

COOK COUNTY SUMMER

Vacation Tips



Naturally Unforgettable



Welcome! And thank you for downloading our Summer Vacation Guide. We designed it to help you plan an incredible summer vacation – the type you'll be reminiscing about for years to come.

Cook County, Minnesota, is what summer vacations were made for. Get in the water, get out on the trails, enjoy a bonfire on the beach and savor some of the state's best food and drink. We've got the space to spread out and enjoy any adventure you can imagine.

It's a safe place to slow down, relax and have fun. It's a place to disconnect from your daily grind and get back in touch with life's simple pleasures: nature, adventure and the people you love most.

Whether you've been here many times before or are considering Cook County for the first time, we're so glad you're planning a trip to Cook County this summer. We know you'll love it as much as we do.

So again, welcome to Cook County. We hope you enjoy planning your adventure and experiencing it. If you have any questions along the way, please feel free to reach out to the Visit Cook County team. We're here to help in any way we can.

We invite you to [sign up](#) for our monthly email newsletter so you can stay up to date on events, special deals, and more.

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Happy planning!

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Executive Director, Visit Cook County

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CHAPTER ONE



About Visit Cook County

The collaborative team at Visit Cook County created this Summer Vacation Guide as a helpful tool, chock-full of resources and ideas to help you plan a **Naturally Unforgettable** vacation in Cook County this summer.

There's so much to do in Cook County – that's part of what makes this northern region in Minnesota so special. From the shores of Lake Superior to the wilderness along the Gunflint Trail, from local dining and shopping to fantastic resorts and lodges, there's an adventure for everyone. Half the fun is discovering the possibilities and seizing every opportunity.

Before we dive into the guide, we wanted to introduce ourselves. Visit Cook County is a collaboration of the Cook County Events and Visitors Bureau, the voluntary members of the Grand Portage Band of Chippewa Ojibwe and the existing Cook County, Minnesota community tourism associations: The Gunflint Trail Association, the Lutsen-Tofte-Schroeder Tourism Association and the Grand Marais Tourism Association. We

joined forces because we're stronger together – there is more buying power, possibilities and reach with combined revenues. To learn more about Visit Cook County and how we're funded, visit us online at <https://www.visitcookcounty.com/resources/about-us/>.

Now, onto the fun part! Let's start planning a Cook County summer vacation you'll remember forever.



CHAPTER TWO



Planning a Naturally Unforgettable Summer Vacation

Every great vacation starts with a plan – but everyone’s planning style is a little bit different. We see just about everyone in Cook County. From the fly-by-the-seat-of-their-pants, up for anything travelers, to those who have plans and backup plans to ensure their trip progresses without a hitch.

Whether you’re traveling solo, as a couple, as a group or as a family, there’s no wrong way to vacation in Cook County.

ACTIVITIES FOR ANY STYLE

Those who like to wake up with the sun and go wherever the day takes them tend to enjoy the slower pace and relaxing side of Cook County. Check out [chapter 9](#) for adventures that foster connections with nature and our natural environment.

Adventure-seekers will find no shortage of activities to get hearts pumping. By land, by water and even by air (don’t miss our zip line!), Cook County is full of thrilling outdoor activities to satisfy the adrenaline junkies out there. Browse through [chapter 6](#) and [chapter 7](#) for some of our favorite Cook County adventures.

Many who visit Cook County are seeking peace, tranquility, arts and culture. They often find what they’re looking for between art exhibits, local dining opportunities and luxurious resorts. Explore [chapter 8](#) for the finer side of Cook County.

Use the content in this guide as inspiration for your **Naturally Unforgettable** summer vacation. To take your planning to the next level, try out our online [Trip Planner](#) to organize your stay in Cook County. You’ll soon discover the possibilities for outdoor adventures are just the tip of the iceberg.

LODGING FOR ANY TASTE

With so many different types of travelers, it’s no wonder people prefer so many different types of lodging. In Cook

County, Minnesota, you can’t go wrong. From rustic and rugged to luxurious and pampered, the perfect accommodations await.

Find your own balance between adventure and comfort in everything from a condominium with a pool to an inn with a porch.

Sleep in your own tent under the stars in a campground overlooking the lake. Tuck into the woods and enjoy the simple peace of a rustic cabin. Play games by a roaring fire with family and friends in a traditional northern lodge.

Whichever lodging type you prefer or location you love – it’s all here. Jump to [chapter 5](#) to learn more about our lodging options.

EMBRACE THE COOK COUNTY LIFESTYLE

As you drive north along Minnesota’s scenic Highway 61, you’ll leave so much behind. The hustle and bustle of your day-to-day life. Your to-do lists. Your obligations. Your inhibitions. Cook County is the perfect place to slow down and let go.

Those of us who call Cook County our home, know the secret. Things move slower here so we can take the time to enjoy life’s simple pleasures. Budding flowers in springtime. Sunrises over Lake Superior. Leaves changing color. The season’s first snowfall.

As you leave your worries behind, you’ll embrace the Cook County lifestyle. You may find yourself simply going with the flow. Accepting the unexpected. Discovering fun and adventure around every corner. Find contentment in the everyday and enjoy each moment of your perfect summer getaway.

PACK YOUR BAGS AND HIT THE ROAD

The only thing that’s left is to pack your bags and make your way north. Enjoy the drive and a few scenic stops along the way. We’ll see you in Cook County soon!

CHAPTER THREE



Our Communities

LUTSEN, TOFTE AND SCHROEDER

Strung along the Lake Superior shore like beads on a necklace, the communities of Lutsen, Tofte and Schroeder serve as the southern gateway to Cook County, Minnesota. Experience Lake Superior, the largest freshwater lake in the world. Explore the Superior National Forest through the endless hiking and biking trails. Tee off with a view at Superior National Golf Course. Explore Lutsen Mountains, the largest ski resort in the Midwest, and take a ride on the gondola or Alpine slide for epic vistas. Embark on an adventure into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Plus enjoy romance and relaxation with numerous spas and resorts. Your Cook County vacation begins here, where the great Lake Superior meets the ancient Sawtooth Mountain Range. There's always something new to explore.

GRAND MARAIS

Artsy and quirky, the North Shore harbor village of Grand Marais welcomes creatives, families and adventure-seekers alike. The accolades almost speak for themselves. Grand Marais has been named America's Coolest Small Town (*Budget Travel Magazine*), Top 10 Beach Getaway (*Outside Magazine*), and Next Great Adventure Town (*National Geographic Adventure Magazine*). Explore the oldest art

colony in Minnesota. Traditional crafts of the northern hemisphere at the North House Folk School.

A picturesque harbor on the world's greatest lake. Is it the arts and culture that inspire adventure, or vice versa?

GRAND PORTAGE

At the very tip of Minnesota's Arrowhead, about 45 minutes northeast of Grand Marais, sits the community of Grand Portage. Grand Portage is a place of enduring tradition and vibrant culture. Home to the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, this community has been a legendary meeting place for centuries – and after one visit you'll understand why. Discover a centuries-old meeting place and come ready to play. The newly renovated Grand Portage Lodge & Casino offers exciting gaming and events all year long.

GUNFLINT TRAIL

Shhh, is that a moose? Uncover the history of this 57-mile National Scenic Byway at the edge of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Canada. You'll soon understand why this area has been named by *National Geographic* as one of the world's "50 Places of a Lifetime." Kick off a Boundary Waters adventure or stay at one of our wonderful Northwoods lodges. This extraordinary, remote and nature-centric destination will fill your spirit and move your soul.

CHAPTER FOUR



Getting Here

Cook County is located at the northeastern tip of Minnesota's Arrowhead, with Lake Superior's north shore on one side and the Sawtooth Mountains and Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness on the other. The nearest large city is Duluth, Minnesota. We may be in northern Minnesota, but we're easy to find. Cook County, Minnesota is only four-and-a-half hours north of the Twin Cities. We're also easy to reach from the Iron Range, Chicago, Thunder Bay, Madison and other areas in the Upper Midwest and beyond.

DITCH YOUR GPS, SMARTPHONES AND OTHER DEVICES

Due to our unique, remote location, GPS, smartphones and other devices often give incorrect directions in and around Cook County. Do not rely solely on GPS, smartphones or other devices for directions within Cook County.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

FROM THE MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL METROPOLITAN AREA

Head north on Interstate Highway 35E or 35W, then continue north on Interstate 35 toward Duluth. Follow Interstate 35 through Duluth until you see signs for Highway 61/North Shore. Follow Highway 61—the nationally recognized North Shore Scenic Drive—to Schroeder, approximately 240 miles from the Twin Cities and 80 miles from Duluth. From Schroeder, you can travel to any of our communities: Tofte, Lutsen, Grand Marais, the Gunflint Trail and Grand Portage.

FROM DULUTH

Follow Highway 61 north to Schroeder, approximately 80 miles from Duluth. From Schroeder, you can continue north on Highway 61 to travel to any of our communities: Tofte, Lutsen, Grand Marais, the Gunflint Trail and Grand Portage.

FROM THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO

Follow Highway 61 south to the Canada/U.S. border, then continue south along the North Shore Scenic Drive to Grand

Portage. From Grand Portage, you can continue south on Highway 61 to reach our other communities: Grand Marais, the Gunflint Trail, Lutsen, Tofte and Schroeder.

FROM CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Head to the NW Tollway (Interstate 90). Continue on 90 to the 90/94 split. Take 94 North to Eau Claire, Wisconsin, then head north on Wisconsin 53 North and continue on to Duluth, Minnesota. Head north on Interstate 35 in Duluth, which will take you to the Highway 61/North Shore exit. Follow the North Shore Scenic Drive to Schroeder, for a total drive of roughly 550 miles. From Schroeder, you can travel to any of our communities: Tofte, Lutsen, Grand Marais, the Gunflint Trail and Grand Portage.

HEADING INTO CANADA? HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CROSSING THE BORDER

Canadian citizens entering the U.S. need a valid passport or approved travel document. Specific requirements depend upon age and citizenship status. Please consult this page on the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security's](https://www.dhs.gov/u-s-department-of-homeland-security) website for the most current information.

Anyone wishing to cross the Canada/U.S. border in a wilderness area, such as Quetico Provincial Park or the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness will need a [Remote Area Border Crossing Permit](#). There is a per person fee, renewable annually. Plan for your application to be processed in 4-6 weeks. If you prefer, an outfitter can mail you a copy of the necessary paperwork.

TRAVEL BY AIR

International airports are located in [Minneapolis/St. Paul](#) and [Duluth, Minnesota](#) and [Thunder Bay, Ontario](#). There is also a small airport just outside of [Grand Marais](#). For more information, please call 218-387-3024 or see the Cook County Airport website.

CHAPTER FIVE



Lodging Options

Cook County is a big place, and it attracts people from all walks of life. That's why we have so many different lodging options. Whether you're looking for a great place to park your RV, the North Shore's most remote campsites or a resort with all the amenities, you'll find it in Cook County.

Check out the Lodging page on our website for more detailed descriptions and booking opportunities.

BED AND BREAKFASTS

Looking to treat yourself a bit while you're in Cook County? Enjoy one of our lovely, quaint bed and breakfasts. Often tucked into beautiful pockets of wilderness, you'll be serenaded to sleep by the sounds of crickets chirping, loons calling and gentle breezes through the trees.

[Explore B&Bs](#)

CABINS

Whether you're traveling with a small group or a crowd, renting a cabin is a great way to set up a home base in Cook County. A touch of wilderness with the simple conveniences of home, cabins create opportunities to live differently during your stay in Cook County.

[Explore Cabins](#)

CAMPGROUNDS AND RV

Park your RV, pop up your camper, or set up your tent and settle in to your home-away-from-home in Cook County. With so many great campgrounds, the biggest challenge is choosing the perfect place. Book early and act fast – campsites in Cook County fill up quickly all summer long.

[Explore Campgrounds](#)

HOSTELS, YURTS, BUNKHOUSES, ETC.

Dare to try something different in Cook County this summer. With new, alternative lodging options, you could find yourself in a traditional yurt, an inexpensive hostel or a simple bunkhouse. Whatever your fancy, you can find it in Cook County.

[Explore Hostels, Yurts and more](#)

HOTELS, MOTELS AND SUITES

There's nothing wrong with staying in a traditional hotel or motel in Cook County. In fact, this is one of our most popular lodging opportunities every summer. Between hotel brands you know and locally owned and operated options, there's a room for you in Cook County.

[Explore Hotels, Motels and Suites](#)

LODGES AND RESORTS

For the classic American summer vacation experience, book a stay at one of our wonderful lodges resorts. Scattered throughout Cook County, our lodges and resorts are perfect for couples, families, large groups, and more. Stay with us once and come back year after year.

[Explore Lodges & Resorts](#)

VACATION RENTALS

Experience beautiful locations, stunning homes and the quiet tranquility of private vacation rentals in Cook County. From quaint, one-bedroom bungalows to large homes suitable for bigger gatherings, finding the perfect vacation rental is just a few clicks away.

[Explore Vacation Rentals](#)

CHAPTER SIX



Adventures: By Land

Cook County's diverse landscape beckons adventure-seekers from all around the world. Explore the Sawtooth mountain range and Minnesota's tallest peak, Eagle Mountain. Tackle some of the state's most scenic and challenging bike trails. Get into the wilderness and feel the need for speed on the back of an OHV/ATV. The possibilities are endless – go wherever your imagination and your heart take you.

HIKING

It really doesn't get much better than hiking in Cook County. We have nearly 400 miles of incredible trails, including the Superior Hiking Trail. Throughout the county, you'll find a variety of hikes that are perfect for any taste, ability and timeframe. No matter which trail you choose, you're sure to experience breathtaking views, diverse flora and fauna and a sense of accomplishment.

BIKING

Every year, we see more and more cyclists coming to Cook County to push their limits in the beautiful Northwoods. We have [trails](#) for just about every type of biking, available all summer long. Try the paved Gitchi-Gami State Trail, rugged single track or endless backcountry roads through the Superior National Forest.

OHV/ATV

Experiencing the Superior National Forest with an OHV/ATV can be a great way to reach some of the more remote areas of the region. We have miles of trails and backcountry roads available for all your adventures. Be sure to grab a copy of the [US Forest Service Motor Vehicle Use Maps](#) and follow the road signs to make sure you are on authorized ATV/OHV trail.

CLIMBING

If you've never experienced rock climbing in Cook County, you're in for an adventure. Or dramatic, glacially-formed landscape created beautiful and challenging rock faces that are begging to be explored. Throughout the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and along the shores of Lake Superior, you'll find some of the most enthralling climbing opportunities in the Midwest.

ALPINE SLIDE

There's nothing quite like the Alpine Slide at Lutsen Mountains. Try it once and you'll be talking about the experience for years. It's a thrill that can only be experienced in Cook County. Think roller coaster meets sledding in the summer, with a half mile of twisting and turning track which brings you back down to the base of the mountain.

ZIP LINE

The Towering Pines Canopy Tour at Gunflint Lodge is an adventure like no other. Featuring eight zip lines that thread through the boreal forest canopy, you'll spend an afternoon gliding through the treetops, experiencing views you just can't get anywhere else. Kids, grandparents and everyone in between can enjoy our zip line. Don't miss out on this adventure!

SUMMIT EXPRESS GONDOLA

Think the Summit Express Gondola at Lutsen Mountains is just for the winter? Think again! The gondola is open all year round and makes for a fun opportunity to take in the views of some of Cook County's most dramatic scenery – from the Poplar River Valley and the rugged north shore of Lake Superior to the surrounding peaks of the Sawtooth Mountains. It's a perfect adventure for all ages to enjoy.

CHAPTER SEVEN



Adventures: By Water

It wouldn't be a true summer vacation in Cook County if you didn't at least dip your toes into Lake Superior. Better yet, embark on adventure that gets you up close and personal with the largest great lake or one of our inland lakes or streams. It's a great way to beat the heat and take in some of the most beautiful views in the region.

CANOEING

There's a reason people have been canoeing and kayaking here for thousands of years. Cook County gleams with thousands of pristine inland lakes and countless miles of waterways. Canoeing is a great way to connect with family, friends and nature, away from the distractions and flurry of everyday life. An overnight trip into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) or a leisurely day paddle across crystal-clear waters will inspire and relax everyone in your group. Don't have a canoe, the proper gear or any idea how to start planning a BWCAW adventure? Our many outfitters will be happy to help you access what you need. For more information on the BWCAW, check out [chapter 9](#).

KAYAKING

There are some places you just can't access unless you're in the seat of a kayak. Fancy exploring the dramatic coast of Lake

Superior or paddling through inland lakes and streams? We can make it happen. Book a guided kayaking tour or plan a trip on your own. Our outfitters can provide the gear and supplies you need to make every adventure a success.

FISHING

You could spend your entire Cook County vacation with a line in the water and never get bored. With so many lakes and streams to explore, the lure of catching record Chinook Salmon, Pink Salmon, Rainbow Trout, Lake Trout, Whitefish and Walleye draws countless visitors to our region each summer. Whether you're an old pro or are interested in a guide to show you some of the finer details, a fishing adventure in Cook County is just what you need to top off the perfect summer vacation.

SWIMMING

Minnesota is known as the land of 10,000(+) lakes and Cook County is home to some of the most beautiful and remote lakes in the state. You'll find bodies of water just about everywhere you turn in Cook County. Spend the day playing in the water or take a dip after a day out on the trails. In the heat of summer, a dip in the pristine, crystal waters of our lakes and streams is just what the doctor ordered.

CHAPTER EIGHT



Adventures: The Finer Things

From our quirky, artsy scene to fine dining experiences, there's always something to new explore in Cook County. Festivals, events, dining, music and entertainment are sure to please the entire family, and don't forget that our resorts and spas are some of the world's best. Whether you're here to relax or play, your stay will be naturally unforgettable.

EXPERIENCE THE ARTS

Natural inspiration runs rampant in Cook County. Every year, artist and artisans visit Cook County to relax, rejuvenate and renew their connection with nature and their inspiration for creativity. Explore the many unique galleries featuring local artists in Grand Marais. Take a class yourself and hone your creative skills while you're here. Catch a concert or festival and surround yourself with music and culture. No matter how you express your creativity, you'll discover your muse in Cook County.

DEVOUR FINE FOOD AND DRINK

Cook County may be off the beaten path, but that doesn't mean you'll have to sacrifice on dining opportunities. You'll find all kinds of fantastic places to eat in the four communities of Cook County, Minnesota: Lutsen-Tofte-Schroeder, Grand Marais, the Gunflint Trail and Grand Portage. Sate your taste buds and try cuisine you can't find anywhere else in the world - we have craft beer brewers, a winery and a cidery, to boot.

SHOP LOCAL

With so many artisans and local business owners, we take shopping for souvenirs to the next level. You won't find any malls or big-box stores here. Instead, you'll find unhurried

shopping for just about every taste, pastime and fancy you have. Shopping in our communities is a welcome opportunity to browse family-owned shops and galleries, chat with passionate local artisans and discover fine art and one-of-a-kind handcrafted items you won't find anywhere else.

LEARN OUR HISTORY

Typically, the history of a region is reserved for museums and history books. That's not the case in Cook County. Here, our history is alive and well. Perhaps that's why the historic hubs of trading and pioneer life are now vibrant centers of commerce, art and recreation. Our museums and galleries are just steps away from breathtaking lakes, waterfalls, mountains, Lake Superior vistas and miles of hiking trails.

INDULGE AT RESORTS AND SPAS

Many come to Cook County for our outdoor adventures, but everyone needs a little pampering after days (or weeks) out in the elements, pushing physical limits. Treat yourself to a hot stone massage, enjoy a Scandinavian-style sauna, bask in a private hot tub. You deserve a little pampering before you return to your everyday routine.

EXPERIENCE OUR FESTIVALS

In Cook County, Minnesota, we know how to have a good time and there's no shortage of festivals and events to keep you busy. Among the thousands—that's not a typo—of happenings we host each year are over a dozen festivals and major events. Whether your definition of "good time" is discovering the vibrancy of Ojibwe culture, chowing down on fish burgers, or dancing the night away, we've got a festival that's right up your alley.

CHAPTER NINE



Adventures: Get in Touch with Nature

One of the top reasons many visitors come to Cook County year after year is the opportunity to step back and reconnect with nature. But it's more than that. It's a chance to breathe fresh air, disconnect from the daily grind and get back in touch with what's most important in your life. Experiencing nature in Cook County is good for the body, the mind and the soul.

CAMPING

A Minnesota classic. Whether you're enjoying the comforts of an RV or pop-up trailer or are roughing it in a tent, camping in Minnesota is the epitome of summer vacation. Kids love the adventure. Adults love the chance to set technology aside for a few days and reconnect with what's truly important. Slow down, catch up and enjoy our many state and national parks to the max.

BIRDING

Cook County is home to a wide variety of bird species that dazzle all, from casual birders to ornithologists alike. The summer breeding season, late May through early August, lures birders inland with 20 species of Warblers, Evening Grosbeak, Olive-sided, Yellow-bellied, and Alder Flycatchers—and that's just the beginning of the list. The Superior National Forest is home to over 155 different species of birds, so be sure to keep your eyes open while you're exploring the trails and wilderness of Cook County.

BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS (BWCAW)

A quintessential Minnesota summer vacation bucket list item is a trip through the BWCAW. It's Minnesota's most rugged, most remote and possibly most beautiful wilderness area, and it's waiting for explorers. Imagine paddling a canoe across glacial lakes, portaging through pristine wilderness and camping in secluded sites away from technology, traffic

and the sounds of civilization. Not sure where to begin? Our outfitters will be more than happy to help you plan a BWCAW adventure you'll never forget.

BERRY PICKING

Is there anything better than fresh, North Shore blueberries? Short answer: no! Long answer: berry picking in Cook County is a fun activity for all ages. We've got blueberries, strawberries, chokecherries, pin cherries, raspberries and thimbleberries growing almost everywhere you look. An afternoon picking fresh berries is an afternoon well spent. We hope you'll have some to bring home and turn into preserves – but chances are you'll gobble them up straight away!

AGATE HUNTING

While you're exploring the shores of Lake Superior, don't forget to look down. Cook County is one of the world's best place to find agates, beautifully banded stone created millions of years ago. But remember, you don't have to be right near Lake Superior to look for agates. Agates can be found anywhere rocks have been dropped by glaciers or moved by humans. While Lake Superior's shoreline may be the most picturesque place to find agates, you'll find them in gravel pits and on dirt roads, too.

WATERFALLS

While spring is the generally most exciting time to view Minnesota's most dramatic waterfalls, spotting one of these beauties on a summer hike can easily become a highlight of the day. Some of the more dramatic include Devil's Kettle Falls in Judge C.R. Magney State Park, the ephemeral "phantom falls" that pour from the cliffs lining Highway 61, and the High Falls of the Pigeon River in Grand Portage State Park. At 120 feet, High Falls is the highest waterfall in Minnesota, and also serves as the border to Canada. No wonder it is sometimes called "Minnesota's Niagara."

CHAPTER TEN



Cook County Events

There's no shortage of events and things to do throughout Cook County, and summer is our busiest time of year. Whether it's a music festival, art showcases, endurance races or an education session, we've got something for everyone to enjoy.

Be sure to check out our [online events calendar](http://www.VisitCookCounty.Com/Events) for the most up-to-date information. We look forward to having you dive in, meet new people, try new things, and enjoy summer to the fullest.

www.VisitCookCounty.Com/Events

Arts & Culture

Cook County is simply teeming with creativity. From our annual Art Along the Lake Gallery Tours and the Grand Marais Art Festival to courses and classes at the North House Folk School or the Rendezvous Days and Pow-Wow in Grand Portage, you'll find opportunities to experience our incredible arts and culture.

Music & Entertainment

Music is an integral part of Cook County's history and culture. You'll find live music at local spots throughout Cook County, so get ready to discover new artists and music at every turn. We also host several music festivals throughout the year. Ready to dance to your heart's content? Good. See you this summer.

Nature

You literally can not step foot in Cook County without marveling at the natural beauty that covers every square inch of our region. Experience it yourself on our trails, or attend a naturalist program to dive deeper into what makes our ecosystem so unique.

Festivals

Music. Art. Culture. The solstice. Changing seasons. Oktoberfest. We're always up for celebrating with a festival in Cook County. We love the creativity and excitement that festivals bring to our region, and we hope to see you celebrating with us this summer.

Races & Adventures

With hundreds of miles of trails in some of the state's most beautiful and challenging backcountry, it's easy to see why we host so many incredible races throughout the year. Between mountain biking, road biking and walking/running events, you'll find a race that will challenge you physically and mentally.

Educational

Learning something new is always fun up in Cook County. Whether you're trying your hand at boatmaking, learning to paddle a canoe in preparation for an adventure into the BWCA, or looking to learn more about the environment that surrounds us, you'll find educational opportunities for everyone to enjoy.

Be sure to check our [online events calendar](http://www.VisitCookCounty.Com/Events) for updates, details and more great things to do in Cook County.

