



## Ranger Tour

**Major Points of Interest:** Old Lighthouse Museum, Michigan City Marina, NIPSCO power-plant, Crescent Dune, Mt. Baldy, Central, Beverly Shores and the Century of Progress homes.

### Topics outline:

- Park Facts:
  - 15,349 acres.
  - 15 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline.
  - 50 miles of hiking trails.
  - 37 miles of bike trails.
  - 6.8 miles of equestrian trails.
  - Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) most biodiverse national park (1,960 species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, birds, and vascular plants).
    - 1) Smokey Mts, 2) Grand Canyon, 3) Yosemite.
  - 4 National Natural Landmarks (Pinhook Bog, Cowles Bog, Hoosier Prairie, Dunes Nature Preserve).
  - 1 National Historic Landmark (Bailly Homestead).
  - Over 225 known archeological sites representing 10,000 years of Native American use.
  - Over 1,400 species of ferns and flowering plants – 28 species of orchids (more than Hawaii).
  - Over 350 species of birds migrate through the park (top 5 of all national parks for birding).
  - 30% of Indiana’s rare, threatened, endangered species.
- Boat: Emita II:
  - Blount Boat Builders, Rhode Island.
  - 6/23/1953 – Erie Canal tours.
  - Purchased in 2017 – took 14 days at 8MPH to sail from Erie Canal to Michigan City.
- [Michigan City Marina](#) and [Lighthouse](#):
  - 1828 – Trail Creek (7.3 mile long stream that forms the present Michigan City Marina) – surveyed and determined to be ideal location for harbor.
  - 1836 – Michigan City incorporated.
  - 1837 – first harbor light.
  - 1858 – “Old” Lighthouse constructed – current home to the Old Lighthouse Museum – where Emita II is docked.
  - 1904 – beacon moved to the east Pierhead Light where it remained until it was replaced in 1980.
- Hoosier Slide:
  - Dune once towering over 200 feet near the grounds of the present-day NIPSCO water-cooling tower.



- Early-to-mid 1800s – site was used recreationally by visitors who arrived by boat from cities like Chicago. Summit was used for weddings and other celebrations.
- Mid-to-late 1800s – logging to build Michigan City left the dune bare. Sand would blow into the city covering shops with almost an inch of sand.
- 1890s – As glass factories grew in central Indiana, sand was mined from Hoosier slide and sold to companies like Pittsburg Plate Glass, Hemingway Glass Co., and the Ball Brothers in Muncie.
  - Sand from Northwest Indiana was desirable because of the natural blue hue it produced when turned into glass. This color, called Lake Blue by the Ball Brothers, became a major marketing point for their glass jars.
- Sand was continually mined at a rate of about 30 railroad cars a day, about 13.5 million tons.
- Hoosier slide disappeared by 1930.
- NIPSCO purchased the land in 1925 and is now home to a coal and gas-fired power plant. The cooling tower helps cool water heated during the generating process. It is often mistaken for a nuclear power plant however, there are no nuclear power plants in Indiana.
- Geology:
  - Longshore currents, sand deposition, dune formation.
    - [Parabolic, transverse, domal dune](#) formation.
  - Beach nourishment.
  - Erosion.
  - Moving Dunes.
  - Restoration efforts.
  - Lake levels.
- Cultural History (minor in ecology)
  - [Dr. Henry Chandler Cowles](#):
    - [Ecological succession](#)
  - [History of the Indiana Dunes National Park](#)
  - [Early Development](#)
    - Prairie club.
    - Sand Dunes National Park Movement:
      - Stephen Mather (1<sup>st</sup> NPS Director and Chicago businessman).
        - Convention in Chicago showed overwhelming interest in creation of National Park.
      - WWI cry “First, save the country, then save the dunes”.
  - [Indiana Dunes State Park](#):
    - 1926.
  - Beverly Shores / [Century of Progress](#):
    - Depression / World’s Fair.
    - [Development of Beverly Shores](#).
    - World’s Fair Homes:
      - [Armco-Ferro House](#).



- [Cypress Log Cabin.](#)
  - [Florida Tropical House.](#)
  - [House of Tomorrow.](#)
  - [Wieboldt-Rostone House.](#)
  - [Historic Landmarks Leasing Program](#)
  - [Save the Dunes Council:](#)
    - Dorothy Buell:
      - Founded council in 1952 to protect remaining untouched dunes in NWI.
  - [Establishment of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and the Port of Indiana:](#)
    - Senator Paul H. Douglas.
    - November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1966.
  - Red Lantern Inn:
    - Septic system destroyed in 1986/7 winter storms.
    - Formerly called Lenard's Casino:
      - Constructed in 1935 by owner of Little Poland Restaurant in Chicago Ignatz Lenard (1881-1944).
      - 1<sup>st</sup> level beach, 2<sup>nd</sup> level restaurant, 3<sup>rd</sup> level residence.
      - Added 37 hotel rooms and 2 apartments later.
      - Sold in 1966 in fear of 1966 National Lakeshore Acquisition Plan and rising lake levels. Sold to former restaurant owners from Chicago.
    - Site purchased by the Park in 1971. Owners Ralph and Grace Larson were issued a special Reservation of Use Permit and continued operations until October 4<sup>th</sup>, 1986 when the building was demolished.
    - Part of the original retaining wall can still be seen at Lake View pavilion.
  - RipRap, break waters, retaining walls as ways to curb erosion.
- Lake Michigan:
  - Length: 307 miles.
  - Width: 118 miles.
  - Average Depth: 279 feet.
  - Maximum Depth: 925 feet.
  - Volume: 1,180 cubic miles.
  - Water Surface: 22,300 sq. miles.
  - Drainage basin: 45,600 sq. miles.
  - Shoreline: 1,638 miles.
  - Elevation: 577 ft.
  - Water Retention: 99 years.
  - Lake levels rise and fall in 32 year cycles.
- Muskegon (The Peerless):
  - Built: 1872.



- Passenger ship converted into freighter in 1908 and then into a sandsucker before it sunk:
  - Ran passengers between Chicago and Duluth.
- Sunk: October 6, 1910.
- Reason: Burned while at dock. Was towed into Lake Michigan near Mt. Baldy.
- Depth of wreck: 32 feet.
- WWII:
  - 1942, US Navy purchased 2 coal-powered side-paddlewheel passenger steamers (Seandbee and Greater Buffalo) to train naval aviators after the attack on Pearl Harbor:
    - Navy added 550-foot-long flight deck atop both steam ships:
      - This deck is smaller than what was on actual aircraft carriers at the time.
    - Seandbee was renamed the USS Wolverine and commissioned on August 12, 1942.
    - Greater Buffalo was renamed the USS Sable and commissioned on May 8, 1943.
    - Majority of naval aviators learned how to land on an aircraft carrier on one of these two ships including future President George H.W. Bush:
      - Over 15,000 pilots.
      - Naval Air Station Glenview (now a mall).
        - Largest naval air training facility at the time.
    - 200 accidents and 128 ships lost between 1942-1945:
      - 120,000 successful landings.
    - 39 aircraft recovered, restored, and placed in museums.

# Indiana Dunes National Park

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Indiana Dunes National Park  
Interpretation and Education

