

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.

There are two sets of mileage numbers for each Itinerary item: The first is the driving distance of that specific item and the second number, in brackets, is the accumulated mileage from the beginning of the Daytrip. 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. Since each odometer may vary slightly you may notice small discrepancies in the Itinerary mileage numbers.

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.

RED RIVER GORGE

The official name for this area is the Daniel Boone National Forest, the Red River Gorge Geological Area, and Natural Bridge State Resort, but most of us in these parts just call it The Gorge. We here at DaytripCincinnati think of it more as the Grand Canyon of the Midwest. There are more than 100 natural arches, and the 60 miles of hiking trails will take you to the most spectacular of these. In addition, the dramatic topography of the region holds a wide diversity of endangered species of plants and animals.

Be advised that the roundtrip driving time for this Daytrip is 6-7 hours, but you'll be travelling on some of the most scenic, immaculately maintained roads you will ever experience. If you were to leave at 9:00 in the morning, and spend 5 hours exploring the area, you'll be home by 9:00 that evening. A long day, but one that will provide memories that will last for the weeks to come, and a Daytrip that we think you will take over and over.

By popular demand, we are including information to convert this Daytrip into an Overnighter. The lodge and cabins at Natural Bridge State Resort provide fantastic accommodations, and the price simply can't be beat. "Car camping" is also available at the State Resort, and back-country/primitive camping is available in the National Forest. A permit is required for overnight camping in the National Forest. Permits are available at the Gladie Cultural & Environmental learning Center, as well as most businesses in the area (service stations, etc.)

This is a very popular destination during the predictable times of the year, so reservations at the State Resort are a must. Call 1.800.325.1710, or visit www.naturalbridgepark.com.

For information about Daniel Boone National Forest, call 1.606.663.8100 or visit www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/boone/

This Daytrip contains mainly Level 2 & 3 roads without any surprises, but use caution on Kentucky Route 77 into the National Forest. It's a curvy, winding wonder.

Go to the Links page for complete information on festivals, events, shopping, history, and much, much more.

Drivetime for this Daytrip is 6-7 hours. Drivetime begins and ends at I-275. If you decide to return on the major freeways, you should be prepared for the occasional construction delays.

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

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.

GETTING THERE



L1 & L2. From I-275 take Exit #71 - US Highway 52 East (New Richmond). Go 50.7 miles to Aberdeen, Ohio. In Aberdeen, you'll pass a BP and Marathon service station. Stay in the right lane and at the traffic light at US Highway 62/68, turn right and go across the "Old" bridge into Maysville, Kentucky. NOTE: 48 miles in, you'll see the "New" bridge - this is also US Highway 62/68 - Keep going into Aberdeen. Along the way you'll pass through several rivertowns, including: New Richmond, Point Pleasant, Moscow, Higginsport, Chilo, Neville, and Ripley, Ohio

There is a State Rest Area in Point Pleasant and Chilo Lock #34 Park, both on the right.



On the other side of the bridge, you'll come to a traffic light. Turn Left to remain on US Highway 62/68. Go through the first traffic light and turn Right at the second light to remain on US Highway 62/68 & Kentucky Route 10. Go about 100 yards and turn Left on Kentucky Route 11.



L2. Go 29 [80.2] miles and turn Left onto Kentucky Route 1325.

Landmarks:

2 [53.2] miles in you'll cross Kentucky Route 9/AA Highway.

9.8 [61] miles - BP service station

15.2 [66.4] miles - In Flemingsburg, Kentucky Route 11 comes to a traffic light and a bypass for Route 11. Turn Right and take the bypass. Follow the signs to remain on Route 11. Along the bypass you'll come to an intersection with a BP, Sunoco, and Citgo service stations, and a McDonalds and US Bank. 18 miles in you'll come to a traffic light where Route 11 turns right.

29 [80.2] miles in you'll cross go down a hill and cross a creek. Route 1325 is on the other side of the creek. Turn Left.



L3. Go 7.7 [87.9] miles to a deadend at the stopsign at Kentucky Route 36. Turn Left. Landmark: You'll see a big, blue water tower and a barn.



L2. Go 26.5 [114.4] miles to a deadend at the stopsign and 2 flashing red lights at the junction with Kentucky Route 460, in Frenchburg, Kentucky. Turn Left.

Landmark: Courthouse on the right corner.

NOTE: About 5 [92.9] miles in you'll come to a deadend at a stopsign in Owingsville, Kentucky. Turn Right. After you turn you'll see that you are now combined with US Highway 60. Go a few blocks to the flashing yellow lights and turn Right to remain on 36/60. You will then see a traffic light ahead in the center of town and a sign for "To I-64". Turn Left. You will then go down a long hill, pass Marathon, BP, and Citgo service stations, and Subway, McDonalds, and Dairy Queen restaurants, and cross over I-64.

L3. Go 3.7 [118.1] miles on Kentucky 460 to the right fork at the junction with Kentucky Route 77. Turn Right. Landmark: Immediately after you turn onto Route 460 you'll go up a long hill. At the top of the hill go about a mile further, to the junction with Route 77. You'll see a watertower with "City of Frenchburg" on it.

L4. Go 9.2 [127.3] miles to a deadend at the bottom of the hill (there is no stopsign). Turn Left and onto Kentucky Route 715 (Route 77 goes off to the right).
Landmark: 6.6 [124.7] miles in you'll enter Daniel Boone National Forest.

L2. Go 2.8 [130.1] miles to the Gladie Cultural & Environmental Learning Center, on the Right. This is a great place to stop for a break, check out the museum, and get park and hiking trail information.

YOU SHOULD BE ABOUT 3 HOURS INTO YOUR DAYTRIP.

At this point you're pretty much on your own, but here's some easy scenic hiking options that we recommend. Take this route anyway, as it is part of the return trip and/or the way to the lodge, cabins, and campground at Natural Bridge State Resort:

Continue on Route 715 for 7.8 miles (Turn Right when exiting the parking lot), up the long hill, to Sky Bridge.
This is a place of incredible beauty and very easy to get to.

From Sky Bridge, go a few hundred yards to Whistling Arch, on the Right. Here you'll find a .75 mile hike to a breathtaking view high above the treetops.

From Whistling Arch, continue on for 1 mile to Angels Window, on the Right. A slightly longer hike, but still less than a mile, and worth every penny.

From Angels Window, continue 2.7 miles to Chimney Top. Another truly amazing place, and an easy hike.

From Chimney Top, continue 5 miles to a deadend at the stopsign at Kentucky Route 15, in Pine Ridge, Kentucky. Turn Right.
Go 4 miles to Tunnel Ridge Road and turn Right. Go .8 miles to Gray's Arch, on the right. The hike to Gray's Arch is a bit longer, maybe a mile one way, but in our opinion a Must See...The most spectacular and scenic place in the park. Continuing to the end of Tunnel Ridge Road will provide you with several overlooks, and at the end, the trailheads for Courthouse Rock, Haystack Rock, and Double Arch...also a great place to go, but the kind of hike that you should devote 3 or 4 hours to.

Exit Tunnel Ridge Road and turn Right onto Route 15.

Go a few miles, down a long hill, and into Slade, Kentucky (at the Bert T. Combs Mountain Parkway). At the traffic light, turn Left and follow the signs to Natural Bridge State Resort for your overnight stay.

GETTING BACK

Please reset your odometer to Zero

If you're on a Daytrip, or want to take the long way back from your overnight trip, here are your options for returning:

THE QUICK & EASY WAY

Take the Bert T. Combs Mountain Parkway North to I-64 West.

Take I-64 West to I-75 North, in Lexington, and back to Cincinnati.

This will take about 2.5 hours to get to I-275.

THE WAY THAT WE HOPE THAT YOU'LL TAKE

Go 16 miles on the Bert T. Combs Mountain Parkway North to the Exit for Kentucky Route 11 North (Exit 16 and signs are for Routes 11/15). Turn Right off of the exit, and then Left at the first traffic light (about .25 miles at the Shell service station) We could go into a lot of detail here, but Route 11 will take you all the way back to Maysville, Kentucky (the way that you came in). Cross the "Old" bridge, and follow US Highway 52 West back to I-275. Please note that this should be considered a Level 3 road, even though it is well maintained. This is all very well marked, and the only possible tricky part is getting through Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, at I-64. You can follow the signs to stay on Route 11 and go through town, or take the bypass (Route 686: 13.2 [29.5]) and you'll end up back on Route 11 North. Going this way will take about 3 hours to get to I-275 (the starting point)

ONE MORE OPTION

OK, we're throwing this one in only because it has some of the most beautiful, scenic, and fun roads that we've ever driven. Because this route will take a bit longer to get back, we will suggest this as a great way to return from an Overnighter, or if you don't mind getting back a little later in the evening from your Daytrip. Again, these are Level 3 and 4 roads (similar to Route 77), but are well marked and easy to navigate:

Take the Bert T. Combs Mountain Parkway North about 11 miles to Kentucky Route 213, in Stanton, Kentucky (Exit 22). Turn Left off of the exit.

Go about 12 miles to Kentucky Route 52 (again, well marked).

Route 52 deadends and turns Right, in Ravenna/Irvine, Kentucky.

Follow Route 52 through town and cross the bridge over the Kentucky River to remain on Route 52.

Go less than 1 mile and turn Left onto Kentucky Route 499.

**Go about 18 miles to the junction with US Highway 421.
Turn Right (North) and follow US 421 to Richmond, Kentucky.
Follow US Highway 421 through Richmond to access I-75 North.
Plan on this option having a 4 hour drivetime.**

Please visit www.DaytripCincinnati.com, go to the Tips From Fellow Daytrippers 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!