

## Different Places to Hike

### 1. Mines of Spain Recreation Area, *Dubuque*

Mississippi River bluffs are on full display at the Mines of Spain Recreation Area. One of the most iconic views is from the Julien Dubuque Monument, honoring the founder of the nearby city of Dubuque.

### 2. Mosquito Park, *Burlington*

It's Burlington's oldest and one of the city's smallest parks, but Mosquito Park still has a lot to offer - including one of the best views of the Mississippi River in the state. It's a popular spot for weddings, photo shoots and a spot to relax.

### 3. Bellevue State Park, *Bellevue*

View up to 60 different species of butterflies in the Bellevue State Park butterfly garden. Continue exploring on hiking trails that feature scenic views of the Mississippi River.

### 4. Rock Creek County Park, *Camanche*

This county park near Clinton has excellent cabins and campgrounds, a nature center, hiking, boating and fishing. The park is also home to **Blue Heron Eco Cruises**, which give visitors an up-close experience with the ecology of the Mississippi River.

### 5. Pinicon Ridge Park, *Central City*

This well-developed county park offers watercraft rentals (canoes, kayaks and paddleboats) and group canoe trips. Landlubbers can explore the walking and hiking trails, playgrounds, observation tower and the wildlife area with elk and deer.

### 6. Devonian Fossil Gorge, *Iowa City*

Fossils in the limestone bedrock of this park were revealed after the floods of 1993. The fossils are part of the Devonian-age sea floor and date back almost 200 million years before the dinosaurs.

### 7. Backbone State Park, *Dundee*

Named for the "Devil's Backbone," a steep rocky ridge that divides the park, Backbone State Park includes unique rock formations, a cave, a natural spring, a lake and miles of trails ranging from easy to adventurous.

### 8. Pikes Peak State Park, *McGregor*

Some of the best views of the Mississippi River are at Pikes Peak State Park. In addition to sweeping vistas, hikers can view limestone bluffs, fossils and Bridal Veil Falls, a natural spring-fed waterfall.

### 9. Wildcat Den State Park, *Muscatine*

The trail system at Wildcat Den leads hikers through canyons and cliffs with names like "Devil's Punch Bowl" and "Fat Man's Squeeze." The **Historic Pine Creek Grist Mill** is also located in the park.

**10. Pictured Rocks County Park, Monticello**

This county park is lined with steep limestone cliffs and surrounds the Maquoketa River near Monticello. Rock climbing is popular at this park, with 14 different wall areas to climb.

**11. Effigy Mounds National Monument, Harpers Ferry**

Hike among prehistoric Native American burial grounds and forests that line the Mississippi River at this National Monument site.

**12. Maquoketa Caves State Park, Maquoketa**

Maquoketa Caves State Park contains more caves than any other park in Iowa. The recently updated trail system links caves, limestone formations and scenic overlooks.

**13. Crystal Lake Cave, Dubuque**

Guided tours of Crystal Lake Cave's 3,000 feet of passageways feature stalactites, stalagmites and many different crystal formations.

**14. Spook Cave, McGregor**

Spook Cave is the only cave in Iowa you explore by boat! Boat tours include the history and development of the cave while viewing natural limestone formations.

**15. Wapsipinicon State Park, Anamosa**

Explore the caves at Wapsipinicon State Park as you hike the multi-use trails. Horse Thief Cave is named after a legend that horse thieves used the cave as their camp. Ice Cave's cool temperatures provide relief during a hot summer day.

**16. Ice Cave, Decorah**

As one of the largest ice caverns in the Midwest, Ice Cave typically keeps its ice-covered walls and freezing temperatures throughout the summer months. After exploring the cave, head to **Dunnings Springs**, a natural spring-fed waterfall located within walking distance.