

**The National Park Service is offering free entry to Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore in northern Michigan on April 18, August 25, September 26 and November 11.**

**A park entrance pass usually is \$25 per vehicle, \$20 for motorcycles, or \$15 per person if you're entering the park by foot or bicycle.**



Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. It hugs the northeast shore of Lake Michigan and includes South and North Manitou islands. The park is known for the huge scalable dunes of the Dune Climb. Beaches include Platte River Point, where the river flows into the lake. The Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail winds through forests and the Port Oneida area with its 19th-century farmsteads. Miles of sand beach, bluffs that tower 450' above Lake Michigan, lush forests, clear inland lakes, unique flora and fauna make up the natural world of Sleeping Bear Dunes. An island lighthouse, US Life-Saving Service stations, coastal villages, and picturesque farmsteads reflect the park's rich maritime, agricultural, and recreational history.

#### Excursion Ideas

On Saturday, April 18, the first day of National Park Week/National Junior Ranger Day, get started at the Philip A. Hart Visitor Center in Empire (open 8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.) Find lots of helpful resources—maps, brochures, assistance from volunteers and rangers—as well as an interactive exhibition and shop featuring educational materials and items. From there, head to nearby Empire Bluff Trail for a picturesque hike with panoramic views of Lake Michigan at the turn-around point.

The anniversary of the National Park Service on Tuesday, Aug. 25 is a perfect time to visit Glen Haven, the quiet historic village nestled along Lake Michigan. Search for colorful stones along this pebbled shoreline, snap a photo or two next to the cherry-red Glen Haven Canning Co. building and take a walk (or bike ride) along the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail takes you through D.H. Day Campground and on to Glen Arbor to the north, and to the Dune Climb and Empire when heading south. Be sure to stop and walk around the little logging village, which has been restored to its appearance in the 1920s.

With 35 miles of sandy Lake Michigan beaches, two large islands, majestic sand dunes and bluffs, crystal-clear rivers and inland lakes, there are plenty of ways to soak up all that this national park offers—no matter the time of year. The two final days of fee-free days fall on Saturday, Sept. 26, which is National Public Lands Day, and Wednesday, November 11, Veterans Day. Wander a quieter Lake Michigan beach (check out Peterson Beach Sleeping Bear Recreation Area near the village of Honor) or hike a peaceful trail (try the Bay View Trail, which offers views of the countryside and Lake Michigan).

For more information on Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, go to: <https://www.nps.gov/slbe/index.htm>