No right way is easy

“NO RIGHT WAY IS EASY IN THIS ROUGH WORLD; WE MUST RISK OUR LIVES TO SAVE THEM.”

Before John Muir wrote those words, before people wrote words, Anishinaabek legend tells of a mother bear and her two cubs escaping an encroaching forest fire by jumping into the big lake we now call Michigan. This teaching is the root of the legend popularly told today. To save their lives, they first had to risk them.

The mama bear risked everything leaving home, leading her two cubs on such a long stormy swim to the safety she hoped to find on the other side. “Don’t lose faith if you lose sight of me over one wave, keep swimming as hard as you can until you find me over the next” she said as she led them into the raging waters.

The first official recommendation to create this National Lakeshore came in 1959 in recognition of the need to save this special place from encroaching threats. The people who wanted to create this National Lakeshore and those who didn’t, entered into their own stormy waters. Fighting through waves of frustration, compromise, and sacrifice, they all swam as hard as they could, hoping to find resolution over the next wave.

Mama bear swam all night long and landed exhausted on the sandy shoreline the next morning. When she didn’t see her cubs, she climbed on top of a tall bluff to watch for them. As she waited, she fell asleep from her exhaustion. Her two cubs never made it to shore, succumbing to their exhaustion in the depths of the great lake.

The Great Spirit saw what happened, and was so moved to raise the two cubs to become North America’s. “Mama bear made it to shore, succumbing to their exhaustion in the depths of the great lake.”

On October 21st, 1970, these legendary lands became Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore to protect outstanding natural features “to be preserved in their natural setting and protected from developments and uses which would destroy the scenic beauty and natural character of the area.” Mama bear had made it to shore.

Over time, local families’ histories and other cultural sites were recognized as outstanding features worth saving as well, finally re-uniting all of the “family.” The cubs had been raised up, rescued from their potential graves.

Thanks to the many people who sacrificed their lands, homes, and life stories, and the people who fought to preserve them for eternity, like Senator Philip A. Hart, this National Park Service site will now be preserved for us all to enjoy, together, for this and future generations.

The legend may appear to be a story of death or loss, but we hope you also see it as a story of eternal love. Nothing is stronger or lasts longer than the love of family. It is stronger than forest fires, raging waters, death, divorce, or disagreements.

To many, this place represents family. Whether it is the Anishinaabek who originally lived in this place and told the legend, the families who lost their lands for a national park, or new families just starting the tradition of bringing their children to the dunes, our love for family and for this legendary place, will outlast anything that may divide us.

Help us celebrate our 40th anniversary year by coming home to your Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Explore your park, discover its rich history with your own family, and make new legends to share with future generations.
National Park Entrance Passes
A park entrance pass is required whenever you enter into Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. National Lakeshore and National Marsh shall be displayed on the driver's side of your vehicle's windshield or dashboard. If parking outside the Lakeshore boundary and entering on foot or bicycle, carry your pass. Purchase a pass at the visitor center or park office. The pass is valid for one season at campground office, Overflow Parking Scenic Island, or the Dune Crest during regular hours of operation, or between 8:00 a.m. and 10 a.m. at Tahquamenon Falls. Passes may also be purchased May through October, 24 hours a day, at the self-serve pay station at the Kl беремоеz Мезо и рошь. Ёрмистер'с, Fare, North Bar Lake.

Seven-Day Pass for Sleeping Bear Dunes NL
Admits pass holder and all passengers in a non-commercial vehicle. Non transferable and valid for 7 days.

Free admission for children 15 and under

20 Annual Pass for all Sleeping Bear Dunes NL
Admits pass holder and all passengers in a non-commercial vehicle. Only valid at this park for one year from month of purchase.

Senior Pass for National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands
A lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or over. One-time fee provides access to all federal sites. Admits pass holder and all passengers in a non-commercial vehicle. May provide a 50 percent discount on recreation fees such as camping, swimming, and entrance fees. Can be obtained in person or through the mail for a $10 processing fee.

Free admission for seniors age 62 and over

$80 Annual Pass for National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands
Provides access to all federal recreation sites for a year from month of purchase. Admits pass holder and all passengers in a non-commercial vehicle. Can be obtained in person or through the mail for a $10 processing fee. For more information, visit http://store.nps.gov/products/npa/

Listening Assistance Available
Do you have trouble hearing important information at ranger programs because of competing sounds?

Try out the FM audience listening system available for your use in the Lakeshore. The equipment is paired with the sound of a ranger’s voice, which you choose through a headband, neck loop, or earbuds. Use the wireless system for a ranger-led hike, ranger-led evening program, or an events center program in Empire. The campground offices, or the General Offices on Gros Abier. A learning system is available for the multimedia program at the visitor center.

Explore Glen Haven
This steamship tour on Sleeping Bear Bay dates back to the turn of the 20th century. Visit the Blacksmith Shop, General Store, and Canoeery. The Manned Museum tells the stories of the U.S. Life Saving Service in a fully restored station. Stories of the shipwreck disaster can be seen in a video exhibit. Visitors wishing to use the equipment are encouraged to call ahead and early arrival.

Local Information
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore 231-320-5134 www.nps.gov/slbe
Benedict County Chamber of Commerce 231-882-5871 www.benedict.org
Empire Chamber of Commerce www.empirechamber.org
Frankfort Chamber of Commerce www.frankfortmich.org
Glen Lake Chamber of Commerce 231-334-3238 www.glenlakechamber.com
Ludington Chamber of Commerce 231-217-8885 www.ludingtonchamber.org
Traverse City Chamber of Commerce 231-947-0757 www.tccchamber.com
Traverse City Visitors Bureau 231-947-1102 www.traverse.org

Making the Most of Your Time
For a full day:

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
Open year-round. The National Park Service is celebrating the 70th anniversary of the National Park Service. Though the park was established to preserve the scenic beauty of Lake Michigan’s eastern shoreline, as well as North and South Manitou Islands. The park will be established in honor of “outstanding natural features, including beaches, lakeshores, and islands; and historic and cultural features which…be determined” by the Secretary of the Interior.  The Lakeshore also contains many cultural features including 1887-1897 U.S. Life Saving Service Station. Claim the 300-foot tall tower for sweeping views of the Manistee Peninsula. The lighthouse is 130 feet in depth. 30 minutes.

Motorized Island Historical Tour
Manitou Island Transit offers open-air tours for island tourists. Explore the history of the old schooners, cemeteries, and farms. For costs and reservations call 231-535-9922. Begins in the village after ferry arrives Length: 2 hours.

Giant Cedars and Shipwreck Hike
Hidden on the island’s southeast corner, a stand of old-growth white cedar called the Valley of the Giants-occupies the southernmost. Nearby, lie the shipwrecked freighter, the Francesco Mudravek, which ran aground in 1872. Stops include the trail village Length: 7 miles round trip, 2-4 hours.

The ferry leaves on schedule—don’t be late!
Park Partners

Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes

The Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes was founded in 1994 in a volunteer, nonprofit organization, and is dedicated to protecting the environment and cultural resources of the park. The group grows grants and donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations for a variety of interesting projects and park support. Look for their publications in park brochures available for donation.

Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear

Since 1998, Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear (PHSB) has been a park partner dedicated to sponsoring volunteer preservation

projects and raising money to save the historic buildings and landscapes of the park. PHSB is an all-volunteer outfit supported by the local community. PHSB members are involved in research, fundraising, hands-on management and preservation projects, and interpretation activities. The friends have a special commitment to protecting our natural environment.

The Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes (FSBD) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We are dedicated to preserving the unique natural and cultural heritage of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Our members come from all over the United States, many of whom have visited the park and have fallen in love with its beauty and history. The Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes is committed to supporting the park and its visitors through a variety of ways. We work closely with the National Park Service to ensure that the park's resources are protected and respected.

We are looking for new members to join our organization! Membership in the Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes is open to anyone who would like to support the park and its mission. Membership dues contribute to the overall work of the group and help fund specific projects. Dues are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Dues:

$25 Individual
$50 Senior (65+)
$75 Family
$100 Business/Special Interest

To join, please visit our website at www.fsbd.org and follow the instructions. Thank you for your support!

also, the good news is we have the power to slow it down by doing the reverse. climate change affects all of us and if we do not act now, future generations will beleft behind. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is determined to make our effect a positive one that will preserve the nationally beloved place for generations to come. Becoming a Climate Friendly Park brings us one step closer.

We've completed our greenhouse gas emissions inventory and hosted a workshop on developing an emissions reduction action plan. When our plan and implementation plan is finalized, it will officially become a Climate Friendly Park.

The Park has already made several changes that reduce our emissions and save money and resources such as:

- installing programmable thermostats, improving insulation, and replacing lights with more energy-efficient bulbs.
- installing photo-voltaic systems on North and South Manitou Harbors.
- buying green products whenever possible.
- replacing oil, cleaners, and solvents with soy-based products.
- choosing a waste vendor that will sort and recycle up to 95% of the contents collected from our dumpsters.
- replacing vehicles in our fleet with hybrids or alternative fuel models whenever possible.

But we can't do it alone. Please learn more about how you can help by visiting the website below.

http://www.nps.gov/stbe friends@fsbd.org

Lucky for us, most actions that are good for our global climate are also good for us; from saving money to improving our health.

Port Oneida Planning

Four days of great fun await you at Port Oneida this August. From fun talks at the Maritime Museum to exciting activities at the Platte River Point and D.H. Day campground amphitheaters, there's something for everyone! For details/topics, ask the ranger at the Maritime Museum, call the visitor center, or check the website.

An Evening Out with a Ranger*

Enjoy an evening outdoors with a park ranger at the Platte River Point and D.H. Day campground amphitheaters. Hear talks on the park's treasure trove of nature and history. For details, call campground offices, or visit the website.

Maritime Museum

Meet the ranger at the base of the Dune Climb and be on the lookout for the Maritime Museum west of M-109 and Glen Haven. Enjoy talks on the park's treasure trove of nature and history. For details, call campground offices, or visit the website.

Dune Dialogs

Meet the ranger at the base of the Dune Climb and be there on time to participate in one of these fun programs. Dune Dialogs are a 45-minute discussion of the Port Oneida Dune Climb. The format includes a brief history of the Dune Climb, its ecology, and its value to the park. The ranger will ask questions about the Dune Climb and answer any questions from the audience.

An Evening Out with a Ranger*

Enjoy an evening outdoors with a park ranger at the Platte River Point and D.H. Day campground amphitheaters. Hear talks on the park's treasure trove of nature and history. For details, call campground offices, or visit the website.

Lyle Gun Firing Demonstration

Enjoy a fun talk about the history of firearms in the park and a demonstration of a hand-fired musket. The demonstration is suitable for all ages.

By Land and Water: Sleeping Bear Point

We will get to the Point of Sleeping Bear by exploring this unique landscape of shifting sands. Sleeping Bear Point is a 1½-mile, 45-minute hike from the parking area of Port Oneida Road.

An Evening Out with a Ranger*

Enjoy an evening with a ranger at the Port Oneida Road trailhead and Dune Climb amphitheater at Fall Creek. For details, call campground offices, or visit the website.

An Evening Out with a Ranger*

Enjoy an evening with a ranger at the Port Oneida Road trailhead and Dune Climb amphitheater at Fall Creek. For details, call campground offices, or visit the website.

An Evening Out with a Ranger*

Enjoy an evening with a ranger at the Port Oneida Road trailhead and Dune Climb amphitheater at Fall Creek. For details, call campground offices, or visit the website.

An Evening Out with a Ranger*

Enjoy an evening with a ranger at the Port Oneida Road trailhead and Dune Climb amphitheater at Fall Creek. For details, call campground offices, or visit the website.

An Evening Out with a Ranger*

Enjoy an evening with a ranger at the Port Oneida Road trailhead and Dune Climb amphitheater at Fall Creek. For details, call campground offices, or visit the website.

An Evening Out with a Ranger*

Enjoy an evening with a ranger at the Port Oneida Road trailhead and Dune Climb amphitheater at Fall Creek. For details, call campground offices, or visit the website.

An Evening Out with a Ranger*

Enjoy an evening with a ranger at the Port Oneida Road trailhead and Dune Climb amphitheater at Fall Creek. For details, call campground offices, or visit the website.

An Evening Out with a Ranger*

Enjoy an evening with a ranger at the Port Oneida Road trailhead and Dune Climb amphitheater at Fall Creek. For details, call campground offices, or visit the website.

An Evening Out with a Ranger*

Enjoy an evening with a ranger at the Port Oneida Road trailhead and Dune Climb amphitheater at Fall Creek. For details, call campground offices, or visit the website.

An Evening Out with a Ranger*

Enjoy an evening with a ranger at the Port Oneida Road trailhead and Dune Climb amphitheater at Fall Creek. For details, call campground offices, or visit the website.

An Evening Out with a Ranger*

Enjoy an evening with a ranger at the Port Oneida Road trailhead and Dune Climb amphitheater at Fall Creek. For details, call campground offices, or visit the website.

An Evening Out with a Ranger*

Enjoy an evening with a ranger at the Port Oneida Road trailhead and Dune Climb amphitheater at Fall Creek. For details, call campground offices, or visit the website.

An Evening Out with a Ranger*

Enjoy an evening with a ranger at the Port Oneida Road trailhead and Dune Climb amphitheater at Fall Creek. For details, call campground offices, or visit the website.

An Evening Out with a Ranger*

Enjoy an evening with a ranger at the Port Oneida Road trailhead and Dune Climb amphitheater at Fall Creek. For details, call campground offices, or visit the website.
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Trail Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail</th>
<th>Round Trip</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Park Access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Old Indian Trail</td>
<td>2.5 mi</td>
<td>Easy hike, easy to advanced ski - Two fairly flat loops begin in a mixed evergreen and hardwood forest and wind through the dunes to the Lake Michigan shore. Trailhead: off M-22, north of Sable Rd.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platte Plains Trail</td>
<td>3.2 mi</td>
<td>Easy hike - Watch for porcupines. There are multiple trailheads (Otter Creek Ski Area, Trail End Rd., off US 10, A 2 Platte River Outfitter).</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass Lake Loop</td>
<td>3.5 mi</td>
<td>Easy hike and ski - Winds around Bass and Dune Lakes. Some sections follow a two-track road.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otter Creek Loop</td>
<td>4 mi</td>
<td>Easy hike and ski - Follows Otter Creek and Otter Lake.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empire Bluff Trail</td>
<td>5.5 mi</td>
<td>Moderate hike, easy to advanced ski - Winds through pine-oak-sapen forests. Some overlooks of Lake Michigan. Several road crossings.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windy Morris Trail</td>
<td>3.5 mi</td>
<td>Moderate hike, advanced ski - A quiet trail with a view of Glen Lake from atop a hill. Trail leads through beach-mixed forest and old farm fields. Trailhead: West Rd. east of US-10.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shauger Hill Trail</td>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate hike, advanced ski - Includes beach-mixed forest, and steep hills and crosses the Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive twice. Watch for traffic at the crosswalks. In winter, the Scenic Drive is closed to vehicles for use as a cross-country ski and snowmobile trail. Eight additional miles of hilly terrain challenge winter visitors. Watch for Ministérios where the trail crosses. Shauger Hill Rd. Trailhead parking lot near Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive entrance, US-10.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottonwood Trail</td>
<td>3 mi</td>
<td>Moderate - Hilly, all sand, and no shade. Leads onto the dune-dunes through native pines, oaks, and aspens down from above the Dune Climb. Off M-109, at 300, and Glen Lake. Take water, sunscreen, hat, and shoes.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunes Hiking Trail</td>
<td>3 mi</td>
<td>Stemansenn - Hilly, all sand, and no shade. Travels over nine hills through the high dunes plateau to Lake Michigan. Blue-tipped posts mark the trail: it can be a hot, exhausting, three-to-four hour trip. Plan ahead. Take water, sunscreen, hat, shoes, and a snack. Trailhead: the Dune Climb, US-10.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dune Accessible Trail</td>
<td>3.0 mi</td>
<td>Easy - The trail is accessible to those with physical and visual impairments. Great for strollers. There are benches along the way and a quiet loop at the end. Be sure to visit the measuring board to calculate the speed at which the dune is moving. Trailhead north end of the Dune Climb, US-10.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleeping Bear Point Trail</td>
<td>2.8 mi</td>
<td>Stemansenn - Hilly, all sand, and no shade. Leads onto the dune-dunes through native pines, oaks, and aspens down from above the Dune Climb. Off M-109, at 300, and Glen Lake. Take water, sunscreen, hat, shoes, and a snack. Trailhead: stop # 4 along the Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive, US-10.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alligator Hill Trail</td>
<td>3 - 4 mi</td>
<td>All three loops lead through a beach-mixed forest to a beach which overlooks Lake Michigan and the Manitou Islands. A 1.5 mile spur takes you across the ridge to the Glen Lake overlook. Trailhead: north of US-10, Dune Climb, US-10.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay View Trail</td>
<td>3.6 - 4.5 m</td>
<td>Provide views of Lake Michigan and the Port Huron Waterfront Historic District. Several loops of different lengths and difficulties. Trailhead: off Thompson Rd. near US-22.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Loop</td>
<td>2.4 - 4.5 m</td>
<td>Easy hike and ski - Winds through pines and fields and by a historic schoolhouse to Locust Point.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyramid Point Trail</td>
<td>2.7 mi</td>
<td>Moderate - It’s the bluff and back is 1.2 miles. Climbing a steep hill, it provides an overlook of Lake Michigan and the Manitou Islands. For your safety and to prevent erosion, please do not descend the bluff. The entire loop is a 2.7 miles and follows a portion of Beach Rd. Trailhead: off Crooked Rd. follow Port Huron Rd. north from US-22.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Harbor Key Trail</td>
<td>2.8 mi</td>
<td>Easy hike and ski - A flat loop through woods and overbeach. Trailhead: off Lake Michigan Rd., take CR 680 north from US-22, follow Lake Michigan Rd. west.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional trail information:

- No pets on designated ski trails (December 1 through March 31).
- Check for ticks, which can carry Lyme disease. If an embedded tick is discovered, note the date and time of removal in case complications develop later.
- Please leave plants, rocks, and other natural objects undisturbed for others to enjoy. Do not collect ghost forest wood, any wood on the dunes, or wildflowers. Ask the rangers about what fruits, berries, and mushrooms you can pick.
- Always tell someone where you are going hiking and when you'll be back.
Pets in the Park

Mainland Lake Michigan Beaches

What’s that stinky goo?

It’s Cladophora, a filamentous green alga that naturally occurs in Lake Michigan, though not naturally in such volume. Where it does bloom it can look similar to tumor or turtleneck formations. It grows on submerged rocks, logs, or other hard surfaces, but wind and waves can break it free, washing it where it decays and releases a pungent odor. The reason for the increased growths are being studied. Some factors that are known to increase Cladophora growth include the following:

- Warm water temperatures that thrive at water temperatures between 50°F to 70°F.
- Bitter cold winters can help stimulate growth; however, the prolonged ice cover means organisms cannot fotosynthesize.
- Aquatic animals which can spread the algal material.
- Invasive bullies, which are non-native species that can form blooms.
- Agricultural and urban runoff.

Shoreline oddities

Walking the beaches of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore for the first time or the one hundredth is equally breathtaking. However, once in a while a great big rock can wash up on your body for all the wrong reasons.

Where are they dead birds on the beach?

When Cladophora blooms, it presents an ideal breeding ground for botulinum bacteria. Birds ingest this poison from eating invertebrates that have ingested or consumed the bacteria. The U.S. Geological Survey-National Wildlife Health Center have confirmed type E botulinum toxin in dead bird specimens collected at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

You should always exercise caution upon encountering bird carcasses along the beach and keep pets away from dead animals. Ingesting the botulinum toxin is poisonous. Beaches within the National Lakeshore remain safe for swimming, but dogs are not recommended for interaction with botulinum or for consuming tainted invertebrates.
Glen Haven Historic Village

Stop into the colorful past in this company-owned steamboat stop that opened from 1869 until 1932. Sleeping Bearly, as it was originally called, was a natural harbor sought out by steamboats sailing between Chicago and Buffalo. Learn more about area history while you visit the restored General Store and Blacksmith Shop. Flash tocolike and picnic area with grill area available.

Maritime Museum

Tour the crew quarters and boathouse at the Maritime Museum at Sleeping Bear Point, but not on the deck. 10am-5pm. Open 7 days.

Cannery Boat Museum

What was once a cherry and apple cannery now houses a collection of historic Great Lakes vessels, including boats, motors, and equipment. Friendly volunteers provide impromptu interpretive talks and answer your questions. Outside, pilings which supported Glen Haven’s dock stretch into Sleeping Bear Bay. Open 10-5 daily. Memorial Day weekend through September. Open 12-3 weekends, October 1-15.

Heroes of the Storm, 3 p.m. daily

In the late 1800s, the U.S. Life Saving Service covered storms riddling their lives in deadly weather to rescue passengers from shipswrecks. Participate in a demonstration rescue using U.S. L.S.S rescue techniques. A park ranger will roll out the beach cart, demonstrate the broaches buoy, and, on Thursday, fire the Lyle Gun. Daily. June-December.

Historic Beach Patrols

During the full summer season, patrol the beach with a surfman from the U.S. Lifesaving Service. The worse the weather, the more realistic the patrol. Dress appropriately. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Saturdays, October 3 and October 10.

Bicycling

Bike on any established road that vehicles travel, but not on any trails. Join a ranger for a ride or explore the following areas.

Porcupine Rural Historic District: easy Trails in the county roads, a mix of gravel and pavement, wind between farms, burns, and wetlands. Ask for an area map at the visitor center.

Platte-Plains moderate. Close to the Platte River Campground. Use these primitive roads to experience nature away from the highway.

Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive: strenuous. For experienced bicyclists only. This 7.5 mile loop, with high summer traffic volumes and steep hills, provides overlooks of Lake Michigan and the dunes.

Winter Activities

Explore the colors of winter. Blue-gray ice sheets sculpt the shoreline and frostless oak, beech, and maple moss reveal overlooks shrubbed the rest of the year. Winter creates a quiet and rarely witnessed landscape.

Ski the trails. Easy, intermediate, and advanced trails exist. Not groomed, but frequently tracked. Ask about ski trail guidelines or see page 6.

Snowshoeing anywhere. When following marked trails, please avoid trampling established ski trails by snowshoeing alongside, not on them.

Weekend snowshoe hikes. In January and February, rangers lead free introductory snowshoeing hikes. Meet at the visitor center at 10:30 a.m. The park provides snowshoes free of charge. They are limited; call ahead for reservations 231-334-2010 or visit www.easternnational.org.

Dune Center Store

Operated by Eastern National, a non-profit park partner, the Dune Center (near the Dune Climb) provides quality educational products and services for the park visitors. Stop into the air-conditioned store for nature guides, compasses, maps, T-shirts, hats, hiking sticks, and more. A first-hand experience with an accessible wheelchair may be borrowed. Call 231-343-9260 or visit www.easternnational.org. Open June: Fri-Sat, Sun 10-5; July & Labor Day daily 10-5. Located at the base of the Dune Climb.

Camping

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore offers camping for everyone. The Platte River Campground is equipped with modern facilities, tent pads, picnic tables, fire rings, and parking pads at each site.

D H Day Campground

D H Day Campground is a popular, rustic campground with wooded campsites. Sites have tent pads, picnic tables, fire rings and parking areas.

Backcountry camping is available on the mainland at White Pine and Valley View Campgrounds, on South Manitou Island at Bay, Weather Station, and Purple Campgrounds (e.g. 5 and 5 miles from the dock), and on North Manitou Island (wilderness camping). A backcountry camping permit is required in addition to a park entrance pass. Obtain a pass and permit at the visitor center or campground office.

Flake out breath from the task that the Forest Education Zones project. You can visit one of these forest education zones to learn more about those threats and consequences.

Forest Pest and Disease Education Zones

Learn more about the threats to our Lakeshore by visiting our forest pest and disease education zones. Within these zones, all trees that are susceptible to currently existing pest insects and diseases have been marked with color-coded flags. A brochure, available at the visitor center and campgrounds, explains the flag color to the species of tree and its threatening pest and disease. Walking through the zones, you can learn more on your own identification, learn what threatens these trees, and pause to imagine what the forest would be like if every tagged tree were to die and disappear. The brochures tell you what you can do to slow this loss while researchers work to find a way to combat the invaders.

Zones are located at the Platte River and D H Day Campgrounds, Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive, Inspiration Point, and the Empire Bluff Hiking trail.
Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore has over 100 miles of hiking trails and exactly zero miles of bicycle trails, but not for long. The first leg of the new Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail (SBHT) is scheduled to break ground this summer.

The idea started with the Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route (LSHR) Committee. The state of Michigan designated the LSRH in 2002 to promote preservation of its scenic, historic, and recreational character. Now it is part of the National Lakeshore’s recently completed General Management Plan.

The SBHT will be a hard-surfaced, multi-use trail generally paralleling M-22 and M-109 for 27 miles through the National Lakeshore connecting Good Harbor Beach at County Road 651 to the Leelanau County line south of Empire (with potential to extend south connecting with Platte River Campground and beyond).

It will provide a safe, non-motorized, multi-use transportation alternative connecting the National Lakeshore’s main visitor destinations with the communities of Glen Arbor and Empire. It will give walkers, runners, wheelchair users, bicyclists, cross-country skiers, and baby strollers a safe, enjoyable, fresh air and car-free way to access and explore the National Lakeshore and neighboring communities.

Ferry service changes with the seasons.

Ferry service to North Manitou Island may be closed May-August. There is no service on Thanksgiving. Check with the ferry company for hours.

Ferry service to South Manitou Island is 27 miles north of Empire on M-22. Arrive 1 hour before loading time. The ferry operates from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily May through October.

South Manitou Island

No place offers a more complete sense of the National Lakeshore than South Manitou Island. Catch a passenger ferry for a day trip or camping excursion. The island preserves beaches, hiking trails, giant cedars, shipwrecks, and historic farms all for your exploration away from the rush of the mainland. Climb the lighthouse stairs for grand views across Lake Michigan. Take everything you need (food, water, camping equipment) as no services are available on the island.

Supplies are available in Leland.

North Manitou Island

For a true wilderness experience, back-pack on North Manitou Island. Visitors pass through the historic Coast Guard village before entering nearly 19,000 acres of undeveloped forests, fields, and beach-es. Visits emphasize solitude and self-reliance. Plan well. No services are available. As you must stay overnight, take all your camping needs. Due to nesting piping plover, some beach areas may be closed May-August. There is no ferry service to North Manitou Island on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Manitou Islands

The Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is one of the most beautiful places in America. This season we’re introducing the Manitou Islands, a group of six islands south of Empire. They are part of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and they offer incredible opportunities to experience Michigan’s natural beauty.

Sleeping Bear Point Maritime Museum. Dress for the weather and experience the history of plumbing, shipping, and the U.S. Life Saving Service through hands-on activities.

Port Oneida Fair
Port Oneida Rural Historic District. Arts, crafts, and rural life demonstrations along with live animals at a variety of farmsteads throughout the Port Oneida Rural Historic District.

Port Oneida, and Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive geology. Ask at the visitor center, campground offices, or entrance kiosks for a map and directions to the cell phone tour stops.

Special Events

For more information on any special event, contact 231-362-5134 or visit the website: www.nps.gov/sbdr

Dial and Discover Sleeping Bear Dunes

Discover more about the rich history and natural beauty of the Lakeshore any time from your own cell phone. It’s easy. You use your own cell phone service and minutes.

• At each tour stop, dial 231-577-5555
• Enter the tour stop number.

Enroll at www.SBHT2.org. A national park entrance pass is required to visit the islands. A backcountry permit is also required for camping. For details, visit the GAAA website at www.glenarborart.org (click on Manitou Music Festival).

South Manitou Island Ferry

9:15 a.m. Check in and board in Leland 10:00 a.m. Depart Leland 11:30 a.m. Arrive South Manitou Island 4:00 p.m. Depart South Manitou Island 5:30 p.m. Arrive Leland

North Manitou Island Ferry

9:15 a.m. Check in and board in Leland 10:00 a.m. Depart Leland 11:00 a.m. Arrive North Manitou Island 11:05 a.m. Depart North Manitou Island immediately after loading 12:00 p.m. Arrive Leland

Ferry service changes with the seasons. Always check Manitou Island Transit for reservations and schedule updates. 231-256-9061. A national park entrance pass is required to visit the islands. A backcountry permit is also required for campers. Passes and permits are available at the Leland Harbor office before ferry boarding and at the visitor center in Empire. Leland is 27 miles north of Empire on M-22.

http://www.lelanau.com/manitou/manitou.html

Become a Junior Ranger!

Explore the secrets of the Lakeshore as you seek answers for your Junior Ranger book (free at park stores and campgrounds). Children of all ages enjoy these fun and challenging activities. The book—new in 2010—lists the steps you need to finish to earn a Junior Ranger badge and/or patch. In order to earn your Junior Ranger status, return to the visitor center or a campground office to review your answers with a ranger and take an official oath.

Visit www.nps.gov/sbdr or call 231-362-5134 to learn more!