Don’t let Old Man Winter keep you from enjoying the outdoors!

Winter Camping

Camping is a four-season activity in Indiana. Seriously. And the variety of accommodations available through Indiana State Parks allows you to plan an experience as comfortable or as adventurous as you desire.

Indiana State Parks winter camping accommodations

Roughing it, for real

- Primitive camping sites remain available at all 30 state park campgrounds throughout winter, offering full exposure to the elements for hardy, experienced campers.
- Campsites are offered on a walk-in basis in the winter; no reservations are necessary. Make sure to register with the park office or gate.
- At most campgrounds, water and electricity is unavailable during winter, so prepare accordingly.

Roughing it, with heated restrooms

Seven campgrounds even offer heated restroom facilities (comfort stations) through all or part of winter. They are:

- **Chain O’Lakes**: One comfort station open through Dec. 21.
- **Clifty Falls**: “Family/ADA” comfort station with heated floor open all winter.
- **Indiana Dunes**: A heated, unisex family restroom (one stall, one shower) is open all winter.
- **O’Bannon Woods**: One comfort station open all winter.
- **Patoka Lake**: One heated restroom open all winter.
- **Salamonie Lake**: One heated family restroom open until Nov. 30.
- **Pokagon**: One comfort station open all winter.

Remedy for cabin fever? How about a real cabin?

- Cabins are a good place to start for those inexperienced at braving the cold.
- Check the current Indiana Recreation Guide for a chart of properties offering cabins.
- Call ahead to check availability.

Preparation is Key

When it comes to winter camping, failing to plan is a plan to fail. Always:

- Check the forecast.
- Make sure someone knows where you will be camping and when you will return.
- Bring more food, water, clothes and firewood than you think you’ll need.
- Make sure sleeping bags are rated for the conditions you will be in.
- Know the signs of frostbite and hypothermia.
- Layer your clothing, beginning with a wicking (or perspiration-removing) layer, followed by insulating garments, topped off by a wind and/or waterproof shell.
- Drink plenty of water. It’s easy to get dehydrated in the cold.
- Prepare warm, hearty meals.

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On the Web: www.stateparks.IN.gov
Campsite Information: www.camp.IN.gov