



Bluefin Bay | Surfside | Temperance Landing  
*On the shores of Lake Superior in Tofte, Minnesota*

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 **Bluefin Bay** FAMILY OF RESORTS  
TOFTE, MN 55615

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THE FISHWRAPPER



 **Bluefin Bay** FAMILY OF RESORTS



**Photo cutline:** Shuttered after a devastating fire in the main lodge in 1945, the Star of the North Lodge is now home to Temperance Landing's luxury lakeside log homes.



**Photo cutline:** After changing ownership twice since their construction in 1928, the original Surfside Resort cabins transitioned into the current Surfside on Lake Superior in 2007.



**Photo cutline:** The Edgewater Inn began a century-long heritage of welcoming North Shore hospitality on the site of the current Bluefin Bay on Lake Superior, now 32 years old.

# The Lost Resorts of the North Shore

With the modern comfort of the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts, it can be hard to imagine that the roots of our lakeside retreats run nearly a century deep. But the land on which each resort now stands has played host to North Shore visitors since long before the advent of snowboards and snowmobiles. In fact, these northern shores and nearby inland lakes were home to more than 50 individual resorts from 1926 to 1950.

The first of the North Shore's resorts – and the very first resort in all of Minnesota – began in 1886 as the Lutzen Resort when C.A.A. and Anna Nelson welcomed newly arrived homesteaders, explorers, prospectors and fishermen dropped at their home's dock by the Steamboat Dixon. As word spread of their generous Scandinavian welcome, travel to the area increased. Resorts like the Homestead Hotel in Tofte and the W.C. Smith Hotel in Schroeder opened their doors and began welcoming guests in the early 1900s.

In 1925, the Scenic North Shore Highway opened and changed the area and its residents forever. Tourists swarmed the North Shore for recreation, scenery, hunting and fishing. As the fishing industry became less and less profitable for North Shore fishermen, their families began relying more heavily on money brought in by the increasing stream of visitors. Industrious residents began to develop their properties to better attract and keep valuable tourism dollars. The area burst to life and more resorts were open for business than ever before.

Then World War II hit. Gasoline and tire rationing kept tourists from venturing north. Struggling owners shuttered their resorts and moved to seek out other work. When owners returned after the war, many of the properties needed extensive repairs and renovations. Even with the opening of Lutsen Mountains ski area in 1948 and the need for year round lodging, resorts continued to close.

Today, only eight of the original resorts remain in business. But the history and heritage of the lost resorts is strong. Temperance Landing now stands on the grounds of the Star of the North Resort, a property that continued to welcome guests throughout much of the war then suffered a devastating fire in 1945.

Our new Surfside on Lake Superior began in 1928 as Surfside Resort, a seasonal side business for Cook County's school superintendent.

And, our beloved Bluefin Bay – now 32 years old – proudly preserves the rich tradition of hospitality on the land formerly home to the Edgewater Inn & Olsen's Motel.

To celebrate the rich history of hospitality in this area, the Schroeder Area Historical Society recently hosted the "Lost Resorts" exhibit at the Cross River Heritage Center. Our thanks to the society for gathering and sharing the information in the exhibit and used in this article.





Dear Guests,

At the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts, we look forward to winter. Why? Because a traditional North Shore winter brings lots of snow, some of our favorite activities and our favorite guests! There's a reason why so many of you keep coming back to Bluefin Bay winter after winter – actually there are a lot of reasons.

This year we'll inaugurate the new high speed gondola at Lutsen Mountains, making the experience at the Midwest's premier downhill skiing and snowboarding resort even better. For those who love to snowshoe (or hit the skinny skis), check out some of our favorite snowshoe trails. And if you prefer warmth and relaxation, Waves of Superior Spa offers plenty of pampering.

In this issue of the Fishwrapper, we honor our past by sharing photos of our resorts before they became the signature Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts. We've offered plenty of tips and staff favorites on outdoor activities and adventure and indoor relaxation and pampering. Did we mention nightlife? We've got tips on that, too.

Please enjoy your complimentary 21st Annual Bluefin Bay Calendar as a token of our appreciation and a celebration of the majestic beauty of Lake Superior's North Shore. From the Bluefin Bay family to yours, we wish you the happiest of holiday seasons and all the best in the New Year.

Warmly,

Dennis Rysdahl  
Owner and General Manager



## HIGH SPEED GONDOLA ARRIVES







## VES AT LUTSEN



## Continuing evolution of premier Midwest ski resort means better, faster experience for skiers

While you've been busy mountain biking, hitting the beach or braving the trails this past summer, your favorite ski area – Lutsen Mountains – has been busy getting ready for winter.

With 1,000 acres of skiable terrain, nearly 100 runs ranging from easy to expert, the highest vertical drop in the Midwest and an average 120 inches of snow each year, it's hard to think of anything Lutsen Mountains could improve.

In the past 10 years, they've invested more than \$25 million to match the resort's facilities with the world-class scenery and terrain. New lifts (including the Caribou Express high-speed lift), upgraded snowmaking technology, new runs and terrain parks, improved chalets and base area renovations and conservation projects all complement Lutsen Mountain's best features to add up to one incredible resort. But for the Midwest's premier ski resort, incredible just wasn't enough.

Since 1989, the resort's iconic red gondola cars ferried passengers from the base of the resort to the Moose Mountain summit. But with 100,000 people visiting every winter, it was time to make the ride to the top both better and faster. So construction crews broke ground on a new \$7 million Doppelmayr gondola in June 2015.

But construction on a mountain like this is never straightforward. In September, Cook County guests and residents watched awestruck as a helicopter zipped back and forth from the ski hill parking lot and the rugged mountainside, ferrying 11 steel towers to a fearless crew on the hill. With the towers installed, the crew and resort are awaiting 20 eight-passenger gondola cars, all larger, more comfortable and with transparent tinted side windows for better viewing than the current cars.

As part of the gondola project, Lutsen Mountains is also expanding the Summit Chalet and adding more observation decks and hiking trails. In the next few years, the resort also plans on adding canopy tours, a rope course and zip lines.

Once up and running (expected mid-November), the new gondola will be capable of transporting up to 1,000 passengers per hour, more than tripling the 300-person per rate of the older gondola. Meaning more skiers will be able to get in even more runs every beautiful North Shore day. We think that's pretty incredible.

## Enjoy Lakeside Views & Slopeside Access

Just a short drive from the base of Lutsen Mountains, the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts is the ideal home base for your next ski or snowboard vacation. We offer free daily shuttles to and from the base of the mountain, frustration-free equipment rental at our neighbor Sawbill Outfitters, and a variety of can't-be-beat Ski & Stay Packages.

Check out a few of our lodging and lift ticket specials in the Hot Winter Deals section of this Fishwrapper and even more great getaway deals on our website under Ski & Stay Packages.



# Step Into Snowshoeing

## A winter hiker's paradise

You don't have to give up your love of hiking just because the trails are blanketed in snow. In fact, winter is one of the best times to get out and explore the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts' neighborhood.

There are miles and miles of snowy trails in Cook County, with some of the best right in our backyard. Check out some of our favorite routes here, then grab a map at Guest Services, bundle up & have fun!

**Oberg Mountain:** This moderately challenging loop takes snowshoers around the top of Oberg Mountain to view many breathtaking vistas overlooking Lake Superior, Oberg Lake and the surrounding Sawtooth Mountains.

**Carlton Peak:** Though getting to the top of Carlton Peak on snowshoes can be quite a challenge, winter ascents are still doable (and rewarding!). Even if you opt out of a summit, the trail still provides excellent snowshoeing.

**Leveaux Mountain:** With stunning views of the Sawtooth Mountains and the Onion River Valley, the moderately climbing 3.3 mile Leveaux Mountain trail offers unparalleled solitude and wilderness.

**Britton Peak:** Start at the base of Britton Peak and hike eastward through the rolling hillside. If you're feeling brave, take the short – yet steep – trek up to the top of the peak!

**River Treks:** If you're looking for an even more unique experience, try snowshoeing on one of the area's frozen rivers. The Onion River and Caribou River are safe bets for winter excursions as the water beneath the ice is typically no more than 2 feet deep. As always, use caution near areas of open water or thin ice.

It's pretty much true that if you can walk, you can snowshoe. So there's no training needed to pick up this peaceful North Shore pastime. But if heading out into the wilderness and charting your own course makes your heart skip a beat, don't fret! Just grab a pair of our complimentary snowshoe rentals and join up with one of our 2-hour guided treks, offered every other day throughout the winter (conditions permitting).







# 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.

## Tami Enggren

### Guest Services

#### Hometown

Lakeville, MN

#### What brought you to the North Shore?

I enjoy skiing and wanted a simpler lifestyle. I found it here.

#### I've been with Bluefin for...

Coming up on 9 years this March.

#### My favorite part about working at Bluefin Bay is...

The guests, new and old. I love seeing some come back year after year and meeting the new ones.

#### My favorite thing to do when I'm not working is...

Hiking, fishing, really anything outdoorsy. Oberg Mountain is in my backyard.



## Kayla Gotchie

### Housekeeping Manager & Water Aerobics Instructor

#### Hometown

Grand Marais, MN

#### What brought you to the North Shore?

I've always lived up here and love the area.

#### I've been with Bluefin for...

About 3 years.

#### My favorite part about working at Bluefin Bay is...

Everyone is like family.

#### My favorite thing to do when I'm not working is...

Spend time with my family and enjoy the outdoors.

#### I want readers to know...

There is always something to do on the North Shore!



# Say Hello to Unforgettable Winter Adventure

When winter's first snowflakes begin to blanket the ground around the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts, it's the start of a whole new season of adventure. Our sun-soaked skies, powder-filled trails and snow-capped peaks make this a winter wonderland with fun things to do around every corner.

At the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts, we make it easy to get out and enjoy as many activities as you can handle. Along with our spectacular Ski & Stay packages, close proximity to Lutsen Mountains Ski Resort, full service pampering at Waves of Superior Spa, and knowledgeable Guest Services staff, we also have more complimentary rental equipment than you can shake a ski at.

Check out some of our most popular complimentary winter fun here and be sure to visit [BluefinBay.com](http://BluefinBay.com) and our online activities & events calendar for more details.

- Skiing & snowboarding: Complimentary shuttles to Lutsen Mountains (9 am to 4:45 pm daily)
- Cross-country skiing: Check out complimentary cross-country ski equipment and explore the area trails at your leisure or join one of our free guided excursions
- Snowshoeing: Explore the great North Woods with our complementary snowshoe rental. Ask for a trail map at Guest Services or join one of our free guided tours
- Ice skating rinks at Bluefin Bay and Surfside (complimentary ice skate, hockey net, stick and puck rental available)
- Nightly campfire and s'mores
- Fun kids' activities & crafts (weekends)
- Yoga (weekends; all levels welcome)
- Live acoustic music at the Bluefin Grille on Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays beginning January 4th

The following activities are offered for a fee and advance reservations are recommended. Contact Guest Services for more information:

- Dog sledding
- Snowmobile rental and guided snowmobile tours

# Nightlife on the North Shore

When the sun sets, it's prime time for fun up here!

Whether they shred black diamonds or tumble down bunny hills, trek across miles of snowshoe trails or just across the condo to watch the waves roll in, most Bluefin Bay Family of Resort visitors can agree on one thing: the day is far from over when the sun goes down.

Home to everything from quiet, cozy northwoods pubs to one of Minnesota's favorite concert venues, there's no shortage of entertainment to be had in the Bluefin neighborhood.

Local favorites, regional stars and national acts alike will grace the stage of Papa Charlie's at Lutsen Mountains. Headline events include stompin' blues of The 4 on the Floor on January 3, hip-hop queen Dessa on January 17, and Dead Man Winter & The Pines on January 28 & 29. Annual festival favorites like the New Year's Eve Festival, Lutsen Mountains College Week and Snowball Festival will also return with spectacular lineups. Be sure to visit Papa Charlie's calendar of events at [Lutsen.com](http://Lutsen.com) for even more great music and festivals.

Beginning January 4th, our very own Bluefin Grille will host live music by the fireplace four nights a week with our ever-growing roster of talented local musicians. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, you'll be treated to the soulful acoustic tunes of local singer-songwriters. On Sundays, unwind to the sounds of soothing classical music. Check [BluefinBay.com](http://BluefinBay.com) for a continually updated schedule of artists.

In Grand Marais, the Gunflint Tavern features an eclectic mix of live music every weekend. Bands featured include everything from bluegrass to reggae to rock and the schedule at [GunflintTavern.com](http://GunflintTavern.com) is updated frequently.

But sitting back and taking in the tunes isn't the only nightlife option in town. If you didn't get quite enough powder during the daylight hours, you're in luck. Just a short drive north of Bluefin Bay, the Pincushion Trail cross-country ski system offers 1.6km of lighted trails. Further up the Gunflint Trail, the Golden Eagle and Bearskin Lodges also maintain short loops (1.5km) of groomed cross-country ski trails lit with kerosene lanterns and twinkle lights perfect for an evening run.



## OUR WAVES, OUR DAYS

Featuring happenings in and around Bluefin Bay and our North Shore neighborhood

**Girls Gone North 2015** – For the eighth year in a row, our Girls Gone North weekend brought a sold out weekend of women together for fun, relaxation and friendship at the Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts! Co-sponsored by Minnesota Monthly Magazine, this past November's event featured a variety of food, drink and outdoor fun. Mixologists taught our audience how to prepare some delicious holiday cocktails while our culinary staff of Judi Barsness (Waves of Superior Café) and Kevin Ilenda (Bluefin Grille) demonstrated a few easy and scrumptious holiday appetizers. Participants also enjoyed morning yoga and a guided hike to the local favorite Temperance River State Park, as well as some good old fashioned girl time. Next year's Girls Gone North Weekend is Nov. 11-13, 2016.

**New Surfside Units** – We're excited to announce that construction on units 18, 19, 20 was completed at Surfside on Lake Superior in early November. With these beautiful new lakeside units, Surfside now boasts a total of 15 spacious three bedroom townhomes overlooking the big lake. Quarter-share ownership opportunities are still available. Contact Eric Frost at 218-663-6886.

**Weddings at the Bluefin Bay Resorts** – This past year, Bluefin Bay hosted over 40 couples who tied the knot on the shores of Lake Superior. There are still limited dates available for 2016 weddings. Contact our Event Manager at [jeremy@bluefinbay.com](mailto:jeremy@bluefinbay.com) or 218-663-6875 to host the event of your dreams.

**Social Media** – Check out our new Instagram page! We've amped up our social media presence to bring you beautiful photos of Bluefin and the shore. We're also frequently updating our Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr accounts and have two beautiful new videos – Bluefin Bay Family of Resorts "We bring you closer" and Surfside – "Live in the moment, own it" – available for viewing on YouTube.

**New Signs** – Our check-in and administrative buildings just got a little prettier. Check out our new signs directing guests where to go to start your North Shore vacation.





# 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 favorite activities and times from those in the know – the Bluefin Bay team. For more details on these suggestions or additional activities, our knowledgeable Guest Services staff will be happy to help.

## Favorite Spa Experience: Treatment packages

Spa packages are an excellent way to relax and renew in the tranquil surroundings of the Waves of Superior Spa at Surfside. Two of my favorites are the Lady's Reprieve, with a 60-minute relaxation massage and a 60-minute customized facial, and the Gentleman's Retreat, offering a 60-minute deep tissue massage and a 60-minute customized skin treatment.

**Recommended by MaryKate Weyrens,  
Waves of Superior Spa Director**

## Favorite Winter Activity: Skijoring

Cross-country skiing is even better when you hit the trails with your furry friend! Some of Cook County's 400km of groomed cross-country ski trails are designated as skijoring trails, meaning you can bring your dog on a winter adventure with you. The Summit View trail is a staff favorite and offers great views of Carlton Peak and the surrounding Sawtooth Mountain range.

**Recommended by Dennis Rysdahl,  
General Manager (and his dog, Spicy)**

## Favorite Bite to Eat: Muffaletta Bruschetta at Coho Café

This bruschetta is one of our most popular and beautifully presented appetizers on the Coho Café menu. It's great for an appetizer, light lunch or delicious snack!

**Recommended by Alison Reedy,  
Coho Café Kitchen Manager**

## Hot Winter Deals

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



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

### Gales of November and December Special

Valid through December 24, 2015

Get a front row seat to nature's most spectacular shows – the big gale waves of December – and stay three nights for the price of two (midweek night is free; must stay four nights over Thanksgiving to receive free night).

### Extended Stay Package

Valid all year

With this progressive savings deal, stays of five nights receive 10% off, six nights receive 15% off and seven nights receive 20% off! Cannot be combined with other offers.

### Half Price Weekdays Ski Package

Valid Sunday-Thursdays January 4-April 6, 2016

Stay three or more midweek nights and receive both your lodging and ski tickets at half price!

### January 3 for 2 Special

Valid Jan 3 - 31, 2016

Stay 3 nights and receive one of those nights free.

### February 4 for 3 Ski Package

Valid February 1-29, 2016

Stay four nights and ski Lutsen Mountains four days in February and get one night lodging and one day of skiing completely free!

### March Weekends at Midweek Rates

Valid March 11-26, 2016

Stay three nights over a March weekend and receive all nights at our lower midweek rates.

### 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 spectacular Honeymoon and Romantic Retreat packages. Visit [bluefinbay.com](http://bluefinbay.com) and click on Packages, or call and 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](http://bluefinbay.com) and click on Packages, or call and 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. Some date restrictions apply. Cannot be combined with other offers.

