

THE TOP 10 | AUTUMN ACTIVITIES

Indiana Dunes Country is magnificent in autumn, so enjoy some of these colorful fall places and activities. Colors peak in mid-October, but are great in the weeks before and after.

1. Take A Scenic Drive

- [The Dunes and Lake Driving Loop](#) rewards drivers with tree-lined roads and views of Lake Michigan, sand dunes and a marshland that explodes with color. Start at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.
- [The Downtowns and Country Roads Driving Loop](#) starts at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and takes you through the charming downtowns of Chesterton and Valparaiso, both lined with great restaurants and shops.

2. Indiana Dunes State Park

Walk on the beach or enjoy a hike in the woods. If you're looking for a challenge, climb the three highest sand dunes as part of The 3 Dune Challenge.

3. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The entire national lakeshore is beautiful in the fall, but it can best be enjoyed on the Dunes Ridge Trail at Kemil Beach, at Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm, and by bicycling or walking the Calumet Trail.

4. Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve

At this 167 acre-site, man-made features blend beautifully with acres of restored prairies, creeks, wetlands and woodlands. Autumn provides visitors the chance to hike, observe wildlife and take stunning photographs.

5. Taltree Arboretum & Gardens

There is something for all ages, from the trails for nature walks to the amazing model railway garden. The arboretum also has several fall events.

6. 49er Drive-In Theatre

This fall, visit the 49er and take in not one, but two first-run movies. Voted one of the top drive-ins in the nation, the 49er is open on weekends in September and October.

7. Go Birding

The autumn migration makes fall the perfect time to go birding in Indiana Dunes Country. Birds are naturally funneled into the area during their annual migration as they follow the north-south shorelines of Lake Michigan.

8. Century of Progress Homes

The Century of Progress Homes were originally constructed for the 1933 Chicago World's Fair. Intended to demonstrate the day's latest technologies, these homes were designed with experimental materials and featured "modern" conveniences such as air conditioning and dishwashers. Drive or walk past them year round, or take a look inside during the annual tours in October.

9. Head Downtown

Head to downtown Valparaiso or downtown Chesterton, where you'll find each downtown features amazing local eateries, charming shops and a downtown park.

10. Amhurst Asylum

If you love being scared, don't miss Amhurst Asylum. This 23,000-square-foot, all-indoor haunted house was designed by two people with a combined 20-plus years of experience in haunted houses and horror movies.