



Outdoor Recreation

Shimek State Forest

33653 Route J56

Farmington, Iowa 52626

There's nothing like hiking through 9,000 acres of hickory, oak and pine trees, or going horseback riding on more than 25 available trails. Guided trail rides are available for you with the Westercamp's. Experience a real rodeo at River Valley Horse Camp. You can also find excellent wild turkey and whitetail deer hunting in season, or go fishing on small lakes for largemouth bass and channel catfish. Visit in the snowy months and enjoy cross country skiing. Explore the outdoors, then spend the night at one of the many cabins and campsites available for your use.

Des Moines River Water Trail

Keosauqua, Iowa

www.desmoinesriver.org

Des Moines River Water Trail is 41 miles through Van Buren County. Boats, canoes and kayaks have access to the river in Selma, Douds, Austin Keosauqua, Bentonsport, Bonaparte, and Farmington. As you travel the Des Moines River, you will see the home to the largest underground limestone mine in Iowa, the "Church Tree" where the first church service west of the Des Moines River was held in 1835, and the site of the Mormon Crossing. Stop in several small, unique towns along the way and enjoy the hospitality and activities of these river towns.

Lacey Keosauqua State Park

22895 Lacey Trail

Keosauqua, Iowa

319-293-3329

Hike the winding trails along the Des Moines River and see many different species of plants, trees and wildlife. Explore the history of the area by visiting the 19 Indian burial mounds of the Woodland Culture Indians located here. Lake Sugema, located at the park, is a 575 acre lake popular with anglers and has 5 boat ramps. This park has a lovely shaded campground with 76 campsites and modern restroom and shower facilities, or you can choose 1 of 6 family cabins. Hunters are thrilled with the 3000 acres of whitetail deer, pheasants and quail. And if you need some help, hunting guide services are available in the area.

Lake Wapello State Park

15248 Campground Road

Drakesville, Iowa

641-722-3371

Lake Wapello State Park is known as the "Country Club" of Iowa's State Parks. It's 289 acre "no wake" lake has a sand beach and beach house facility. You will find some of the finest fishing for bluegill, bass, crappie and channel catfish in Iowa in this lake. If a week's stay is in your plan, you can choose from 14 family cabins and 89 camping sites with modern restrooms and showers. The remodeled 1930's beach building with seasonal restaurant and lake observation deck provides space to relax. If you are here for the exercise, you are in luck. Plan to take a hike around the lake on the 7 mile Lake Shore Trail. When it is time to take a break from the outdoors, Lake Wapello is in the heart of Amish country with many furniture and craft shops close by for you to explore.

Honey Creek Resort

12633 Resort Drive

Moravia, Iowa 52571

866-797-5308

www.honeycreekresort.com

There is something for everyone at Honey Creek Resort! Honey Creek is an 850 acre resort that sits on 11,000 acre Rathbun Lake with 150 miles of shoreline. You can swim, ski, paddleboat, jetski, or fish using your own equipment the gear rented at the resort. On a cloudy, rainy, or cool day you might want to try out the Buccaneer Bay Water Park, which includes a two-story water slide and a lazy river. Want to go for a hike? Strike out on the Savannah Ridge Interpretive Trail, or participate in one of the nature hikes identifying trees and animals. Learn the basics of birding with the help of naturalists. Nature-themed crafts and games are also available. Fore...if you are an up-and-coming golfer, try out the 18 hole championship golf course. Aerobic activities, such as beach volleyball, bicycling, sledding and ice skating (in season) are also available. There is something for all ages to see and do at Honey Creek Resort.