

Trail & Traffic Information and More

TRAIL REQUIREMENTS

1. Hiking groups must stay together under adult supervision.
2. Each hiker should carry his/her own water and food.
3. Fires may be built in picnic areas only. Smokers must practice CAUTION on the trail.
4. All groups must be **off of the trail by 5:00 pm.** NO OVERNIGHT HIKING!
5. Axes and sheath knives are not allowed on the trail.
6. The hike must be completed in one day (Saturday).
7. All hikers must follow the trail as marked. Again, NO HORSEPLAY!
8. All hikers should wear durable, no-skid shoes or boots for safety.
9. Carry a good first aid kit with the group.
10. A group will not move from a checkpoint until all group members are present and accounted.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

1. All vehicles in the park are required to adhere to all posted traffic signs and regulations. Violators will be subjected to traffic citations by the park rangers. One-way roads and stop signs must be observed.
2. ***Only two vehicles can occupy a parking pad at each site.*** Additional vehicles will have to be parked in the auxiliary lots. ***Do not drive on or park on the grass!*** Strict enforcement by park rangers.
3. ***Do not park vehicles on the roadways!*** Strict enforcement by park rangers.
4. Vehicle traffic in the campgrounds will be restricted after 11:00 pm.
5. First aid services (sites 201/202) and security personnel are available 24 hours in camp.

GEOLOGIC HISTORY AND INFORMATION SUMMARY

The complete Devil's Lake Trail is a 14 mile historic trail that is unique in that it offers three distinct and different points of interest, each of them spectacular in its own right.

1. The quartzite bluffs rising 500 feet above Devil's Lake are remnants of an ancient mountain range and are among the oldest exposed rocks in the United States. The views from the prominences are difficult to equal anywhere between the Appalachians and the Rockies.
2. The last glacier, the Wisconsin glacier, was halted here in its march from the Polar Regions by the temperate zone of the South. The glacier deposited upwards of 500 feet of sediment at either end of a gorge that was once the path of the ancient Wisconsin River. Devil's Lake formed in the plugged river gorge after the glacier receded.
3. The Wisconsin Indians regarded this area as a home to the Manitou, or spirit gods, and built many effigy mounds to their manitous. Three of them still remain in the Park and are marked with suitable plaques.

Devil's Lake covers an area of 388 acres to an average depth of 30 feet with its greatest depth being 43 feet. It is 1.25 miles long and half a mile wide. The lake is 960 feet above sea level with bluffs approximately 500 feet above lake level. A wonderful diorama can be seen in the Nature Center located at the north end of the lake. The Baraboo River, in the city of Baraboo, is approximately 100 feet below lake level. The Wisconsin River, at Merrimac, is approximately 200 feet below lake level.

The Devil's Lake trail is rough; it is rugged and can be dangerous to the careless. "Horseplay" is out; leaders must caution and keep their charges under supervision at all times. Park Rangers are always observing and checking from their vantage points.

This is not a hike just for "mileage". This hike has the mileage, but it is a trail for stopping, observing, discussion, and learning. The views rival those of the Rhine and Hudson Rivers.