

Registration deadline: Aug 23, 2024

Register online at mycountyparks.com

OR fill out the form below

Registration Form

Fee includes motorcoach transportation, tours, entrance fees, program fees, breakfast and tips.

Please select one

PRICES ARE PER PERSON

Single Occupancy Fee \$870

Double Occupancy Fee \$640

Triple Occupancy Fee \$560

Quad Occupancy Fee \$530

Select motorcoach pick-up:

Independence Vinton

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

A \$200 deposit per person will hold your reservation.

Full Balance due August 30th, 2024.

Send this registration form with a check (payable to Friends of Fontana Park) to **Buchanan County Conservation Board**
1883 125th St, Hazelton IA 50641

A minimum number of participants is needed. If this number is not met, all fees will be refunded in full.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Thursday, Sept 26th

6:00am Vinton pick-up
7:00am Independence pick-up
National Eagle Center
Lunch on own
Depart Wabasha, MN
Load bus to Canal Park
Explore Canal Park
Dinner on own

9:00pm Load bus to hotel

Friday, Sept 27th

Continental breakfast at hotel
8:00am Load bus
Scenic drive to Two Harbors
Agate Bay Beach
Gooseberry Falls State Park
Tettegouche State Park
Lunch at Northwoods Family Grill
2:00pm Load bus
Check into lodge
4:30pm Depart for Dinner on own in Ely

Saturday, Sept 28th

Breakfast at Lodge
8:30am International Wolf Center
10:30pm Lunch in Ely
Shop / explore Ely
1:00pm North American Bear Center
3:00pm Break / Shop / Hike
5:00pm Dinner
7:00pm Special wolf program
8:30pm Return to lodge

Sunday, Sept 29th

Breakfast at Lodge
7:00am Depart from lodge
11:00am Como Park Zoo & Conservatory
Eat lunch & explore zoo
1:00pm Load Bus & depart zoo
5:30pm Arrive in Independence
6:30pm Arrive in Vinton

*Silver Rapids Lodge have cabins with private rooms but share a bathroom in the cabin. Motel rooms are available with an extra \$80 charge for two nights.

Discover: Wolves & Bears of the Upper Midwest

**A trip to Ely, MN
September 26-29, 2024**

Behind the scenes tour with a biologist at the North American Bear Center



Special programming at the International Wolf Center

Tour the National Eagle Center, parks & local attractions!



**Registration deadline
August 23rd, 2024**

Sponsored by Benton & Buchanan County Conservation

CONTACT US!



Michael Maas, Naturalist:
563-581-3553
mmaas@co.buchanan.ia.us



Faith Hunt, Naturalist:
319-560-9809
fhunt@bentoncountyparks.com

Get ready for a 4-day adventure packed with howling excitement as you journey to the International Wolf Center and the North American Bear Center! Join other wildlife enthusiasts in special programming and get up close and personal with these incredible creatures. You'll also get to explore other amazing sites in Minnesota, making this an unforgettable trip!

Wolves and bears seem like a forgotten and distant past, being extirpated from a vast majority of the Midwest. Once wild and roaming the Midwest, black bears and wolves hunted the abundant wilderness amongst bison, elk and prairie chickens.

Many Americans appreciate wolves as skilled hunters and valuable members of a delicately balanced ecosystems. The wolf's hypnotic eyes and haunting howls have enticed many into viewing this mysterious beast as a symbol of nature's wild beauty instead of an animal to be feared.

Once found throughout much of North America, now wolves only exist in isolated populations in northern Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Montana, and Idaho. The largest concentration population remain in northern Minnesota, especially around Ely.



At the **North American Bear Center** you'll meet Lucky, born in 2007, Holly, born in 2013, & Tasha born in 2015, and watch them explore their 2.5 acres of natural forest that includes man-made dens and a pond. Participants will get a behind the scenes tour with a biologist, special programming and an opportunity to tour the Center.



International Wolf Center

The **International Wolf Center** is a focal point for worldwide education about wolves. The Center promotes the wolf's survival by teaching about its way of life, relation to other species and role within human society. During our visit to the International Wolf Center we will get a Naturalist led program about wolf management, time to explore the Center and its exhibits, view the wolves, and watch the wolves eat their dinner in a special night program.

The Exhibit Pack refers to live wolves in the main enclosure. Members of the pack vary as wolves age and new wolf pups are socialized and added to the pack. The Exhibit Pack consists of five ambassador wolves which includes: Axel and Grayson, arctic gray wolves born on May 2, 2016 in Canada; Rieka, born May 23, 2021; and Blackstone and Caz, born April 6, 2022.

Other Minnesota sites on this trip

The **National Eagle Center** encapsulates a world in which the iconic power and presence of eagles are known, respected, advocated for, and protected. Located in Wabasha, MN, the Center is home to several non-releasable Bald Eagles and a nesting place for hundreds of others who come for the winter.

Gooseberry Falls State park is the gateway to the North Shore. It is known for its waterfalls, river gorge, Lake Superior shoreline, log and stone structures, and wildlife. Listen to the roar of the Gooseberry River as it plummets through a rocky gorge.



Agate Bay Beach is a pebbly/sandy/rocky beach on the shore of Lake Superior's Agate Bay inside the breakwater. Agate Bay is home to the Breakwater Lighthouse. The beach is a great place to sit and watch ore ships coming and going. You may even find an agate!

Como Park Zoo & Conservatory is home to a wide variety of animals, from monkeys to polar bears and more! Explore the exhibits, art, gardens, attractions and more during your visit!

This trip will include site-seeing along the scenic highway to Twin Harbors, additional visitor centers, time for shopping in Ely, and more!