



## Exploring Michigan's Upper Peninsula: The Best Hikes and Hideouts

The U.P. has a well-deserved reputation for rewarding those who explore its nooks and crannies. Author Eric Hansen knows the U.P. well, having walked 900 miles researching his guidebook *Hiking Michigan's Upper Peninsula – A Guide to the Greatest Hiking Adventures in the U.P.*

He will present a slide tour of the U.P.'s best hikes, and offer his thoughts on the land, its compelling themes and its almost mythic place in the imagination of people throughout the Midwest.

Hansen found miles of quiet Lake Superior shoreline, thumping waterfalls and sparkling cascades, and high rock balconies with knock-your-socks off views that stretch 50 miles and more. He will cover hidden gems like Rock River Falls and "The Amphitheatre", a huge

overhang and memorable waterfall tucked away in the Pictured Rocks backcountry, as well as scenic viewpoints like the Trap Hills' Hack Site.

He has highlighted the U.P.'s rich natural heritage in adventure features in *Backpacker Magazine*, the op-ed pages of the *Chicago Tribune*, and in numerous interviews on Wisconsin Public Radio. His slide shows are popular throughout the Midwest, often drawing overflow crowds.

Also widely known as a conservation activist, Hansen is part of a broad-based citizens campaign to block ill-advised proposals for metallic sulfide mining in the U.P. In 2006, The Outdoor Writer's Association of America awarded him first prize for newspaper conservation and environment writing for his *Chicago Tribune* op-ed essay (available at [www.eric-hansen.com](http://www.eric-hansen.com)) on the U.P.'s iconic coaster brook trout and the threat of metallic sulfide mining there.

Widely traveled, he is a veteran of 28 treks to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, successful ascents of most of the high peaks of Glacier National Park, and a mellow and memorable telemark-style ski descent of Colorado's highest peak.

In a January 20, 2006 audio file WUWM's Jane Hampden interviews Eric Hansen on his then brand new U.P. book. This interview is a broad, reflective look at the memorable landscape we know as the Upper Peninsula.

[http://www.wuwm.com/programs/lake\\_effect/view\\_at10.php?articleid=57](http://www.wuwm.com/programs/lake_effect/view_at10.php?articleid=57)

Drag the bar to the 17 minute, 50 second mark to begin U.P segment.

Essay on Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore's Beaver Basin Wilderness:

<http://wilderness.org/content/omnibus-tour-beaver-basin>

Essay on mining threat to the U.P.'s and Wisconsin's pristine waters:

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/opinion/29549204.html>