

Park Descriptions

Big Bay State Park

Established in 1963, Big Bay State Park includes 2,350 acres of picturesque sandstone bluffs, rugged wooded cliffs and caves, 1.5 miles of sandy beach and nature trails. Situated on Madeline Island, the largest of Lake Superior's Apostle Islands, this park offers spectacular beauty and a range of activities such as swimming, beach exploration, fishing and wildlife viewing. There are 60 family campsites, one indoor rustic group cabin and one outdoor group site.

Big Foot Beach State Park

Big Foot Beach State Park is a 271 acre park on the shore of Lake Geneva known for its clear, clean water. This park offers wooded campsites, a sand beach, fishing, and 5.5 miles of hiking trails through forest and open meadow.

Black River State Forest

The unique geological features of this state forest provide breathtaking scenery and abundant habitat for wildlife. Recreational opportunities include hiking to the top of Castle Mound, fishing for bass, walleye and musky in the Black River or one of the many surrounding lakes, swimming at Lake Wazee, Wisconsin's deepest inland lake, and discovering area wildlife like the endangered Karner blue butterfly, bald eagle, Cooper's hawk or Blanding's turtle. The Group Camp area is a secluded and quiet campground located at the north end of the forest on Campground Road. An indoor cabin sleeps 12 and includes a stove, refrigerator, fireplace, bathroom and shower.



Devil's Lake State Park

At Devil's Lake State Park, 500-foot quartzite bluffs formed 1.5 billion years ago tower above a 360-acre lake. The 9,117-acre park is visited by more people than any other Wisconsin state park. Activities at Devil's Lake include hiking on 29.9 miles of awesome hiking trails including a segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and Wisconsin's first state natural area, Parfrey's Glen, a spectacular gorge with unique flora and fauna. There are also two swimming beaches, canoeing, fishing, naturalist-guided programs, guided rock climbing and nearly 100 species of birds (close to half the total in Wisconsin). The well-maintained group campsites are secluded in a shaded, wooded area.

Kettle Moraine State Forest - North

The forest is internationally known for its unique glacial features, such as kettles, kames and eskers. There are approximately 30,000 acres of rolling hills, lakes, forests and grasslands to explore. There are more than 132 miles of hiking trails including a segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, three swimming beaches, fishing from seven lakes within or bordering the forest, canoeing, a 60-foot observation tower, a scenic drive, the Ice Age Visitor Center and naturalist programs. The shaded group camping sites include a picnic table, fire pit, drinking water, toilets and nearby trails.

Kohler-Andrae State Park

Kohler-Andrae State Park is home of majestic sand dunes and miles of golden beach along Lake Michigan. The park consists of river marsh, pine and hardwood forest, beach and sand dunes with abundant wildlife, nature trails for hiking and biking and the Sanderling Nature Center and interpretive programs. There are 137 family campsites and two group sites. Kohler-Andrae State Park is one of the last natural preserves along the Lake Michigan shore.



Point Beach State Forest

Point Beach offers 6 miles of beach and dunes along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The park has a lighthouse, a major feature of the park. The U.S. Coast Guard has operated the Rawley Point lighthouse since 1853. The light is atop a steel tower which rises 113 feet above the lake surface and is one of the largest and brightest on the Great Lakes. It is visible up to 19 miles away. Point Beach has 127 family campsites, indoor (rustic cabin) and outdoor group camping, 11 miles of hiking trails, 8 miles of biking trails and a nature center.

Wildcat Mountain State Park

Wildcat Mountain's 3,603 acres are in the Driftless Area of Southwest Wisconsin. On a steep ridge overlooking the scenic Kickapoo River Valley, Wildcat Mountain State Park offers over 25 miles of hiking trails with spectacular views, group camping, canoeing on the Kickapoo River and a nature center with interpretive programs. The sheltered and scenic Kickapoo River Valley is home to a variety of wildlife and plants and is an official Wisconsin Watchable Wildlife Site. The group campsites are shaded and have vault toilets, picnic tables, fire rings and a shelter house.

Willow River State Park

Located in western Wisconsin, Willow River State Park offers panoramic river scenery and year-round recreational activities such as fishing, swimming, hiking, boating, a nature center, snowshoeing, dog sledding, and cross-country skiing. This 2,891 acre park offers 120 family campsites and 4 group sites and is one of the most popular parks in Wisconsin drawing more than 300,000 visitors each year.

Wisconsin River

The Wisconsin River is a tributary of the Mississippi River and is approximately 430 miles long. It is the state's longest river. The modern Wisconsin River was formed in several stages. The lower, westward-flowing portion of the river is located in the Driftless Area. From Prairie Du Sac, the remaining 92 miles of the river is free-flowing through undeveloped landscape owned and managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. In 1989, legislation created the Lower Wisconsin River State Riverway designed to protect the important natural habitat, home to a variety of wildlife and fish. Islands and rock outcroppings add to the scenery, while innumerable sandbars and beaches make great camping spots.



Wisconsin State Parks

In 1909, the Wisconsin legislature began planning a state park system with the aid of famed landscape architect John Nolen. The following year, the first state park was officially established in Door County with the opening of Peninsula State Park. Devil's Lake State Park followed in 1911, the largest state park in Wisconsin. Today there are 59 state parks comprising over 132,000 acres that provide places for outdoor recreation and for learning about nature and conservation. Approximately 15 million people a year visit Wisconsin's state parks, forests, trails, and recreation areas. Wander Wisconsin introduces and explores our state parks and natural areas with all of our campers. Families can enjoy hiking, biking, swimming, fishing, wildlife, waterfalls, lake shores, covered bridges, hunting, skiing, snowmobiling, a Frank Lloyd-Wright rentable cottage, golf, theatre, dog beaches, history and camping (in one of more than 5,000 campsites) in Wisconsin state parks. We encourage you to get out and explore Wisconsin's beautiful parks and natural areas with your family – there is something for everyone in Wisconsin state parks!

