

I thought I'd share my 2240-mile, EV road trip experience. Thanks to all of us being vaccinated, my family was ready to get back on the road and explore. Since we picked up our Tesla Model Y Performance in December, we were awarded with free supercharging for a full year. So, it was a no brainer to make use of that! We still wanted to go somewhere quiet with lots of outdoor exploring. My neighbor grew up in Duluth, MN, and it seemed like a great idea to explore the forests near Lake Superior. To add to our trip, we wanted to take an EV out where there are less superchargers to prove that one truly can take an EV out into the country. For that, we planned a trip to Lake Itasca State Park. Starting out in Dayton, we charged in Zionsville, Merrillville, Pleasant Prairie, Madison, Mauston, Eau Claire, and got to the Holiday Inn & Suites in Duluth, MN. We specifically picked the Holiday Inn since that's where the supercharger was...right in their parking garage!

Day 1, explore Duluth. Drove to Glensheen Mansion, drove over the Aerial Lift Bridge, hike the Park Point Recreation Trail, visit Leif Erikson Park ("Hinga Dinga Durgen" -Spongebob), buy Chocolate at the Duluth Candy Company.

Day 2, drive to Lake Itasca. For those who do not know, Lake Itasca is considered the head of the Mississippi River (not exactly the source). To get there, I originally charged at Duluth, then Baxter, and arrived at Itasca with 55%. To save about an hour and half on the drive back, I rented an RV campsite with a 14-50 plug. Charged the car in the 3 hours we were there to avoid the Baxter charger and take a shorter, more direct route to Duluth. Totally worth the \$35.

Day 3, drive up Minnesota State Route 61 to hike as many parks as possible and find many, many waterfalls! The best part, we found two of the state parks had Level 2 chargers. We explored Gooseberry Falls, Split Rock Lighthouse, Tettegouche, Caribou Falls, Temperance River, among others. Lots of amazing scenery and waterfalls! This trip took 160 miles round trip and we got within 72 miles of the Canadian border before turning back.

Day 4, we began our drive back home to Dayton but stopped for the night in Madison, WI to see family and decided to charge deeper to avoid the Mauston Supercharger. Day 5 was the drive all the way back home and a stop at Fair Oaks Dairy Farm for some ice cream, chocolate milk, and a short Level 2 charge.

Overall, this trip was so much fun. The worst part was the bug catcher on the front of the car, but that is a minor problem. The car performed beautifully and proved to me that EV road trips are totally possible. Sure, the Tesla network makes it easier. However, using campsites is also a really easy way to shorten a trip especially at many state and national parks. Anyone looking for a weeklong summer EV road trip should certainly consider what we just did!