



Hiking Trails Descriptions and Map

Moccasin Lane

Distance: .2 mile Difficulty: Moderate

One will find old growth forest, untouched by the Ham Lake Fire, along Moccasin Lane. This circular trail offers a self-guided tour of regional vegetation. Fifteen sites are marked where various species can be identified with use of a trail guide available at the museum desk. The trail is rated moderate because the mid-section of this trail can get slippery when wet.

Be sure to allow enough time to return to the museum parking lot before the driveway gate is locked at 5 p.m. If you wish to stay after 5 p.m., please park your vehicle at the end of the driveway, outside gate.

*** All distances listed are one-way. ***

Blueberry Hill Trail

Distance: 0.9 mile Difficulty: Difficult

Round trip travel time is anywhere from 45 minutes – 3 hours. If you wish to stay after 5 p.m., please park your vehicle at the end of the driveway, outside gate.

The trail begins just beyond the picnic table at the end of Amikwiish Way Trail. Pass the table and start on the Big Sag Trail for approximately 50 feet. Turn right onto Blueberry Hill Trail at sign. Blue flagging tape marks the trail. The Trail follows the old Gneiss Lake Trail for about .5 miles. Small signs mark blaze trees – which have shallow axe cuts about six feet up the trunk on both sides— which once indicated the path of the Gneiss Lake Trail. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way in, the trail divides. You can choose from the High Road, which travels over the granite knob, or the Low Road, which skirts around the edge of the knob. Both routes bring you to the foot of Blueberry Hill, where you will begin to climb to the hike's final panoramic overlook.

Bring binoculars, water, camera, a berry pail and be sure to wear sturdy footwear. Path is mucky after wet weather.



Please keep in mind that historically Chik-Wauk Lodge and Resort covered a much larger area than it does today. On your hike you may encounter cabin foundations, rusted cans, pits, and other historic artifacts. While these heritage resources are poignant reminders of the struggles and accomplishments of bygone eras, they are also fragile and susceptible to looting and vandalism. Remember, artifacts and historic sites are protected by federal laws making unpermitted collection of artifacts and/or willful damage to sites possible felonies. Help preserve this area for generations to come by leaving no trace: take only pictures, leave only footprints.

Boardwalk

Distance: .1 mile Difficulty: Easiest

This ADA-accessible boardwalk connects Amikwiish Way with Rubaboo Road. A platform at the walk's midpoint offers a place to pause and enjoy the scenery of this Saganaga Lake inlet.

Rubaboo Road

Distance: .2 mile Difficulty: Moderate

Rubaboo Road is accessed halfway down and on the west side of the entrance road, or at the end of the Boardwalk. This trail gently curves around another bay for most of its path. Along this route one can find foundations where cabins used to nestle among the trees. Don't miss the two areas of interest: *Moose Pond Point* (200 additional footage one way) and *Algoman Overlook* (150 additional footage one way). One can choose to backtrack or cross the entrance road and complete a return trip via Tamarack Alley.

Moose Pond Point

Moose Pond Point affords one a view on a popular Gunflint destination, Moose Pond. Moose, along with other wildlife, are frequently spotted near the water's edge. The best viewing times are early morning or dusk.

Algoman Overlook

This overlook provides another astounding vista of the area. The pink rock that is found around Chik-Wauk is named Saganaga Tonalite, a type of granitic rock. This granite was formed by the solidification of a huge body of molten rock (magma) several miles beneath the Earth's surface, billions of years ago during the Precambrian Age. Over time, through fault movement, uplift, and erosion including glaciation, the rock has become exposed.

Rubaboo is porridge eaten by the Voyageurs.

Amikwiish Way

Distance: .3 mile Difficulty: Easy

Amikwiish Way is an easy, wide trail that everyone can enjoy. Years ago, a resort dock was dismantled and stacked along the bay shore. Industrious beavers added their own renovations, and remnants of their lodge can be discovered along this trail. Off from this trail are two observation areas where one can rest, take in the view or have a picnic.

Amikwiish is the Ojibwe word for beaver lodge.

Big Sag Trail

Distance: .3 mile Difficulty: Difficult

Big Sag is a good descriptor of the hike and the view! The trail begins at the far end of Amikwiish Way and is a rigorous hike. There are steep climbs with tricky footings along its route. The eagle-eye view of the Saganaga Channel and the surrounding area is well worth the effort. Look for lichens that add color to the rocks along this trail, and keep an eye out for berry bushes along the way.

Tamarack Alley

Distance: .3 mile Difficulty: Moderate

Tamarack Alley is a grassy trail that branches from Amikwiish Way. This trail winds through the boreal forest, climbs over rocky outcrops and exits by the entry into Chik-Wauk. One can backtrack or cross the entrance road and complete a return trip via Rubaboo Road. Come October, the tamaracks' blaze gold coloring along this route is breathtaking.



LEGEND

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