
GENERAL DESCRIPTION

At Itasca State Park, the mighty Mississippi River begins its 2,552-mile journey to the Gulf of Mexico. Established in 1891 to preserve remnant stands of virgin pine and to protect the basin around the Mississippi’s source, this 32,000-acre park has become a famous natural and cultural landmark in North America.

WINTER FACILITIES

• Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center. This facility is open during the winter as a warming shelter. Park information, restrooms, interpretive exhibits, gift shop and a fireplace are available.

• The Itasca Suites are open for lodging in the winter. Features include two queen beds, refrigerator, stove, microwave, sink, dishwasher and cooking utensils.

• Mississippi Headwaters Hostel. Located near the Lake Itasca boat landing. Offers clean, comfortable year-round accommodations. This facility is operated by Hostelling International.

• Pine Ridge Campground. During the winter months, camping is rustic, with pit toilets, and water available at the visitor center.

• Backpack Sites. Eleven backpack campsites are available year-round except on designated trails. The Dr. Roberts and Schoolcraft Trails are two of the more popular snowshoeing trails.

• Pets are not allowed on ski trails. Skiers must be off trails before dark. Snowmobilers must use designated trails only. Trails not designated as ski or snowmobile are available for snowshoeing. The Dr. Roberts and Schoolcraft Trails are two of the more popular snowshoeing trails.

• Interpretive programs. Some winter interpretive programs are available. Check park information boards.

• The Aiton Heights Fire Tower is closed to climbing during the winter months. Interpretive area open.

• The walkway to the Mississippi Headwaters is open year-round.

LEGEND

WINTER TRAILS

- Cross-Country Ski
- Snowmobile
- Hiking/Snowshoe
- Interpretive
- Skijor Trail
- Easy
- More difficult
- Most difficult

FACEILITIES

Information
Visitor Center
Warming House
Historic Site
Overlook
Observation Tower
Campground
Backpack Camping
Parking
Hostel
Restrooms
Boat Access
Toilet
Maintenance

Public Use Prohibited
Except On Designated Trails

PRIVATE PROPERTY

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MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS STATE FOREST


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