1. **Voyageurs National Park**
   Become a Junior Ranger! View the Voyageurs Forest Overlook then hike the Oberholtzer Trail. Rent a canoe or charter a tour boat. In the winter try out snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and even ice fishing!

2. **Itasca State Park**
   Hike the Landmark Interpretive Trail and look for the Lady Slipper Flower then walk across the great Mississippi River! Ride your bike through the park, go fishing or swimming. Take a boat tour then spend the night camping.

3. **Forestville and Mystery Cave State Park**
   Visit historic Forestville and take a tour of the Mystery Cave. Look for wildflowers on a hike, bird watch or go trout fishing. Then, camp overnight.

4. **Tettegouche State Park**
   Trek the Shovel Point Trail for a great view of Lake Superior then visit the 60 foot tall High Falls! Rock climb, go fishing and end the day camping.

5. **Soudan Underground Mine State Park**
   Ride the “cage” a half mile down into the mine for a guided tour! Hike the Alaska Shaft trail or ride your bicycle. During the winter try out a snowmobile!

6. **Split Rock Lighthouse State Park**
   Bike some of the Gitchi-Gami State Trail and look for spectacular views of Lake Superior. Go for a hike, birdwatch, and tour the lighthouse. Enjoy yummy s’mores by the campfire at night!

7. **Fort Snelling National Historic Landmark**
   Become a member of the Fort Snelling Kids Club! Stop by the museum to learn about Minnesota’s past.

8. **Lake Bemidji State Park**
   Hike the Boardwalk Trail then go swimming or fishing! Birdwatch or zip through the park by bike. Be sure to spend the night!

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**Buddy Bison’s Fact Bites!**

- The name “Minnesota” comes from the Dakota Indian name “Minisota,” which means sky-tinted water.
- The state butterfly is the monarch. Its impressive wingspan along with memorable orange and black colors makes the insect very unique.
- Pelican Pete is a concrete statue located in Pelican Rapids. It is a 5:1 scale of a real pelican and was inspired by the statues of Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox built in Bemidji, Minnesota.
- Minnesota has 90,000 miles of shoreline, more than California, Florida, and Hawaii combined.

Photos courtesy of Wilderness Inquiry