

You should take a minute to go through the itinerary before you start your Daytrip. It's pretty easy to navigate a Daytrip alone but it's always helpful to have a companion, especially if it's your first time out. You'll find that there is probably more information than you will need concerning directions, landmarks, and comments.

If you follow the itinerary you'll never get lost (though some times it might feel that way), but it's a good idea to have a service station type roadmap with you. Any true backroad that you may be on will generally wind up at a main State Route or U.S. Highway at some point.

Distances between points are to the tenth of a mile. Different odometers can vary in accuracy. This is more about giving you a general, but pretty close idea, of where you are rather than wanting you to constantly watch the odometer. While some directions require you to pay attention to a turn, most happen at a deadend and/or well described landmark. Finally, GPS coordinates for each waypoint are downloadable directly into your GPS navigation device at DaytripCincinnati.com. You'll find a complete list of the waypoints at the end of the itinerary.

RELAX, HAVE FUN, AND ENJOY THE DRIVE.

The most important parts of the itinerary are highlighted. Have a pen with you so you can check off the itinerary along the way. We expect that you'll find a "Daytrip Favorite" that you'll want to take more than once. In our experience, we hardly glanced at the itinerary on a repeat Daytrip. Once you're out there on the road, it will be that obvious.

Please read the Rules of the Road page on our website
www.DaytripCincinnati.com

Road Rating:

- L1. Level 1 – Best**
4 lane highway, watch for cross traffic.
- L2. Level 2 – Good**
Well marked and maintained 2 lane road.
- L3. Level 3 – Difficult**
1 ½- 2 lanes, may be unlined. Blind or sharp curves and hills.
Watch for slow moving farm machinery, Amish buggies, bikes, etc.!
- L4. Level 4 – Most Difficult**
1 ½ lanes, unlined. May be gravel on asphalt in some places.
Blind or sharp curves and hills. Not much traffic, but no margin for error either. Please drive carefully.

NOTE: Whenever you go through any town the speed limit will drop down to 35mph, and in many cases 25mph. Always obey the posted speed limit.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE, ALWAYS CHECK THE "UPDATES" PAGE AT DaytripCincinnati.Com FOR THE MOST CURRENT AND UP TO DATE INFORMATION ON ROAD CLOSURES AND DETOURS.

IF YOU COME ACROSS A ROAD CLOSURE OR DETOUR WHILE OUT ON A DAYTRIP, PLEASE LET US KNOW ABOUT IT ON THE "TIPS & REVIEWS" PAGE.

4 SIMPLE RULES FOR PUBLIC USE LANDS

There are a wide variety public use lands: National Parks & National Forests, State Parks/Resorts & State Forests, State & Local Nature Preserves, Scenic Rivers, Historic Sites & State Memorials to name a few. Certain areas get many thousands of visitors a year, like Hocking Hills State Park in Ohio, General Butler State Park in Kentucky, and Clifty Falls in Indiana. Others receive much less traffic, mainly because they lack amenities like lodges, cabins, and overnight camping.

There are some very important rules to remember when visiting public use lands of any kind. You'll probably find more rules and restrictions at areas like Nature Preserves than you will at State Parks Resorts, but we believe that no matter where you go you should treat the land with the utmost care and respect. Hopefully, these fall more into the category of "Common Sense", but please take a minute to review this list so we're all on the same page.

"Take Only Great Memories, Leave Behind Only Soft Footsteps"

- 1. Plan & Prepare.** What should you take? Get it together in advance of your hike. Good things to have are hiking boots, water, a trail map, and a trashbag. Depending on the time of year, you may also want long pants or insect repellent. Do you have enough time to take your hike and get back before dark? What will you do if a thunderstorm pops up? Going alone? Your cell phone might not work, so tell someone where you're going and when you'll be back.
- 2. Areas like Nature Preserves have some very strict rules.** No hunting, fishing trapping, pets, artifact gathering, motorized vehicles, camping, fires, bikes, horseback riding, or rock climbing. Certainly, areas such as State Resorts allow fishing and camping so you should check in advance for restrictions and requirements. In addition, there are public use lands specifically set aside for hunters, ATV's, and bicyclists.
- 3. Pack out your trash.** Actually, take a small trash bag with you and bring out any trash that you see. It's hard to believe that anyone would litter on purpose, so let's assume that it's just one of those unintentional things. Someone stops for a drink of water and a snack food wrapper escapes their pack undetected. A strong wind blows in one of those plastic grocery bags from the next county. It happens. Be a Hero! Pack it out.
Special Note: It's hard to believe that certain trash is the result of unintentional littering. Dog droppings are litter too. So are things like disposable diapers, cigarette butts, and beer cans. Be part of the solution, not the problem!
- 4. Stay on the trail.** Most people think that this only a "Safety Rule" and some are tempted to break it because they're big, strong, experienced hikers and staying on the trail is a rule for kid's. Many times it is a safety issue and should be heeded for that reason alone. But consider this as well. If you leave the marked trail, you may destroy the home of ground nesting animals or crush an endangered species of plant without even knowing it. But not knowing about it doesn't make it any less a tragedy. Let's not damage the very thing that we have come to enjoy. Trails are generally marked with signs, colored swatches on tree trunks, or colored ribbons on low hanging tree limbs.

Here are some great resources about enjoying and respecting public use lands:

The Buckeye Trail Association - www.buckeyetrail.org
The Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources - www.dnr.state.oh.us
The Ohio Historical Society - www.ohiohistory.org
Leave No Trace - www.lnt.org
Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources - www.state.in.us/dnr/outdoor/hike/hiketips.htm
Kentucky Dept. of Natural Resources - www.parks.ky.gov/camp/campregs.htm

PINE LAKE & PAINT CREEK

Since there are several places that you may want to stop and explore, this is one of those Daytrips that you may want to take more than once. The itinerary will take you to Pike State Forest, Pike Lake State Park, Seip Mound, Paint Creek State Park, and Cave Canyon (formerly 7 Caves). We suggest a picnic at one of the two state parks and taking in Seip Mound and/or Cave Canyon.

Some of the roads that we really like on this one are East Swamp, Sinking Spring, and Laperrell Roads.

This Daytrip will take you through Clermont, Brown, Highland, Pike, and Ross Counties in Ohio. Go to the Links page for complete information on festivals, events, shopping, history, and much, much more.

Drivetime is about 4 hours and does not take into account the time that you may spend at the various places along the way. Drivetime begins and ends at I-275. Depending on the day and time, especially weekday afternoon rush hour, the last 30 miles of this Daytrip may be a bit congested in places. This could add about 20 minutes of drivetime.

If you haven't visited our website, find out everything that you need to know to enhance your Daytrip experience at www.DaytripCincinnati.com.

FIRST LEG



L1. From I-275 take Exit #63B - Route 32 East (Batavia), and go about 28 miles.
6.3 miles past the Mt. Orab exit there is a State Rest Area, on the right.
1 mile beyond the Rest Area you'll pass the junction of Route 134.
Just past this, turn left onto Sardinia-Mowreystown Road.

Along the way you'll pass by Batavia, Williamsburg, and Mt. Orab, Ohio.



L2. Go 3.4 miles to the flashing red light/stopsign at Route 321,
in Mowreystown. Landmark: Church on corner across street.
Turn right.



L2. Go 3.3 miles to the stopsign, at US Highway 62.
Landmark: Old Y Restaurant across street.
Turn Left.



L2. Go 1.4 miles to East Swamp Road.
Turn right.



L4, and becomes L3. Go 6.1 miles on East Swamp Road. East Swamp Road changes name to Fair Ridge Road where you come to a stopsign, at the junction of Route 136 in Sugar Tree Ridge, Ohio. **Keep going straight.** Landmark: Just beyond Route 136 you'll pass by Bright Elementary School, on the right.



L2. Fair Ridge Road changes name to Route 785 at the stopsign, at the junction of Route 247, in Fairfax, Ohio. Keep going straight.
This is well marked.



L2. Continue 3.7 miles on Route 785 to the stopsign at Route 73, in Belfast, Ohio.
Go straight onto Route 73 West. This is well marked.
Landmark: Bolte's Grocery just up the road on the left.



L2. In .3 mile, Route 73 makes a well marked sharp left. Leave Route 73 and go straight onto the smaller road, and make a quick right onto Koss Road. This is all well marked.



L4. Go 2.3 miles to the stopsign at Butler Road. Landmark: .4 mile on Koss Road there is a cemetery on the right, and 1.6 miles in you'll cross a one lane bridge over a creek.
Turn Right. This is well marked.



L3. Go 2.3 miles until a deadend at the stopsign, at Elmville Road in Elmville, Ohio.
Turn left.



L2. Go a couple hundred feet and turn right onto Cedar Chapel Road.
Landmark: After you turn onto Cedar Chapel Road, you'll cross a one lane bridge over a creek.



L4. Go 1.9 miles to the stopsign.
Turn right. There is no streetsign but this is Sinking Spring Road.
Landmark: White church on the right, newer red brick house on the left.



L3. Go 2.2 miles to the flashing red light/stopsign, at the junction of Route 41, in Sinking Spring, Ohio.



L2. Go straight, crossing Route 41. This is now Route 124 and is well marked.
Go 7.9 miles on Route 124 to Lapperell Road. Landmark: Sign for Pike State Forest Main Office, just before you enter Latham, Ohio.
Turn left.



L2. and becomes L3. Go 8.6 miles until a deadend at the stopsign, at Route 41.
The last few miles of Lapperell Road is designated as Amish country, so horse drawn vehicles and bicycle traffic are possible.
Turn right.

L3. Go 3.1 miles on Route 41 until a deadend at the stopsign, at Route 50. This is still Amish country.

L2. Go .6 mile to the 1st traffic light at Quarry Street, in Bainbridge, Ohio. Turn right. Landmark: Route 41 goes left, Shell Service Station on corner.

L3. Go 3.7 miles to Auerville Road. Note: Just outside of Bainbridge, Quarry Street changes name to Jester Hill Road. Landmark: 1.7 miles in there are radio towers and a satellite dish “farm” at the crest of the hill, on the right. **3.3 miles, in there is a gravel road on the left with a sign for Pike Lake. Do not turn. Keep going.**
Turn left.

L3. Go 6 miles until a deadend at the stopsign, at Morgan’s Fork Road, in Morgantown, Ohio.
Turn left. This is well marked.

L3. Go .8 mile, Morgan’s Fork Road forks. Take the left fork, onto Pike Lake Road.

Continue about 1.5 miles to Pike Lake State Park. The Park Office will be on the left, and has information available about the park.

YOU SHOULD BE ABOUT 1 HOUR 45 MINUTES INTO YOUR DAYTRIP.

Pike Lake State Park sits atop the Appalachian Plateau that marks the dividing line between the hilly, glaciated portion of eastern Ohio and the flatter western portion. The landscape is known for dense forests of hardwood trees, abundant wildlife, exposed outcroppings of sandstone bedrock, and a diverse display of wildflowers.

The Pike County area was originally home to prehistoric Native Americans dating back to 800 BC, and who were responsible the many earthworks and mounds throughout the Scioto River valley. The moundbuilders eventually gave rise to several woodland cultures, including the Shawnee. During the Civil War General John Hunt Morgan made the only Confederate advance into Ohio and passed near the present day site of this park. The park was originally developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the 1930’s, and became a state park in 1949. Pike Lake State Park offers camping, cabins, fishing/hunting, swimming, boating, and 6 miles of hiking trails.

SECOND LEG



L3. From the Park Office, continue north for 3.3 miles to the stopsign.

Turn left. Landmark: There is a single story white house across the street.



L3. Go 3.2 miles to the stopsign at Route 50.

Turn right (East).



L2. Go 2 miles to Seip Mound, on the right.

Seip Mound is the central mound in a group of geometric earthworks, and is 240 feet long, 130 feet wide, and 30 feet tall. Archeological excavations have revealed prehistoric Native American buildings, and the locations of these structures are marked with short posts. Seip Mound was built as a burial mound by the Hopewell Indians (100 BC-AD 500). Numerous artifacts discovered as a result of excavations provide evidence of highly developed craft industry. Outdoor displays at the park provide an excellent overview of the Hopewell culture



L2. Backtrack west on Route 50, and go through Bainbridge, Ohio.



About 6 miles beyond Bainbridge you will come to the Highlands Nature Sanctuary and Cave Canyon (formally 7 Caves), on the right.

The Highlands Nature Sanctuary's first recorded residents were the Shawnees. The Shawnees fiercely defended their territory against white settlers, until the settlers were able to overcome the Shawnees in 1791. In 1778 Daniel Boone was held captive by the Shawnees in the area.

During early pioneer days families would take daytrips to the area (then known as Highland Caves). In 1929 the caves were purchased by Clyde Chaney and renamed them The 7 Caves, and extensively developed the area. That development continued after Chaney's death when the Judkins family purchased the property in 1952. Development continued with hiking trails and the construction of the Cliff House. In 1995 the property was brought into the Arc of Appalachia region and joins 10 other areas protected by this fine organization.

There are three self guided trails and a nature museum at Cave Canyon that can be accessed by purchasing a nature pass, and a theatrical guided hike (led by a reenactment of William Starling Sullivant, a nineteenth century botanist and naturalist) that can be attended on Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30am and 2:00pm.

April-May: Saturday and Sunday from 10am-4pm

June-October: Thursday-Sunday from 10am-4pm.

The nature pass costs \$10 for adults, \$5 for those 15 and under, and free for children under the age of 3. The guided theatrical hike costs \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. All proceeds go to The Arc of Appalachia Nature Preserve which is strictly non-profit and dedicated to the restoration of the Eastern deciduous forest biome.

For more information, visit highlandssanctuary.org



About 1 mile beyond Cave Canyon you'll come to Rapid Forge Road, on the right. This is the first of two access roads to Paint Creek State Park. Upp Road is the second access road to the park, about another 1.5 miles on Route 50.

Either entrance offers a full range of park sights and services.

Paint Creek State Park lies in the Paint Creek valley and contains both developed and undeveloped areas including a large lake, the result of the damming of Paint Creek in 1967. This reservoir provides habitat for numerous waterfowl and shorebirds, as well as the great blue heron. Osprey and bald eagles have also been sighted in the area. Limestone outcroppings along the shoreline provides nesting habitat for the cliff swallow.

Like Pike Lake State Park, the Paint Creek valley was home to prehistoric moundbuilding cultures, and later the Shawnee. White settlers used the many creeks in the area to provide power for grain and saw mills, and wool processing.

Paint Creek State Park offers camping, boating, hunting/fishing, swimming, and a recreated pioneer farm. In addition, there are 4 hiking trails ranging from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length.

THIRD LEG/ HOME STRETCH



L2. From the Upp Road entrance to Pike Lake State Park, go 51 miles on Route 50 to I-275. Along the way you'll pass through Rainsboro, Hillsboro, Hoagland, Fairview, Allensburg, Dodsonville, Fayetteville, Marathon, Monterey, Owensville, and Perintown, Ohio.

Please visit www.DaytripCincinnati.com, go to the Tips & Reviews page, and give us your comments, reviews, tips, and tales.

DISCLAIMER. We here at DaytripCincinnati are big believers in the concept that we live in a society with it's foundation in law and justice, and we think it's all working pretty darned well. It should also be recognized that we currently live in a society where some people need to be told, in explicit legalese, NOT to trim hedges with a lawnmower, coffee is HOT, etc. So, we here at DaytripCincinnati feel compelled to let you know that your use of the material supplied by us is at your own risk. We will not be held responsible for accidents, injuries, thefts, trouble with the sheriff, fistfights with farmers, bugs in your grill, etc, etc.

Please abide by the spirit of the Daytrip experience.

DRIVE SAFELY

BE FRIENDLY & SHOW RESPECT

HAVE FUN & ENJOY THE DRIVE!