

FALL COLOR TOUR



ALL TOURS START FROM THE VISITORS BUREAU/TOWN HALL BUILDING: 5733 AIRPORT ROAD, MANITOWISH WATERS.

Peak colors generally arrive anytime between the last two weeks of September into the first two weeks of October.

Route #1 - Powell Marsh Loop:

Hwy. 51 south 2/10-mile to Powell Road and turn right. Powell Road extends 7 miles, ending at Hwy. 47. You will pass Alder Lake Road about 1.5 miles down on left (this road leads you to the cranberry marshes), and about 3 miles down encounter the scenic Powell Marsh Wildlife Area with its flocks of waterfowl, birds & other wildlife, cattails, marsh grasses and forest that turn colors of gold, red and yellow. About 6.5 miles down, you'll notice the trailhead for the Powell trail system – deep woods trails for hiking and skiing in winter. At Hwy. 47, turn left and travel through the Native American Reservation of Lac du Flambeau. Continue through Lac du Flambeau on Hwy. 47 to County H. Turn left on H and follow to Hwy. 51. Turn left on Hwy. 51 and travel north back to Manitowish Waters.

Route #2 - Cranberry Loop:

Travel south on Hwy. 51 approximately 3.5 miles and turn right on South Townline Road. About 2 miles down, the road sharply curves right and becomes Alder Lake Road. Follow Alder Lake Road - the first marsh you'll come to is Vilas Cranberry Co. and the Cranberry Square Gift Shop. (Stop in and say hello to Maria Winter! Daily through harvest, 10-4ish.) The remaining four local marshes (Bartling's Manitowish Cranberry on Alder Lake Rd., and on Cranberry Blvd. off Alder Lake Road: Indermuehle's Alder Lake Cranberry, Folsom Farm and Rayala Cranberry) do not accommodate drive-throughs. However, you can see some of the bogs as you drive along Alder Lake Rd.

At the end of Alder Lake Rd., turn right onto Powell Road to get back to Hwy. 51 or left to travel to Hwy. 47. As harvest goes into full swing (generally late-Sept. thru mid-Oct.), the bogs are flooded and become a sea of crimson red. This is truly a unique experience for all fall travelers. One cranberry marsh tour is conducted each Friday at 10 a.m., starting from the Manitowish Waters Community Center courtesy of the Manitowish Waters Chamber and Cranberry Growers Association (August 27-October 8, 2021). Contact the Chamber or refer to ManitowishWaters.org for details. During our Cran-A-Rama celebration on October 2, free shuttle bus cranberry marsh tours are offered.

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Route #3 - The Roads Less Traveled Loop:

Hwy. 51 North 1 mile to County W. Right on W through downtown Manitowish Waters. Continue down W through Winchester and into Presque Isle to County B (approximately 16 miles). Turn right on B and travel to County M. Continue on B past M if you wish to explore Land O'Lakes. Or, turn right on M and travel into Boulder Junction to County K. Continue left on M if you wish to explore the community of Boulder Junction, or turn right on CTH K to return to Manitowish Waters. County K ends at County W. Turn left on W to return to downtown Manitowish Waters and US Hwy. 51.

Route #4 - Peek at Fall Loop:

Hwy. 51 north 1 mile to County W. Right on W through downtown Manitowish Waters, through Winchester and Presque Isle to County P. Turn right on P and enjoy a winding 7-mile drive to County K. Turn right on K (North Lakeland School will be on your right) and follow back to County W. Left on W takes you back to downtown Manitowish Waters and Hwy. 51.

Route #5 - Western Loop:

Highway 51 North 1 mile to County W. Turn right on W and travel through downtown Manitowish Waters into Winchester to County O. Turn left on O and travel to County G. Turn left on G and travel to County H (which takes you to Mercer) and then to County J:

- Turn left on J and travel about 5 miles to County W. Turn right on W to head back to downtown Manitowish Waters and Highway 51, OR
- Turn right on J and travel to Highway 51; take a left onto Highway 51 and travel for about 10 miles back to Manitowish Waters.