

# Rusk County

W I S C O N S I N

## Rusk County Outdoor Story Ideas

Rusk County is one of Wisconsin's finest and most affordable destinations for outdoor recreation. The county boasts more than 200,000 acres of public hunting land and 250-plus lakes and flowages. The fisheries are diverse, the wildlife habitat is excellent and the recreational opportunities numerous. For the hunter or angler who is serious about his outdoor endeavors, Rusk County is an outstanding choice.

### \*Great Grouse: Why You Should Be Hunting Rusk County

Rusk County is one of North America's best grouse hunting destinations. Here's why.

**Right latitude and longitude** – Rusk County sits smack dab in the middle of Wisconsin's grouse belt. For some reason, grouse just want to live here and raise large broods of chicks.

**Lots of Land** – Hunt more than 200,000 acres of public land and numerous parcels located throughout Rusk County.

**The Perfect Habitat** – A mix of older pine forests, thriving hardwoods and newly cut-over lands makes for the ideal mix of grouse food.

**Great Hunting Trails** – Throughout the Flambeau River State Forest and Rusk County Forest lands, hunters will find trails and logging roads running through prime grouse habitat.

**It's affordable** – Rusk County's hotels, campgrounds, cabins and resorts are among the most affordable in the state. A grouse hunting trip to Rusk County is a bargain.

### \*Why Traditional Bowhunters Should Be Hunting in Rusk County

If you're a traditional bowhunters looking to kill a buck this fall, Rusk County is an outstanding place to pursue your passion. Why?

**Sparsely populated** – Fewer than 15,000 people live in Rusk County, with large portions of the county with very few inhabitants.

**Heavily forested** – Rusk County is comprised of a mix of pine and hardwood forests.

**Flambeau River State Forest** – This beautiful pine forest offers 90,000 acres of public hunting land.

**Rusk County Forest Lands** – In tracts located throughout the county, hunters will find 90,000 acres of available hunting land.

**Plenty of elbow room** – Nearly 200,000 acres of public hunting land give bowhunters plenty of room to pursue their quarry.

**Potential for bucks to reach trophy size** – The large areas of wild lands, plentiful food sources and relatively low population density allow bucks to reach trophy size in Rusk County.

**It's a beautiful place to hunt** – In eastern Rusk County, there are stands of white pine as old as any in the state. In western Rusk County, the Blue Hills stretch out over the horizon.

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## **\*Five Reasons Why You Should Be Castin' for Smallies in Rusk County**

Rusk County is one of the best places in the Midwest to fish for smallmouth bass. Here are ten reasons why.

**The Flambeau River** – This complex river offers whitewater, slow meandering stretches, wide pools and huge reservoirs, with smallies in every type of habitat.

**The Jump River** – This wild river should be a top destination for the smallmouth angler who likes to get out of the boat and wade for feisty smallies.

**Dairyland Reservoir** – This flowage on the Flambeau River is home to some lunker smallmouth bass.

**Chippewa River** – Like the Flambeau River, the Chippewa offers a diverse fishery. Look for the biggest smallies in the Chippewa River's wide, deep bends.

**A Chance to Find New Water** – With so many river systems to explore, the intrepid bass hunter will find ample opportunity to fish waters that have received little or no pressure.

**Numbers and Size** – Anglers fishing Rusk County will find both large fish as well as large numbers of fish. There's just something about the water in Rusk County that's good for growing lots of big, fat smallies.

Drive up to Rusk County today and catch yourself some smallmouth bass.

## **\*Five Reasons Why Musky Are the Real Thrill in Rusk County**

Smallies are fun, but the real action... and the stories you'll tell for a life time are about the Musky.

**The Flambeau River** – Casting by river float is an exciting way to generate action. Various water types throughout a trip lead to great opportunities. Try fast water, hidden holes, flat water, and get the big strike.

**Chippewa River** – not to be outdone by the Flambeau, the great "Chip" is creating it's own reputation for large consistent Musky production

**Lakes** – Small lakes dot the area, some with surprising depth and impressive musky action – especially during the fall season.

**On a Fly Rod** – yes, they do that here. In recent years it has become very popular with fly anglers from all over coming to achieve the holy grail of fly fishing. A 50 incher on a fly rod, could be.

**Access and cost** – ample landings on multiple water bodies and an affordable trip can be had in Rusk County

[www.ruskcountywi.com](http://www.ruskcountywi.com)

## **\*Seven Reasons Why Lake Holcombe is One of Wisconsin's Top Fishing Spots**

Lake Holcombe is one of Wisconsin's top fishing lakes. Here are seven reasons why.

1. **Combines the waters of three outstanding fishing rivers:** the Chippewa, Jump and Flambeau
2. **It's huge:** Lake Holcombe offers 3,900 acres of prime fishing waters
3. **Miles and miles of shoreline:** Anglers can cast along more than 60 miles of meandering shoreline
4. **Unbelievable smallmouth bass fishing:** Some huge smallmouth bass lurk in these waters
5. **Many muskies:** Lake Holcombe boasts a healthy population of muskellunge
6. **Diverse fishery:** Walleye, crappie, bluegill and perch can be found in the lake's many weedbeds
7. **Surprises galore:** Channel catfish and lake sturgeon call these fertile waters home. Anglers never know what they'll tie into on Lake Holcombe!

## **\*Quite and Pristine Exploration Opportunities**

**-Take a float trip down the Flambeau River The Flambeau River is one of Wisconsin's most storied and famous waterways.**

A float down the Flambeau River is a journey through history. Native Americans lived along its banks and used the river for transport. In the 1800s, loggers used the Flambeau River to float logs to downstream mills. Today, anglers, boaters and paddlers can experience a river that remains, in many stretches, unchanged for centuries. Wildlife abounds along its shores, with opportunities to see bald eagles, osprey and white-tailed deer. Some of the most breathtaking stretches are protected by the Flambeau River State Forest. For a float trip, there's no river quite like it.

**-Paddle the Flambeau, Chippewa, Jump, and Thornapple rivers Rusk County has four of the finest waterways in the Northwoods.**

The famous Flambeau River is a mix of whitewater and easy paddling with a deep woodland feel. The Jump River is free-flowing, pristine and dam-free for its entire length, from its source to its confluence with the Chippewa. The Chippewa River is relatively wide and curving, with lots of deep holes. And the Thornapple River is the archetypal Northwoods River, with very little development along the shores. Few counties in the Midwest offer such a diversity of canoeing and kayaking opportunities.

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**-Hike the Ice Age Trail The Ice Age Trail follows the southern boundary of the most recent glacier to invade Wisconsin about 12,000 years ago.**

Portions of the trail run through the Blue Hills, which was once a mountain range that was older than the Appalachian Mountains before the peaks wore down over time. The trail also features a number of truly unique rock formations, including felsenmeers, which are expansive fields of jagged rocks. The Rusk County Segment of the Ice Age Trail was featured on television's Discover Wisconsin in 2011.

**-Spend time exploring the Reclaimed Flambeau Mine Site**

Totaling nearly 150 acres, the Reclaimed Flambeau Mine Site Nature Trails traverse prairie, forest and wetland areas. Built in partnership with the City of Ladysmith, the Reclaimed Flambeau Mine Nature Trails offer 4 miles of beautiful walking trails open from dawn to dusk. Trail maps can be found at any intersection of the trails. On land adjacent to the reclaimed Flambeau Mine Site, you'll find a 10-mile system of trails for horseback riding and other non-motorized activities.

**-Hit the trails: Choose from a variety of hiking, biking, and nature trails Rusk County is home to some of northern Wisconsin's top trail systems for hiking, mountain biking and wildlife viewing.**

Sisters' Farm, on the banks of the Flambeau River, offers mountain biking and crosscountry skiing. The trail is also an outstanding destination for hiking and birdwatching, taking visitors through a variety of bird habitats and along the Flambeau River. The Blue Hills Trail System provides 23 miles of excellent hiking and wildlife opportunities. The west side of this huge trail system is densely wooded, while the eastern half is more open and provides excellent views of the surrounding landscape

**-Fish the Dairyland Flowage (Lake Flambeau) and learn about the extraordinary efforts a local conservation group has taken to improve the fishery Rusk County offers excellent fishing opportunities, particularly on the Flambeau River and its flowages.**

The Dairyland Flowage is a destination fishery for smallmouth bass, as well as walleye and musky. The highquality fishing is due, in large part, to the commitment and hard work of a local conservation group. The proof of their efforts is easily seen each time an angler hooks a football-size smallmouth.