

# Carlton Peak



SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST

NORTH SHORE AREA

TOFTE & GRAND MARAIS, MN

## Features

- Hiking only
- 550 foot elevation gain
- 3 miles round trip from Britton Peak Trailhead (see map on reverse)
- Part of Superior Hiking Trail
- Views of Lake Superior and Temperance River Valley



## Leave No Trace

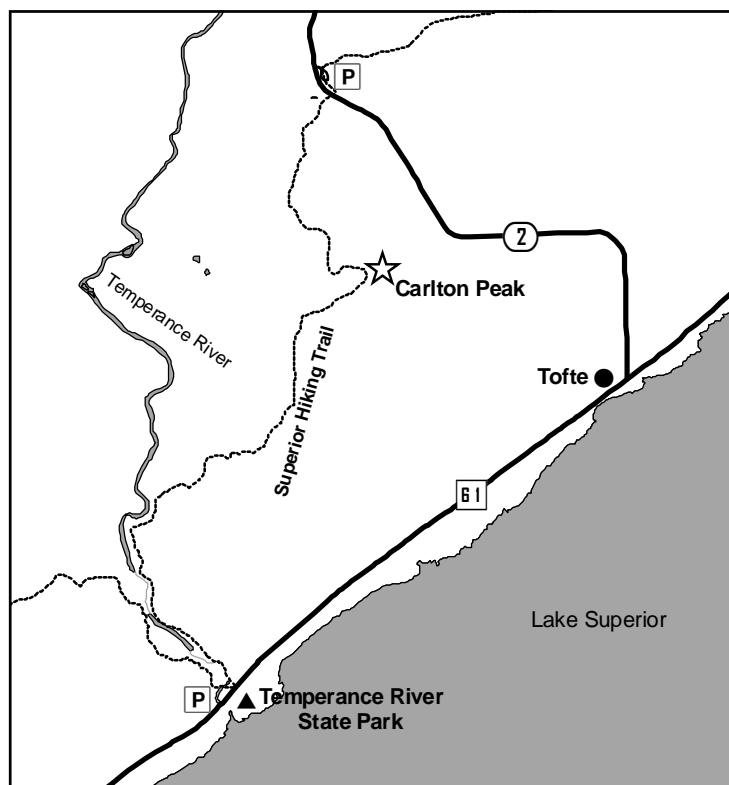


1. Plan ahead and prepare.
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly.
4. Minimize use and impact of fires.
5. Respect wildlife.
6. Leave what you find.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.

## Location

Carlton Peak is located between the Temperance River and Britton Peak trailheads. You can hike from either trailhead.

- Park on the north side of Hwy 61 at Temperance River State Park and follow the Cauldron Trail to the Superior Hiking Trail.  
*or*
- Park at the Britton Peak Trailhead on the east side of Co 2 (Sawbill Tr.) 2 miles from Tofte. Follow the Superior Hiking Trail back to the west across Co 2. Do not park at the Carlton Peak overlook on the east side of Co 2.



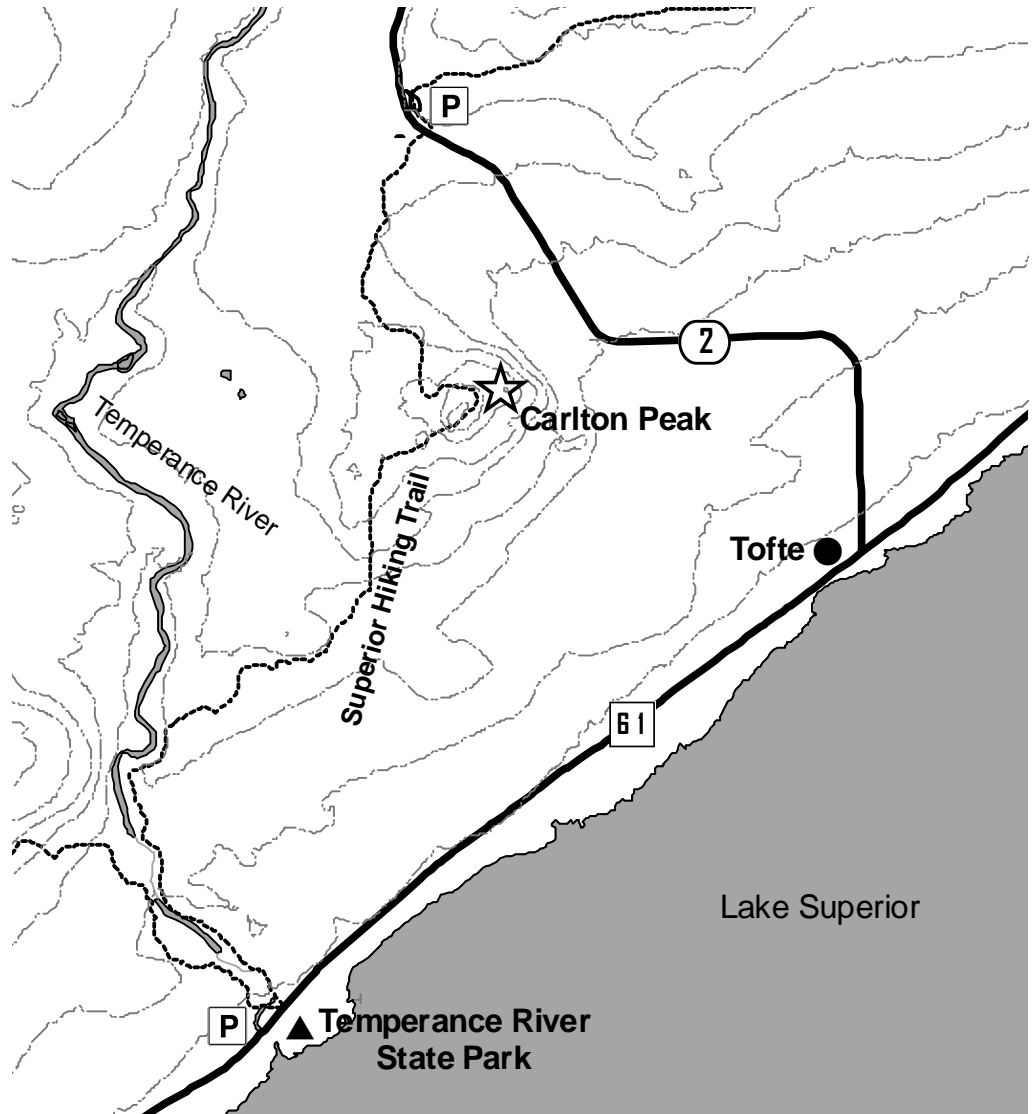
# Superior National Forest - Carlton Peak

## How Tall is Carlton Peak?

While by no means the tallest of the Sawtooth Mountains along Lake Superior's North Shore, Carlton Peak is certainly the most distinctive. From a distance, it stands out as a lone high point, 924 feet above lake level, separate from the ridges to the north and south.

## How Did the Peak Get There?

The rock of Carlton Peak was formed deep under the earth's crust. Molten rock cooled slowly, forming large green and pink crystals of anorthosite, an aluminum oxide mineral. About a billion years ago, this large block of anorthosite was rafted up on the magma that was forming the North Shore's cliffs and rocks. Glaciers eventually eroded away much of the surrounding volcanic rock, but they couldn't scrape away the hard anorthosite that formed Carlton Peak.



## Why is Carlton Peak So Well Known?

Named for Reuben Carlton, who guided surveyors into the area in 1848, Carlton Peak has played an important role in the history of the North Shore. In late 1800's and early 1900's, commercial fishermen used Carlton Peak's distinctive rocky top for navigation.

In 1907, a new Minnesota company called Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing (now 3M), blasted into Carlton Peak. They were looking for corundum, a very hard mineral used to make sandpaper. Instead, they found anorthosite. While it did not work well for sandpaper, the anorthosite was later quarried and used to construct Taconite Harbor, the Tofte Ranger Station, and several other projects.

You can still find the remnants of a fire tower on the peak. Built by Edward and C. Lester Tofte in 1946, the tower served until it was torn down in the mid 1960's. Today Carlton Peak is part of Temperance River State Park.

**Gunflint Ranger District**  
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## Need more information?

on the web at:  
[www.fs.fed.us/r9/superior](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/superior)

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