

SANDY POINT AREA LAKES

How to Get There Two Driving Routes into the Region Covered

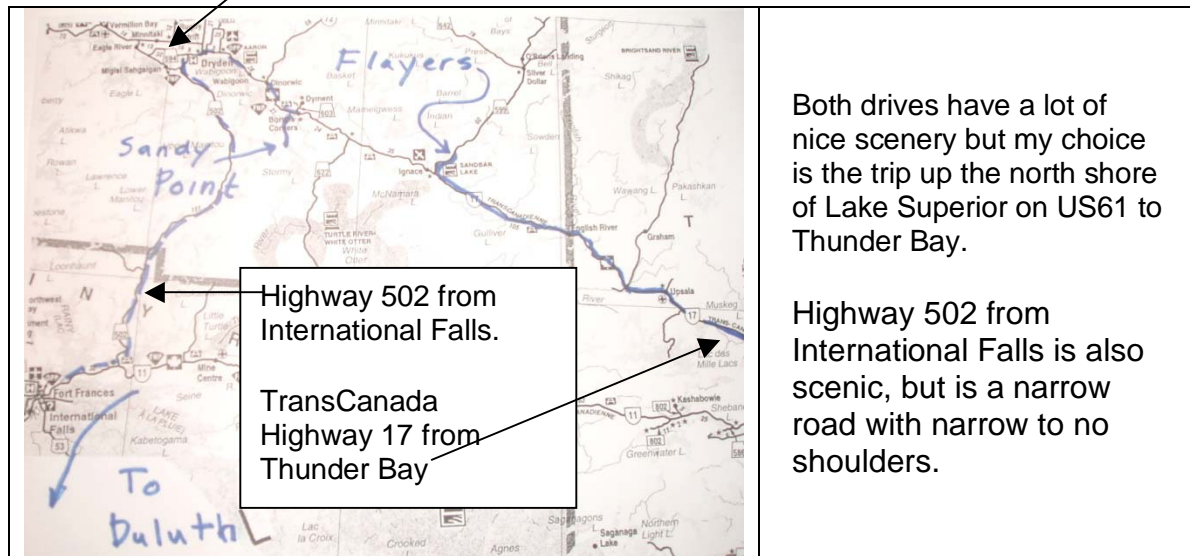
Both primary driving routes to this region from the U.S. pass through Duluth, Minnesota, about 150 miles north of Minneapolis and 450 miles northwest of Chicago.

One route follows the north shore of Lake Superior to Thunder Bay, Ontario. Then it follows the TransCanada Highway 17, entering from the east as show below.

From Duluth to Thunder Bay is a little over two hours and from Thunder Bay to Ignace a little more than two hours, depending on how one drives. A good idea is to spend a night in Grand Marais, Minnesota (maybe a nine or ten hour drive from Chicago) and enter Canada in the morning. That usually leaves plenty of time for Saturday afternoon fishing.

The other route leaves Duluth on US53 to International Falls, Minnesota, then cuts into Canada for 15 miles east on Canadian Highway 11 and then north about 100 miles to Dryden, Ontario on Highway 502.

Dryden, Ontario, a town of about 10,000.



Both drives have a lot of nice scenery but my choice is the trip up the north shore of Lake Superior on US61 to Thunder Bay.

Highway 502 from International Falls is also scenic, but is a narrow road with narrow to no shoulders.

For this group of lakes, the most convenient location is Sandy Point Camp, located right on the north shore of Long Lake. The turn south off of Highway 17 is at longitude 92° 18.2 .

The first part of the road in is maintained by the local government but the last part by Sandy Point. The road begins two-lane but gets narrower than that at times. Depending upon the prior weather and the amount of maintenance, the drive can be a bit of an event. The distance is not all that far—perhaps 12 or so miles at most—but prudent driving is strongly urged because there are many blind hilltops and turns where oncoming traffic cannot be seen until the last minute. Thirty-five minutes is about the average under normal conditions.

The camp itself has eight cabins and three or four locations for camper hookup. Electricity is powered by generator. All cabins have running water and, at least report, seven of the nine had hot water and showers. (There is a separate shower house available.) The cabins have heaters, stoves, refrigerators, and furnishing and, while not quite as roomy and nice as Flayers, are perfectly adequate.

The owners are Bill and Karen, replacing Bill Higgins, who began the camp with his father more than sixty years ago. Bill and Karen have had the camp for about three years at the time of this writing. Bill also provides the guide services.

Raleigh Lake Resort (raleighlakeresort.com) is less than 20 miles east of the turnoff to Sandy Point. Turn south off the road where a very nice rest area with a waterfall is located. The resort is another mile up the road. To get to the lakes described would involve a little more driving each day. Using Raleigh Lake Resort has a downside and upside:

- o The downside is that many of the lakes to be described have boats placed on them by Sandy Point Camp. A boat would have to be brought in and launching on some lakes is a little difficult
- o The upside is that the rest of the lakes described (Suzanne, Talman, Amik, West Hawk, Melgund) are actually easier to access from Raleigh Resort than from Sandy Point, primarily due to the slow trip from Sandy Point up to the highway.

Raleigh Lake Resort is also located on what many consider a prime fishing lake, especially for lake trout. Natives seem to rate the taste of Raleigh Lake trout at a very high level. At the very end of this report, after Smirch Lake, you can find a map and some descriptions of the lake.