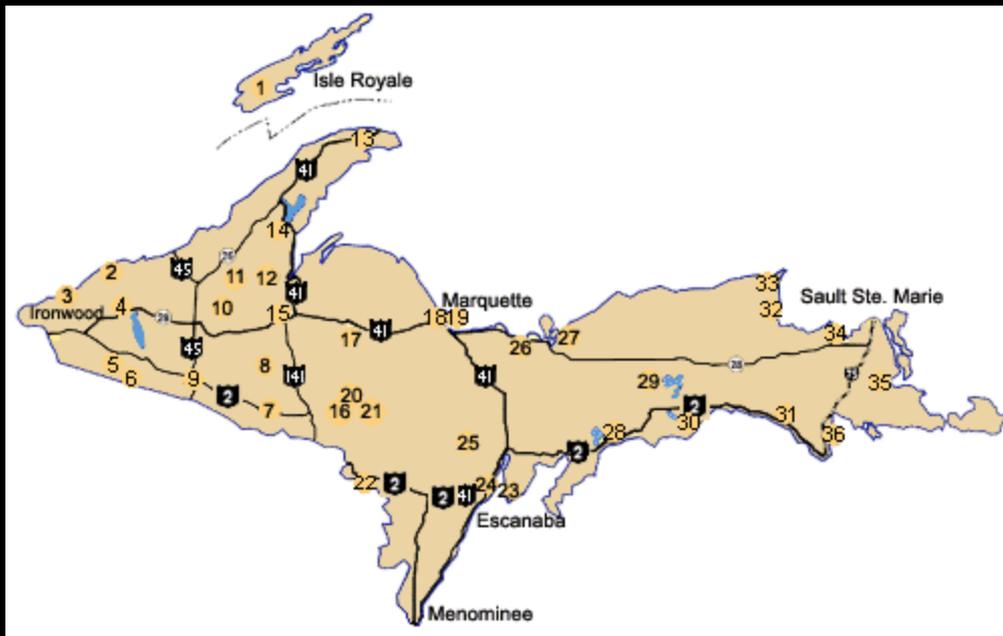
- The major attraction here is the Tahquamenon Falls..
- The Upper Tahquamenon Falls is the second largest waterfall west of the Mississippi.
- The Lower Tahquamenon Falls is a series of falls and cascades.
- At the Tahquamenon Falls parking lot there is a paved walk that takes you to 2 views that provides excellent fall color to accent the rust waters of the Tahquamenon Falls.

Tahquamenon Falls



Tahquamenon Falls





- 1 Isle Royale National Park
- 2 Porcupine Mountains State Park
- 3 Black River Recreation Area
- 4 Gogebic Ridge Hiking Trail
- 5 Presque Isle Flowage
- 6 Clark Lake Day-Use Area
- 7 Bat Mine
- 8 Deer Marsh Interpretive Trail
- 9 Watersmeet Rails to Trails
- 10 Davidson Lakes
- 11 Bob Lake Campground

- 12 Silver Mountain
- 13 Keweenaw Peninsula
- 14 Sturgeon River Sloughs
- 15 Canyon Falls Roadside Park
- 16 Groveland
- 17 Moose Country
- 18 Wetmore Pond
- 19 Presque Isle Park
- 20 Gene's Pond
- 21 Hardwood Impoundment
- 22 Menominee River/Piers Gorge
- 23 Peninsula Point
- 24 Portage Marsh
- 25 Boney Falls Basin
- 26 Au Train Songbird Trail
- 27 Sand Point Marsh Trail/Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
- 28 Rainey Wildlife Area
- 29 Seney National Wildlife Refuge
- 30 Big Knob Forest Campground
- 31 Cut River Bridge
- 32 Tahquamenon Falls State Park
- 33 Whitefish Point Bird Observatory
- 34 Monocle Lake Trail
- 35 Munuscong Wildlife Mgmt Area
- 36 Horseshoe Bay