

Top Visitor Questions

Where is the beach?

The 15-mile beach can be accessed from many different locations. **See map on back.**

Where may I climb a dune?

Most of the park trails cross over forested dunes. You must stay on a designated trail when you walk on any dune to protect this fragile resource.

West Beach offers a spectacular overlook on the one-mile Dune Succession Trail. The new Miller Woods Trail extension traverses the dunes to Marquette Park. Please stay on designated trails to protect sensitive dune species.

Do you close the beach when high waves are present or E. coli levels are high?

No. The national lakeshore does not close its beach due to water conditions. Risks are inherent in all natural areas and you must determine what is safe for you. During summer months, lifeguards are stationed at West Beach. Lifeguards are not present at other locations of the beach.

Call 219-926-7561 followed by prompt #2 for information regarding E. coli levels.

May I take my pet with me for a stroll or hike?

Yes. The national lakeshore has over 40 miles of hiking trails. Pets restrained by a leash (6' or less) are permitted on most park trails. Pets are prohibited on the Great Marsh Trail, Glenwood Dune Trail, and at the Nature Play Zone. Pets are only permitted on the beach east of the Kemil access point.

The Glenwood Dunes Trail (intersection of Hwy. 20 and School House Road) is open for horseback riding March 16 through December 14.

Hike with others and stay on designated trails for your protection and that of park resources. Trail maps are available at the two park visitor centers and the park web page.

Do you have a campground?

Yes. The Dunewood Campground is open the last Friday in April through the third Sunday in October and is located at the intersection of U.S. 12 and Broadway near Beverly Shores. Its 53 campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis for a fee of \$18.00 per night. The walk-in sites are temporarily closed. **Credit or debit card ONLY. No cash or checks accepted.**

The restrooms are centrally located and have showers. Electrical hookups are not available. Use firewood from local suppliers to help prevent the spread of invasive insects. Alcohol is strictly prohibited.

How do I reserve a curriculum school program?

Teachers and youth group leaders should call 219-395-1885 to arrange for a free ranger-led program. Many of these programs are conducted at the park's Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education located in Gary/Miller, Indiana, and focus on the park's resource issues.

Is Mount Baldy Open?

Mount Baldy remains temporarily closed this summer as scientists continue their investigation of spontaneous holes forming in the dune. Additional holes have been found since the initial incident and scientists still don't know the cause. Research will continue into late fall. Mount Baldy remains closed to protect the public's safety.

May I launch my boat and fish?

The park does not have a boat launch. Personal motorized watercraft (Jet Skis and Wave Runners) are prohibited. However, you may launch and/or hand carry your non-motorized canoe or kayak at various locations. An Indiana state fishing license is required to fish.

Do you have a Junior Ranger Program?

Yes! Ask a ranger at the Visitor Center to help you select the free Junior Ranger or Junior Explorer program that best fits your visit. There are three Junior Ranger books to guide you on adventures through several park locations. We also offer the Beachcomber Junior Explorer program if you have just a short time at the beach; other Junior Explorer activities are offered at many special events. Once completed, each participant will have earned a badge, patch, sticker, or temporary tattoo. Pick up Junior Ranger and Junior Explorer materials at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, Douglas Center, download them at www.nps.gov/indu/forkids, or ask a ranger.



How can I learn more and help?

Come out and help on a Stewardship Day listed on page 3 or join the Trail Corps at www.volunteer.gov. Call 219-395-1682 or email Lynda_Lancaster@nps.gov for more information.

How do I find out about beach regulations?

Just look for a sign like this on the beach. Different areas have different regulations.

Regulations Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hours — 7:00 am to Dusk

- No Pets on Beach**
- No Glass**
- No Fires**
- No Alcoholic Beverages**

No Lifeguard on Duty

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Eastern National provides quality educational products and services to the visitors of America's national parks.

Eastern National promotes understanding and support of the National Park Service by providing visitors with the information, materials, and experiences they need to fully understand and appreciate the importance of preserving and protecting America's national parks for future generations.

Eastern National, a nonprofit organization, donates a portion of its proceeds to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to support interpretive and educational activities and publications.

Visit the bookstore inside the Visitor Center on SR49 near Hwy. 20 in Porter or www.easternnational.org.



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Supports the protection, preservation, and promotion of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.