St. Louis River Eco-Kayak Tours

Pick Your Date

HERE’S WHAT TO EXPECT:
Discover the unique natural and cultural history of the Lower St. Louis River, the United States’ largest Lake Superior tributary and Lake Superior, the world’s largest lake by surface area. Choose from three different beginner level tours: The Historic Fond du Lac Riverfront and Birding Tour, the Duluth Waterfront Tour and the Duluth North Shoreline Tour. Use your choice of sea kayak and enjoy access to a stand-up paddleboard during the tour. We’ll begin with a basic introduction and incorporate on water instruction throughout the three to six mile tour. We will paddle rain or shine and the weather conditions of the day will determine the degree of difficulty. Children aged six and above are welcome to participate in a tandem kayak with an adult.
Meets at the UMD Boat Shed. Approximately 4 hours.

WHERE: All of our tours meet at the UMD Boat Shed on Park Point.
Directions: Arriving in Duluth taking I-35 North, take exit #256B towards Lake Ave - go 0.5 mi, turn Left on W Commerce St - go 0.1 mi, turn Right on Lake Ave, go over the lift bridge, turn Right on 15TH ST S, turn Right on St Louis Ave (T in front of armory), we are next to the armory. For the Superior Harbor Tour we launch from and return to the Aquatic Center. For the Spirit Lake Birding Tour and the Historic Fond du Lac Neighborhood Tour, we trailer the boats to the launch sites. You can ride along in our van, or follow behind in your own vehicle.

COURSE INFORMATION: You will learn:
What to do in the event of a capsize “dry land wet exits”
Instructor demonstrates assisted rescue methods
Paddle strokes: forward touring stroke, reverse stroke, forward and reverse sweep and in water recovery draw.
Bracing for stability: low brace and sculling low brace.

EQUIPMENT: Summer weather in Duluth Can be wet and cold please bring: Swimsuit & Towel, Filled Water Bottle, Sunglasses with Strap, Eyeglasses must have retaining strap, Sunscreen, Shoes that will get wet, Warm hat and Sun Hat, Synthetic long underwear top and bottom, Rain Jacket and Warm jacket

WE PROVIDE: boats, paddles, lifejackets, wetsuits and accessories

COST: $50/person/day (2-3 people)
$45/person/day (4-6 people)

The Real Classroom Is Outside...Get Into It!
**Duluth Waterfront Tour**
This tour explores the mouth of the St. Louis River and begins at our Aquatic Center, located on Minnesota Avenue. We’ll paddle along the world’s longest freshwater sandbar and circumnavigate Herding Island, a sanctuary for herring gulls, ringbilled gulls, terns, cormorants and other marine birds. Experience the activity of a working harbor as we paddle alongside visiting ships from around the world enroute to the William A. Irvin, a docked 700 foot ore boat. And if the conditions are right, feel Lake Superior swells slip beneath your boat as we paddle past the Aerial Lift Bridge.

**Historic Fond du Lac Riverfront and Birding Tour**
Discover the rich natural and cultural history of the Fond du Lac neighborhood by sea kayak. The ruined docks where paddlewheel ferry boats from days gone by once anchored are visible at our put-in. Our kayaks will slip between the narrows separating the twin Islands Nakuk (goose) and Amik (beaver), once homes and gardens of the Ojibwe Indians. Watch for bald eagles, osprey, river otters, beaver, muskrats and other river mammals who call this area home. Our tour concludes with voyageur lore and a paddle upstream through a narrow gorge, where the St. Louis River’s current moves quickly beneath the Fond du Lac Dam. Then it’s time to turn around for a free ride back to our put-in.

**Duluth North Shoreline Tour**
Paddle Lake Superior, the largest lake in the world! We will launch from our surf shack at the mouth of the Lester River and explore the rugged basaltic shoreline. Along the way we will discover geologic clues that offer a glimpse into the past- when the workings of fire and ice combined to create this national treasure. You will feel the immenseness of this great lake as we paddle atop hundreds of feet of crystal clear water spreading to the horizon and beyond to Canada nearly 300 miles away.
Directions to UMD Outpost/National Kayak & Canoe Center

From the south take the Highway 210 exit and drive east to Carlton. Continue straight for 1 mile on Highway 210.

From the north take the Scanlon exit and turn left on County Road 45. Drive south to Carlton and turn left on Highway 210. Go 1 mile east on Highway 210.

Follow directions to UMD Boat Shed and then continue south on Minnesota Ave to the far south end of Park Point. Park in the lot just south of the volleyball courts.

Directions to Adventure Sport Beach Recreation Meeting Site

Take Interstate 35 north into Duluth and go right at the Lake Avenue/Canal Park exit. Turn left in front of the Iron Ore boat and right at the next stoplight. Drive into Canal Park and over the Lift Bridge. Continue on Minnesota Avenue to 15th Street and turn right. The Boat Shed is the brown building adjacent to St. Louis Bay.