



# Dining at Bluefin Bay: Restaurants are Renovated and Ready!

What’s new in dining this summer at Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts? All three of our restaurants – the Bluefin Grille, Coho Café & Bakery, and Waves of Superior Café – have received a facelift, including a significant remodel at the Bluefin Grille. Plus, we’ve got great new summer menus under the direction of Executive Chef Luis Cortez and his culinary team.

## BLUEFIN GRILLE REMODEL: MORE SEATING & EMPHASIS ON THE VIEWS

If you’re a regular guest at the Bluefin Grille, you know we pride ourselves on bold flavors in our fresh, seasonal, and regionally-inspired cuisine, as well as the bold views of Lake Superior.

This spring, we renovated the Grille’s sophisticated yet casual atmosphere with an update that plays off those views, including soft blue-grays and white ivory with strong blue-black accents. The booths in the main restaurant were all reupholstered in an earthy tan and soft brown, while the dining room sports an energetically bold blue and white accent wallpaper. A new custom built cashier counter and host stand made of reclaimed elm bring the outdoors in, and new flooring was installed throughout.

In the bar area, our signature is the new island bar made from reclaimed elm with a live edge. Two back lit display cases show off our wine selections, and additional seating includes high top tables in the fireplace area. According to our talented designer, Jessica Carlson, all of the upgrades were designed to give the Grille a fresh new look that brings the colors of nature inside, and to maximize guest seating and lake views.

Our new summer menu keeps guest favorites including the Minnesota Duck Quesadilla and Cedar Plank Salmon, while adding new features like the Tandoori Chicken Wrap inspired by our culinary school graduates from India, a Bluefin Prime Striploin, and a Seafood Scampi Trio with Angel Hair Pasta.

## COHO CAFÉ & BAKERY HAS A NEW OUTDOOR PATIO AREA

Last year, the Gitchi Gami Bike Trail was extended on the northeast end of Tofte in front of Coho Café & Bakery, and a new guest parking lot was added for Coho just off Hwy 61. This year, we’re adding outdoor furniture and seating on a new patio in front of the café.

Coho Café is still known for its daily fresh baked bread and bakery items, homemade award-winning pizzas, and fresh soups and salads. This year’s summer menu includes Fish Tacos, a Walleye Dinner, and a Pesto Salmon Linguini, as well as a Banana Foster Crepe for dessert.

## WAVES OF SUPERIOR CAFÉ OPENS FOR THE SEASON WITH NEW LOOK

Waves of Superior Café at Surfside on Lake Superior is also undergoing a bit of an interior refresh. A new wood partition wall will help delineate the café from the spa area, and new custom upholstery will create a warm and inviting space to dine or relax.

Waves of Superior Café opens for the season on May 23 and will be open from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. daily serving breakfast and lunch. New to the summer menu this year are a Waves Café Quiche, Tex-Mex Breakfast Burrito, Smoked Salmon Quesadilla, and an Apple and Faro Salad.



Fish Tacos at Coho Cafe



Outdoor seating at Waves Cafe





## Your Summer Adventure To Do List Begins Right Here

Whether you're seeking outdoor adventure, activities you can enjoy as a family, a moonlit lakewalk or a campfire with live music, we've got you covered. At Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts, there's something for everyone and enough activities to pack a lifetime of summer days. The best part: our resort activities are complimentary.

Visit [bluefinbay.com/play](https://bluefinbay.com/play) and click on Resort Activities and Events for dates, times and more information on all summer activities. »

Dear Guests,

Whew, spring is finally in full swing on the North Shore and we predict summer will be on its way soon. This, after the longest MN winter ever – though I think we said that last year too!

The waterfalls are putting on a spectacular show. Soon, we'll welcome lupines and, right behind it, summer kayaking. We've got some great new activities in store for guests this summer, including inland kayaking on Caribou Lake via a new fleet of inland kayaks.

We've spiffed up the restaurants and rolled out new summer menus. Nearby, Superior National Golf Course is in full swing with the fully renovated course now complete. Our new state-of-the-art North Shore Culinary School in Grand Marais is now accepting students for Fall 2019.

Read all about it in this issue of the Fishwrapper – we hope a valuable tool in planning your summer getaway. We look forward to welcoming you to the North Shore and the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts this summer. Please let us know how we can make your stay more enjoyable.

Sincerely,

Mark Jury  
General Manager





# What's New This Summer?

**Inland Kayaking on Caribou Lake:** This year we're adding inland kayaking to our on-water guided excursions. This is in addition to Sea Kayaking on Lake Superior, offered 3-4 times per day, and Wilderness Canoeing on the Poplar River.



Join us for inland kayaking on the beautiful Caribou Lake in Lutsen. We will kayak for two hours on this peaceful, scenic lake. As we paddle along the shore, you'll want to look for wildlife like beavers, loons, and ducks. Inland kayaking is perfect for families and beginners or those who want to kayak, but don't want to risk falling into Lake Superior's chilly waters.

This guided trip is kid-friendly for children ages 7 and up. We'll offer basic kayak stroke instruction, which makes it perfect for beginners.

**Onion River Bike & Hike:** We now offer two excursions that include biking and hiking: Caribou River Bike & Hike and a new Onion River Bike & Hike. This adventure includes a beautiful 6-mile bike ride on the scenic Gitchi Gami Bike Trail to the Onion River wayside rest located right off Hwy 61. Once at the rest stop, we'll enjoy a refreshing drink of water and a short hike (less than one mile) that overlooks beautiful views of Lake Superior and the Onion River.



**Kid's Adventure Club:** We're taking our Kid's Adventure Club to new levels this year by adding some new outdoor activities and explorations. Join us on an adventure of curiosity and fun. We change up the activities regularly, including nature walks, simple hikes, field games, and agate hunting on the beach. Kids of all ages and adults are welcome. We encourage you to dress for the weather, and we'll take care of the rest.

## OTHER COMPLIMENTARY SUMMER ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Daily guided sea kayaking on Lake Superior (ages 12 & up)
- Guided hikes, plus complimentary shuttle service to area trailheads
- Guided road and mountain bike tours (paved and trail routes)
- Naturalist programs in cooperation with the DNR
- Complimentary tennis racquets and on-site court
- Nightly campfires and s'mores; campfire music every Tuesday night from 7-9 p.m.
- Yoga (ages 12 & up)
- Kids' activities (programming changes weekly and includes arts, crafts, games and naturalist programs)



## Superior National Premier 18 Ready for Play + Foot Golf

Superior National at Lutsen recently completed its \$4.6 million renovation on the River and Canyon nines. This new Premier 18 offers an unparalleled golfing experience on MN's breathtaking North Shore. If you haven't checked out the newly renovated course, this is the year and we've got package deals for you.

### STAY & PLAY PACKAGES

Stay at any of our Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts & play Superior National at Lutsen. When you book a Stay & Play Package, you receive discounted greens fees every day you choose to play. These can be combined with your lodging preferences and tee times reserved for you by our Bluefin Bay Guest Services team or you can reserve them yourself. Please keep in mind that tee times must be reserved three days in advance.

Package rates range in price depending on room type, season, and number of times you play. To learn more about Bluefin Bay Golf Stay & Play Packages, call 1-800-BLUEFIN (258-3346). Or, visit [bluefinbay.com](http://bluefinbay.com) and click on Offers, Stay & Play Packages.

### FOOTGOLF AT SUPERIOR NATIONAL

FootGolf is a fun new sport that's quickly becoming an international sensation, and it's made its way to Superior National at Lutsen. FootGolf is like golf, except that it's played with a soccer ball, kicking the ball down the course to get it into the hole. It can be played on Superior National's Mountain 9 course.

It is perfect for families with kids, or active adults looking for a fun, unique activity. A game only takes about an hour-and-a-half! What's more, a group could play a side-by-side round of golf and FootGolf. Think - parents golfing, and kids FootGolfing.

FootGolf tee times can be made by calling 218-663-7195. Walk-ons are welcome per availability.



North Shore Culinary in Grand Marais



Enrichment program hosted by Cook County Higher Education

## New North Shore Culinary Program Helps Address Workforce Shortage

"Learn, Earn and Play" is the invitation to the next generation of executive chefs, cooks and culinary staff as a new, state-of-the-art North Shore Culinary School opens its doors to the first set of students this Fall.

Hibbing Community College will offer its culinary program at the new North Shore Culinary, located in Cook County High School in Grand Marais. The North Shore Culinary School is the latest in innovative solutions by Cook County leaders to address a staffing shortage in the area. Its aim is to help meet the demand for skilled culinary staff at area resorts and restaurants.

The culinary school is a collaboration of the Cook County School District, Cook County Higher Education and Hibbing Community College aimed at producing an influx of skilled culinary staff, enabling area restaurants like those at Bluefin Bay Resorts to return to full, operational capacity and in some cases grow and expand.

"The workforce shortage hits our restaurants particularly hard," said Dennis Rysdahl, Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts owner. Rysdahl serves on the board of the Cook County Chamber of Commerce and helped initiate Cook County Workforce Solutions – a coalition formed to create solutions to the staffing shortage in Cook County.

"Affiliated employers in the area – including Bluefin Bay – are offering housing, jobs and

tuition reimbursements or scholarships for qualifying students. It's a win for the students, a win for area employers, and a win for the county overall," Rysdahl said.

### Learning includes culinary instruction and enrichment programs

North Shore Culinary offers a 17-week Culinary Arts Certificate and a one year Culinary Arts Diploma. The curriculum includes food handling and safety techniques, planning and production, personnel management, cost control, nutritional menu planning, food presentation, and banquet service. Students who complete the program will be prepared for employment as kitchen managers, food production managers, chefs, sous chefs, banquet chefs, and more.

Additionally, Cook County Higher Education is offering optional enrichment programming for North Shore Culinary students and those seeking short-term culinary professional development.

According to Kelsey Kennedy, "Students have the opportunity to participate in learning experience that will help build their resume, provide leadership skills and guidance on future employment options."

Some of these enrichment workshops include: Food and beverage pairing, small business development, leadership, Guest Chef speakers, local food, workplace wellness, and more.

### Earn while you learn

Cook County Higher Education will help connect culinary students to paid culinary jobs even before they start school. Students will have an opportunity to work and learn side-by-side with chefs in many of Cook County's world-class kitchens.

### Play in Cook County

The call to future culinary students to consider North Shore Culinary includes highlighting the amazing opportunities for outdoor adventure on the North Shore of Lake Superior. Of course that's something we specialize in at Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts!

### How to apply

If you or someone you know is interested in the new North Shore Culinary program, you can learn more at [hibbing.edu/admissions/new-student](http://hibbing.edu/admissions/new-student) or contact Kelsey Kennedy, Cook County Higher Education, at [highered@northshorecampus.org](mailto:highered@northshorecampus.org).

### An improved dining experience for our guests

For Bluefin Bay guests and visitors to the North Shore, the visitor experience will improve with fully staffed kitchens and high quality culinary staff. "Our hope is that Cook County can become a leader in the state in the quality and variety of dining offerings," Rysdahl said.



# Meet Some of the New Faces You'll See at Bluefin Bay This Year



## Angelica (Angel) Rodriguez

Guest Services

**Hometown/Country:** Baguio, a city in the northern part of the Philippines, located eight hours from the Capitol city of Manila

**Is this your first time in the U.S.? How long have you been here?** This is my first time in the U.S. I arrived in March 2019, with a stop in San Francisco to visit my Dad before coming to Bluefin Bay.

**How long will you be here?** I'm on a J1 Visa for a one year training program. After my training, we're given a grace period of one month during which I hope to travel to New York, San Francisco, and Chicago.

**What do you like best about being here so far?** I love the lake. You are working, while you're vacationing, relaxing. I went on the hike to Caribou Falls and plan to do more hiking. I'm from a small, but overpopulated city; it feels so peaceful here. It's very easy to make friends and connect, people are welcoming.

**What's your favorite thing about Bluefin Bay?** I like my job in Guest Services. I've worked at the front desk at a hotel in the Philippines. My favorite is when I interact with guests. I enjoy meeting the other international employees.



## Mario Cruz

Bluefin Grille

**Hometown/Country:** From Gurabo, Puerto Rico – a rural area toward the center of the Island. I was living in the city of Santurce before I came here.

**How long have you been here?** I came in March 2019. This is my first time in MN and the North Shore. I lived in Philadelphia for a couple of years, where I worked and went to school.

**What's your current job at the Bluefin Grille?** Manager on Duty. I've worked in the restaurant business for 16 years in roles ranging from dishwasher to cook, bartender, server, and host. Most of my experience is front of the house.

**What brought you here?** I was working in corporate restaurants and looking for a change. I saw an ad on Facebook and decided to explore it. I was looking to connect with more of a family company.

**Do you have a family here or back home?** Yes, I have a wife, Emily, and two kids – Kaleb age 9 and Abigail, age 2. They are currently in Puerto Rico. We decided I would come here first to explore and get ready before they move. My wife is a teacher in Puerto Rico and she's currently researching schools here for job opportunities. They are coming this summer for two weeks to visit.

**What do you like about working at Bluefin Bay?** I like the sense of community and family here. I come from a small island where family tends to stick together and live close by, so a sense of community is important to me. Also, everyone at Bluefin Bay is focused on doing their best job and making the guest experience great. This motivates me to do even better.



## Innovative Staffing Solutions Begin to Pay Off

In the Winter Fishwrapper, we highlighted how Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts is working collaboratively to address the labor shortage plaguing Cook County and rural tourism areas. We featured two innovative initiatives – recruiting Puerto Rican workers and aspiring culinary professionals.

Today, we're happy to report that many of these efforts are paying off. For the first time in several years, Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts is fully staffed for its summer season.

"It has all come together for us nicely this year," said Eric Witzig, Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts HR Director.

"We are excited by our continued success in hiring employees from Puerto Rico. Our International program has come together nicely with almost all of our J1 and H2B workers being approved. And, we've had some really nice placement of Cook and Lake County residents – in part because Bluefin Bay is dedicated to earning the reputation as an employer of choice," he added.

## Better, Faster WIFI is Here

For so many years, guests have come to Bluefin Bay to unplug and recharge. Though we have almost always offered free WIFI to our guests, many didn't see it as an added value and preferred to stay unplugged from technology while on vacation.

Well, times are changing with the explosion of today's technology and so are our guests' desires when it comes to being "plugged in."

We're pleased to announce that we're increasing the bandwidth in and around Bluefin Bay Resorts by 400% and adding more access points. This will result in better connections and faster Internet. Now you can stream Netflix movies right from your device, if you choose.

Did we mention, it's free?



# Great Waves, Great People

We're thrilled to provide our guests with warm and friendly hospitality, something we couldn't do without an exceptional staff. Here are some of the faces behind the great service at the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts.

Angela McWilliams

Guest Services

**Hometown:** Forbes, Missouri

**What is your role?** I'm a front desk Manager on Duty. I help by offering assistance to guests to ensure a memorable vacation experience and to staff by ensuring a safe and efficient workplace.



**What's your favorite thing about Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts?** My favorite thing is helping guests plan a memorable life event at Bluefin Bay. Guests choose our resort for proposals, weddings, baby moons, anniversaries, and special getaways. It brings me joy to help make their stay amazing and their memories special.

**Do you have a favorite spot or activity in the area that you enjoy on your time off?** I fell in love with the majesty of Lake Superior as a young woman and it drew me to the North Shore to live. I am in awe of the Greatest Lake's power and especially love the waves when the lake puts on a show.

**I want readers to know...**Family is important to me. I have two beautiful daughters and three very special grandchildren. And, I have a second family at Bluefin Bay in our staff and first-time and returning guests.

Trish Williams

Waves of Superior Spa

**Hometown:** Jupiter, Florida

**What is your role?** I'm a licensed massage therapist, esthetician and now spa supervisor – so I get to work with both guests and spa staff.



**What's your favorite thing about Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts?** The staff for sure – from management to restaurant, guest services, and of course the spa staff. Everyone has been kind and caring and enjoyable to work with.

**Do you have a favorite spot or activity in the area that you enjoy on your time off?** Lake Superior is so beautiful itself, so I try to find a spot to relax by it as often as I can. The hiking and waterfalls are spectacular, and I also love canoeing the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

**I want readers to know...**This is a special place full of wonderful people. We all strive to make our guests feel they are receiving the very best in warm and friendly hospitality.



## Wildcats of the North Shore

One of the greatest things about living and vacationing on Minnesota's North Shore of Lake Superior is our wildlife! We're doing a wildlife series, featuring wildlife stories with photos from area photographer, Thomas (Tom) Spence, whose photographs can be viewed at [thomasjspenceimages.com](http://thomasjspenceimages.com).

Through Tom's amazing lens as a North Shore enthusiast and wildlife photographer, we'll help you learn about our area's wildlife in its natural habitat. In the last Fishwrapper, we featured moose. This issue it is wildcats.

To learn more about Wildcats of the Northwoods, join us for our Summer Naturalist program, sponsored in collaboration with the US Forest Service. "Wildcats of the North Shore" offered every Saturday from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. at the Bluefin Bay Beach.

Our other Naturalist program this year is titled "A Superior North Shore – Everything about the Big Lake!" Join us at the Bluefin Bay Beach on Thursday evenings from 7:30 – 9 p.m. to learn Lake Superior geography and how to help protect this freshwater gem.





## Canada Lynx

by Tom Spence , North Shore & Wildlife Photographer

The Canada lynx is a lynx species native to North America. It ranges across Canada and Alaska extending into the Rocky Mountains and New Mexico. We don't often see the Canada lynx in our woods, so we tend to cherish the brief glimpses we get.

The population of lynx in our forests tend to fluctuate with the population of the snowshoe hare, the primary food source for the lynx. Lynx will also dine on grouse and other small critters like mice and squirrel. I have been seeing a lot of grouse and hare in recent months and my lynx sightings have increased for sure.

The characteristic ear tufts which top the lynx ears are thought to further aid their already impressive hearing. Enjoy these summer images from 2017 and 2018 lynx sightings.

# HOT SUMMER DEALS

### Spring Fever Special

Valid now – June 13, 2019

Breathtaking views and crashing waves against the rugged north shore of Lake Superior are even better when they're free. Now through June 14, enjoy a FREE night when you purchase two nights. Midweek night is free. New reservations only. Not valid over Memorial Day weekend.

### Extended Stay Special

Valid all year

The longer you stay, the more you save! With this progressive savings deal, stays of 5 nights receive 10% off, stays of 6 nights receive 15% off and stays of 7 nights receive 20% off. Cannot be combined with other offers.

### Stay & Play Golf Packages

Valid Now – End of Golf Season

Enjoy great views and great savings while you hit the links at one of Golf Digest's Best Places to Play! With a one or two-day package, enjoy discounted greens fees. Some restrictions apply. Call 800.Bluefin (258-3346) for more details.

### Romance Package

Valid all year

Come experience why Bluefin Bay is consistently named Minnesota's Most Romantic Resort with our exclusive Honeymoon, Romantic Retreat and Couple's Spa packages. Visit [bluefinbay.com](http://bluefinbay.com) for package details and special add-ons to make your getaway as unique as your love.

**Visit [bluefinbay.com/offers](http://bluefinbay.com/offers) for current deals and packages.**

Connect with us for more on Bluefin Bay events and specials check us out on:



**800.BLUEFIN (258-3346)**