



# INDIANA DUNES AT A GLANCE

## THE INDIANA DUNES

Two parks. One destination. Within the boundaries of a 15,000-acre national park sits another 2,182-acre state park. Together, along with our communities and attractions, **we are the Indiana Dunes, one of the most biodiverse regions in North America and the number one tourist destination in the State of Indiana.**

The Indiana Dunes has more plants and animal species than Yellowstone, and it attracts more than six million visitors annually, which puts it on par with Mount Rushmore in terms of visitation.

We are comprised of beaches, prairies, wetlands, savannas, forests, and of course, towering sandunes with majestic views of the Chicago skyline. As a premier family-friendly vacation getaway, we offer many outdoor experiences, including swimming, birding, biking, camping, hiking, fishing, and other natural adventures, along with fine dining and local attractions. Our downtown communities are complete with affordable accommodations and Midwest hospitality, ensuring that each getaway is a trip to remember.

- The National Park was named one of the “Top 10 Urban Escapes” by National Geographic.
- Indiana was named one of the world’s top places to visit in 2020 by Frommer’s.
- The Indiana Dunes was named one of the nation’s five best beaches for family fun by Parents Magazine.

## DUNES 101 VIDEO SERIES

The five video series follows “Ranger” Matt on an adventure through the area. The videos are posted on Indiana Dunes Tourism’s YouTube channel and blog. Each orients visitors and explores interesting facts about different aspects of the Indiana Dunes, such as the beach experience, camping, and hiking.

## THE 3 DUNE CHALLENGE

Challenge yourself, your friends, and your family to climb the three tallest sand dunes at Indiana Dunes State Park. The self-guided 1.5-mile challenge trail is the toughest in the area, with 552 vertical feet to climb. The reward: breathtaking views and the title of Dunes Conqueror. Start your adventure at the Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center or learn more at [indianadunes.com/3dc](http://indianadunes.com/3dc).

## DIANA OF THE DUNES DARE

Dare to Be Different? Embrace the Dunes. In honor of the daring and free spirit of Alice Mabel Gray, also known as Diana, a nearby sand hill has been named “Diana’s Dune.” Explore the natural wonders of her beloved Dunes terrain while learning about dune development. Start your adventure at the Indiana Dunes National Park’s West Beach or learn more at [indianadunes.com/ddd](http://indianadunes.com/ddd).



# OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Shaped by nature, made for adventure. The Indiana Dunes is 15 beautiful miles of award-winning shoreline on top of a biodiverse collection of woodland wilderness, county, state, and national parks. Get out there and get to know adventure the Indiana Dunes way: by foot, paddle, and pedal.

## BICYCLING

Whether your passion is mountain biking, BMX stunts, or leisure touring, we have a bicycling experience for you. There are nearly 40 miles of trails in the National Park alone, offering a range of remarkable views of Lake Michigan or rough and ready mountain bike experiences. With the South Shore Bikes on Trains program, it's never been easier to ride your bike to and from the Indiana Dunes area, Chicago, and South Bend.

- We have rolled out a new "My City Bike" tour through the Indiana Dunes area.
- Creekside Park has a new intermediate-level mountain biking trail inside of a multi-use trail system with over five miles of soft surface corridors for biking, hiking, and walking.

## BIRDING

Enthusiasts who bird the world have been known to call the Indiana Dunes the "crème de la crème." Due to Lake Michigan, more than 350 bird species live or migrate through the area, resulting in spectacular migrations that let you see thousands of Sandhill Cranes in a single fall day or hundreds of hawks soaring over the dunes in the spring.

## FISHING

The Indiana Dunes area offers great angling all year long. The area is home to sports fishing, great stream and river fishing, and plenty of dock and small lakes fishing. There's even ice fishing in winter.

## HIKING

Hiking in the Indiana Dunes area offers everything from a stroll in one of six botanic gardens/arboretums to a 15-mile trek along the dunes beach. More than 70 miles of hiking trails offer a variety of experiences from improved paths to natural sand trails. Hiking the Indiana Dunes area is an ideal way to experience a truly diverse natural habitat.

Trail 9: this State Park trail was named one of the best scenic hiking trails in Indiana by *USA Today*.



# WHAT'S NEW

## THE STATE PARK PAVILION

A 36-month public-private partnership renovation project between the Indiana Dunes State Park and Pavilion Partners has culminated with the restoration of the beautiful, historic Indiana Dunes State Park Pavilion. Established in 1930, this gem features event space, a pizza café, and an ice cream shop, as well as amazing views of Lake Michigan and the Indiana Dunes from its rooftop bar.



## BACKPACKS FOR NATURALISTS PROGRAM

We joined with the Indiana Dunes National Park, Indiana Dunes State Park, the Efrogmson Restoration at Kankakee Sands, Porter County Parks, and Shirley Heinze to develop the Backpacks for Naturalists program. This program offers free explorer backpacks for daily use. Each backpack contains binoculars, field guides, activity ideas, and other useful items for daily adventures.

## INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN

We launched an international campaign in both France and Germany and currently offer 12 translated foreign language guides for international guests. Over the past few years, the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center has had over 100,000 visitors from all 50 states and over 50 international countries annually.

## PET-FRIENDLY CAMPAIGN

We are a pet-friendly destination, and leashed pets are allowed on trails at the State Park and National Park except for some parts of the Glenwood Trail and all of Pinhook Bog. Restaurants, accommodations, and retail stores are also opening their doors to these four-legged, leashed travelers.

## VOLUNTEER DROP-IN PROGRAM

Visitors and residents can now drop-in to one of many no-hassle volunteer opportunities. This program was developed in partnership with the National Park Service, Department of Natural Resources, Nature Conservancy, Shirley Heinze Land Trust, Porter County Parks & Recreation, and Friends of Indiana Dunes.



## VISIT SOON

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*Indiana Dunes Tourism is the official destination marketing, planning, and development organization for the Indiana Dunes area (Porter County, IN).*

