

# WHICH BEACH IS WHICH?

There are multiple access points to the beaches and Lake Michigan in the Indiana Dunes area, so it's important to find the one that fits your visit. For a more detailed map, see the centerfold of this guide.

## West Beach



A bathhouse, a huge swath of sand, and a stationed summer lifeguard make this beach one of the most popular Lake Michigan spots. For inland fun, climb the 250+ stairs of the Dunes Succession Trail with interdunal ponds and a mile-long boardwalk. 376 N. County Line Rd., Gary 219-395-1882 [nps.gov/indu](https://nps.gov/indu) Map: A11

## Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk



Formerly an industrial site, this 57-acre area features an enclosed pavilion with seasonal food services and restrooms, as well as a handicap-accessible trail, fishing pier, and kayak launch. A breakwater also provides easy access for fishing, bird watching, and sightseeing. 6150 U.S. 12 (100 Riverwalk Rd.), Portage 219-395-1882 [nps.gov/indu](https://nps.gov/indu) Map: D9

## Porter Beach



This is a popular gathering spot for splashing in the water, playing beach sports, and catching some rays. There are bathrooms and a small foot wash area, and the high dunes are a great place to bird watch. 3057 Wabash Ave., Porter 219-395-1882 [nps.gov/indu](https://nps.gov/indu) Map: M6

## Indiana Dunes State Park



A state park surrounded by a national park, the Indiana Dunes State Park is 2,182 acres of dunes, marshes, swamps, hardwood forests, and white pine groves with a lifeguarded beach (summer only). The park has 16.5 miles of trails, including the 3 Dune Challenge, and offers camping, picnicking, and showers, as well as a snack bar, camp store, and park naturalist. 1600 N. 25 East, Chesterton 219-926-1952 [in.gov/dnr/parklake/2980.htm](https://in.gov/dnr/parklake/2980.htm) Map: N6

## Kemil Beach



Enjoy one of the most scenic drives in Porter County on your way to the Kemil Road Beach parking lots. Then you can enjoy a nice stretch of beach or walk down to Lake View Picnic area to have a picnic or enjoy the facility. 27 N. East State Park Rd., Chesterton 219-395-1882 [nps.gov/indu](https://nps.gov/indu) Map: R4

## Dunbar Beach



Parking is limited at this prime spot near the Lake View Picnic Area and the historic Century of Progress homes. Enjoy this beautiful beach in a residential neighborhood where there are no lifeguards. 300 W. Lake Front Dr., Michigan City (Beverly Shores) 219-395-1882 [nps.gov/indu](https://nps.gov/indu) Map: S3

## Lake View Beach & Picnic Area



With easy access from your car to a sitting area with a stunning view, Lake View is also a popular spot for enjoying the beach, and it is the only area in the national park with picnic shelters overlooking the lake. 50 W. Lake Front Dr., Michigan City (Beverly Shores) 219-395-1882 [nps.gov/indu](https://nps.gov/indu) Map: T3

## Mount Baldy & Beach



The largest "living" dune in the National Park, Mount Baldy moves about four feet every year, burying everything in its path, including trees. While the beach is open year-round, all hikes to the summit must be led by authorized rangers. 101 Rice St. (U.S. 12), Michigan City 219-395-1882 [nps.gov/indu](https://nps.gov/indu) Map: Y1

## Central Avenue Beach



This beach is surrounded by a buried forest created when wind-blown sands inundated the trees. It is also a great place to hike flower-filled fields, marshes, and woodlands; bike the Calumet Bike Trail; or watch bank swallows, shorebirds, and waterfowl. 151 Central Ave., Michigan City 219-395-1882 [nps.gov/indu](https://nps.gov/indu) Map: X1

## SWIM SAFETY



Lake Michigan can be deceiving and is like an ocean in terms of strength and unpredictability.

- Don't swim when high waves are present
- Be conscious of rip currents and swim parallel to the shoreline if caught in one.
- Supervise children at all times.

Learn more at [weather.gov/safety/ripcurrent](https://weather.gov/safety/ripcurrent).

## BEACH CONDITIONS

Need up-to-date information about beach conditions and parking, then call:

National Park: 219-395-1882  
State Park: 219-926-1952  
E. coli levels: 219-926-7561 prompt #2

- Accessible
- Fee required
- Food options available

- Hiking trails
- Lifeguards on duty (summer only)

- No alcohol
- Paddling/Sea kayak launch

- Parking/# of spaces
- Pet friendly

- Picnic areas available
- Restrooms available (some seasonal only)