

Palisades is the word used to describe a line of lofty, steep cliffs usually seen along a river, and Mississippi Palisades, 3 miles north of Savanna in Carroll County, are dangerous sink holes-limestone caves that go straight down. Erosion has carved intriguing rock formations, including Indian Head, with its aquiline characteristics, and Twin Sisters, a pair of humanoid figures on the bluff tops. The U.S. Interior Department recognized the remarkable nature of this area when in 1973 it designated acreage here as a national landmark. Wooded ravines, whose brilliant hues splash the cliffs with color each autumn, dissect the unglaciated

Natural Features

Located near the confluence of the Mississippi and Apple rivers in northwestern Illinois, the 2,500-acre Mississippi Palisades State Park is rich in American Indian history.

The Native American pathfinders along the rock palisades of the Mississippi River did as present-day hikers do - in courting the bluffs, they took the paths of least resistance. The trails at the Mississippi Palisades, especially the park's southern routes, put you in touch with the past. Walk them and you'll trace the footsteps of all those who came before you, some of whom came this way nearly a thousand years ago.

Mississippi Palisades State Park





State of Illinois
Department of Natural Resources



Mississippi Palisades

S T A T E P A R K



Mississippi Palisades



With 241 Class A and B sites in both shaded and open areas, Mississippi Palisades is in demand by campers.

Camping

Hiking trails are closed during the park's three-day firearm deer season, which is the weekend before Thanksgiving Day weekend.

The North System includes High Point at 1.5 miles and Aspen at 1.7 miles. Sentinel, at 1.0 miles including other southern loops aren't for the tenderfoot. Ozzie's Point, Louis' Point and Lookout Point, developed overlooks accessible by short walks, offer a surfaced trail leading to an overlook. Oak Point offers a trail surface suitable for the physically challenged.

The gateway to seeing the park's impressive assortment of plant and animal life is its rugged 1.5 mile trail system. The five trails in the northern part of the park are generally wider and less strenuous than the five in the south, which are narrow and extremely close to the bluff. The southern trails also are very hazardous when wet.

Trails

But not all that's fascinating about Mississippi Palisades' wildlife is in the skies. White-tailed deer, gray squirrel, skunk, muskrat and weasel can be viewed in the park, as can mink, gray and red fox, woodchuck and, even occasionally, badger.

Animal life, within the park and the river areas immediately adjoining it, is varied. Waterfowl and shorebirds are numerous, as are wild turkeys. Striking pileated woodpeckers make their home in the park, and depending on ice conditions, eagles feed at the river in January and February. Because so many birds migrate along the river, their lyrical songs can be heard at the Mississippi Palisades each spring and fall.

Each spring and summer the valleys and slopes are dappled with the blooms of trillium, bluebell, lobelia, shooting star and yellow ladies' slipper. Animal life, within the park and the river areas immediately adjoining it, is varied. Waterfowl and shorebirds are numerous, as are wild turkeys. Striking pileated woodpeckers make their home in the park, and depending on ice conditions, eagles feed at the river in January and February. Because so many birds migrate along the river, their lyrical songs can be heard at the Mississippi Palisades each spring and fall.

With the Mississippi River and its backwaters the perfect habitat for so many kinds of fish, anglers are consistently baiting their hooks at Mississippi Palisades. Catfish and carp are the most commonly caught fish, but bluegill, crappie and bass are out there too. Those long on experience might even wade and launch on boats, and launching ramps at the river access areas are free.

Fishing and Boating

Electrical hookups are available at 110 sites. Showers and flush toilets are situated in three buildings and are in operation from May 1 until Oct 31. The campground also features water and two sanitary dump stations. Reservations are available at ReserveAmerica.com. Two youth camping areas are also available.



Hunting

Hunters gather at the park each year for archery and firearm hunting for deer and wild turkey. Contact the park office for specific information.

Picnicking

Throw a checkered tablecloth across one of the park's many picnic tables and enjoy one of summer's simple pleasures. The shelter houses and drinking fountains in the park attest to the 1930's craftsmanship of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Three shelters are available to reserve at ReserveAmerica.com.

Winter Sports

Don't let a little cold weather keep you from visiting the park. Mississippi Palisades offers cross-country skiing and sledding for outdoor enthusiasts. Anglers aren't left out in the cold either-or maybe they are-because ice fishing is allowed at the boat launch area when the ice is thick enough.

Enjoy Your Visit

Your trip to Mississippi Palisades State Park will be more enjoyable for you and for everyone if you follow a few simple rules. Keep your pets leashed at all times. Stay on designated trails. Don't pick any flowers. As the Indians did, leave only footprints.

For more information, contact Mississippi Palisades State Park, 16327A Illinois Route 84, Savanna, Ill., 61074, (815) 273-2731.

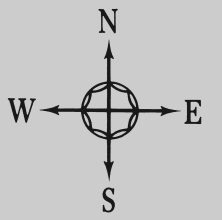


- While groups of 25 or more are welcome and encouraged to use the park's facilities, they are required to register in advance with the site office to avoid crowding or scheduling conflicts.
- At least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors.
- Pets must be kept on leashes at all times.
- Actions by nature can result in closed roads and other facilities. Please call ahead to the park office before you make your trip.
- We hope you enjoy your stay. Remember; take only memories, leave only footprints.
- For more information on state parks, write to Department of Natural Resources, Clearinghouse, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, or visit our website at www.dnr.state.il.us.
- For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-2CONNECT.
- Hearing-impaired individuals may call the Department of Natural Resources' TTY number, (217)782-9175, or use the Ameritech Relay Number, 1-800-526-0844.

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resource Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; 217-785-0067; TTY 217-782-9175.

This information may be provided in an alternative format if required. Contact the DNR Clearinghouse at (217)782-7498 for assistance.

Mississippi Palisades State Park



Legend

- Campground
- Hiking Trail
- Boat Launch
- Overlook
- Park Office
- Park Roads
- ABC** Primitive Camps
- Private Property
- Restrooms
- Shelter

North Trails

High Point	.....	1.5 mi.
Route 84	.....	1.5 mi.
Rock Top	.....	0.7 mi.
Goldenrod	.....	0.5 mi.
Aspen	.....	1.7 mi.
Bittersweet	.....	0.9 mi.
Deer	.....	1.5 mi.

South Trails

Sunset	.....	1.0 mi.
Sentinel	.....	1.0 mi.
Prairie View	.....	0.4 mi.
Pine	.....	1.0 mi.

