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Bob Watson Photography
Reflecting The Spirit of Nature

NATURE - LANDSCAPES - WILDLIFE

Featured Photograph No. 1



© Bob Watson Photography
*The sun sets on Lake Superior near Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park,
Michigan's Upper Peninsula.*

Hi Folks ,

Today begins my 4th year of publishing a monthly Newsletter. I thank each of you for your support, for continuing to refer others to my Website and for forwarding my Newsletters. I wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

The Great "Lake Superior" They Call "Gitche Gumme"

The Chippewa Indians called Lake Superior ("Superior") Gichigami, meaning, "Be a Great Sea". Henry Wadsworth Longfellow referred to the lake as "Gitche Gumme" in his book, The Song of Hiawatha, as did Gordon Lightfoot in his song, "The Wreck of the Edmond Fitzgerald". Since then, Superior is often called Gitche Gumme.

Anyone that spends much time exploring Superior's abundant and diverse beauty will fall in love, and yearn to return and explore again and again. When you visit Superior for the 1st time, you must change your concept of what a lake is. Many people remark "it's like an ocean, except it's freshwater". The coast's beauty and diversity range from miles of sandy shores to miles of rocky shores, and to high forest covered cliffs. Its watercolor varies greatly depending on the weather and clarity, from deep blue, to green, to gray.

Superior is the largest of the U.S. Great Lakes, and is often labeled as the "The World's Greatest Lake". Just how big is it?

1. *The Largest Lake in the World by surface area and third by water volume. The surface area*

is approx. 31,700 square miles, or about 360 miles from east to west and 160 miles from north to south.

2. Its water volume is more than all of the other Great Lakes, combined.
3. Superior is approx. the size of South Carolina.
4. Its shoreline covers 2,726 miles.
5. It contains 10% of the Earth's fresh surface water.
6. Superior empties into Lake Huron via the St. Mary's River, and takes 191 years to replace itself.

Superior is a cold lake, averaging 40 degrees. It affects the region's climate greatly by moderating all temperatures and produces the largest lake effect snows on earth.

Annual storms on Superior regularly produce waves of over 20 feet, with 40 feet being the highest recorded. These storms have been responsible for the shipwreck of many vessels, including the most recent, the Edmond Fitzgerald in 1975. The southern shore of Superior near Whitefish Point has had more shipwrecks than any other part of the Great Lakes and is known as the "Graveyard of the Great Lakes". The Whitefish Point Underwater Preserve now protects these shipwrecks.

Other Interesting Superior Facts:

1. Superior's water is among the clearest on earth, averaging underwater visibility of 27 feet.
2. Over 300 rivers and streams empty into Superior.
3. Superior is home to 88 species of fish.
4. The deepest part of Superior is 1,300 feet.
5. 58 orchid species are native to the Superior basin, second in North America only to Florida.

If you ever have the chance, I encourage you to visit this amazing Lake. It truly is "Superior"

Featured Photograph No. 2



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The sun sets on Lake Superior at Hurricane Point, Pictured Rock National Lakeshore Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

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