



2023 Checkpoint Driving Directions

Race Start: January 29, 2023

Beargrease Race Start

Billy's Bar, 3502 W Tischer Road, Duluth, MN

From I-35 N, take exit 258 and turn left on 21st Ave E. Stay on 21st Ave. East to Woodland Avenue, turn right onto Woodland Avenue. Continue on Woodland Avenue 1.2 miles to Snively Road. Turn right on Snively Road. Continue 1.4 miles to Jean Duluth Road. Stay on Jean Duluth Road 2.8 miles.

Billy's to Hwy 2

(Beargrease 40 Finish & Marathon/BG 120 Checkpoint)

Reverse course from Billy's to 21st Ave. East and London Road. Turn left on London Road. Follow London Road until it turns into Hwy 61; take the expressway all the way to Two Harbors, about 20 miles. Go through Two Harbors (less than a mile) to Lake Co. Hwy 2 (Holiday Station), turn left (west) on Hwy 2 and follow that for about 8.5 miles to the North Shore State Trail Parking on Twmp Rd. 24. Turn right and the start area is down about 2 blocks on the left. Only dog trucks can enter/park in the start area. There is parking for the public along Hwy 2.

Highway 2 to Finland (Marathon & BG120 Checkpoint)

Drive back down Highway 2 to Two Harbors and turn left (north) on Highway 61 at the light at the Holiday gas station. From this intersection, stay on Highway 61 for approximately 32.9 miles to the town of Illgen City and turn left onto MN Highway 1 (west) to Finland. Stay on Highway 1 for approximately 6.2 miles to the small town of Finland and turn right onto Lake CR 7 (not Lake CR 6) – there will be a sign for George H. Crosby Manitou State Park. Stay on CR 7 for about 0.8 miles and the checkpoint will be on the right.

Finland to Sawbill (Marathon Checkpoint)

Backtrack down CR7 to Hwy 1 turn left and proceed ½ block to CR 6, turn left on CR6 and follow to Hwy 61. Turn left on Hwy 61; follow 11.4 miles to Tofte, MN. Turn left on Cook Co. 2 / Sawbill Trail. Checkpoint is approximately 5.5 miles up the Sawbill Trail.

Finland to Trestle Inn (Beargrease 120 Finish)

Continue on CR7 18.2 miles to the Trestle Inn. 9459 Co. Hwy 7, Finland, MN 55603

Sawbill to Trail Center

Backtrack down Hwy 61 turn left and proceed 26.6 miles to Cook Co. #15 / 5th Ave. West in Grand Marais (look for the blue hospital sign). Turn left onto Co. 15 / 5th Ave. W, follow .7 miles to Gunflint Trail. Turn left onto Gunflint Trail, follow 26.2 miles to Trail Center.

Trail Center to Skyport Lodge

Backtrack down Gunflint Trail 25.1 miles to Devil Track Road turn right onto Cook Co. 8 / Devil Track Road. Follow 3.9 miles to Skyport Lane, follow Skyport Lane .3 miles to Fireweed Lane.

Skyport Lodge to Mineral Center

Head north on Fireweed Lane toward turn Skyport Lane, turn right onto Skyport Lane. In 0.3 miles turn right onto Devil Track Road. In 3.9 miles turn right onto Gunflint Trail. Follow Gunflint Trail 4 miles to MN 61 N/W Hwy 61, turn left onto Hwy 61. In approximately 33 miles turn left onto County Road 17/Mineral Center Road. The checkpoint is approximately 4 miles and will be on the left hand side of the road.

Mineral Center to Grand Portage Lodge and Casino (Finish)

Turn right onto Mineral Center Road. Follow down until Highway 61. Turn left onto Highway 61. In a little less than one mile, turn right at the Grand Portage Trading Post. Continue straight at the stop sign to the Grand Portage Lodge and Casino.