

ITASCA STATE PARK is located 20 miles north of Park Rapids, Minnesota on U.S Highway 71 in three counties: Clearwater, Hubbard, and Becker. Highway map index: F-9.

### 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.
- Douglas Lodge, Brower Inn, Headwaters/Forest Inn gift shops and cabins are closed during the winter. Parking for skiers is 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 with a 1 to 5 mile hiking distance into the southern half of the park.
  Register at the visitor center.
- Cross-country ski licenses and park vehicle permits are required and can be purchased at the visitor center.
- •Ski trail parking is located at the at the visitor center. Ski trails start at the main kiosk.
- •Snowmobile trailer parking is available at the visitor center. Access the trail system here.
- · 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.



# **ITASCA STATE PARK**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Itasca State Park 36750 Main Park Drive Park Rapids, MN 56470-9702 (218) 266-2100

Department of Natural Resources Information Center 500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

296-6157 (Metro Area)

1-888-646-6367 (MN Toll Free)

TDD (Telecommunications Device for Deaf) 296-5484 (Metro Area) 1-800-657-3929 (MN Toll Free)

DNR Web Site: www.dnr.state.mn.us State Parks page: www.mnstateparks.info

## **SNOWMOBILE MAP LEGEND**

**Snowmobile Trail** open to all snowmobiles

Asphalt-surface State Trail

studded track restrictions



A new state law restricts metal studs on 216 miles of asphalt State Trails. All other trails are onen to snowmobiles with studded tracks

ctions of the affected State Trails alternate routes open to all snowmobiles have been provided. They provide links with the grant-in-aid trails, and a connection to service areas. For more information call the DNR Information Center phone number



(1 inch = 6 miles)

