



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



# Iron Ore Heritage Trail

*Michigan*



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Michigan

*Overview The Iron Ore Heritage Trail traverses 47.8 miles across the Marquette Iron Range in Michigan's beautiful Upper Peninsula.*



## Overview

The Iron Ore Heritage Trail traverses 47.8 miles across the Marquette Iron Range in Michigan's beautiful Upper Peninsula. The rail trail, which was designated as a National Recreation Trail in 2018, shares and celebrates the area's rich mining history with interpretive signage, artwork, and connections to museums along the way. Along the journey, trail users can see many relics from a bygone era: mining shafts, forges, furnaces, and other historical structures.

In the winter, a 2.5-mile section between Jackson Miner's Park in Negaunee and 3rd St. in Ishpeming is groomed for cross-country skiing. Snowmobiling is allowed between Republic and Ishpeming between December 1st and

March 31st and other sections of the trail offer parallel snowmobile trails that follow alongside the route.

## About the Route

Currently, more than half the trail—28 miles from Ishpeming East to Chocolay Township—is fully complete, half of which is paved and half crushed granite and/or limestone. This section is non-motorized in warm weather and a snowmobile trail from December 1 to March 31 each year.

From Ishpeming West to Republic, the route is an unimproved dirt trail open for hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers, and ATV users. This section of the trail travels west from Ishpeming through the townships of Clarksburg, Humboldt, and Champion. In the community of Republic, the trail follows along the northern edge of a pond to its endpoint at a parking lot off Republic Ave.

The western terminus of the upgraded section is the ski town of Ishpeming. The trail is paved through town and a short spur takes trail-goers along Lakeshore Drive up to the Cliffs Shaft Mine Museum, a former mining site featuring buildings and structures from the early 1900s, as well as artifacts, photographs, and mineral collections.

From Ishpeming, the paved trail continues 2.5 miles east to Negaunee, crossing an area that was fenced off by a mining company for decades. This area has the very first iron ore mine of the Lake Superior region, the Jackson Mine, dating back to 1845. On the east end of town, be sure to take the spur to the Iron Industry Museum, which overlooks the Carp River.

The trailhead in Negaunee offers a picnic shelter, bathrooms with running water, and a filtered water refill station. A part of Jackson Mine Park, the trailhead's improvements also included the Jim Thomas Pavilion—named after a Negaunee native who was a dedicated advocate for the Iron Ore Heritage



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**States:** Michigan

**Counties:** Marquette

Length: 47.8miles

**Trail end points:** Republic Ave. (Republic) to  
101 Co Rd BI (Marquette)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt,Crushed Stone,Dirt

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** ATV,Bike,Inline

Skating,Fishing,Wheelchair

Accessible,Horseback Riding,Mountain

Biking,Snowmobiling,Walking,Cross Country

## Parking & Trail Access

The Iron Ore Heritage Trail runs between Republic Ave. (Republic) and 101 Co Rd BI (Marquette), with parking available at both ends.

Parking is also available at:

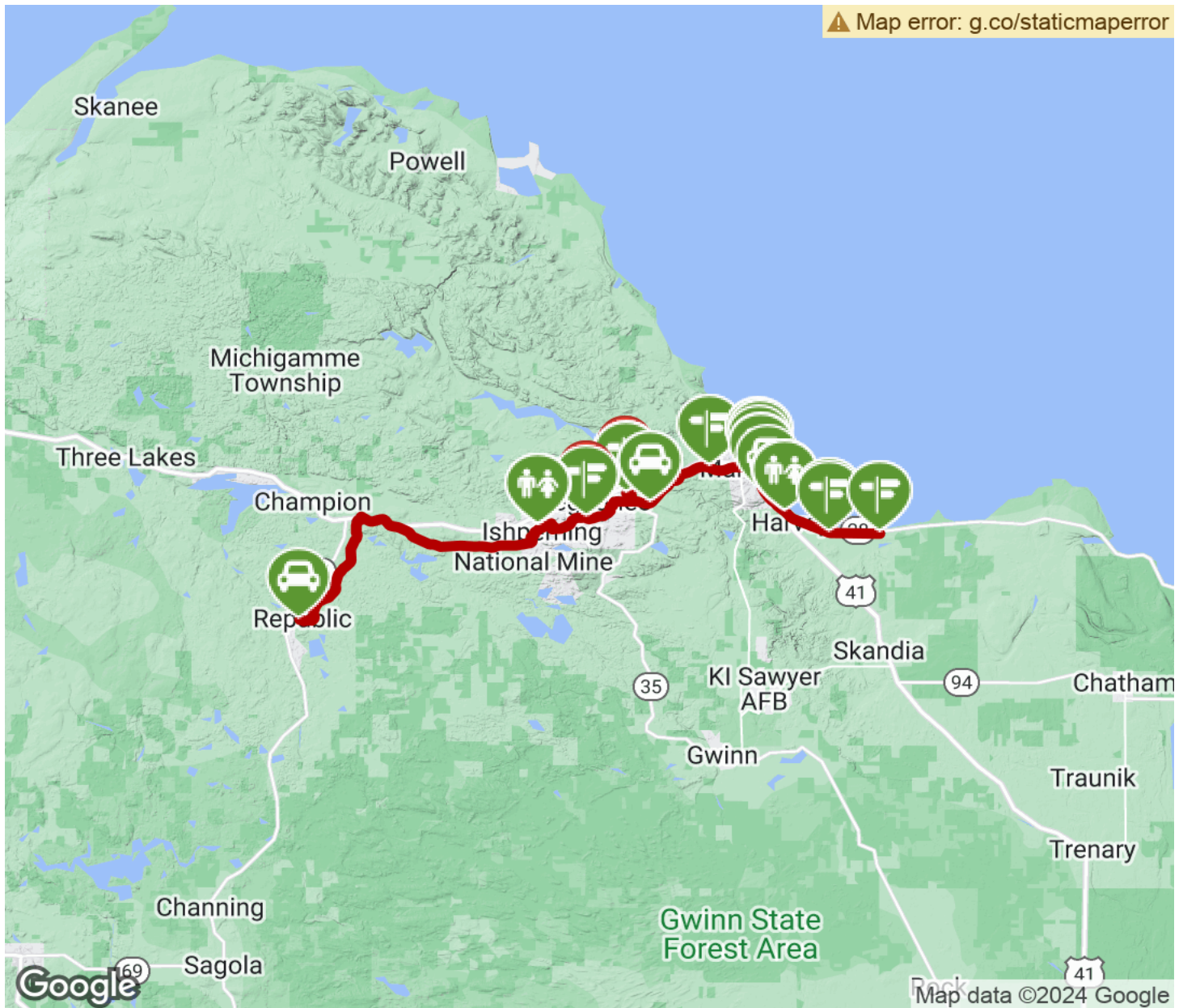
- 199 Tobin St (Negunee)
- 640 S Lakeshore Blvd (Marquette)
- 1074 S Lake St (Marquette)

Please see [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



# Iron Ore Heritage Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



**TrailLink**  
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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