

CARLTON LANDING HOMESCHOOL VACATION TRAVEL GUIDE



Where Broken Bow Meets 30A

Nature Apps / Local Discovery / Outdoor Fun / Healthy Eats

By Amanda Coleman | Owner of The Lodge on Twinkle Lane



EDITOR'S Talk



TRUTH, GOODNESS & BEAUTY

"When the atmosphere encourages learning, learning is inevitable."

-Elizabeth
Foss

Strong families are the bedrock of a strong nation & our children's minds and souls are our greatest treasure. Being apart of forming their minds and character to become men & women who think deeply, love learning & desire to live a virtuous life for others is the greatest privilege & responsibility we have as a parent.

Vacationing in beautiful, family-friendly Carlton Landing allows you to discover new places close to home while creating fun new memories together as a family. We at The Lodge look forward to hosting you!

Amanda Coleman, Editor of _____
*Carlton Landing Homeschool
Vacation Travel Guide Magazine*



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ABOUT US

We are the **Coleman Family**. Adam and I grew up in small town Oklahoma but have lived in Fort Worth for almost 20 years. We have three children, Sommer(11), Dawson(13) & Hudson(15).

We purchased The Lodge on Twinkle Lane in Carlton Landing in hopes of having a place to retreat from the daily routines of life, especially as our kids enter the teen years; a place to unplug & focus on each other; a place to bring friends & build not just a stronger family, but stronger friendships as well.

Although we have chosen to publicly educate our kids in Montessori & Classical schools, I am a homeschooler at heart & am always looking for ways to expose our kids to various ideas & places. As I looked around Carlton Landing, I stood in awe of eastern Oklahoma's beauty & as I discovered Oklahoma's rich history, this Travel Guide was born.



www.TheLodgeOnTwinkleLane.com

Carlton Landing is surrounded by nature & offers not only a beautiful place to explore but peace & rest for the soul. As you enter the gates, you'll feel the layers of stress begin to peel away. We look forward to hosting your family, recommending new places for you to discover together, & creating an environment that fosters the growth of strong relationships.

-Amanda Coleman



"The best education I have ever received was through travel."

-Lisa Ling



Connect with us!

Instagram: @TheLodgeOnTwinkleLane

Facebook: Facebook.com/TheLodgeOnTwinkleLane

NATURE APPS

The nature-focused apps shared in this guide are all free. You will not only love using them to explore Carlton Landing and the surrounding areas, but they will be something you continue enjoying together long after your vacation has ended!



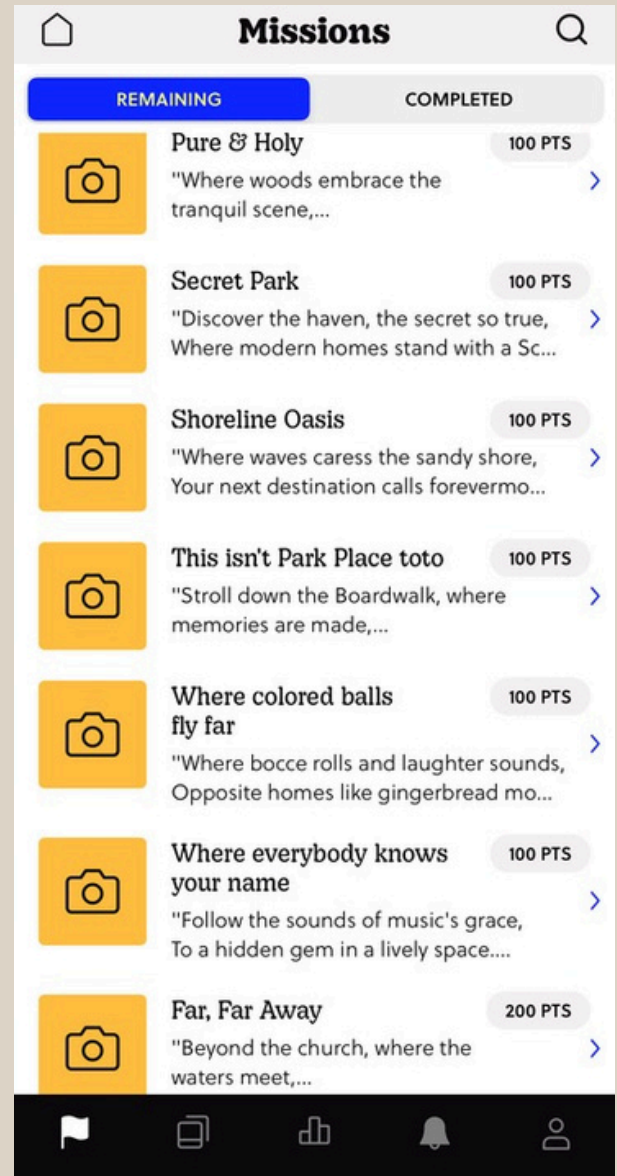
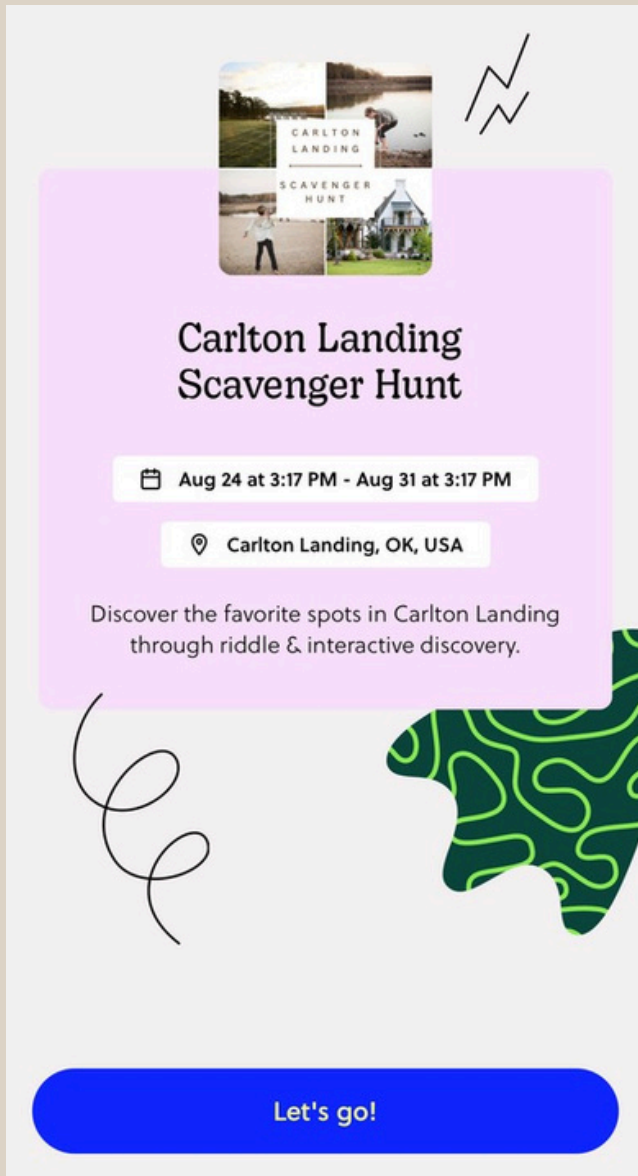
Birds, Stars, Plants, _____ & Treasure Hunting

Vacation based discovery

SCAVENGER HUNT

"Goosechase"

Interactive scavenger hunt app



Goosechase is a FREE app that sends you on many missions to discover the beautiful Carlton Landing area in a fun, challenging & interactive way.

We have created multiple missions, each with a riddle geared at allowing your child to be in the "driver's seat". They propel them to use their directional, thesaurus, logic & map reading skills.

Once you have reached your destination, upload a photo of it to the mission to earn points. You may split your crew into 2-3 teams to make this into a competition!

You may choose to complete your Goosechase quickly, or over the course of your stay.

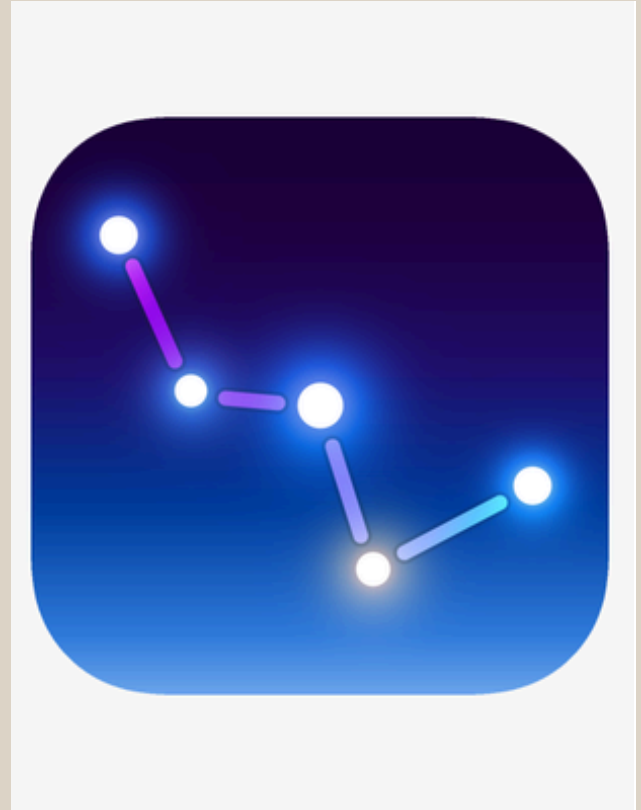


Discover 10,000 plant species

"Picture This"

This app is a digital plant encyclopedia that allows you to take pictures of real plants and submit them for identification. You can learn together as a family about plants unique to eastern Oklahoma as you hike amongst the various trails or explore Carlton Landing's community garden & unique landscape. If you are without cell service, you can take pictures to submit later. Foraging has never been so fun!

When the screen pops up for the free trial, simply click "cancel" or "X" in the top right corner. Although optional, the \$30 annual fee unlocks the full catalog of plants.



Star gaze with this constellation finder

"Sky Guide"

This gorgeous astronomy app takes your family on a journey through the universe. Better than learning about the stars in your home classroom is discovering them under the clear black sky of Carlton Landing. It's best enjoyed at The Overlook rocking peacefully in the iconic white rocking chairs.

The in-depth interface will draw your kids in and keep them exploring. The ever-changing sky, regular satellite flybys, & planetary conjunctions will keep you returning to the app long after vacation ends.



Work together to find the treasure

"GeoCaching"

Geocaching is a high tech, global treasure hunt of people looking for caches, or hidden stashes, of objects. It's a worldwide movement and Carlton Landing has multiple caches to hunt for!

Geocaching is a fun and free family activity that gets you exploring different parts of the community that you might not have otherwise. Some caches are easy and others require everyone putting your heads together to find it. Teamwork!



Identify bird sounds

"Merlin Bird ID"

This app listens to the birds around you and shows you real-time suggestions for who's singing. It is also able to identify based on a photo. This app works completely offline, so you can identify birds you hear no matter where you are.

This app forces you to be still so you focus solely on your sense of sound. What a wonderful discipline to develop! The more you use it & become familiar with different bird songs, you'll start knowing them without the help of the app!



©Explore the Ozarks

LOCAL EXPLORATION



@MOONFLOWER.PHOTOS

Surrounded by nature

You'll love how eastern Oklahoma's famous historical sites are surrounded by nature, so bring your hiking shoes!



ROBBER'S CAVE

Tucked in the southeast corner of Oklahoma, 45 minutes from Carlton Landing, past the beautiful vistas of Lake Eufaula is a peaceful, yet adventurous place. Described as a relaxing hideaway in the land of the outlaws, Robbers Cave State Park gets its name from the hideout for a notorious group of bandits storied to be led by the outlaw Jesse James and other desperados in cahoots with local outlaw Belle Starr. The park's legendary history blends the myths of the Wild West, tales of the Civil War and the saga of America's westward expansion among the breathtaking landscape of the Sans Bois Mountains, a frontal belt of the Ouachita Mountains in southeast Oklahoma.

Almost as if ripped straight from the pages of a classic western, the park's secluded location, wooded pathways and proximity to historic Texas and California roads paved the way for the tales surrounding the park's infamous beginnings. During the post-Civil War period, James' activity in the area was at its height and Belle Starr, who was known for harboring outlaws, lived in a cabin about 20 miles north of Robbers Cave. The combination of fact and fable shrouded the area in the legends that exist to this day.

Visitors can take a naturalist-guided cave tour/hike or can simply choose to head out alone. For hikers or anyone visiting the park, trails are clearly indicated by color-coded markings to direct your path. A must-see trail leads visitors straight to the park's most popular feature, Robbers Cave.

There are three routes to choose from, so hikers can tackle the pathway that best fits their abilities. The red path is the most direct approach to the cave but requires the most skill as the steep grade can be physically challenging at times. For less seasoned climbers, the blue and orange routes offer an adventurous trek up a moderate grade. The entire trail takes about an hour to hike, making it a perfect family excursion. The rocky terrain and sandstone cliffs provide an amazing view of the gently rolling forest covered mountains. While on your way to or from the cave, be sure to keep an eye out for the Stone Corral where the gangs were rumored to stow their horses while they hid in the cave itself. To learn more, click [HERE](#). And [HERE](#).



HEAVENER RUNESTONE



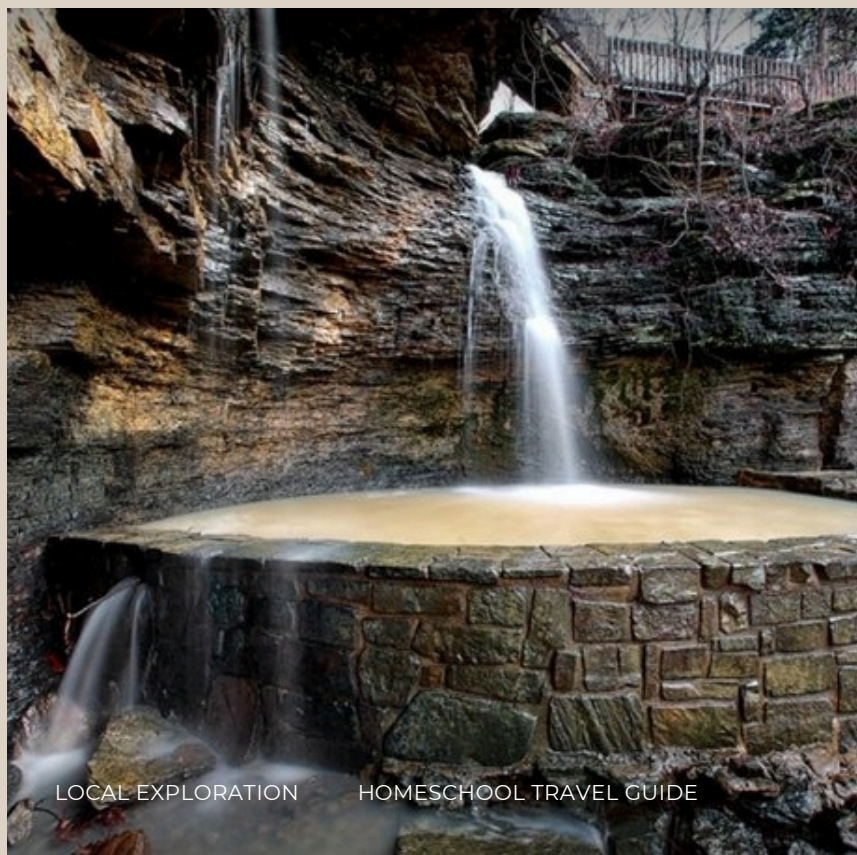
One and a half hours from Carlton Landing, the Heavener Runestone Park is a 55 acre park best known for being the home of a large sandstone that contains 8 ancient markings. At the park, they hear all sorts of theories from it being made by the Irish, the French, Egyptians, to the ninth templar. For those with a profession in sorting this type of artifact, the most agreed upon conclusion is that the markings were made between 600 and 800 AD by Vikings or Scandinavians.

Once believed to contain a date, it is now believed the stone was a boundary marker or land claim. The eight runes believed to be from the Elder Futhark translate best to gnomedal or glomedal which is "Little Valley" or "Valley owned by Glome"

This park offers a little over 2 miles of hiking trails, a scenic overlook with a view of the city of Heavener, a playground, seasonal waterfall, picnic areas, amphitheater, event center, gift shop and breathtaking views.

Wildlife often found in the park include a variety of birds such as woodpeckers and the occasional bald eagle, deer, chipmunks, squirrels, lizards, snakes, a vulture family, armadillos, opossums, and a couple wild cats that help with the rodent population. There is both a hawk and an owl that live at the lower entry to the park as well as several rabbits and a couple road runners. When visiting, you may also spot a few endangered animals that make Runestone Park their home, such as bats and Red Cockade Woodpeckers.

To learn more, click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).



SPIRO MOUNDS



About 1.25 hours east of Carlton Landing, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center preserves 150 acres of the site that encompass twelve mounds, the elite village area and part of the support city. The mounds site, located seven miles outside of Spiro, Oklahoma, is the only prehistoric, American Indian archaeological site in Oklahoma open to the public.

Although various groups of people camped on or near the Spiro area over the previous 8,000 years, the location did not become a permanent settlement until AD 800 and was used until about AD 1450. The mounds are one of the most important American Indian sites in the nation. The prehistoric Spiro people created a sophisticated culture which, because of location on the Arkansas River, influenced the entire Southeast. Artifacts indicate an extensive trade network, a highly-developed religious center, and a political system which controlled the entire region.

The center offers interpretive exhibits, an introductory slide program, and a small gift shop. Visitors can explore nearly two miles of interpreted trails, including a one-half mile nature trail.

A historian is on site to answer questions and lead tours. Schools and large groups of 10 or more can arrange for guided tours of the site by contacting the staff by phone or email at least a week ahead of time.

To learn more, click [HERE](#).

For more historic sites in Oklahoma:

[15 Must See Historic Sites in Oklahoma](#)

[Explore The Ozarks](#)

[Dripping Springs where part of Where the Red Fern Grows was filmed](#)



CLAY HARVESTING:

A Hands-On Earth Science Adventure at Lake Eufaula

If your homeschool curriculum includes earth science, a trip to Carlton Landing offers a unique opportunity to get hands-on with one of nature's most versatile materials—clay! The Lake Eufaula area is rich in natural clay deposits, making clay harvesting a fun and educational activity for kids of all ages.

Where to Find Clay

Clay is often found along the shoreline of Lake Eufaula and in creek beds near Carlton Landing. Look for smooth, dense soil with a slightly sticky texture when wet—this is a good sign you've found a natural clay deposit.

How to Harvest Clay

1. Dig & Collect – Use small shovels or even your hands to scoop out chunks of clay-rich soil.
2. Refine the Clay – Remove rocks, leaves, and debris by kneading the clay with a little water.
3. Experiment & Create – Once the clay is pliable, kids can mold it into shapes, create small sculptures, or even try making simple pottery.

Learning Opportunities

- Science: Discuss how clay forms over time through weathering and erosion.
- Art: Create handmade clay pieces and let them air-dry as keepsakes.
- History: Explore how Native American tribes in Oklahoma used natural clay for pottery and tools.

Be sure to bring a bucket to carry your clay & wear old clothes!

Clay harvesting is a fantastic way to connect with nature, learn about geology, and spark creativity—all while making wonderful family memories in Carlton Landing!

Click [HERE](#) to hear more



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HEALTHY RESTAURANTS

As a homeschooler, you understand the importance of fueling your family's bodies with nutritious food, not just their minds with wholesome truth.



LET THY FOOD BE THY MEDICINE
RESTAURANTS

HEALTHY(ER) PLACES TO FUEL YOUR BODY



03

Healthy restaurants. So you can enjoy fresh foods on vacation.

MAMA TIG'S WOOD FIRED PIZZA

IN CARLTON LANDING



Mama Tig's is a stone's throw from The Lodge and a treat you'll enjoy when you visit Carlton Landing! We love their gluten free crust & that they don't blink when we ask for a cheese-free pizza. They also offer cauliflower crust & delicious salads!

If you are in Carlton Landing on a day they are closed, the Mama Tigs in downtown Eufaula is likely open.



If your need for a gluten free crust is an allergy rather than a preference, they make sure to clean their surfaces very well. They also use a very clean cutter so as to not to intermingle any food. They do their best on all allergy orders.

Note: their gluten free crust is also vegan friendly. The cauliflower crust contains brown rice flour.

TULIP & TABLE CAFE

SOUP, SANDWICH & SALAD SHOP

IN DOWNTOWN EUFAULA



Tulip & Table is a Floral/Gift Shop and Cafe in downtown Eufaula which is 15 minutes from Carlton Landing. Entice your tastebuds with their fresh and healthy soups, salads & sandwiches. Also, be sure to try their delicious desserts & drinks.



"I loved the atmosphere of the little cafe. The food was amazing.

I had the French onion soup and it was the best soup I've ever had.

Two days later I went back and had the turkey sandwich, the Italian Bird, with some Asian noodles and they were also delicious."

HIGHSTREET COFFEE SHOP

IN DOWNTOWN EUFAULA

SIGNATURE DRINKS

THE KINNETT

Iced Honey Breve with Raw Sugar and Honey rim

KICKIN' COWBOY

Cream Cold Brew with Chocolate, Cinnamon and Cayenne. Shaken, not stirred. Topped with whip.

BUZZING BEE LATTE

Honey and Coconut Latte topped with whip.

POWER FRAPPE

Peanut Butter and Banana Frappe with Collagen Protein.



Highstreet coffee is associated with a local church, so not only do they serve delicious coffee & offer healthy options to boot, you're also supporting Kingdom work with each purchase!

See their healthy coffee options above. Gluten free & protein waffle options available!

"Absolutely amazing- we stopped while traveling. I got a cold brew and husband got a collagen shake. I left my credit card behind and they found me and reached out and saved the day! Will have to stop by again if ever in town!"

Visit their [Facebook page](#).

For more healthy eats:

[Le Salt Deli](#) in Downtown McAlester



4 REASONS WHY YOU'LL LOVE STAYING AT

THE LODGE ON TWINKLE LANE

During your time in Carlton Landing



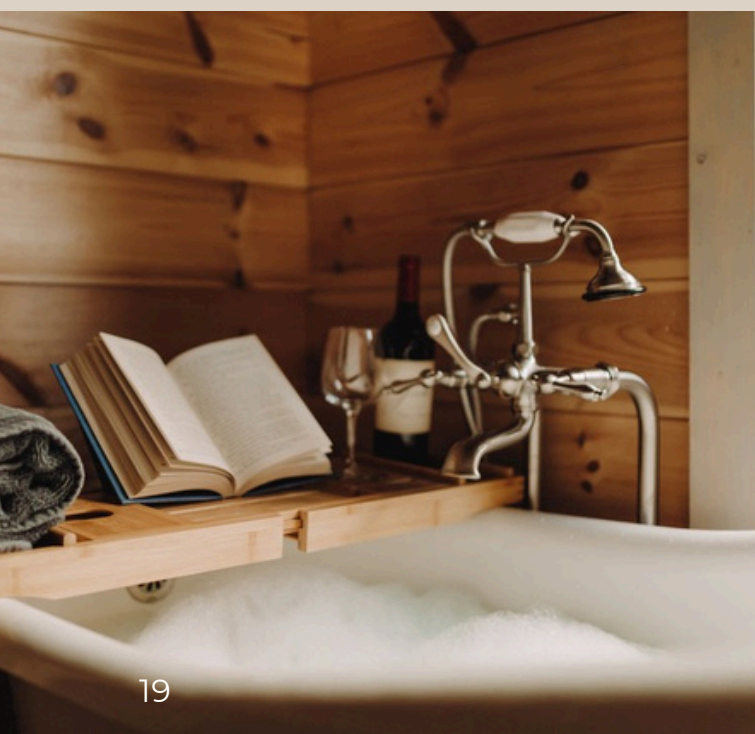
1. SPACIOUS YET COZY

Thanks to the 2352 square feet of 4 bedrooms & 3.5 baths, expansive kitchen, living room & upstairs sitting room, The Lodge spaciously hosts 10-12 guests.

Our patio, two balconies, & private courtyard allow you to easily host a large group with ample room for escape for those needing solitude.

However, we're as cozy as we are roomy. Upon entering, you are welcomed by the smell of wood and the feeling of comfort.

Everything from the softness of the leather couches and throws to floor lamps throughout, tranquility will envelop you.



2. KID FRIENDLY

*"We don't stop playing because we grow old...
We grow old because we stop playing."*

-George Bernard Shaw

We believe children are a blessing from God and that loving & parenting them is our greatest privilege.

Our vision is for The Lodge to be a place you regularly escape to, a place where you can push pause on life's demands & focus solely on each other.

We have designed The Lodge with kids and families in mind. We want it to be a place your kids are excited to visit and feel safe to do kid things like wrestle & play around. No walking on eggshells here.

When we provide items like the old school Nintendo, foosball, games, toys, books, and sports & beach gear, we want them to feel that this is **THEIR** place, not just their parents'.



3. Low-Tox/ Fragrance Free

**Take a deep breath.
You're home.**

Welcome to your home-away-from-home. The Lodge is a low-tox & 100% synthetic-fragrance free home. No chemical or fake candle smells here.

We provide a safe vacation home experience that allows you to leave your sheets, cleaners, water filter, & stainless steel pans behind! Let us lighten your vacation packing load.

We clean with & provide low-tox, fragrance-free personal care and home cleaning products. No bleach, candles or plug-ins, ever.

We provide an essential oil diffuser in every room & healthy cooking oils in the pantry.

Enjoy the safe space we have created for our chemically sensitive and health conscious guests.





***"Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory."
-Dr. Seuss***



4.

NOSTALGIC & VINTAGE

Families that laugh & play together stay together.

We not only provide everything you need to do this at The Lodge & around Carlton Landing, but we infuse the fun with an element of nostalgia.

Old-school Nintendo, record player & vinyl, souvenir polaroid pictures, 1970's Foosball table, vintage games like Stratego, a tub of Legos & Calico Critters, you'll love sharing childhood favorites with your kids!



CARLTON LANDING OUTDOOR FUN

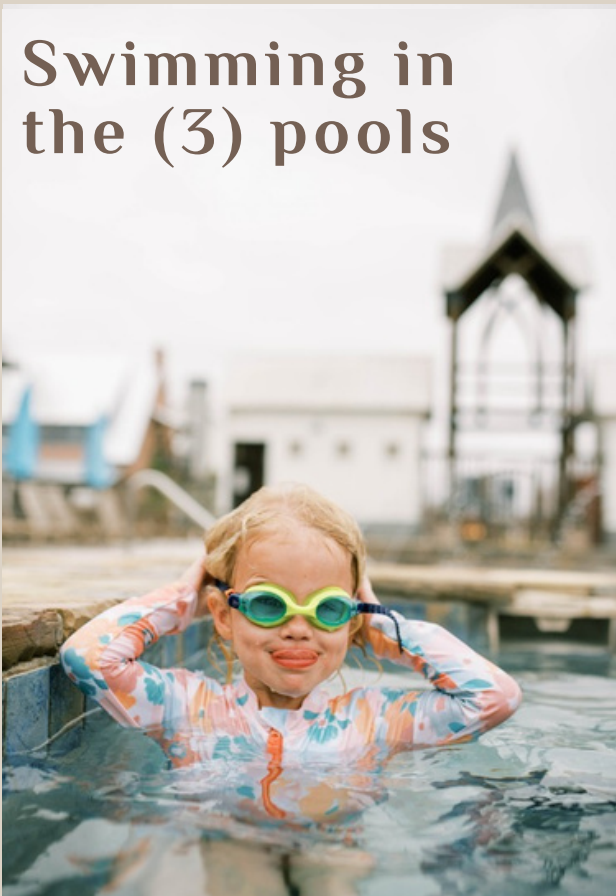
Kayaking



Boating



Swimming in the (3) pools



Playing at the beach



Carlton Landing is best enjoyed with those you love most, whether friends or family. The Lodge is spacious enough to accommodate vacationing with another family or two!





Biking



Outdoor sports



Playground



Bocce ball



Hiking



Carting around



Fishing



Pickleball,
basketball &
tennis



∞
A life well lived.

Homeschool families who stay at The Lodge during the traditional school year save 15% when they book directly through our website using the code FAMILY15. Scan QR code for details & to book.

