

## **Natures Beauty**

Kankakee County Convention & Visitors Bureau

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Spring, Summer Fall

### **Bullets:**

- Learn to scuba dive
- See a historic structure that traveled more than 250 miles to greet you
- Enjoy a wildlife photographer's dream on a beautiful nature preserve.
- Visit Kankakee County's largest African American history museum

### **Description:**

Kankakee County offers unique ways to see nature. Scuba dive in a spring fed quarry set up to be enjoyed by beginner and expert alike. Enjoy a guided nature walk and learn about area fauna and take some amazing photos. Visit an herb farm that produces natural products that also includes an African American museum.

### **Itinerary:**

Day 1 – Take a dive into fun at Haigh Scuba Diving Quarry. This 12-acre spring-fed quarry includes underwater attractions: a wrecked 33-ft. cabin cruiser, marine dump truck, and a LARC- amphibious vehicle, not to mention the large variety of fish. Artifact Park a new feature of the quarry educates recreational scuba divers in underwater archaeology. New and experienced divers can take advantage of their equipment rental and scuba diving classes. With beautiful surroundings and food available on-site, you can enjoy the entire day there. After the quarry, swing by Willowhaven Interpretive Center and Whispering Willows Park, a place to explore, learn and enjoy the splendor of nature. In addition to the nature programs and displays offered, revel in the actual building itself, a 1900's cattle barn that was moved timber by timber from Jones County, Iowa.

Day 2 – Start the next day in the natural surroundings at the Kankakee Sands Nature Preserve. More than 7,000 acres host an amazing array of birds, wildflowers, plants and animals that fills the prairie with song and sights to behold. Bring your hiking shoes for 2.5 miles of wooded bliss on the MsKoda Trail. You can commune with nature or arrange a tour to make the most of this ongoing project to restore this prairie landscape. Bring your camera to capture some really breathtaking shots of the local wildlife. Continue your journey at Basu Natural Farms, a 60-acre sustainable organic farm in Pembroke Township, located at the southeastern corner of Kankakee County, Illinois. Most of the land is dedicated to the production of vegetables, herbs, fruits, native plants and perennial flowers, but there is a 1/2 mile nature trail in the middle of the farm which leads to 4 1/2 acres of pristine woods. While there visit the Basu Museum and Cultural Center, the first and largest African American museum in Kankakee county, which houses tens of thousands of artifacts in its library and resource center. Their museum store is stocked with multicultural gifts, herbs, canned-goods, soaps, tinctures, produce and agricultural products which are grown and hand-crafted on the farm.