



DAY TRIP TO ST. DEROIN

From Falls City · Nemaha County, Nebraska



RIVER AND
LAKE



Photo: DickClarkMises, Wikimedia Commons, CC0

STATE PARK

Part of Indian Cave State Park, with a restored schoolhouse, a rebuilt general store and the town cemetery. Park entry permit required.

St. Deroine is about half an hour from Falls City, at the north end of the park road in Indian Cave State Park. The schoolhouse, the rebuilt store and the cemetery take a morning. Add the petroglyphs at Indian Cave and a walk on the park's trails and you have a full day. The buildings come alive on living history weekends in summer and fall; Game and Parks doesn't post their dates or hours.

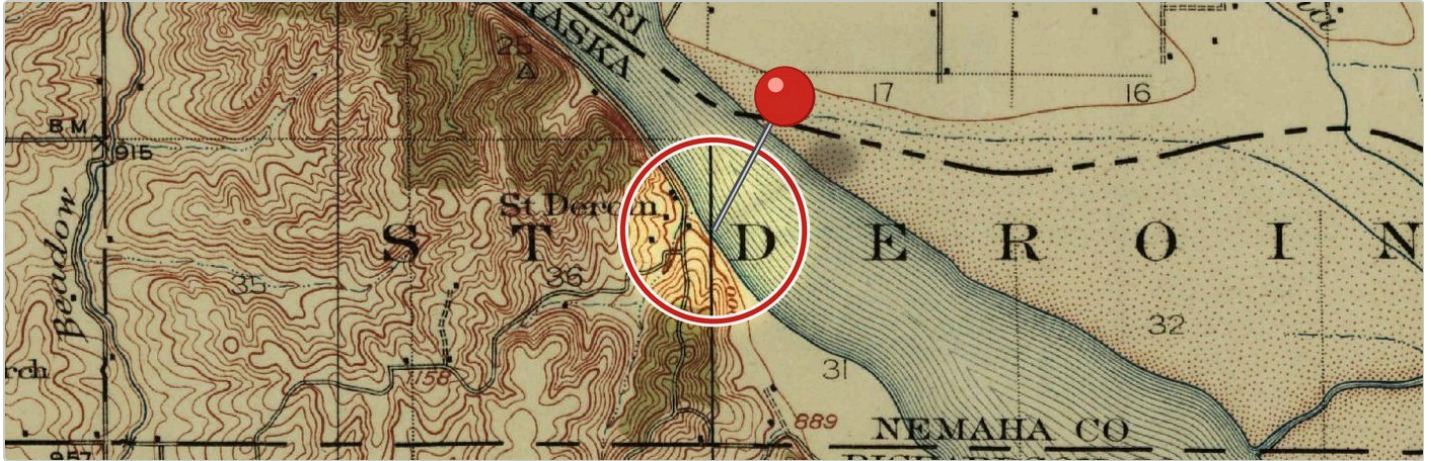
A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ 9 a.m. | Leave Falls City north on US 73, then follow 652 Avenue and 720 Road into the park, about half an hour. |
| ☐ 9:30 a.m. | Buy the entry permit at the park entrance and drive to the north end of the park road. |
| ☐ 10 a.m. | St. Deroine: the brick schoolhouse, moved up the bluff in 1912, and the rebuilt general store. |
| ☐ 11 a.m. | The St. Deroine Cemetery, about a mile southwest near the Ash Grove campground on the park map. |
| ☐ Noon | Picnic, then walk the boardwalk to the Indian Cave petroglyphs and the view of the Missouri. |
| ☐ Afternoon | Take one of the trails along the river or the bluffs, then head back to Falls City. |

Coming from Omaha? It's about 2 hours. Leave by 7:30 a.m. to be at St. Deroine by 10.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The schoolhouse.** Game and Parks' own photo shows children ringing its bell. Frame the brick front and the bell from the path.
- **Living history.** Broom making, soap making and blacksmithing on living history weekends make good video. Ask before filming people up close.
- **The cemetery.** Scattered headstones and a small iron-fenced plot on a grassy hilltop under the trees.
- **The Missouri.** The boardwalk below Indian Cave looks over the river. Game and Parks also points to the overlook on Loop Road in fall color.



USGS topographic map, 1915 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	17 mi, about 31 min each way from downtown Falls City. From Omaha: 89 mi, about 1 h 57 min.
OPEN	Game and Parks posts no hours for the park or the St. Dero in buildings. Crafts are demonstrated on living history weekends in summer and fall. Call the park, 402-883-2575, for dates.
ADMISSION	A park entry permit for every vehicle: \$7 a day with Nebraska plates, \$14 for others. Buy it at the park, at Game and Parks offices and vendors, or online. Self-service boxes take fees when the entry station isn't staffed.
TIME ON SITE	No source gives one. Allow the morning for St. Dero in and the cemetery, and longer for trails.
RESTROOMS	Modern restrooms are at the campgrounds. Game and Parks says most modern facilities close from mid-October through April, depending on weather.
FOOD AND WATER	The park page lists picnicking and a covered shelter you can rent, but no food for sale. Bring lunch and water.
ON FOOT	The park has 22 miles of hiking and biking trails and 16 miles of equestrian trails. The Indian Cave petroglyphs are seen from an ADA-accessible boardwalk with a viewing deck.
PHOTOGRAPHY	Amateur and family photography is allowed in state parks. Commercial shoots with models, sets or props need a special occasion permit. Game and Parks' FAQ doesn't mention drones.
WEBSITE	outdoornebraska.gov/location/indian-cave

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Keep out of unstable buildings and off fenced ruins.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 40.27223, -95.55999 · 40°16'20"N
95°33'36"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/nebraska/st-deroin/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.