At Itasca State Park, the mighty Mississippi River begins its 2,352-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, meteorology, interpretive exhibits, gift shop and a fireplace are available.
- Douglas Lodge Cabins and dining and the Headwaters/Forest Inn gift shops 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.
- MN Ski Passes and park vehicle permits are required and can be purchased at the visitor center.
- Ski trail parking is located 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 (except on skijor 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

- Cross-Country Ski
  - easy
  - more difficult
  - most difficult
- Skate-ski
- Ungroomed Trail
  (open to cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and hiking)
- Snowmobile


GENERAL DESCRIPTION

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