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ALERT EDITOR'S PICK TOPICAL

Hospitality company now leasing out Cypress Log Cabin overlooking Lake Michigan in Indiana Dunes National Park

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A hospitality group is now leasing out the historic Cypress Log Cabin overlooking Lake Michigan in the Indiana Dunes National Park in Beverly Shores.

IN the Dunes, a subsidiary of Michigan City-based NWI Development Group, which has done major projects along the south shore of Lake Michigan, is aiming to offer more lodging in the Indiana Dunes National Park, which saw attendance soar over 3 million visitors after it was elevated from a national lakeshore to a national park.

It's starting by leasing out the historic home that was displayed at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair. The Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association of Jacksonville, Florida commissioned the rustic mountain cabin to demonstrate the viability of cypress as a home building material.

More than 1.5 million people saw it at the Chicago World's Fair, where it was displayed in the Home and Industrial Arts Group, one of the most popular exhibits.

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Developer Robert Barlett ferried it by barge across Lake Michigan to display it in his fledgling resort community of Beverly Shores. He was looking to capitalize off of the popularity of the World's Fair while inviting Chicagoans to see his new lakefront community in Porter County. They took the South Shore Line and then were whisked by limousine to Lake Front Drive, where the Century of Progress Homes were meant to entice them into envisioning themselves living there.

It has been leased out as a private home for years as part of a program between Indiana Landmarks and the National Park Service. But now they're taking a new approach to its preservation that will allow more people to see it firsthand.

IN the Dunes is renting it out to National Park visitors from around the world.

"We are excited to make the Cypress Log Cabin more available to the public," said Indiana Dunes National Park Superintendent Jason Taylor. "Our partnership with Indiana Landmarks and their relationship with NWI Development Group provides a unique option to continue restoring and maintaining an exceptional cultural resource in the park, while enhancing visitor opportunity and experience."

The historic house sits in the Century of Progress National Register District overlooking Lake Michigan. It's just steps from the beach.

IN the Dunes is renting it out to help address a lack of lodging within the park, which has become more of a bucket-list destination to visitors from across the country in recent years. The National Lakeshore was once home to the nearby Red Lantern Inn but it washed into Lake Michigan decades ago.

"We are honored to have the opportunity to care for such a historic landmark," said Erin Harrell, Executive General Manager of IN the Dunes. "By offering the Cypress Log Cabin as a short-term rental, we will be able to provide guests with a unique and unforgettable experience while also ensuring its long-term preservation."

For more information, visit www.inthedunes.com.

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