The Cabins and Cottages at Shale Lake

Terms and Conditions  We look forward to making your visit to Shale Lake an enjoyable experience. Our accommodations feature 4 log cabins located at the water’s edge of our 24 acre lake. Plus, we have 5 cottages perched on top of the highest man-made point in Madison County overlooking the lake and country side. Plus, the floating cabin permanently moored next to the wooded “point” on the southwest end of the lake. All so you can “get away and play”.

Reservation Policy: Reservations are required at least 48 hours in advance for the Cabins and Cottages at Shale Lake. A valid credit card is required to guarantee your reservation. Full payment is required at the time the reservation is made. Our cancellation policy applies once payment has been processed.

Best way to Reserve: Make your reservations via www.shalecabin.com to insure the most up to date availability. While the “hotel sites” such as Booking.com, Expedia and others may claim to have the lowest price it will NEVER be true. We pay a service fee to these sites and would never offer them a lower price than we offer on our own site. With only 10 cabins, we rarely discount.

You must be 21 years or older to rent one of our cabins or cottages. Your online reservation does not constitute a reservation until you have received a confirmation email notice from Shale Lake. All confirmation email notices will be sent during our regular business hours (Monday thru Thursday).

Daily Cabin and Cottage Rates: Our rates are based on dates requested and cabin type and are subject to availability. Rates may change without notice. All previously confirmed reservation rates will be honored. Holiday rates may be higher. Cabin and Cottage rates may be higher during “in season” periods and on Friday and Saturday nights and for single night stays.

Occupancy: All of our cabins and cottages have a clear maximum occupancy limit. Rates are based on 2 person occupancy. There is a $20 charge per person per night for each additional person (including children 2 years old and older) up to the maximum occupancy of each unit. No cabin or cottage will be rented for more than the maximum occupancy limit. There is no discount for single occupancy. There will be no refund for early departure.

No visitors to registered guests will be allowed in the cabin/ cottage between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. No unregistered vehicles are allowed to park in the cabin/cottage
area. Unregistered vehicles will be towed at the owner’s expense. Visitors must park in the visitor parking area. Registered guests will be held responsible for damages or injuries caused by their visitors.

**Quiet Time:** Guests are asked to keep the noise level down between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. as a courtesy to the other guests. Shale Lake reserves the right to ask guest and/or their visitors to leave the premises for unsafe, loud or rowdy behavior.

**Non Smoking:** ALL of the cabins and cottages at Shale Lake are NON smoking. You may smoke on the porches. We provide outdoor ashtrays. Please use them and do not discard butts on the ground.

**Housekeeping Services:** For your convenience, all beds are made and an initial supply of bath towels, wash clothes, hand towels and a bath mat are provided based on occupancy conditions. An initial supply of bath tissue, paper towels, dish soap and regular coffee will be provided. It is the responsibility of the guest to provide their own additional comforts and supplies. Housekeeping is NOT provided daily. Housekeeping is not responsible for washing dishes.

**Utilities:** The cottages (on top of the hill) utilize a booster pump to bring water up the hill. For the best water pressure, avoid flushing the toilet just prior to using the shower or the bathroom sink. It takes a few minutes for the toilet to fill and the pressure will be lower during that time.

**HEAT AND AIR:**

Most of the units have a tin roof and limited insulation. If the outside temperate is above 90 degrees and the sun is out, the unit WILL struggle to maintain temperature. Set a comfortable temperature (72 degrees) and let it run. If you set it too low, it will FREEZE the coils and stop running altogether. Then there will be no air conditioning until the unit can DEFROST (tomorrow) or be replaced (next week). Try to keep the doors and windows closed when the outside temp is up and the air conditioner is on. This unit is less than 300 square feet. Opening the door (or letting the door stand open while using the porch) makes a HUGE impact on the cool air.

The air conditioner will catch up when the sun goes down (unless the coils have to defrost). Per our reservation policy, we do not refund nor discount for Air Conditioner or appliance failure.
Trash: There should be additional trash bags inside the trash can under the existing trash bag. Please do not leave full trash bags outside (raccoons). You can drop a full bag in the dumpster just outside the front gate or leave it in the screened in porch.

Pet Policy (including Dogs, Cats and Horses): Due to potential allergy conditions, we only allow pets in cabins 1-4. Pets are not allowed in the Cottages or the Boat House at Shale Lake. There is a $25 non-refundable pet fee per pet per stay. For an additional charge, Shale Lake offers 12x12 covered stalls for boarding your horse overnight. Horses may NOT be tethered within 100 feet of a cabin or cottage. Horse trailers must be parked at the barn and may not be used for camping purposes. Check out our website www.shalehorse.com for more details.

Fishing and Activities: Registered guests are welcome to fish our stocked 24 acre lake. Fishing is catch and release ONLY. We would love for you to use #ShaleFish (hashtag) when posting pictures of your “catch” on social media. There is NO hunting allowed. There is NO ATV use allowed. There are NO firearms allowed on the premises (including BB and pellet guns). There are plenty of places to hike and explore, however the horse barns (at the top of the hill and behind the Winery), vineyard, out buildings and Winery (when closed) are STRICTLY OFF LIMITS.

Yes, guests may use the canoe or Jon boat AT THEIR OWN RISK. We have paddles available but you will need to ask for them. Just text 618-977-9916 and please leave them in the cabin. They tend to disappear if we leave them out! Please return the boats to gravel area where they are stored. Please do not leave them on the shoreline elsewhere.

The horses housed at Shale Lake are all boarders and privately owned. Sorry, we do NOT offer trail riding at this time.

There is NO swimming allowed in the lake.

All activities at Shale Lake are at the Guest/Visitors own risk.

Children: A parent or legal guardian must accompany children under 16 to the water’s edge. Children are not allowed to play in the parking areas or outbuildings. Please do not allow your children to play at other cabin/cottage sites. Children must be accompanied by someone 18 or over to ride on the rental bicycles including the surrey.
GUESTS WHO FAIL TO OBEY THE RULES AND REGULATIONS, CAUSE A DISTURBANCE TO OTHER GUESTS OR THE WILDLIFE OR ENGAGE IN ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITY ARE SUBJECT TO IMMEDIATE EVICTION FROM THE GROUNDS.

Winery: The Winery at Shale Lake is located at the entrance gate about 2500 feet from the cabins (there is a wooded trail) and approximately ½ mile from the cottages.

With few exceptions, the Winery is open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Please see our web page www.shalewine.com for more information.

The Winery has food service. We call it “amp’d up bar food” or “heavy appetizers”. Order food at the counter and the food will be brought out to you at your table. The kitchen is small and large groups need to allow extra time for food especially on nights when the Winery has live music and /or a large crowd. We do not have table side service nor a restaurant.

Check-In /Check-Out: A check-in document including gate code, parking and door code instructions will be emailed to the registered guest the Monday prior to the arrival date. The email includes directions to Shale Lake and instructions for using our electronic security gate, parking and key pad door locks. Please follow the instructions for using the gate key pad which you will need each time you enter Shale Lake.

To check out, simply lock the door. The door code will expire automatically. Only registered guests will be given the codes to cabin doors.

Check-In time is 2:00 p.m. and Check-Out time is 11:00 a.m. Early check-in and late checkout are available on a per cabin/cottage basis. Cleaning times for the unit determine the early and late availability and are not guaranteed. Please ask in advance of your stay if early check in or late checkout are desired. Please let us know in advance if you plan to arrive later than 7:00 p.m. Shale Lake is open 365 days a year. With only 10 cabins we do not have a physical office. When the Winery is open, you can always find one of us there. Please text or call 618-977-9916 for questions or issues during your stay.

Please do not leave food or condiments in the cabin...it is a sweet gesture to think the next guest will be able to use it however you may be leaving them the gift of ants or mice.
Parking: Each unit has a designated parking area. Larger units have two parking spaces. Additional guest owned vehicles must be parked in the visitor’s parking area. Visitors must park in the visitor parking area. NO parking is allowed on the roadway or in the grass. There are no exceptions. Vehicles in tow must be left at the visitor parking lots. There is no turn around for towed vehicles.

Damaged or missing items: Shale Lake reserves the right to charge guests replacement costs for wear and tear to cabin/cottage furnishings. Guests agree to the credit card on file for reasonable missing or unnecessarily damaged items.

Disclosures: Please note that no refunds are given on appliance or utility failures. For repair and maintenance, every effort will be made to remedy in a timely manner.

Cabin and Cottage guests authorize Shale Lake personnel access to rental cabins and cottages to verify that all the terms of this agreement are complied with or to perform any necessary maintenance.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations made 14 days or more prior to the arrival date can be used as a credit toward a stay at a later date or refunded minus a $25 cancellation/handling fee. Cancellations made 14 days or less in advance of the arrival date will not be refunded but will be credited toward a stay for a later date. The cancellation/handling fee will be increased to $75 for cancellations made less than 48 hours in advance or for no show/no call reservations.

Payment Methods: We accept Master Card, Visa, Discover, American Express and US currency only. All money orders and Traveler’s checks must be in US currency. Personal checks are accepted as long as they are received at least 10 days in advance of the stay.

Lost and Found: Any items left in or around the cabins or cottages must be claimed within 90 days. Shale Lake will make a reasonable effort to contact guests about any items found. After 90 days, the item will be discarded. Shale Lake will be happy to return identified guest items for the cost of shipping.

Campfires: All fires must be in the fire rings and attended at all times. Please remember that campfires are dangerous. Use all due care while creating, maintaining, and extinguishing the fire. Shale Lake recommends keeping a gallon or more of water nearby to douse the flames should they get out of control and having a first aid kit available.
BBQ: Specific units have their own BBQ grills (#9 Gas, #13 Gas and #14 Charcoal). The rest have an adjustable grill on the fire pit adjacent to the unit. If you bring your own grill, please note: Grills are NOT allowed on the covered / enclosed porches. Place the grill a safe distance from the unit. There is an additional grill located at the Pavilion on the lake.

Wi-Fi: Wi-Fi is not yet available at the Cabins nor Cottages. There is Wi-Fi at the winery. If the winery is closed, the glassed in patio door should be unlocked. Guests are welcome to use the room to connect to the Wi-Fi. Signals are subject to change without notice depending on Shale Lake location from our wireless signal interface.

Risk Wavier: Notwithstanding any offer or provision of services by Shale Lake whether for fee or gratuitously, a guest and or visitor acknowledges that Shale Lake is not liable to him or her for any losses, injury or damage suffered by such member to his or her property or person, arising, whether through acts of negligence or otherwise, of guests, visitors, members or employees in their conduct. All guests and visitors acknowledge and accept that such liability shall be borne by him or her as the case may be, and further indemnify Shale Lake and hold harmless for all loss, cost and expense incurred by reason of the member’s neglect or use of the premises or by reason of injury to person or property in or on the property of any other place from any cause whatsoever. All risks of any such injury, loss or damage shall be assumed by the guest or visitor who shall hold Shale Lake harmless or indemnified therefrom.

By making a reservation and visiting Shale Lake, you accept these terms and conditions.

ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOL (or food) MAY BE TAKEN TO THE WINERY!
Please leave it in the Cabin.

We are VERY serious about NOT jeopardizing our Liquor License or increasing our Liability Insurance.

**Directions**

From I-55 take exit 37 into Livingston. Turn right on Livingston Ave.
Go 1.9 miles. Livingston Ave becomes Williamson Ave.

Shale Lake is on the corner of Williamson Ave and Washington Ave (just before the road curves out of town).

**Opening the Gate**

There is a key pad just to the left of the call box. If the gate is closed, enter your four digit code and the gate should open. Your code will expire on the last registered date of your stay. If your code does not work, try using the call box first. You must push the button and then hold it down to speak. If no one answers please call 618-977-9916.

At the fork in the road, go straight for the **cabins**

Or go left and follow the signs down the lake shore to the end of the hill for the **Cottages**.

**Parking**

For privacy and the view, parking is limited. If you have multiple vehicles or visitors, you will need to park the extra cars in the visitor parking lot near the fork in the road for the **cabins**...

Or at the entrance to the hill for the **cottages**.

**Cabin or Cottage Door**

The front door of the Cottage has a key pad. Enter your same code (you will hear a click) and open the door. Turn the thumb latch on the inside to keep the door unlocked during your stay. When you leave, you can lock your door by turning the thumb latch back to the locked position (engaging the code once again).
Winery
The Winery at Shale Lake is open every Fri. 4-10 p.m., Sat. 1-10 pm & Sun. 1-6 p.m. (12-4 in the winter) All year long! For live music and more check out our events calendar at www.shalewine.com. PLEASE DO NOT BRING ALCOHOL FROM THE CABINS OR COTTAGES INTO THE WINERY OR SURROUNDING SERVICE AREA (Except Shale Lake Wine!)

Fishing
We have excellent fishing. Bring your pole. CATCH & RELEASE ONLY! Please see our website for lake regulations... www.shalelake.com Post a picture of your catch using #ShaleFish!

Rentals
We rent surrey bicycles...email shale@madisontelco.com for more information.

Firewood
Cabins and Cottages have a designated fire ring with an adjustable BBQ grill...make arrangements to purchase firewood ($6 bundle plus tax) and have it waiting a your site by sending an email to shale@madisontelco.com

Hiking
With over 200 acres, there are plenty of areas to roam. Watch for our unique cactus on the shale hills or search for old bottles from the coal mine days.

HIKING TRAILS  There are 212 acres available for exploring. The entire perimeter has some form of fencing (some chain link and some barbed wire). There are a few interior chain link fences as well. You are welcomed to explore the entire property except for the outbuildings. There are a few wooded trails that are maintained
annually. As an old coal mine, Shale Lake has a lot of old bottles and treasures to find! There is a trail from the log cabins directly to the Winery. It is about 950 feet long and starts at the road to the right of cabin 1 (gps coordinates 38.990150,-89.758783). It goes through the woods over a little wooden bridge past the horse pasture and to the front door of the Winery. Watch for deer, turkey and cactus.

There are two horse riding trails: one starts next to the visitor parking at the base of the cottage road to the right of the shed (gps coordinates 38.993825,-89.760299) and curves around the North end of the lake. The other trail starts just past the Route 66 sign beyond the log cabins (gps coordinates 38.990385.-89.757273). Look for an opening on the right just after the grove of locust trees.

**DIE HARD JOGGERS:** It is .4 miles from the front gate to the cabins and .6 miles from the cottages to the front gate following the gravel road (plus you get points for running up hill!). If you want to go further than the front gate, there is a walk gate in the grove (the area with picnic tables to the left of the front gate). You are welcome to run the trails. However, they may not be completely dry or clear at all times.

**BIKING:** The Madison County (Quercus Grove MCT trail QG5) and Macoupin County ITS bike trail from Staunton to Benld both connect less than 3 miles from us. There is an entrance to the bike trail off of Route 4 just north of Old Route 16. To access you will have to ride your bike off trail for 2.5 miles or you can park and ride using the entrance in South Watertower Park located at 100 E. 6TH St Staunton, IL 62088.
To ride to the bike trail entrance... Turn right on Williamson Ave (exiting Shale Lake) Turn left at the end of the road (this is Siever’s road also known as old route 16). Follow the road when it curves toward the right to Route 4. Turn right on route 4 and you will see the bike trail just ahead.

Non bike trail riding conditions to get to trail: ½ mile gravel road followed by 2.5 miles county road, followed 1/4 mile State route to trail.

To drive and park and then ride to the bike trail entrance .... Turn right on Williamson Ave (exiting Shale Lake) Turn right at the end of the road (this is Siever’s road also known as old route 66). Follow the road to the left when it turns into Madison St. Turn left on E. 4th St. Turn left on Wabash St. Take the second right onto E. 6th St.

**STORM WARNINGS**

We are located at the North most point of Madison County at the Macoupin County line (Olive Township). Williamson is sometimes mentioned but mostly storm alerts are reported for the two surrounding towns of Livingston (Madison) and Staunton (Macoupin).

The radar usually shows Interstate 55 as a landmark or our area.

The cabins and cottages are built to withstand strong wind conditions and Midwest weather. They are anchored with 6000 pound strength cables to over 30,000 pounds of reinforced concrete. They are only 12’ wide so they do move in heavy wind. We do not have a basement or storm shelter on the property. An interior room without windows or a low laying ditch is recommended in the event of tornados.