UNDERDOWN & ALTA JUNCTION SEGMENTS

Before your hike:
Park your car at the end of your trip at the First Lake Road parking area. Take a shuttle to the west end of the Underdown Segment at Horn Lake Road.

Before you hit the Trail, check out the highest waterfall on the Wisconsin River, Grandfather Falls. It's located about 12 miles north of Merrill on Highway 107. It's total drop is 89 feet, spread out in a series of cascades over approximately one mile.

Hike
From west to east, start at the Underdown Segment (6.3 miles) trail access on Horn Lake Rd. The very hilly and forested Underdown Segment passes through the popular Underdown Recreation Area, and cuts through the primeval “Enchanted Forest,” a beautiful hemlock grove next to a wetland area. A 1.2 mile connecting route joins to the next segment.

The next segment is the 1.2-mile Alta Junction Segment, named after the historic railroad junction of two rail lines at the Village of Dunfield (now a ghost town). This area is known for the natural springs that bubble up from underground water tables.

DID YOU KNOW?
The most recent Ice Age ended about 10,000 years ago and is known as the Wisconsin Glaciation.
DAY 2:

HARRISON HILLS SEGMENT

Hike
Day two takes you through the Harrison Hills Segment (14.4 miles), running from CTH J to First Lake Rd. The Harrison Moraine that this segment traverses is noted for spectacular high-relief topography, including many glacially deposited ridges and hills such as Lookout Mountain, the highest point on the Ice Age Trail at 1,920 feet above sea level. Views are especially impressive when leaves are off the trees.

Attraction
Merrill Historical Society’s Museum and Heritage Center is open Tuesday-Friday 9am – 1pm and Saturday 9am – 3pm. Check out the two permanent exhibits: The Pinery (logging and millwork) and the Ebert-Sykes Native American Gallery.

Lodging
Primitive camping on county forest lands is available for the entire segment, while two walk-to campsites at Chain Lake are located near the end of the segment.