

SOUDAN UNDERGROUND MINE STATE PARK

The Soudan Mine is designated a National Historic Landmark due to its significance in American history.

VISITOR FAVORITES

- Underground mine tour
- Interpretive center
- High energy physics lab

Since the early 1980s, scientists have conducted high energy experiments at the bottom of the Soudan Mine. The depth of the mine shields the experiments from cosmic rays found on the earth's surface. Information on current experiments is available in the Visitor Center.

FACILITIES AND FEATURES

- Picnic area
- Interpretive trail
- Five miles of hiking trails among open-pit mines

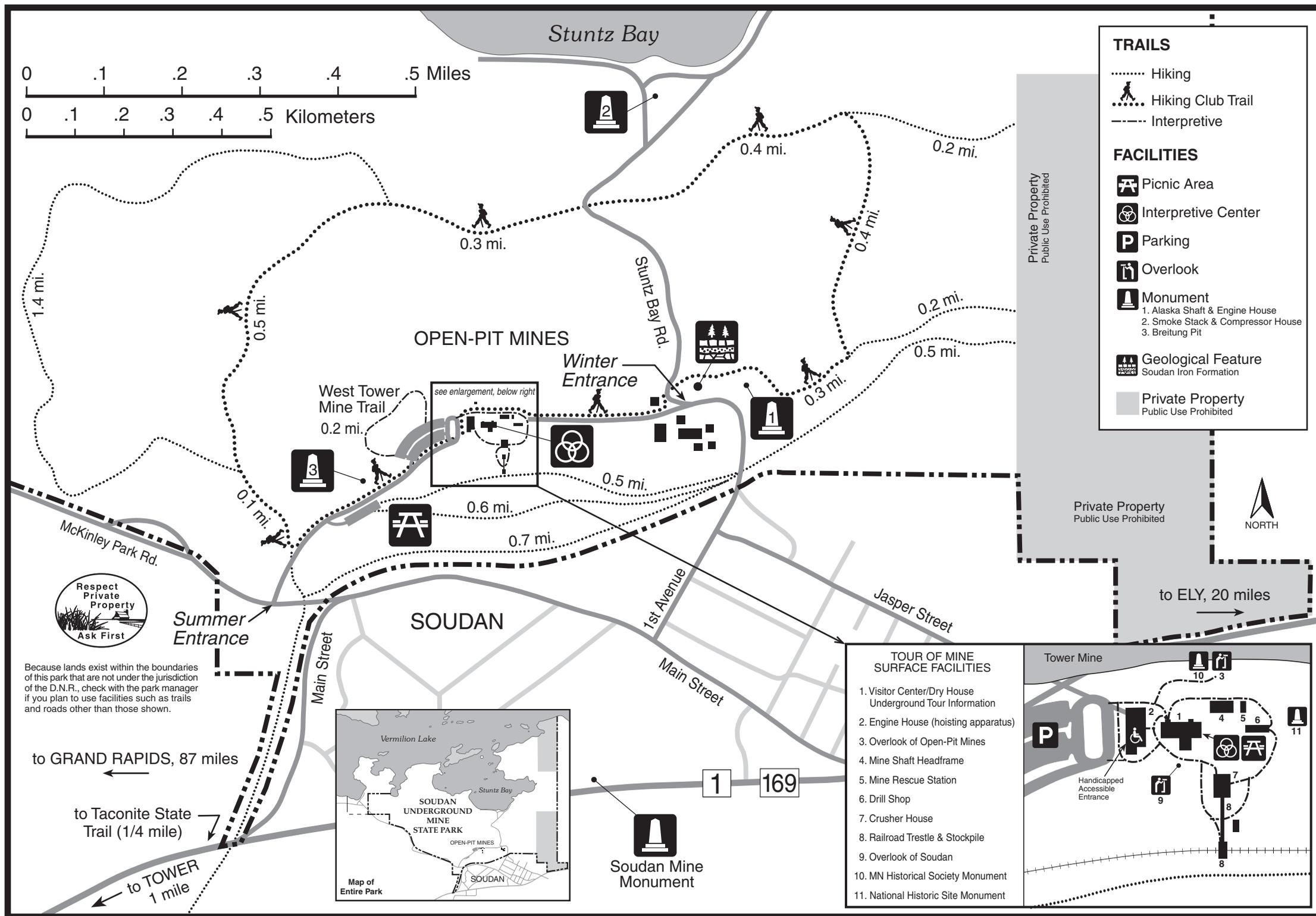


Because lands exist within the boundaries of this park that are not under the jurisdiction of the D.N.R., check with the park manager if you plan to use facilities such as trails and roads other than those shown.

LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION ?

The DNR has mapped the state showing federal, state and county lands with their recreational facilities. Public Recreation Information Maps (PRIM) are available for purchase from the DNR gift shop, DNR regional offices, Minnesota state parks and major sporting and map stores.

Check it out - you'll be glad you did.





SOUDAN UNDERGROUND MINE STATE PARK

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Soudan Underground Mine State Park
P.O. Box 335
Soudan, MN 55782
(218) 753-2245
e-mail: soudanmine@dnr.state.mn.us

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Department of Natural Resources
Information Center
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

(651) 296-6157 (Metro Area)
1-888-646-6367 (MN Toll Free)

TDD (Telecommunications
Device for Deaf)
(651) 296-5484 (Metro Area)
1-800-657-3929 (MN Toll Free)

DNR Web Site: www.dnr.state.mn.us

SOUDAN UNDERGROUND MINE STATE PARK is located near Soudan. Take U.S. Highway 169 to Soudan and follow the directional signs. Highway map index: L-6.

Soudan Underground Mine State Park offers visitors the opportunity to see

Minnesota's deepest iron ore mine as it appeared when it closed in 1963. The park offers underground tours, tours of mine buildings, and walks through a picturesque park. But the highlight of a trip to Soudan Mine is the tour of the underground mine.

THE UNDERGROUND MINE: A three-minute elevator cage trip down to the 27th level, 2341 feet below the surface, begins your tour of the Soudan Mine. You will ride a train on a three-fourths mile trip to the stope. A short walk and 38-step climb on a spiral staircase will bring you to the Montana stope, the highlight of your tour.

CAUTION: The elderly, persons with youngsters of preschool age, or anyone with a fear of confined spaces are cautioned to be aware of the physical requirements of this tour. Not recommended for children under two years of age.

TOUR SCHEDULE: Memorial weekend through Labor Day: 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Call for information on fall and spring tour schedules.

Last tour leaves the surface at 4:00 P.M. sharp. You must be at the visitor center 30 minutes prior to the start of each tour.

Special Group or School Tours: Please contact the park office about arranging year-round group or school tours of the underground mine.

Please Note: The year-round air temperature in the mine is 52 degrees. A warm coat and sturdy shoes are recommended for the underground tour. Food and tobacco are prohibited.

ADMISSION FEE: An admission fee is charged for the underground tour.

GEOLOGY: Ancient seas and volcanoes played a major role in the formation of the Soudan ore deposits.

Millions of years ago, broad seas spotted with volcanoes created deposits of low-grade ore on the sea floor. In time, great forces folded, compressed, and thrust the sea floor into mountain ranges and opened the ore deposits to the weather. Weathering concentrated the low grade ore into rich hematite.

Then came the glaciers flowing down from the Arctic. Four times they came south cutting, crushing, and altering the land. As they retreated, they left a thick layer of debris—boulders, pebbles, soil—on the surface. The last glacier exposed an outcrop of rich hematite near Lake Vermilion. This outcrop later became the Soudan Mine.

HISTORY: George R. Stuntz, explorer, prospector and businessman, came to Minnesota's northeast triangle as a surveyor. While working in the area, he was credited with finding the iron ore that began the Soudan Mine. Stuntz interested a Duluth banker, George Stone, in the ore deposits. Stone's contacts in the east led to Charlemagne Tower's interest in the mineral resources of the Lake Vermilion area.

After a number of expeditions into the area by a geology team who verified the quality of the ore, Tower formed the Minnesota Iron Company to buy land on the east side of the lake. Captain Elisha Morcom and his crew of miners arrived in 1884. On July 31,

1884, the first shipment of ore left for Two Harbors.

Manpower—men with picks, shovels, hand drills, and wheelbarrows—moved the ore out of the open pit to the railroad. Later, steam power was used to drill the ore and mules pulled carts of it out of the mine. By the 1890s, the mining process was converted to an underground operation.

Electricity came in 1924. A new hoist, pumps, electric crusher, and other equipment was added. The high grade, extremely hard ore was in high demand. After World War II, the high cost of operating the Soudan Mine reduced profits. Changing technology and high operating costs forced the mine to close in 1962.

United States Steel Corporation donated the mine, and 1,200 acres around it, to Minnesota for a state park.

WILDLIFE: The hiking trails in Soudan Underground Mine State Park will take visitors through a variety of wildlife habitats. The park is home to northern songbirds, loons, hawks, and owls. White-tailed deer, black bears, timber wolves, fishers, and many smaller animals also live in the park.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES: The visitor center offers an insight into parts of the mine's history. A ten-minute movie shows how the mine was worked.

The park also offers a nature trail that winds around the west tower and open-pit mines.

SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE PARK ...

- The park belongs to all Minnesotans. Treat it with respect and consideration.
- Hunting in the park is prohibited.
- Pets must be kept on a leash not longer than six feet and attended at all times.
- Motorized vehicles may not use park trails.
- Enjoy the animals, but do not approach or feed them.
- Leave rocks and plants where they are. They make up much of the park's beauty. Do not collect them.
- Park only in designated parking areas.
- The park is closed from 6:00 P.M. until 9:30 A.M.
- Daily or annual permits are required for all vehicles entering a state park. They may be purchased at the park headquarters or the Information Center in St. Paul. (see "FOR MORE INFORMATION" to left).

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This information is available in alternative format upon request.

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