



# More Live Music Than You Can Shake a Ski Pole At!

If live music is your jam, you'll love the scene along the North Shore of Lake Superior in the winter. While some like to hibernate, that's not the case up here!

Venture out to explore North Shore nightlife and you'll find everything from the Double Black Diamond of concert venues – Papa Charlie's at Lutsen Mountains, to a burgeoning live music scene with 20 local musicians performing at dozens of locations from Tofte to Grand Marais.

You can find a live show any night of the week with music ranging from acoustic to bluegrass to jazz to Americana to rock n' roll to country. You're also likely to have the opportunity to chat with local performers, as well as pick up a copy of their latest CD.

## Papa C's: The double black diamond of concert venues

This winter season will bring over 75 artists and 125 shows to the après ski scene. According to Jim Vick, Lutsen Mountains Marketing Director, "It's unusual to find a ski town club with a grand main room like Papa Charlie's. It allows us to bring in Grammy winners, Rock & Roll Hall of Famers and the region's top acts,"

Après ski is a thing! Skiers and winter adventurers embrace the challenge and thrill that comes with braving the winter elements. They want to come inside after a day on the mountain and share those adventures with kindred spirits.

Papa Charlie's has created an environment and an après ski scene to attract and appease. From national acts like Little Feat, Hot Tuna, Richard Thompson and Martin Sexton, to regional super stars like Trampled By Turtles, Gear Daddies, Dessa, and Cloud Cult, to festival weekends like Snowball, Ski Party and the Sweetwater Shakedown, guests will plan their ski vacations around Lutsen's concert events.



For a more intimate experience, Papa Charlie's hosts a Monday night Songwriter Series, transforming the club into a listening room showcasing the Midwest's top songwriters in a theater-like setting. The intimate room and great sound give the audience an opportunity to immerse into the stories and craft of the song. Visit the events page at [lutsen.com](http://lutsen.com) for this season's roster of music and concert events.

## Vibrant local music scene rewards artists too

North Shore singer-songwriter, Eric Frost plays solo as well as with a variety of local musicians. Although Frost began his career in rock n' roll bands, his true passions are Americana, folk, and bluegrass.

"I love playing in a variety of venues on the North

Shore," Frost said. "You never know who will be in the audience on a given night, ranging from locals to North Shore visitors to resort guests. In what other venue can you connect performers and guests one-on-one to share stories and maybe even a beer? It's great," he adds.

## Bluefin Grille hosts live music on Mondays & Fridays

Beginning Dec. 20, the Bluefin Grille will again be hosting live music in front of the fireplace from 8-10 p.m. This intimate bar setting features local artists such as: The Millers, Tim Haussner, Eric Frost, Pete Kavanaugh, Joe Paulik, The Northeast Timberland Band, and Briand Morrison.

A newly formed group of local musicians called "Vessel" will be added to the mix this year, playing on Jan. 3 and March 2. For more information and the live music schedule, visit [bluefinbay.com](http://bluefinbay.com) and click on Resort Activities & Events.





Temperance Landing on Lake Superior



Dear Guests,

At Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts, we not only embrace winter, we celebrate it! Winter brings a different group of guests to our resorts – those who love the warmth of our amenities and the relaxation and romance of a quieter season, and outdoor adventurers who love our snow and the range of activities we offer.

Last winter brought records snow and cold to MN. It also contributed to Lake Superior’s rising lake levels. As a result, we completed some significant shoreline work to prepare for this winter. Read more about this and our new winter activities in this issue of the Fishwrapper.

Please enjoy the enclosed complimentary 25th Annual Bluefin Bay Calendar as a token of our appreciation, and join me in congratulating the calendar contest winners. We hope it inspires happy memories of time spent in our area’s breathtaking wilderness.

We also hope you’ll find our Winter 2019-20 Fishwrapper a helpful tool in planning your next getaway.

If you haven’t joined us as a winter guest – please come see why we celebrate winter.

From all of us at Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts, we wish you a happy holiday and best wishes in the New Year!

Sincerely,  
Mark Jury, General Manager

## Do North! Do Winter Where We do Winter Best

### Rolling out the white carpet for winter fun

It’s no secret, we DO North on the North Shore of Lake Superior. With more snow and more adventures to help you get out and enjoy it, you’ll be hard pressed not to join in the fun.

At Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts, our complimentary rental equipment, knowledgeable Guest Services team, and area attractions create the perfect trifecta to help you enjoy a customized winter adventure. Here’s an overview of our most popular winter activities. Learn more and see our full schedule at [Bluefinbay.com](http://Bluefinbay.com), click on Play, Resort Activities & Events.

- **Cross-country skiing:** With more than 400 km of Nordic ski trails in Cook County, you’ll never run out of places to explore. Check out complimentary cross-country ski equipment and explore the area trails at your leisure or join one of our free guided ski excursions.
- **Snowshoeing:** Winter hiking is at its best up here. Explore the great North Woods with our complimentary snowshoes. Ask for a trail map at Guest Services or join one of our free guided snowshoe hikes.
- **Downhill Skiing & Snowboarding:** Bluefin Bay offers complimentary shuttles to Lutsen Mountains daily. Lutsen Mountains is the biggest & best ski resort in the Midwest. Check out our Ski & Stay Packages at [bluefinbay.com](http://bluefinbay.com) to get the best deal on ski and snowboard vacations.
- **Ice skating** rinks at Bluefin Bay and Surfside are a hit with families and friends alike. Enjoy complimentary ice skates. We also offer hockey nets, sticks and pucks to sign out. End your skating time at one of our evening bonfires complete with s’mores.
- **Nightly campfire and s’mores** at Bluefin Bay and Surfside. Pick up your complimentary s’mores packet at Guest Services.
- **Kid’s Activities & Crafts** – as part of our Kid’s Adventure Program.
- **Yoga:** Offered on Saturdays; all levels welcome.
- **North Shore Winery Shuttles:** If trying a new wine is more your idea of adventure, hop on a complimentary shuttle and head to North Shore Winery for a tasting & tour. Shuttles available daily when the winery is open.
- **Live music at the Bluefin Grille** on Mondays and Fridays beginning Dec. 20.



## NEW: Guided Winter Bonfire Hikes

Last winter we combined two of our favorite activities into one fun winter adventure – and the Guided Bonfire Hike was invented. This year, we’re offering two Guided Bonfire Snowshoe/Hikes – one to Onion River and one to Caribou River.

**The Onion River Bonfire Hike** takes you to the scenic Onion River for a half mile hike to a Superior Hiking Trail campsite. There we stop for a bonfire, s’mores, and hot cocoa to keep you warm, and then hike back. This short outing is perfect for families with small children. But let’s be honest, who doesn’t enjoy hot cocoa and s’mores by the bonfire in the winter woods?

**Bonfire Hike at East Caribou River Camp:** This 1.5-mile round trip hike (rated easy) includes visiting four points of interest: 1) The base of a 40-foot waterfall; 2) An amazing observation platform overlooking Lake Superior and the Apostle Islands; 3) The river gorge bridge; and 4) A surprise final stop for a campfire and s’mores.

## Stay at Bluefin Bay & Ski Lutsen Mountains

### Family ski vacation packages provide real value

Family ski vacations at Lutsen Mountains just got more affordable thanks to some changes in Lutsen Mountain’s family package pricing. This year, the age range for children’s lift tickets was extended from age 12 to 15. So now, children ages 6-15 can SKI FREE when part of a Family Vacation Package – three or more days with a paid adult.

Additionally, Family Festival Weekend Packages offer lift tickets, lodging and activities starting at \$169 per person and FREE ski rental for the entire family.

Learn more about Ski & Stay Packages at [bluefinbay.com](http://bluefinbay.com) – click on Offers, Ski & Stay Packages to book. Or call Guest Services for help finding the best rate and package fit for you.



## 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.



**Donnelly Pe’rez Colo’n**  
Bluefin Grille Host & Gift Shop Coordinator

**Hometown:** Humacao, Puerto Rico

**How long have you worked for Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts?** 1 year

**What brought you here?** I left Puerto Rico due to the aftereffects of Hurricane Maria in 2017. I was looking for a better future for my family.

**My favorite thing about working at Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts is...** Being able to meet the staff from other countries and learn about their cultures and even learn a little of their language.

**What is your favorite spot at the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts?** I love the view of the lake from the second floor at the Grille – a view I get to enjoy while I work.

**My favorite thing to do when I am not working is...** Visit new places on the North Shore and explore with my family, which includes Bluefin Grille Chef, Luis Cortes, and kids Derick Jose, age 16, and Dannalee, age 13.

**I want readers to know...** I am grateful for all the kind Minnesotans. Everyone has accepted us as a family. We have seen the kindness in both locals and foreign people. I am learning so much.



**Amy Ollmen**  
Housekeeper

**Hometown:** Silver Bay, MN

**How long have you worked for Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts?** 2.5 years

**What brought you here?** I was born and raised on the North Shore in Silver Bay.

**My favorite thing about working at Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts is...** The professional workmanship of the Bluefin Bay staff.

**What is your favorite spot at the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts?** Temperance Landing Log homes. I think they make the perfect place to getaway – feels like your home away from home.

**My favorite thing to do when I am not working is...** I love to spend time with my husband, Ben, and our four kids. We love to take mini-vacations when we’re not running to sporting events for our kids (football, basketball, baseball, softball and volleyball!).

**I want readers to know...** The North Shore is the best place to live and raise a family because everyone knows each other and it’s like a big family.



## North House Folk School: Celebrating Two Decades of Connecting People, Place, Craft and Culture

Imagine a special place along the northern shores of Lake Superior where people gather to share the legacy, beauty and stories of traditional northern crafts. Where hands on learning, discovery and community are the goals – rather than how many “like” or followers you have on Facebook.

Would you go? Would you want to learn more?

Well, that place not only exists, it's right in Bluefin Bay's backyard and you're invited!

**Meet North House Folk School located in the Grand Marais harbor** – a place that's been crafting community along the North Shore since its formation as an educational nonprofit in 1997.

North House's mission is an open invitation for exploration: “To enrich lives and build community by teaching traditional northern crafts in a student-centered learning environment that inspires the hands, heart and the mind.”

That exploration now takes place in more than 450 classes offered each year, taught by 175 artisan instructors – craftsmen and women who gather to share their knowledge, stories and their skills. From boat building, wood carving, or timber framing, to weaving, basketry or knitting, to artisan bread baking, cheese making and yes, even, sausage making, to blacksmithing or toolmaking – the range of classes draws students from 37 states and four countries. Students are as diverse as the course offerings. Many are discovering a new craft for the first time, and others are continuing to pursue a lifelong hobby or trade.



Photo Credit: Bryan Hansel



## From humble beginnings to a thriving community

According to Greg Wright, North House Folk School's Executive Director of 18 years, “There's a hunger for hands-on learning, community, and an aspiration to find beginnings and explore life through craft.”

This is evidenced by North House's growth over the past two decades. Ninety percent of the classes North House now offers fill, and for some of the most popular classes – such as Timber Framing – there's a waiting list. In addition to year-round classes, North House offers thematic weekends and special events such as:

- The Winterer's Gathering and Arctic Film Fest in November (Nov. 22-24, 2019)
- Fiber Week in February (Feb. 11-17, 2020)
- Wood Week in March (March 3-10, 2020)
- The Wooden Boat Show & Summer Solstice Festival in June 17-21, 2020
- And more!

But it wasn't always the case. According to Wright, when North House first launched, the course catalog listed 23 classes and had no location to house them. “The catalog said ‘TBD – To be





determined,” Wright recalls. That was a bold vision and determination to make North House come to fruition.

Now, more than 20 years later, the North House campus consists of eight different colored timbered classroom buildings that bring alive 19 teaching themes – many of those buildings were built by North House students.

“What I love most are the people,” Wright said. “The world of craft is filled with people who are curious about the world and who have unique skills and perspectives. They tell the stories about this place called “The North” in interesting and inspiring ways. It doesn’t matter what classroom you walk into, it’s always the same.”

That might explain why when you run into Greg Wright on campus, he always has a smile on his face.

## You’re Invited!

Curious what North House Folk School is all about? North House has an open invitation for area guests to visit the campus in Grand Marais and explore. As Executive Director Greg Wright is quick to point out, “The coffee’s always on, and the school store and welcome center (yellow building) can help guide you once you arrive on campus.”

So if you’d love to learn more about the history and craft of the North, or you’ve always wanted to make a birch bark basket or build your own wooden canoe, visit the campus or [northhouse.org](http://northhouse.org) for a Winter 2019-20 course catalog.

For those wanting to learn more about fiber or wood working – check out this Winter’s thematic weeks for a host of classes and a chance to immerse yourself in learning and community.

Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts is thrilled to be offering North House inspired mini-courses at Bluefin Bay starting this winter through our activities department. Check out our story on page 2-3 of the Fishwrapper or visit [bluefinbay.com](http://bluefinbay.com) and click on Resort Activities and Events for specific courses and times.

## NEW: North House Folk School Inspired Mini-Classes at Bluefin Bay

Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts is pleased to bring North House Folk School inspired mini-courses onsite as part of our resort winter Activities program. These courses will introduce guests to the element of Northern craft and add a new crafting dimension to our resort activities and events schedule. If guest interest and participation is high, this will likely be added to our summer program offerings.

Starting this December, we’re offering two unique crafting courses, with more courses to come throughout the winter. If basket making or weaving are on your list of hobbies or new skills to learn, check out these inaugural classes:

**Mini-Market Basket Class (Beginner Class)**, taught by Mary Jane Huggins of Tall Tale – a small local shop focused on knitting and weaving. Learn the basics of weaving and leave with a finished basket that can be used for serving bread, holding mail, or keeping special treasures. Participants can choose from two different handle options and the finished basket size is about 3 ½ x 6” x 3-4” in height.



**Pin Loom Weaving (Beginner Class)**, taught by Julie Arthur of Wifman Weaving located in Tofta. Pin Looms are small and portable. While the weavings are small they can be turned into clothing, blankets, or pillows – only needing imagination. Students will learn how to wind the yarn onto the loom and create some basic patterns. They will leave with woven squares that can be finished into a project of their choice.

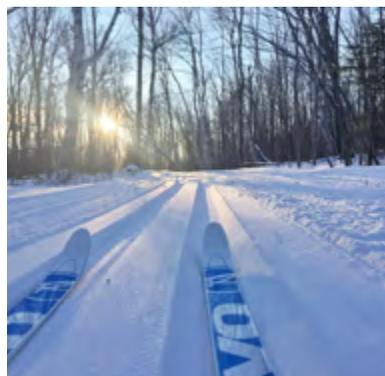
See the full schedule of these and other new courses at [bluefinbay.com](http://bluefinbay.com) – click on Resort & Activities & Events.



## Give the gift of Bluefin Bay

This holiday give a gift that will keep on giving long after it is unwrapped — the gift of a lakeside vacation getaway to the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts. Gift cards can be purchased in any dollar amount and used for lodging, restaurants, gift shops and the Waves of Superior Spa. Gift cards are mailed within a few days of placing your order and each card comes in special packaging with a place for a personal message — all making your job of giving even easier.

**Call 1-800-BLUEFIN (258-3346) or 218-663-7296 locally to order your gift cards today.**



## The Way We See It

The Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts and the surrounding area are bursting with winter adventure and breathtaking sights. Here are some favorites from those in the know – the Bluefin Bay team.

### Favorite Winter Activity: Tofte Ski Down

One of my favorite recommendations for guests who love Nordic or cross-country skiing is the “Tofte ski down.” Guests can start at the Britton Peak or Oberg Parking lots and ski back to Bluefin Bay. It’s fun and mostly downhill as well!

**Recommended by Nick Spriggs, Activities Director**

### Favorite Winter Family Activity: Ice Skating

Ice skating or a pick-up hockey game utilizing our complimentary equipment. We have rinks both at Bluefin Bay and Surfside, and guests can enjoy the bonfire and free s’mores after. It’s popular with families in the winter.

**Recommended by Dan Hinton, Guest Services**

### Favorite Bite to Eat: Angel Hair Seafood Trio

The Angel Hair Seafood Trio pasta dish is my favorite and a go to. The scallops are excellent and all the seafood blends really nicely together for a flavorful and filling dish.

**Recommended by Ross Sherman, Guest Services**



## Bluefin Bay Shoreline Work Due to High Water Levels

If you're a lover of the Great Lakes, you may know that most are at near record high water levels. Lake Superior entered this past summer 0.8 inches above the record high set in 1950 for that time of year, and 14 inches above its 100-year average.

Due to these record high water levels in Lake Superior, and the increase in the frequency of major fall and winter storms (three of what are considered "500 year storms" in the past two years), Bluefin Bay decided to be proactive and add additional shoreline protective measures to the significant other work done over the past two years. This work was completed just in time for the Gales of November this year.

### HOT WINTER DEALS

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



800.BLUEFIN (258-3346)

#### Gales of November & December

Valid through Dec. 20, 2019

Get a front row seat to nature's most spectacular show – the Gales of November and December. Stay three nights and receive one midweek night completely FREE! Guests must stay four nights over the Thanksgiving holiday to qualify.

#### January 3 for 2 Special

Valid Jan. 1 – Jan. 31, 2020

Stay three nights and receive one midweek night completely FREE!

#### Winter 4 for 3 Special

Valid Feb. 1 – March 22, 2020, excluding President's Weekend (Feb. 16-18)

Stay four nights and receive one midweek night completely FREE!

#### March Weekends at Midweek Rates

Valid March 4-22, 2020

Stay three nights or more and receive weekends at midweek rates. A savings of up to 30%.

#### Ski & Stay Packages

For those who love to ski and stay at the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts, we offer packages combining discounted lodging and lift tickets to Lutsen Mountains ski resort. Visit [bluefinbay.com/offers](http://bluefinbay.com/offers) and click on Ski & Stay Packages. Or ask your reservationist for details.

#### Extended Stay Special

Valid all year. Enjoy this progressive savings deal – the longer you stay the more you save.

- Stay 4 nights and receive 10% off
- Stay 5 nights and receive 15% off
- Stay 6 nights and receive 20% off
- Stay 7 nights and receive 25% off

#### Romance and Honeymoon Packages

Crashing waves, a moonlit lake, romantic suites: no wonder Bluefin Bay is consistently named Minnesota's "Most Romantic Resort." For the ultimate romantic winter getaway, check out our Honeymoon and Romantic Retreat packages at [bluefinbay.com/offers](http://bluefinbay.com/offers) or ask your reservationist for details.

#### Spa Packages

It doesn't get much better than combining a stay at the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts with the relaxation of Waves of Superior Spa. Our Couples Spa Package includes two or more nights in a Grand Superior Master Suite, a 60-minute side-by-side massage and endless winter romance. Visit [bluefinbay.com/offers](http://bluefinbay.com/offers) or ask your reservationist for details.

#### Internet Savings Deal

Book your stay at [bluefinbay.com](http://bluefinbay.com) and receive discounted lodging rates on stays of two nights or longer. Good for online reservations only and some date restrictions apply. Cannot be combined with other offers.

