

## 4.Organtz Overlook Route



**View from Picnic trail overlook 1, Photo spot #1**

**Highlights:** The picnic loop has two **spectacular overlooks** which you can see right away. Otherwise, it is an easy and beautiful hike through a hardwood forest.

(The trail is currently blocked after the third overlook, so you might want to hike back to the start of the Organtz Trail and circle around the blocked site. This would be a three-mile hike altogether). **The hike to the third overlook and back is about one and one third miles. You can combine this with the Grand Portage Route for a four- and one-half mile hike. Check at the Swinging Bridge Ranger Station on current conditions.**

## Parking and Directions:

From I35 take the 239 exit to Scanlon. Turn left on highway 45 and follow into Carlton. Turn left at the 210 intersection and follow 210 into Jay Cooke Park. **Go past the Swinging Bridge parking area and cross the high bridge over the valley. Right after the bridge look to your right for the Oldenburg Picnic area.** After parking head west to the first overlook spot.

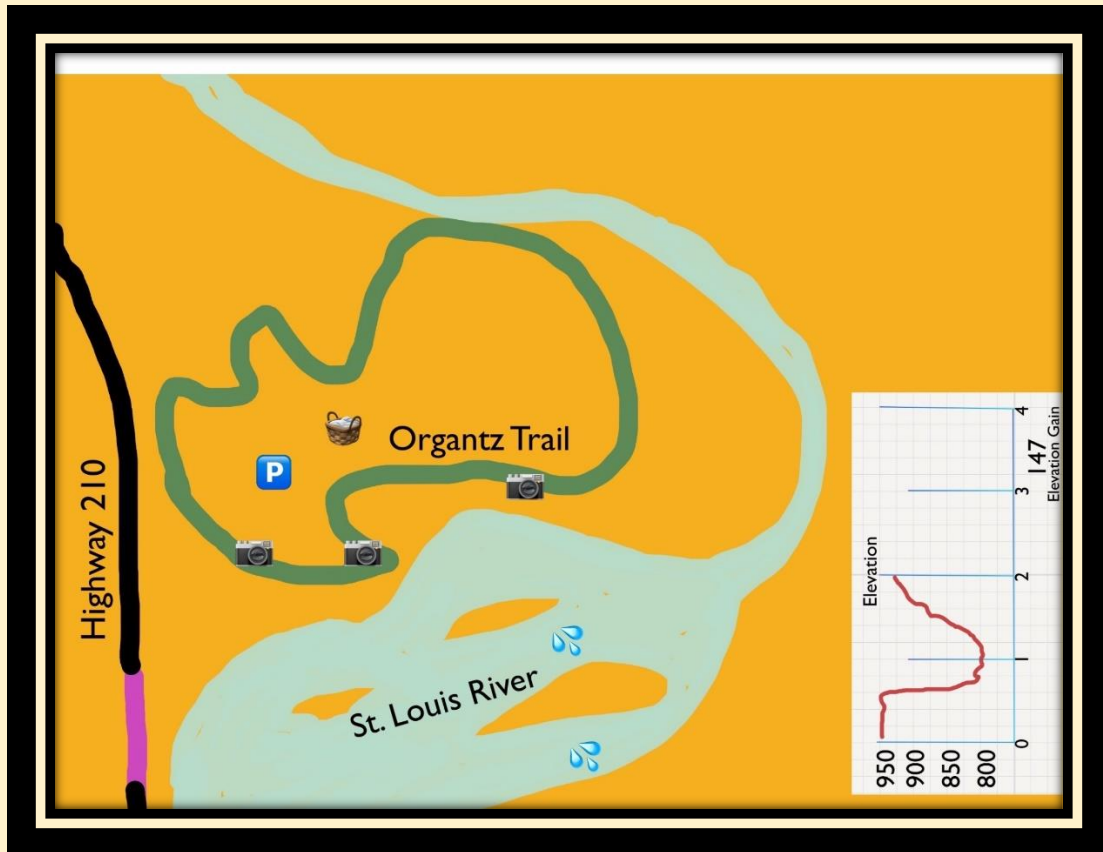


Oldenburg Picnic Area Sign

**Distance: Full loop 2 miles**

**Difficulty: easy to moderate**

**Recommended for: most hikers**



## The Route:

**Mile 1:** The trail starts at overlook one which is **photo spot#1**. This is one of the most spectacular views in Minnesota, especially in early October. I go to this spot almost every year in the fall. Follow the rock wall to another overlook of the river valley that includes several waterfalls. This is **photo spot #2**. Continue along the trail till you see a sign on your right for the **Organtz Trail**. Follow this trail through a beautiful wooded area and down a fairly steep hill. At the bottom of the hill is a wooden stairway leading to the third overlook and **photo spot #3**. **(Be careful, these steps can be slippery)**

**Mile 2:** Continue on this trail which will take you up a fairly steep hill back toward the parking area. You will end up on the other side of the parking lot.





**View from second overlook in fall, photo spot #2**



**View number two from photo spot #2**



**View from overlook #3 in fall, photo spot#3**

**Extended Route:** I would recommend hiking the **Silver Creek Trail** in combination with the **Organtz Trail**. This will give you a total of **six miles** hiking.

**Family Friendly Route:** Because the first two overlooks are close to the parking area this makes a great spot for impressive scenery without a long hike. Enjoy the picnic area after taking a short hike around the loop.

**After the Hike:** This is a great hike on a nice day for just about anyone. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the view from the three overlooks. After hiking head back to Carlton to the **Magnolia Café** [Magnolia Cafe – Carlton, MN – Cafe' that offers a quick stop for coffee, espresso, ice cream treat or quick bite to eat. \(magnoliacafecarlton.com\)](http://magnoliacafecarlton.com) or **Sweetly Kismet Candy Store**. [GIFT STORE, DESTINATION OF THE NORTH, DULUTH, CARLTON, MINNESOTA, FAMILY FRIENDLY - Sweetly Kismet Candy Store](#) If in the mood for a cold beverage try the **Streetcar Kitchen** [Home - Streetcar Kitchen and Pub | Your Gateway to Jay Cooke State Park](#) or the **Third Base Bar** in Carlton. <https://thirdbasebar.com>

**Strava Link** [JLOrgantz Trail Overlook Route | 1.2 mi Hiking Trail on Strava](#)

For Trail maps and conditions, head to [Jay Cooke State Park | Minnesota DNR](#)

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