

Hiking the Ice Age Trail – Tamara Knickmeier

We are a group of 7 hikers who have hiked together since 2016. We had a trip planned to Tanzania in 2020 and Covid changed our plans. That's when Gary, one of the 7 in our hiking group, suggested hiking the IAT. It was Memorial Day weekend and on June 6th we started the hike on the Western terminus.

Our goals were to complete the trail, hike the sections in sequence and hike together. These goals held true for the majority of the trail. Coordinating a group of 7 busy people to do a multi-day hike and arrange lodging or camping was an enormous task that Susan took on with great efficiency and accuracy. Susan was also our trail photographer and blogger. She kept wonderful notes on our experiences all through the hike.

Hiking the IAT has been a fantastic experience. It exposed me to so many communities in Wisconsin I never would have visited. We met wonderful people all along the trail. It was also great to support the local businesses along the way.

The trail is both beautiful and educational. Learning about all the different formations caused by the glaciers was very interesting. I think the Eskers are one of my favorites. Hiking along the tops and looking down both sides is such an interesting view. I also loved seeing all the lakes and looking for wildlife. There was always an extra element of excitement when our hike included a stream crossing.

One interesting segment was walking barefoot along Lake Michigan by Point Beach on November 4th. We did that portion a second time on December 29th because one of our group members needed to do a makeup hike on this section. It was such a nice hike the entire group joined in. It was a completely different hike going from barefoot in November to ice along the shore in December.

I am so grateful for the people who had the vision to create this trail and all who have followed who are working to expand and maintain this beautiful resource.

Thank you.