

# Castle Rock State Park

Our Castle Rock State Park driving tour will take us due west of Pheasant Run to the banks of the Rock River. In addition to exploring the state park, we will venture north to Oregon, IL and dine “on the river” at the **Maxson Manor Restaurant**.

Castle Rock State Park is located three miles south of Oregon, Illinois on Highway 2. The park is centrally located in the Rock River Hills region of Illinois, and its rolling topography is drained by the Rock River. The park is located along the west bank of the Rock River in Ogle County. The park is very representative of the Rock River Hills area with rock formations and ravines. A sandstone bluff, adjacent to the river, has given the park its name.



Illinois tribes of Native Americans inhabited the region until 1730 when the Sauk and the Fox tribes, who were being forced westward by the colonists, invaded and inhabited the region. The Native Americans called the river in the new territory "Sinnissippi," meaning "Rocky waters."

In the early 1800s the Native Americans were again forced westward into Iowa. In 1831, Blackhawk, the Sauk chief, led his people in a series of raids back into Illinois to reclaim their ancestral lands. The battles that followed were known as the Blackhawk Indian wars. Chief Blackhawk was captured in 1832 and ordered to a reservation.



# Maxson Manor Restaurant

From the dining hall of Maxson Manor Restaurant, we will enjoy a breathtaking panorama of the Rock River and a sandstone bluff where Chief Black Hawk still watches over his land. This 50-foot statue of the Native American legend, which can be seen from the restaurant, is the largest concrete monolith in the United States.

Maxson Manor's unique and natural setting has turned the restaurant and paddlewheel boat into a tourist destination.

