

iowa

parks for kids



Buddy Bison's Fact Bites!



- The state name originates from the Dakota Indian word “Ayuhwa” meaning “sleepy ones” and was once the name of a tribe living in the area.
- The Red Delicious apple was originally developed in Peru, Iowa.
- Iowa is the only state whose east and west borders are 100% formed by water: the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers.
- The ratio of pigs to people in Iowa is 7 to 1.



1. Backbone State Park

Explore the Backbone Cave with a flashlight, go rock climbing, go swimming, boating and fishing! Hike around the Blackstone then spend the night camping.

2. Ledges State Park

Hike the Lost Lake Nature Trail to Sentinel and Solstice Rocks but be sure to take along some snacks! Go bird watching and camp overnight.

3. Stone State Park

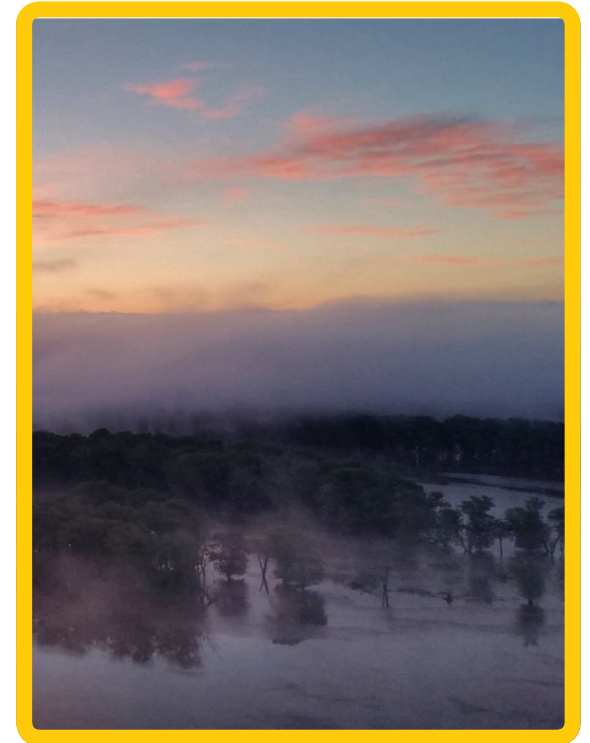
Stop by the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center to learn about local ecology and wildlife. Ride horses or bike around Stone Park Loop then spend the night camping.

4. Maquoketa Caves State Park

Stop by the Visitor Center to learn about history and archaeology in the area! Bring a flashlight when you explore Dancehall Cave or hike along the paved lighted walk inside the cave. Try finding the Natural Bridge and the Balanced Rock.

5. Effigy Mounds National Monument

Become a Junior Ranger! Complete the Junior Ranger Archaeology Booklet and earn a badge! Hike the Fire Point Trail and make all 10 stops then camp overnight.



6. Living History Farms

Visit the town of Walnut Hill to learn about pioneer life and stop by the living history museum for a glimpse into the past!

7. Devonian Fossil Gorge

Search for fossils inside the park and learn interactively about our planet's natural history! Check out the Visitor Center for a short movie about the gorge.

8. Lewis and Clark State Park

Check out the replica of the boat Lewis and Clark used during their Corps of Discovery Expedition! Go fishing, swimming or even camp overnight!