

Hi! I'm Jean-Pierre Anderson and I'm a park ranger at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is one of 391 units of the National Park System ranging from Yellowstone to the Statue of Liberty. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore includes 15 miles of the southern shorelines of Lake Michigan and 15,000 acres of beach, woods, marshes, and prairie in the northwest corner of Indiana. More than 2 million visitors come to this national park each year.

This "Discover Indiana Dunes" video is intended to give you, and online visitors a brief description or overview regarding the subject of Winter in the Dunes.

Although visitation is lower in the winter season, it doesn't mean that the resource is any less fun. Actually, the lack of visitors can give a person the rare opportunity to appreciate the dunes in private. Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking are some of the most popular winter activities.

When visiting the beach, you may encounter quite a change in scenery. The foredune, beach, and lake are still here. However, the familiar rolling waves of summer are often replaced by a massive ice structure we refer to as "Shelf Ice".

As you can see, the Shelf Ice is very alluring. We often find people playing on its deadly surface. Please note that the shelf ice is quite unpredictable and there is no safe way to walk on it. It may be very thick in one spot and paper thin inches away.

Take a look at the whole picture. The snow covered foredune, beach, and shelf ice with all its irregular formations. The Ice Volcanoes are a favorite of many. As the shelf ice forms with the aid of the floating ice crashing upon the beach, the ice volcanoes are formed as the result of holes in the surface of the shelf ice and waves underneath splashing up through them.

We can't stress it enough, when you come out to see these incredible structures for yourself, PLEASE do not venture out on to its surface!!!

There is so much more to know about Indiana Dunes! You can explore the park's Website for more information or come to Indiana Dunes to see it for your self and experience it firsthand.

In the meantime, thanks for watching the "Discover Indiana Dunes" video.