

Ferne Clyffe – First Day Hike

Check in at the kiosk at the parking area for trail heads by toilets.

- 1. Rebman Trail - easy 0.25-mile** hike. A plaque dedicated to Emma Rebman marks the beginning of the trail. This trail also provides foot access to a designated climbing/rappelling area.
- 2. Goreville Boy Scout Trail – moderately difficult 0.5-mile** trail. A steep trail that connects the park to the nearby town of Goreville.
- 3. Hawk's Cave Trail - easy 0.5-mile** trail that leads visitors past one of the largest shelter bluffs in Illinois.
- 4. Big Rocky Hollow Trail - easy 0.75 mile** round trip hike. The trail leads to a 100-foot tall intermittent waterfall.
- 5. Waterfall Trail - moderately difficult 0.75-mile** hike that begins a Deer Ridge Campground and also leads to the waterfall.
- 6. Blackjack Oak Trail – 1 mile** A moderately difficult trail that offers impressive vistas. It leads hikers up two steep-climbs from the lake to the Hillside picnic area.
- 7. Ferne Clyffe Lake Trail - easy 1 mile hike** that provides anglers with an opportunity to get close to the banks of the lake.
- 8. Round Bluff Nature Preserve Trail – 1 mile moderately difficult** trail that leads hikers past rare plants and impressive rock formations. This is a nature preserve, and hiking is restricted to the designated trail only.
- 9. Happy Hollow Backpack Trail - 0.5 mile** trek to the primitive backpack campground.
- 10. Happy Hollow Trail - difficult 5 mile** trail that winds through woods and old fields and includes several steep climbs.

11. Happy Hollow Horse Trail - 8 mile equestrian route accessible from the horseback campground. Portions of the trail are shared by hikers and horseback riders. Horses should be kept on the equestrian-designated trails only. The trail is closed to horses from Nov. 1 to April 30.

12. River to River Trail Cuts across southern Illinois from the Ohio River to the Mississippi River, passes through Ferne Clyffe State Park offering 8 miles of moderately difficult terrain. The trail is marked with white diamonds with a blue "I" in the center. The portion of the trail that passes through Ferne Clyffe is open to foot traffic and horses only, and the trail is closed from Nov. 1 - April 30.

13. Cedar Bluff Trail – 2 mile moderate difficulty hiking trail. A short hike on Cedar Bluff trails leads to a scenic vista atop Cedar Bluff. For those interested in a longer hike, the trail proceeds from the vista along the ridge top then descends the bluff and intersects with the Bobcat Loop Trail.

14. Cedar Bluff Climber's Access Trail - easy 0.5 mile hike that provides foot access to various climbs at a designated climbing/rappelling area, located at the southwest end of Cedar Bluff. Foot access only is allowed.

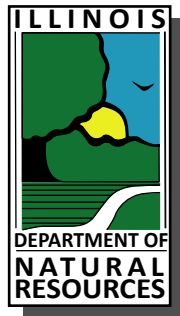
15. Big Buck Creek Trail – 2 mile moderate difficulty scenic, wooded trail that generally follows along Big Buck Creek.

16. Bobcat Loop Trail – 1 mile moderate difficulty secluded loop in the heart of the Cedar Bluff area. This trail links with the Cedar Bluff Trail and the Big Buck Creek Trail.

17. High Ridge Trail - 1.5 mile moderate in difficulty trail, and open to hikers and equestrians. This trail splits off the Big Buck Creek Trail and travels high along a ridge through the woods.

18. Bork's Waterfall Trail - 0.5 mile long trail that provides access to the base of the waterfall. This is an easy hike to an exceptional geographic feature.

River To River Trail



Ferne Clyffe State Park

90 Office Dr.
Goreville, IL. 62939
618-995-2411

Goreville

Boy Scout Trail

Hawk's Cave Trail

Rebman Trail

Big Rocky

Hollow Trail

First Day Hike
Check - In at Trail Head
Jan 1, 2025

Water Fall

I-24 ⇄

Happy Hollow Trail

Buck Creek playground

Hill Side Shelter

Bluff View Parking

Deer Ridge Campground

HOST

Maintenance Building

Buck Creek Parking

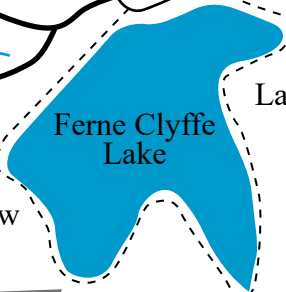
Shady Bend Shelter

Black Jack Oak Trail

Rt. 37

Group Camping

Turkey Ridge Campground



Lake Trail

Main Entrance

Primitive

Lake View Shelter

Lookout Loop

Park Office

Equestrian Campground

Round Bluff Nature Preserve Trail

River To River Trail

Cold Weather Hiking — tips from the American Hiking Society

<https://americanhiking.org/resources/cold-weather-hiking/>

Hiking during the winter can be fun as long as you prepare with these tips. In addition to these tips and hints, remember to follow normal safety practices as well when hiking in the winter. Be sure of the gear you take with you and if you have any specific questions, ask a local outdoor expert so you can stay safe.

Just because the temperature has fallen like the leaves of a tree doesn't mean you can't have an enjoyable hike outside. With a little extra preparation, hiking in the winter can be every bit as enjoyable as hiking during the warmer months. If you have the gear for a warm-weather hike, you can easily modify it for the cold. Before you go, be sure to follow a few of these guidelines to stay safe and warm. Winter can be one of the most peaceful seasons to enjoy some solitude on the trail, but it also comes with increased risks that hikers need to prepare for.

Check the conditions

Trail and road crews aren't as active in the winter, so it's always a good idea to check trip reports to get a sense of conditions on the trail and access to the trailhead before you hit the road.

Dress in layers

While it is perhaps nice to have a huge, fluffy parka on the ski slopes, it really isn't practical for the trail. Instead, take several layers you can peel off or put on when you stop and go on the trail. Your base layer should be a wicking fabric that will pull your sweat away from the skin. Pack layers for every part of your body, not just your torso. Overheating is a dangerous threat since excessive moisture that isn't allowed to escape can freeze and cause hypothermia. If you ever wondered why some of your jackets have zippers under the armpits, they help vent sweat vapor and prevent your clothes from getting wet.

Pack extra layers for when you take breaks and in case you are delayed due to an injury or unforeseen situation. Could you survive the night if you had to? Check the forecasted low temperatures to be prepared for the unexpected. Carrying all of the 10 Essentials of Hiking is especially important in the winter.

Wear a hat

Our heads are filled with oxygen-carrying capillaries which fuel our brains and consume one-third of the body's energy. During the colder months, it is important to keep your head covered to maintain function and not lose precious body heat. You may want to bring a warmer/heavier hat for rest periods.

Keep the breeze out

An often overlooked jacket feature—a hooded jacket—helps seal out frigid air from around the neck and shoulders. Hoods also help with layering the head. When you stop for a break, throwing on a hood can help regulate your temperature during breaks.

Keep your water bottle warm

Staying hydrated in cooler temps is just as important as it is in the summer. Take extra precautions to keep your water from freezing.

- A foam sleeve like a koozie will increase the time it takes water to freeze in a bottle. In very frigid temps, some hikers will even add an active hand warmer inside the insulative sleeve.
- Water tends to freeze at the top of a water bottle, so carry the bottle cap down to prevent the opening from freezing first. Ensure the bottle properly seals to prevent leaks.
- Start your hike with warm water instead of cold tap water to slow down the freezing process.

...Keep your water bottle warm

- Nothing warms your body or your spirits like warm liquid on the trail or by a campfire. Vacuum-sealed water bottles and thermoses can help keep warm drinks steamy for hours, and they can also be used as standard water bottles.
- Sip water often to stay hydrated and also to check the state of your water. Is it starting to freeze?
- Do you hike with a hydration reservoir? Manufacturers make special hose, bite valve, and reservoir sleeves to slow down the water from freezing, but in many cases, reservoirs will freeze faster than traditional water bottles.
- Store soft-sided flasks or slim water bottles on the inside of your jacket – properly sealed, of course.

Watch your step

Snow and ice are often synonymous with cold-weather hiking. Adequate footwear and traction are part of the 10 Essentials of Hiking, and snow and ice present various hazards in the winter. The conditions should influence what traction and flotation devices are used. In deep snow, snowshoes reduce how much a hiker sinks into the powder. On packed snow and ice, micro-spikes and other traction devices provide additional traction for better footing. Many brands design traction that can slip over shoes and boots, and different designs are suitable for different conditions, terrain, and activities.

Trekking poles are also highly recommended, especially in snowy and icy conditions. Poles provide more points of contact with the ground, which increases balance and traction.

Keep batteries warm

Batteries in most electronics lose effectiveness in cooler temperatures. Pack batteries and electronics in interior pockets so body heat can keep them warm. This is especially important if you use any electronic devices as a primary form of navigation. American Hiking recommends hikers carry paper maps and a compass (and know how to use them) in the event a navigation device malfunctions.

Don't toss the sunscreen

While this is most important if you are hiking in a snowy region, winter hikers often forget about the sun's glare reflecting off of white snow.

Protect your eyes

UV-rated snow goggles or sunglasses that provide adequate protection from bitter wind and the sun's harsh rays should be used even when it's cloudy and not super bright at the beginning of a hike.

Pack freeze-resistant snacks

It can be discouraging to take a snack break only to find your favorite snack hard as a rock and uneatable in cold temps. Chewy and gooey snacks often become hard to eat in winter conditions. Either keep these snacks in an interior pocket or pack snacks that are less affected by cold temps. You can test which snacks work best by putting various snacks in your freezer to see what gets too hard to enjoy out on the trail. Crackers, nuts, and solid chocolate typically work well. Warm snacks are even more appetizing when it's cold outside so consider stashing your next snack in an interior pocket to warm it up a little before your next snack break.

Be prepared for shorter days

As early as October, dusk settles earlier and more quickly than in the summer. Have a good idea of the usable daylight hours before going hiking. Always carry a headlamp or flashlight with extra batteries.