

# Starved Rock State Park & Lodge



Our driving tour will visit Starved Rock State Park. We will enjoy lunch at the historic Starved Rock Lodge. The area is home to large numbers of bald eagles during the winter. The view of the Illinois River is spectacular. The elevation changes and curvy roads in the area make the drive interesting.....

Starved Rock stands on the south bank of the Illinois River, opposite the village of Utica, about nine miles west of Ottawa, six miles east of LaSalle and 94 miles from Chicago. Deep canyons lie to the east and west of Starved Rock, along the Illinois River.

Starved Rock State Park derives its name from a Native American legend of injustice and retribution. In the 1760s, Pontiac, chief of the Ottawa tribe upriver from here, was slain by an Illiniwek while attending a tribal council in southern Illinois. According to the legend, during one of the battles that subsequently occurred to avenge his killing, a band of Illiniwek, under attack by a band of Potawatomi (allies of the Ottawa), sought refuge atop a 125-foot sandstone butte. The Ottawa and Potawatomi surrounded the bluff and held their ground until the hapless Illiniwek died of starvation- giving rise to the name "Starved Rock."

# Starved Rock Lodge



During the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built the present day lodge out of white pine logs brought in from Indiana. These logs were recycled from train trestles that were torn down once the automobile became a more popular mode of transportation. Besides building the lodge, the CCC built many stairways, shelters, and bridges in the park.

We will dine in a private room in this historic and beautiful lodge before exploring the park and continuing our tour back to Pheasant Run!