

Photography Guide – U.P. of Michigan

Porcupine Mountains
Pictured Rocks National
Seashore

&

Tahquamenon Falls

By Bill Welch

The U.P. of Michigan

- Michigan's Upper Peninsula (the U.P.) is a forest covered wilderness almost surrounded by Lakes Superior, Huron & Michigan.
- The Peninsula is only connected to land via a remote section of Wisconsin, and the only connection to the rest of Michigan is via the 5 mile long Mackinac Bridge.
- The U.P. is greater in size than the combined states of Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.
- The U.P. stretches 384 miles across its width and 233 miles from Menominee (to the south) and Copper Harbor at the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula.

Fall in the U.P.

- Over 50 varieties of trees grow in the U.P. but the maple, birch and aspen turn the landscape into a tapestry of red, gold, orange and yellow.
- These bright colors are usually offset by the evergreens of pine, spruce, hemlock and balsam.
- The U.P. has over 150 waterfalls and over 4,000 clear blue lakes.
- The best time to visit the U.P. for the best fall color is from mid-September to mid-October, with the peak usually being the last week of September through the first week of October.

Where to Go

- Beautiful fall color can be found throughout the U.P.
- The top 3 locations.
 - Porcupine Mountains.
 - Pictured Rocks National Seashore.
 - Tahquamenon Falls

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Porcupine Mountains (the Porkies)

- 58,000 acres of rivers, waterfalls, gorges and lakes along the shore of Lake Superior.
- Largest virgin stands of pine and hemlock in the world!
- Largest wilderness area between the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains.
- The best time to visit the U.P. for the best fall color is from mid-September to mid-October, with the peak usually being the last week of September through the first week of October.

Porcupine Mountains



Pictured Rocks National Seashore

- Sandstone cliffs of ochre, tan, & brown sandwiched with layers of white and green, towering to 200 feet above Lake Superior.
- The first national seashore authorized in 1966 to preserve the shoreline, cliffs, beaches and dunes.
- “Pictured Rocks” refers to streaks of minerals that stain and decorate the face of the sculptured cliffs.

Pictured Rocks National Seashore and the Surrounding Areas

- Variety of photographic opportunities including a lighthouse, sand dunes and the Sable Waterfall.
- Most people photograph the seashore itself with the cold blue-green waters of Lake Superior in the image.
- One of the best ways to photograph Pictured Rocks is from the water. From September 1 through October 10 there are 2 boat rides daily.
 - The boat rides last about 3 hours and take you as far as Chapel rock.
 - The boat maneuvers close to the cliffs for excellent views.
- The surrounding area also offers excellent opportunities to photograph the fall foliage, reeds in the water and ponds along the side roads.

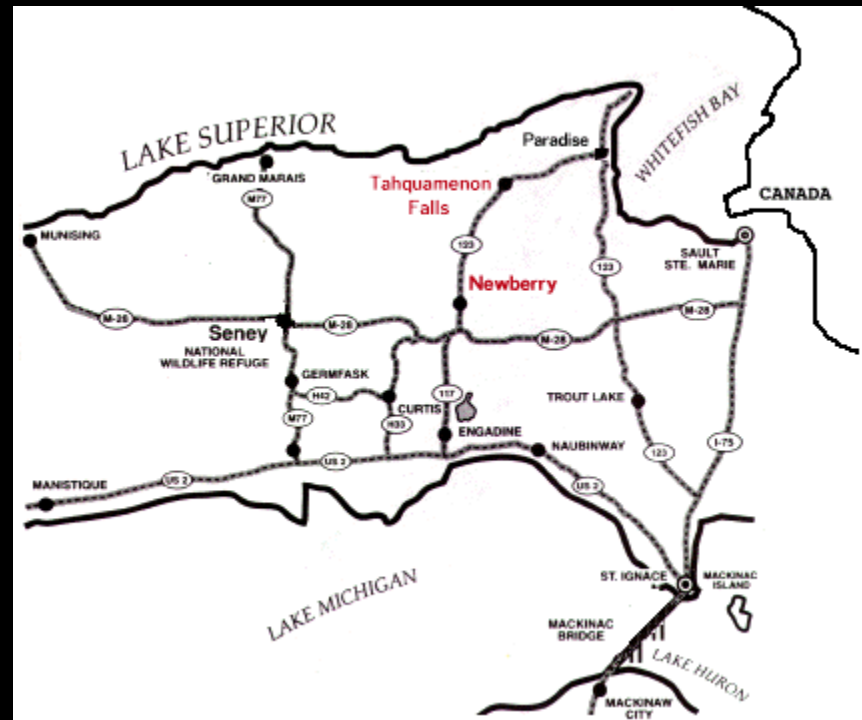
Pictured Rocks National Seashore



Tahquamenon Falls

- The major attraction here is the Tahquamenon Falls..
- The Upper Tahquamenon Falls is the second largest waterfall west of the Mississippi.
- The Lower Tahquamenon Falls is a series of falls and cascades.
- At the Tahquamenon Falls parking lot there is a paved walk that takes you to 2 views that provides excellent fall color to accent the rust waters of the Tahquamenon Falls.

Tahquamenon Falls



Tahquamenon Falls

