

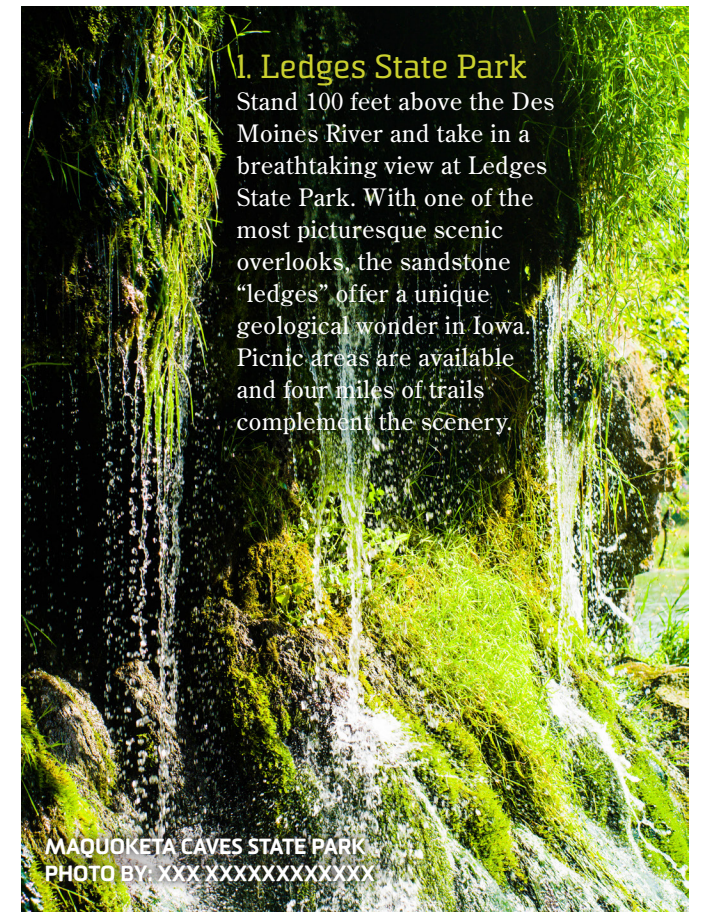
TOP INSTAGRAMMED STATE PARKS IN IOWA

Step outside for a weekend and enjoy Iowa's state parks. Along the way, don't forget to snap some pictures and share them on Instagram. Explore parks all over the state by hiking, biking, relaxing lake side and experiencing extraordinary views. Tag @iowadnr and use #IowaStateParks for a chance to be featured on our Instagram page!

MAQUOKETA CAVES STATE PARK
PHOTO BY: XXX XXXXXXXXXXXXX

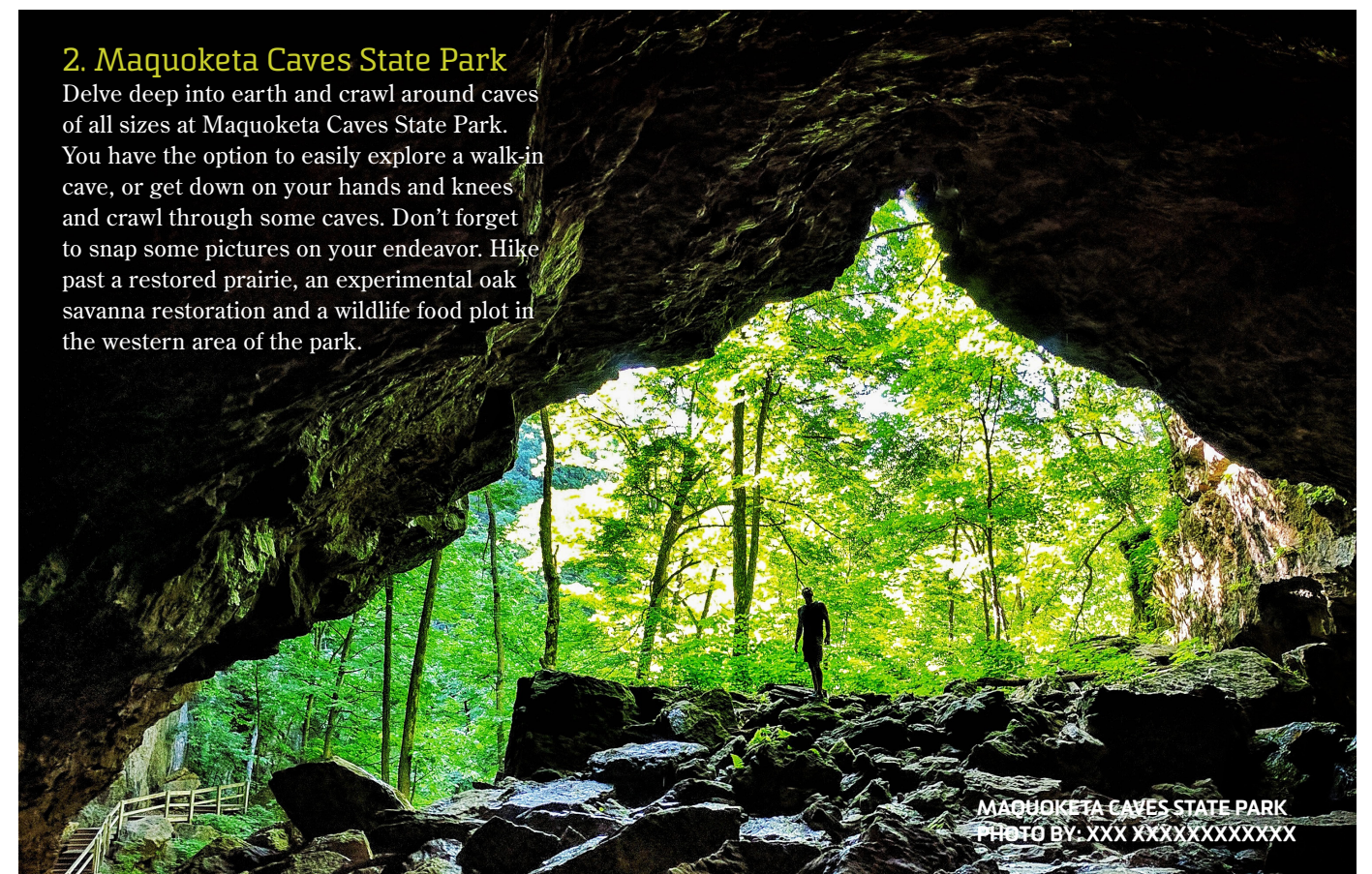


MAQUOKETA CAVES STATE PARK
PHOTO BY: XXX XXXXXXXXXXXXX



1. Ledges State Park
Stand 100 feet above the Des Moines River and take in a breathtaking view at Ledges State Park. With one of the most picturesque scenic overlooks, the sandstone "ledges" offer a unique geological wonder in Iowa. Picnic areas are available and four miles of trails complement the scenery.

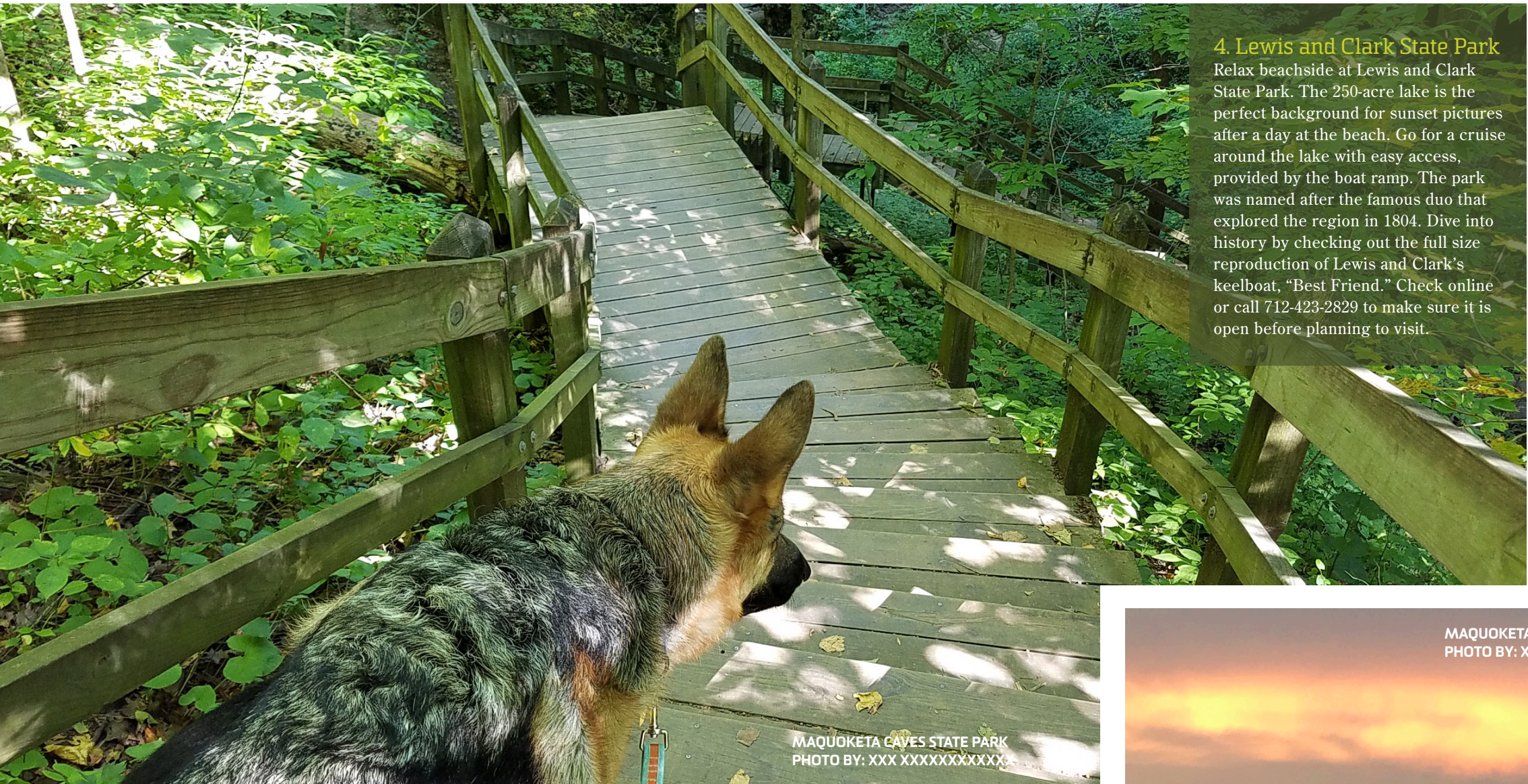
MAQUOKETA CAVES STATE PARK
PHOTO BY: XXX XXXXXXXXXXXXX



2. Maquoketa Caves State Park

Delve deep into earth and crawl around caves of all sizes at Maquoketa Caves State Park. You have the option to easily explore a walk-in cave, or get down on your hands and knees and crawl through some caves. Don't forget to snap some pictures on your endeavor. Hike past a restored prairie, an experimental oak savanna restoration and a wildlife food plot in the western area of the park.

MAQUOKETA CAVES STATE PARK
PHOTO BY: XXX XXXXXXXXXXXXX



4. Lewis and Clark State Park

Relax beachside at Lewis and Clark State Park. The 250-acre lake is the perfect background for sunset pictures after a day at the beach. Go for a cruise around the lake with easy access, provided by the boat ramp. The park was named after the famous duo that explored the region in 1804. Dive into history by checking out the full size reproduction of Lewis and Clark's keelboat, "Best Friend." Check online or call 712-423-2829 to make sure it is open before planning to visit.



MAQUOKETA CAVES STATE PARK
PHOTO BY: XXX XXXXXXXXXXXXX



3. Backbone State Park

Iowa's first state park boasts 21 miles of hiking and multi-use trails. One of the most well-known features is the Devil's Backbone, one of the highest points in northeast Iowa, and is accessible by trails. Backbone Lake also offers swimming, boating and fishing. One unique feature in the park is the opportunity to climb and rappel the cliffs throughout the park, one of the few Iowa State Parks to allow climbing.

MAQUOKETA CAVES STATE PARK
PHOTO BY: XXX XXXXXXXXXXXXX



MAQUOKETA CAVES STATE PARK
PHOTO BY: XXX XXXXXXXXXXXXX



5. George Wyth State Park

On a summer day, George Wyth State Park's lakes are crowded with beachgoers snapping pictures and soaking in the sun. Each of the four lakes offer an array of activities from wind surfing to power boating. The park is a popular picnic area and provides 5.5 miles of paved multi-purpose trails for a leisurely stroll or bike ride.



MAQUOKETA CAVES STATE PARK
PHOTO BY: XXX XXXXXXXXXXXXX

6. Black Hawk State Park

A popular gathering spot for group activities, Black Hawk State Park, has picnic areas, informal cookout areas and fishing, which bring in many people to enjoy the beauty of the lake and time together. A disc golf course is available nearby. There are 128 camping units on site with a volleyball court and a large playground facility for kids of all ages.



MAQUOKETA CAVES STATE PARK
PHOTO BY: XXX XXXXXXXXXXXXX



MAQUOKETA CAVES STATE PARK
PHOTO BY: XXX XXXXXXXXXXXXX

7. Wildcat Den State Park

Located near Muscatine, Wildcat Den State Park provides stunning backgrounds for all your pictures, no filter needed! The system of trails throughout the park lead the visitor to layered and rough 75-foot cliffs. Pine Creek winds through the park with historical structures, like the Pine Creek Grist Mill, lining the waters.

8. Clear Lake State Park

Whether it's jumping off the the docks into the water or fishing off them, Clear Lake State Park is all about the water. The park is located on the southeast shore of Clear Lake. Fish for walleye, northern pike, catfish, yellow bass, crappies and other panfish. Don't forget that #IowaFishing hashtag.

9. Pikes Peak State Park

Pikes Peak State Park won't take you to the mountains, but it will give you a breathtaking view of the Mississippi River. Look out across the vast Mississippi, dotted with islands from atop the 500-foot bluff. The park has 11.5 miles of trails where hikers can view waterfall and many more geological wonders.

10. Lake Ahquabi State Park

Enjoy a day fishing or kayaking at Lake Ahquabi State Park. Boats, canoes, kayaks and paddleboats are available to rent through the concessionaire. Trails run 6.5 miles throughout the park, including four miles of trail that runs along the shoreline.

DID YOU KNOW

Pikes Peak State Park is named after explorer Zebulon Pike, the same namesake of Pikes Peak in Colorado!



MAQUOKETA CAVES STATE PARK
PHOTO BY: XXX XXXXXXXXXXXXX