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Nice Ice

Awe-inspiring ice stacks and frozen waterfalls make winter magical

From frozen inland lakes, to ice-covered waterfalls, to magnificent ice stacks and sculptures that form on Lake Superior’s shoreline, ice is a magical part of a North Shore winter.

Many people wonder if Lake Superior freezes in entirety. The truth is – not very often. Although ice forms on Lake Superior every winter, in mild winters—like 2020—you’re likely to see the lake freeze only in sheltered sections such as Grand Marais’s harbor and the Duluth/Superior area. During those milder winters, the spray from waves will often cling to the shoreline creating fantastic icicle sculptures.



Photo Credit: Beth Dischinger

Most commonly, ice will cover about 50-60% of Lake Superior’s surface. In 2019, when we saw the wolves walking on Lake Superior in front of Bluefin Bay, we were experiencing about 95% coverage. Peak ice coverage on Lake Superior usually happens in the coldest months – by late February or early March. Rarely, does the entirety of Lake Superior freeze. In fact, the last time it happened was 1996.

It’s important to know that Lake Superior ice is notoriously fickle. No matter how cold the winter gets, the movement of the water underneath makes the ice on top unreliable. Because of the risks, ice formations at Bluefin Bay should be enjoyed only from the shoreline!



Photo Credit: Mark Polson

Photo Credit: Allen Utzig

Exploring Inland Rivers & Waterfalls

The rivers that flow into Lake Superior also form into works of art during the winter. The Onion River near Bluefin Bay is shallow and reliably freezes to the point where you can walk on it safely in some areas. When conditions are right, the Bluefin Bay Activities Department will lead guided tours to the Onion River, allowing guests to explore an area that might not be accessible in other seasons.

Rivers that contain large drop offs or waterfalls can be some of the most interesting to behold. Along with treks to the Onion River, we frequently lead guided winter hikes to Caribou Falls, Temperance River, and Cascade River. The Bluefin Bay team takes pride in showing guests the magic of a North Shore winter, and we hope you get to experience some nice ice on your next visit.

Top Ten Locations to Discover Ice Formations

1. Gooseberry Falls
2. Tettegouche State Park
3. Caribou Falls
4. Sugarloaf Cove
5. Temperance River
6. Bluefin Bay
7. Tofte Cove
8. Onion River
9. Cascade River
10. Grand Marais Harbor



Photo Credit: Jonathan Mortenson



We Bring out the Winter Adventurer in You

When you stay at Bluefin Bay, Surfside or Temperance Landing on Lake Superior, you receive a lot more than just lodging accommodations. Our goal is to provide guests with all of the upscale lodging, all of the creature comforts and direct access to the many recreational opportunities on Minnesota's spectacular North Shore.

Winter is made for outdoor adventure and we'll help you seize the opportunities the season brings. At Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts, you can be as busy and adventurous as you want to be (or not). Whether you prefer cuddling up with your favorite book next to an in-room fireplace, or venturing out to learn how to cross-country ski for the first time in a forest blanketed with snow—we've got something for everyone.

This winter, we've expanded our complimentary activities program to offer more guided tours and adventures than ever before. Complimentary activities include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, craft classes taught by local artists, ice skating and ice hockey, shuttles to the local winery, and more.

We recognize that many of our guests are beginners when it comes to snowshoeing or skiing and are more comfortable with guidance from our trained staff. Others are adventure aficionados and would rather borrow our complimentary equipment and venture out on their own.

One of the best components of the Bluefin Bay Resorts' activities program is that guests have the ability to choose. Our expert team can provide instruction, safety tips, and local insights to help you make the most of your adventure.



Dear Guests,

We hear from many of you that being at our resorts brings about a certain feeling. Lake Superior and the North Shore area envelopes you in a calm tranquility where time slows down and stress melts away. We love these comments as they serve as a reminder that providing that type of vacation is a true honor. We feel so fortunate to be able to offer that respite for so many of you.

As we prepare to usher in another year, I think it's important to look back and reflect. This year presented some fantastic opportunities along with a few challenges. In 2021, we were able to expand our leadership team, update some of our units, offer new activities to our guests, provide excellent dining options, and dream up new ideas for ways to enhance the Bluefin Bay Family experience. Stay tuned because we have a lot of exciting things planned for our resorts.

Most importantly, in 2021, we were able to welcome so many of you to Bluefin Bay, Surfside and Temperance Landing. Thank you for trusting us with your vacations. Our aim is to bring you closer, not just to Lake Superior, but to each other.



From all of us at Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts, happy holidays and best wishes for a safe and healthy new year.

James Taylor,
General Manager



All guests at Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts, have access to complimentary:

Winter Equipment

- Snowshoes
- Cross-Country Skis
- Ice Trekkers
- Hockey & Figure Skates
- Hockey Sticks & Pucks

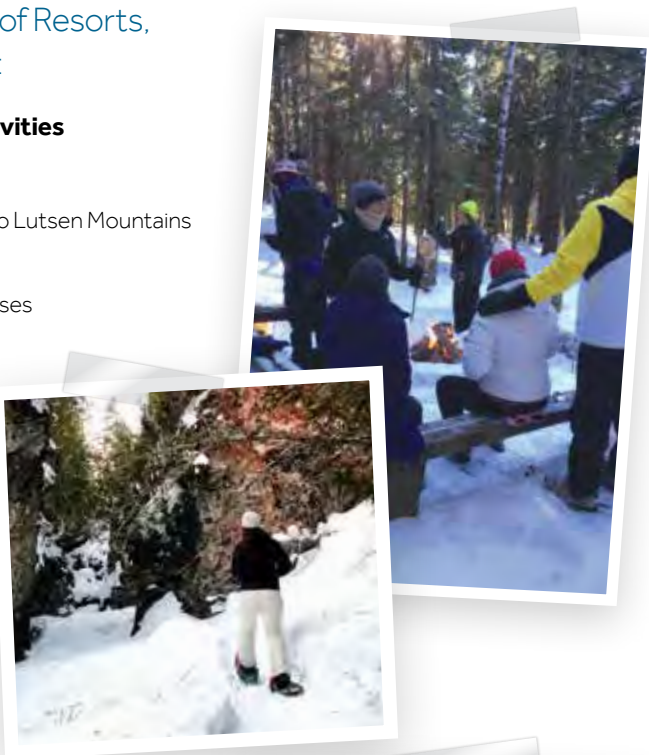
Other Activities

- Yoga
- Shuttles to Lutsen Mountains Ski Area
- Craft Classes

Guided Excursions

- Snowshoe Hikes
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Bonfire Hikes

Learn more and sign up for complimentary activities at BluefinBay.com/activities-events.



Meet the Activities Team

This year we've added three new staff members to the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts activities team. This allows us to offer more of the guided tours and classes that our guests love.

Sean Henkenius—also known as “Showtime Sean”—is our enthusiastic Activities Coordinator. Sean moved to the North Shore from Farmington, NM, with a bachelor’s degree in Adventure Education from Prescott College and a master’s in Recreation Administration from Southern Illinois University. Sean brings creative ideas and energy to the position, and we’re delighted to have him on board.

Jessica Hinrichs joins us from North Branch, MN, with a contagious passion for North Shore recreation. She’s a registered yoga instructor and leads many of our yoga classes at the resort.

Kayleigh Castillo from Yorba Linda, CA, and has a degree in Forestry with an emphasis in Forest Health. She’s been working in outdoor education for more than four years and offers a wealth of knowledge.

Keanan Shroeder has loved the outdoors for as long as he can remember. He is originally from Towanda, IL, and has a degree in Outdoor Recreation, but even better, he’s an Eagle Scout.

Lastly, we have **Jon Kallberg**, aka “Nature Man,” from Albert Lea, MN. Jon maintains our seasonal equipment to ensure guests have quality gear to check out. He is also a professional musician and you can find him playing his signature harp guitar at venues along the North Shore.

This activities team has a passion for winter adventures and can’t wait to help you get outside and seize the season.

Snowmobiling

The Lutsen-Tofte Snowmobile Trail System offers 67 miles of groomed trails that connect with the 146 mile-long North Shore State Snowmobile Trail. This allows for an endless combination of routes that can accommodate everything from a one-hour ride to a full-day excursion. Area snowmobile trails offer a great opportunity to ride the mountains, valleys, and lakes of the north woods.

Don't have a sled? Rentals are available from Beaver Bay Sports or Steve's Sports located in Grand Marais.





Dining Update

The teams at the Bluefin Grille and Coho Café & Bakery served more visitors this summer and fall than ever before! We were also able to open Waves of Superior Café for “grab and go” items including baked goods, sandwiches and salads. We were delighted to be open daily at all three restaurants and our aim would be to continue that throughout the winter. Because hours are subject to change, we recommend visiting BluefinBay.com/dine for current information.



Events are Back!

The beloved Food and Wine Lovers Weekends have returned! Our Spring Food and Wine Lovers event is scheduled for May 6-8, 2022, and we hope you can join us. Be sure to save the date and book your lodging in advance as we do expect the event to fill.



Your Alpine Adventure Begins Here

It wouldn't be winter on the North Shore without the legendary Lutsen Mountains Ski Resort, located just minutes from Bluefin Bay's resorts.

Lutsen Mountains has all of the benefits of a modern ski resort, plus an exceptional location. Plus, the Midwest's premier ski resort has made significant investments in the latest snowmaking technology to ensure a plethora of fresh powder for your alpine adventure.

Tips for an enjoyable 2021-22 alpine adventure:

Lutsen Mountains will again be implementing a daily capacity limit on skier visits. This will likely create a number of sold-out days, so advance online reservations are strongly recommended to ensure your space on the mountain.

Plan ahead, book early, and review the Lutsen Mountains website for details on Covid-19 operational protocols at Lutsen.com.

You can bundle lodging and lift tickets with a Ski and Stay Package at Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts. Visit BluefinBay.com/offers for more information.

Proposed Expansion

Lutsen Mountains is a family-owned company with the aim of expanding opportunities to interact with the mountain environment while retaining the character and natural aesthetic that makes the area so special. The ski resort is currently seeking a special use permit from the US Forest Service to expand.

The master plan would double the skiable terrain at Lutsen Mountains, add variety to the mix of slopes, and includes parking and skier services buildings. To learn more about the proposed expansion, visit Lutsen.com.





LUTSEN MOUNTAINS BY THE NUMBERS:

4 BIG MOUNTAINS
with 1,000 acres to explore

5 TERRAIN PARKS

1,088 FT
OF VERTICAL



Nearly double that of other Midwest resorts

60 ACRES



OF TREE SKIING

95 RUNS



From bunny hills to double black diamonds

LONGEST
RUN:



2 MILES

10 FT
average annual snowfall

Get Cozy at Waves of Superior Spa this Winter

Waves of Superior Spa offers an extensive menu of spa services to pamper your body, mind and spirit. In the winter, we invite you to enhance your spa experience by arriving early or staying late. Take time to read, journal or simply enjoy a moment by the fireplace or in the sauna.



The spa also offers a number of treatment enhancements that are perfect for overcoming that winter chill. Add heated stones, a warm mud pack, or heated mitts and booties to your massage. If you're getting a body treatment, ask for the thermal mud wrap.

Did you know that we offer a discount if you bundle two or more services? Make a day of it. At Waves of Superior Spa, nurturing you is our second nature.

Find a list of available services at
BluefinBay.com/Spa.



Book Early for your Favorite Seasons

During the last two years, our guests have been booking vacations farther in advance. Many repeat guests who have favorite seasons and preferred dates, book for the following year when they depart.

We encourage you to consider booking 2-3 months prior to your stay to help ensure that you get your preferred lodging preferences. Reservations at all Bluefin Bay resorts can be made up to 13 months prior to the date of check-in.

To review lodging options and book your stay, visit BluefinBay.com or call us at **1-800-BLUEFIN (258-3346)**. We also have video tours of all of our unit styles on our [YouTube page](#).



Fika Coffee: Our Local Coffee Roasters

We're excited to introduce you to Fika Coffee—a roastery and coffee shop in Lutsen, MN, that embodies all things coffee.

Fika (pronounced fee-kah) is a Swedish word which translates to coffee break. But the idea is much more than that. The thought is that one takes a fika during their busy day to enjoy a quiet moment, a cup of coffee and perhaps a conversation with a friend.

We love this concept almost as much as we love Fika Coffee! In fact, we hope that you are enjoying a fika break right now as you are reading the Fishwrapper.

At Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts, we can certainly appreciate slowing down and savoring the moment. That's what we hope guests do when they stay with us. We also support shopping local.

The Fika Coffee headquarters has been located in Lutsen since 2016, though they've been roasting coffee even longer. You can sample Fika coffee at Bluefin Bay Guest Services as well as purchase some beans to take home. We recommend visiting their shop where you'll have an opportunity to chat with employees and smell the freshly roasted beans.

Give the Gift of Bluefin Bay Resorts

This holiday, give a gift that will keep on giving long after it is unwrapped. A Lake Superior vacation, a romantic dinner, or a deep-tissue massage; the possibilities are endless. 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 available in digital or paper format.

Order yours today at BluefinBay.com/offer/gift-cards.



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. This column features some of the faces behind the great service at the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts.



Nyle Grant, Maintenance

Hometown: St. Catherine, Jamaica

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

What brought you here? My sister Jordanne. She came here a year before me and recommended me to the HR Manager. I also saw it as an opportunity to step out of my comfort zone.

My favorite thing about working at Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts is... I learn something new about the resort every day.

What is your favorite spot at the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts? The lakewalk. It's very peaceful and quiet, and it has the best view of the lake.

My favorite thing to do when I am not working is... Sleep, listen to music, watching and playing soccer, hanging out with friends.

I want readers to know... I'm grateful to be working at Bluefin Bay Resorts. It's a great place to grow individually and together as a family.



Nikki Fiske, Resort Support Manager

Hometown: Aitkin, MN

How long have you worked for Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts? This is my fourth year.

What brought you here? A job opportunity and a change in scenery.

My favorite thing about working at Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts is... I have many favorites, but the one that sticks out is the work culture and support; the commitment everyone has to this special place.

What is your favorite spot at the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts? Bluefin Bay beach and bonfire area. There's nothing like being right by the lake, listening to the waves and the crackling fire while making s'mores and drinking hot chocolate.

My favorite thing to do when I am not working is... Exploring what the North Shore has to offer with my significant other and our two Huskies.

I want readers to know... The North Shore is a stunning place to be. If you ever have the opportunity to live and work here, you should take it.

The Way We See It

Favorite Winter Activity

I really enjoy snowshoeing. There's nothing quite like floating on top of the snow in a pair of snowshoes. I love how you can go just about anywhere. Plus, breaking trail is a great way to stay warm!

—Kaye Raden,
Front Desk Manager

I love the indoor activities that come with a stay at Bluefin Bay Resorts. Sitting by a wood burning fireplace and reading a book, having a glass of wine in the whirlpool tub, enjoying a tasty meal at the Bluefin Grille or taking a craft class. There are so many great options!

—Katie Krantz,
Marketing Manager

Outdoor bonfires. It's a great way to stay warm, while also enjoying the great outdoors. It's also a great way to see the stars. Having an outdoor bonfire under the milky way with s'mores. Life doesn't get much better than that!

—Sean Henkenius,
Activities Coordinator

HOT WINTER DEALS

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



800.BLUEFIN (258-3346)

Winter 4 for 3 Special

Valid Jan. 2- April 10, 2022 (excluding MLK & President's Day Weekends)

This is winter at its best! Stay four nights during winter peak and receive one of those nights completely **FREE!**

Extended Stay Special

Valid all year

Extended stays are looking pretty good right now and the longer you stay, the more you save. Stay 4 nights at 5% off, 5 nights at 10% off, 6 nights at 15%, 7-9 nights at 20% off, and 10 or more nights at 25% off!

Ski & Stay Packages

If you love to ski and stay lakeside at Bluefin Bay Resorts, these packages offer the best deal on lodging and skiing. For details and the best deal during your stay, visit BluefinBay.com/offer/ski-stay-packages.

Romance and Honeymoon Packages

Crashing waves, a moonlit lake, romantic suites: no wonder Bluefin Bay Resorts 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.

Visit BluefinBay.com/offers for current deals and packages.