

Everything You Need to Know About Bemidji, Minnesota

- First city on the Mississippi River. The headwaters of the Mississippi River are located 31 miles south of Bemidji on US 71. Water flows north to Hudson Bay and south to the Gulf of Mexico. Because of the Continental Divide, the Mississippi River flows north into Lake Bemidji, then east with the northernmost point of the river east of Lake Bemidji. It continues in a southeasterly direction to Grand Rapids, Minn., before it takes a more southerly direction.
- Birthplace of legendary Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox. An 18-foot statue is erected in the city. Also, the birthplace of actress Jane Russell.
- Home of Lake Bemidji, which boasts 14.8 miles of shoreline. Local legend claims the lake is Paul Bunyan's footprint. Twenty-five percent of Minnesota's recreational waters are found in the Bemidji area.
- There are more than 500 miles of snowmobile trails in and around Bemidji making it the snowmobile capital of Minnesota.
- Bemidji is derived from the Ojibway (Chippewa) phrase "Bay-me-ji-ga-maug" meaning "flowing through or across," designating the course of the Mississippi River through Lake Bemidji.
- Home of Olympian Pete Fenson's "Dave's Pizza" restaurant.
- Bemidji State University is Minnesota's only lakeside college and features curling as a physical education course. More than 5,000 students attend the university from 44 U.S. states and 40 foreign countries.
- Bemidji has been named one of the top 100 small cities to live in
- Bemidji's population is 12,758
- Great fishing! Bemidji is located within a 35 mile radius of 400 fishing lakes. The lakes are bountiful with northern pike, walleye and muskie among many other fish types.