

CARLTON MN

"Gateway to Jay Cooke State Park"

The Swinging Bridge is one of the many sights in Jay Cooke State Park. It spans the rugged gorge of the St. Louis River with a heated picnic shelter at one end. The park also features trout streams, a pioneer cemetery, 50 miles of hiking trails, unique flora and geological formations, plus an abundance of wildlife. Jay Cooke State Park has camping sites available with modern conveniences, primitive camping sites, and backpacking sites. Naturalists conduct tours, show films and offer other nature-related programs during the summer months. In winter, you can enjoy more than 50 kilometers of Minnesota's finest cross country ski trails. Or you can ride 12 miles of snowmobile trails that intersect with the Willard Munger Trail.

Carlton area teems with activities for all families in any season. More than 90 kilometers, of groomed cross country ski trails await beginning or advanced skiers and downhill skiing is minutes away. The lakes and rivers in the area challenge fishing enthusiasts year-round. More than 500 miles of groomed snowmobile trails offer numerous services along the way. Many rock hounds rave about the boundless supply of agates in the area. Sightseers with cameras can exhaust many rolls of film on the endless beauty of the area.

The last full weekend every July dazzles with the excitement of Carlton Daze. Golf tournaments, a 5K run/walk and an ultra marathon, a softball tournament, Kiddie games, craft vendors, and a thrilling parade are only some of the highlights. Don't miss the Kayak Races each summer, or the Dog Gawn Fun Run in October.

On any visit to Carlton you will find the city's shops welcoming you with open doors, cafes and fine dining restaurants for any appetite, and unique shops that will keep you shopping all day. You will experience the endless hospitality of Carlton's citizens.

Whitewater Rafting on the St. Louis River in Carlton can make any occasion one to remember. People from all over the U.S. come to experience the thrill of the sport May through September. Anyone 12 years of age or older who is in good health can appreciate the beauty and excitement of the sport. Whitewater Rafting provides you with everything you'll need, including professional guides, to make your trip safe and fun.

The St. Louis River meets the city of Carlton at the Thomson Slate Formation and scenic Thomson Dam. Once known as the Grand Portage Trail, much of the river remains as it did when early explorers paddled through the region. Towering canyon walls along the shore and untouched wilderness abound with wildlife. From the small canyon containing some of the world's oldest exposed bedrock, to the panoramic beauty of water, rock and dense forest, this is truly one of Minnesota's Jewels.

Chub Lake Park, the historic Northern Pacific Railroad marker, 400,000 acres of recreational land for all types of hunting, International Whitewater Slalom Series Finals, Charlotte's Cafe, Jay Cooke State Park, Alex Laveau Memorial Bike Trail, Pine Hill Golf Course, Betty D. Brown Studio-Gallery, hunting for Lake Superior agates, watching ocean-going vessels load or unload cargo in Lake Superior Harbor, shopping, sight-seeing, hiking, biking, kayaking, boating, ATV trails, fall colors, Superior Whitewater raft tours, boating, sailing, rollerblading, berry picking, agates, fishing year-round, skiing, snowmobiling, and quiet serenity.

The Willard Munger State Trail spans 14-1/2 miles from Carlton to Duluth. The Department of Natural Resources paved this trail for hiking, biking and snowmobiling. This trail hosts visitors from across the nation. And a surprise awaits you at the end of the trail – the Lake Superior Zoo in Duluth.

If you are looking for relief from the anxiety and stress of day-to-day life, Carlton has what you need. You can spend a quiet day riding along a scenic highway, stopping at roadside spots for a breath of fresh air as the sounds of the St. Louis River splashing through a gorge surround you. Whether it's spring, summer, fall, or winter, Carlton has what you need.