

I originally started my Ice Age Trail journey several years ago when a friend introduced me to it while camping. Due to some health issues, I ended up restarting my journey after getting it sorted out. Turns out randomly passing out while exercising is not ideal for hiking. However, I was determined to finish. I trained my dog to alert to certain things, and we were good to go. Unfortunately, my dog hates cars, so we never used any shuttles and did each section and CR out and back. I did as many as we could backpacking, enjoying the scenery and everything the trail had to offer. It allowed us many great wildlife encounters which were amazing. We saw tons of deer and several bears. Not that I wanted to see the bears, but they were peaceful encounters thankfully. Regrettably, I had better encounters with the wildlife than I did with some people on the trail. While hiking some sections up north, I was told I didn't belong and to leave certain areas. I know that is not the usual trail community welcome, however, it did turn me off hiking up north for a while. Especially during hunting season when the trail is shared with a wider community. Most of the encounters I had on trail were pleasant, although I often kept them short. Being a solo female hiker, I was often reluctant to share too much information. My favorite sections of the trail were up north with great overlooks, rocky trail, phenomenal history and peaceful beauty where you can lose yourself and find yourself all in the same journey. The trail taught us many things, like to keep getting up when you fall, but also that anyone can do anything if you just take it a step at a time. Thank you for all you do to keep growing, maintaining and improving the trail!

I started my journey with the sections near Milwaukee and worked my way out and up. I did longer sections as I could doing backpacking trips. I did as many of those as possible. I ended up with the Western terminus, then Eastern.

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