

# Top Visitor Questions

## Where is the beach?

The 15-mile beach can be accessed from many different locations. There are access points located north of the intersection of County Line Road and Highway 12 (Mount Baldy), north end of Central Avenue, Lakefront Drive at Lake View, intersection of West Lakefront Drive and Dunbar Avenue, north end of East State Park Road, north end of Waverly Road (Porter), Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk (from Hwy. 12 take Hwy. 249 south and follow park signs), and north on North County Line Road (West Beach). West Beach has 600 parking spaces; other parking lots have limited parking. Please reference map located on page 8.

## 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. You can find a strenuous and mostly sandy trail at Mount Baldy. Follow the trail from the parking lot, around the side of the dune to the beach and then up to the summit. You must return along the same route.

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 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 your non-motorized canoe or kayak at various locations. An Indiana state fishing license is required to fish.

## How do I find out about beach regulations?

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



## 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.

## How do I reserve an environmental education 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.



## 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](http://www.nps.gov/indu/forkids), or ask a ranger.

## 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 can I volunteer at the national lakeshore?

Want to help the park? Join us for the Stewardship Days listed on page 3. Do you have a group that wants to come out for a service day? Have more than one day to help? Go to [www.volunteer.gov](http://www.volunteer.gov) and see the opportunities listed when you click on the state of Indiana. "Group Spruce up the Park" is for any group that wants to come out to do a service project. We can always use your help. For more information or if you do not have access to the internet, call the Volunteers-In-Park program manager at 219-395-1682 for assistance in filling out the on-line application.

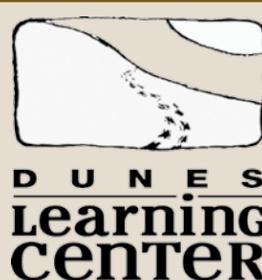
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Eastern National, a nonprofit organization, donates a portion of its proceeds to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to support interpretive and educational activities and publications.



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