

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. This is more about precision and accuracy 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. RELAX 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.

CLIFTON GORGE/JOHN BRYAN STATE PARK

This Daytrip is, in a word, "gorgeous". Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve and John Bryan State Park are adjoining public use areas that we think are the most scenic and accessible in any Daytrip Region. Well-maintained hiking trails will take you to 100-foot high cliffs and the many rapids of the Little Miami River. We recently vacationed in the wilds of British Columbia, and the rushing waters rival anything that we saw out there.

Possibly the coolest thing is that the surrounding, mostly flat terrain gives no suggestion that this incredible gorge is just beyond the treeline. It's truly a hidden treasure.

13,000 years ago, the gorge was formed as a result of melt water from retreating glaciers. The area was used extensively by the Shawnee Indians, and later as a source of river power for numerous 19th century mills. At a spot along the John L. Rich Trail, The Blue Hole was the location for a painting by renowned Cincinnati artist Robert Duncanson. Duncanson's work includes the murals adorning the walls of the Taft Museum, and the Blue Hole work hangs in the Cincinnati Art Museum.

From the parking lot at Clifton Gorge Nature Preserve, follow the paved path to the main trailheads. Going right will take you on 1.5-2 mile gorge and rim trails that end at John Bryan State Park. Going left will take you a much shorter distance to a National Historic marker in Clifton, Ohio.

From the entrance to John Bryan State Park, follow the main road to a large parking lot at the end. Here you can access the same trails from the other side.

Information and trailmaps are readily available.

Please take a moment to review the rules and regulations.

Drivetime for this Daytrip is 4 hours. Drivetime begins and ends at I-275. Depending on the day and time, the first and last 8 miles of this Daytrip may be a bit congested, especially during weekends and weekday afternoon rush hour. This could add about 20 minutes to your Daytrip. Please be patient and drive carefully. Open roads are just ahead.

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

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

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

GETTING THERE



L2. From I-275 take Exit 57 - Route 28 East (Milford-Blanchester).

Go 7.8 miles to Route 132.

Turn left.

Landmarks:

5.9 miles in - Enter Goshen, Ohio

6.6 miles in - Route 132 combines with Route 28.

Here's what you'll find along Route 28:

Restaurants:

Goldstar Chili
(2) Skyline Chili
Applebee's
Dairy Queen
(2) McDonald's
O'Charley's
Starbuck's
Bob Evans
Burger King
BW3's
White Castle
Penn Station
Roadhouse Grille
Taco Bell
Dunkin' Donuts
Wendy's
Steak & Shake
KFC
Arby's
Long John Silvers
Perkins
Pete's Cafe
Pizza Hut
Frisch's
LaRosas
Holtman's Donuts
Bee Jay's Restaurant
Subway
Family Deli
Angilo's Pizza

Services:

(3) Marathon
(3) BP
Shell
Exxon
UDF, with Mobil
Thornton's
Swiftly
Kroger, with gas
Meijer, with gas
Thriftway
Walgreen's
CVS
Ameristop

Dave's Food Mart
5/3rd Bank
US Bank
Key Bank
Huntington Bank
Provident Bank
LCNB Bank



L2, with some L3. Go 14.4 miles to the traffic light at the junction with Route 350, in Clarksville, Ohio.

Turn right (East). This is well marked.

Landmark: Citgo Gas & The Country Market, on the left corner.

Landmarks along Route 132 on your way to Clarksville:

2.5 miles - Water tower on the right, then enter Pleasant Plain, Ohio.

4.8 miles - Enter Butlerville, Ohio.

5.5 miles - Pass Harlan-Butlerville Elementary School, on the right.

6.8 miles - Stop sign at the junction with Route 123. Go straight.

Cross traffic does not stop.

9.6 miles - 4-way stop sign in Middleboro, Ohio. Go straight.

10.7 miles - Pass water tower on the right.

12.7 miles - 3-way stop sign where Route 133 combines with Route 132.



L3. Go 15.3 miles to the stop sign at the junction with Route 73.

Turn right. Landmark: Snowy Hill Country Club across the street.

Landmarks along your way on Route 350:

3.5 miles - Huge brick church at the junction with Route 730. Go straight.

4.8 miles - Access to Cowan Lake State Park, on the left.

5.8 miles - Another access to Cowan Lake State Park, on the left.

7.2 miles - Pass the junction with US Highway 68, and enter Cuba, Ohio.

10.9 miles - Stop sign at the junction with Route 134. Go straight.

Cross traffic does not stop.



L2. Go a few hundred yards to the junction with Route 729.

Turn left (North).



L3. Go 7.7 miles to the stop sign and flashing red lights at the junction with Route 72.

Turn left. Cross traffic does not stop.

Landmark along Route 72: 6.2 miles in, enter Lees Creek, Ohio.



L2. Go 28.7 miles to the Junction with Route 343, in Clifton, Ohio.

Turn left. Landmark: As you approach Route 343, you'll see a sign for John Bryan State Park.

Landmarks along Route 72 on your way to Clifton, Ohio:

3.8 miles - Stop sign at the junction with US Highway 22/Route 3.

Go straight.

4.3 miles - Cross over railroad tracks, in Reesville, Ohio.

10 miles - Cross over I-71.

11.5 miles - Enter Bowersville, Ohio.

Restaurants in Bowersville, Ohio:

Jackie's Place Street

Services:

Marathon

17 miles - Enter Jamestown, Ohio.

17.3 miles - At the North end of Jamestown, you'll come to yellow flashing lights, where the road forks. Bear left to remain on Route 72. There is a large High School in the middle of the fork.

Restaurants in Jamestown, Ohio:

Jamestown Restaurant

Phoenix Restaurant

Hemlock Cafe

McDonald's

Firehouse Pizza

Kelley's Cafe

Services:

Marathon

Swifty

Security National Bank

Jordan's Grocery Store

24 miles - Enter Cedarville, Ohio. At a traffic light in Cedarville, US Highway combines with Route 72 for a few blocks.

Restaurants in Cedarville, Ohio:

Bee's & Cream Coffee Shop

Main Street Station

Mom & Dad's Dairy Bar

Services:

Sunoco

Sky Bank

US Bank

Super Valu Grocery Store



L2. Go .7 miles.

Turn left into the parking lot for the Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve. This sits right off of Route 343, but can kind of sneak up on you.

AT THIS POINT, YOU SHOULD BE ABOUT 2 HOURS AND 15 MINUTES INTO YOUR DAYTRIP.



L2. Turn left out of the parking lot, onto Route 343.

Go 1.7 miles to the junction with Route 370.

Turn left. Landmark: As you approach Route 370, you'll see a sign for John Bryan State Park.



L3. Go 1 mile and turn left into John Bryan State Park.

GETTING BACK



L3, with some L4. Exit the park by turning left onto Route 370.

Go 1 mile, to the deadend at the stopsign at Grinnell Road.

Turn left.



L2. Go .8 miles, to the stopsign and flashing red lights at the junction with Clifton Road.

Turn right. Cross traffic does not stop.



L2. Go 4.3 miles, to the deadend at the stopsign at the junction with US Highway 68.

Turn left (South).



L2. Go 4.5 miles to the junction with Route 380, in Xenia, Ohio.

A few blocks south of the center of town, US Highway 68 goes off to the left. Go straight to get onto Route 380. This is well marked.

Landmark: There is a traffic light, and a city park on the left, with an old, restored railroad caboose on the right.

Restaurants in Xenia, Ohio:

Acapulco Mexican Restaurant
Arby's
Bob Evan's
Burger King
Cheng's Gourmet
Clifton Mill
Coach's Grille
Coaster's Grille
The Corner Restaurant
The Dairy King Delite
Donatos
(2) Eldorado Mexican Restaurant
Frisch's
Golden Jersey Inn
(2) KFC
Linda's Restaurant
Little Caesars Pizza
Los Mariachis
(2) McDonalds
New China

Nick's Restaurant
Oasis Cafe
Perkin's
Pizza Hut
Ralley's
The Submarine House
Subway
Super Subby's
Taco Bell
Texas Steak House
Wendy's
Services In Xenia, Ohio:
Shell
Speedway
Clark
Bonded Oil
(2) Sky Bank
(2) US Bank
5/3rd Bank
Bank One
Key Bank
(2) Security National Bank



L2, with some L3. Go 20.3 miles to the stopsign at the junction with George Road.

Turn left.

Landmarks: There aren't many to speak of, but Route 380 is well marked.
14 miles - Stopsign at the junction with I-71. If you're in a hurry to get back, you can access I-71 from here. It's about 27 miles to I-275.
17.8 miles - Stopsign at the junction with US Highway 22/Route 3 (Montgomery Road in Cincinnati). Turning right here will also take you to I-275.



L3. Go a few hundred yards to the deadend at the stopsign, at the junction with Clarksville Road.

Turn right.

This is all well marked.



L3. Go a few hundred yards to the traffic light, in Clarksville, Ohio.

Go straight to get onto Route 132 South. You are now backtracking to I-275 the way that you came in. Landmark: The Citgo/Country Market that you passed on the way in is now on the far, right corner.



L2. Go 14.4 miles to the deadend at the stopsign at the junction with Route 28.

Turn right.

Landmarks along Route 132 on your way to Clarksville:

3.6 miles - Water tower on the left.

7.5 miles - 4-way stopsign in Middleboro, Ohio. Go straight.

6.8 miles - Stopsign at the junction with Route 123. Go straight.

Cross traffic does not stop.

9 miles - Enter Butlerville, Ohio.



L2. Go 7.8 miles for access to I-275.

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 its 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!