

THE GORGE GAZETTE

YOUR GUIDE TO FAMILY FUN
IN THE RED RIVER GORGE



The Official (only!) Newspaper of The Red River Gorge

Vol. 3 No. 3 Adventure ~ Relaxation ~ Accommodations ~ Awe Inspiring Natural Beauty ~ Friendly People

MAY 2023



There are many adventures to try while in the Red River Gorge but our favorite is the Off Road backcountry tours! You can enjoy as a passenger or if you have a driver's license, you can drive! There are trails for all levels of experience. You will enjoy the scenery as you drive along the backcountry of Daniel Boone National Forests. Enjoy traversing obstacles, or take a leisurely guide led trip to view the vistas above the Gorge. Friendly, knowledgeable guides are here to assist you on your trip and ensure you and your group have an unforgettable journey through some of the most amazing areas of natural beauty Kentucky has to offer. Don't forget to download your favorite tunes on your device to play on the side by side premium sound system. Create a soundtrack of your life with this one of a kind experience with Out the Top Adventures!

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"Oh They Say From This Valley..."

Now that you are here, a little about the Red River Gorge.

The Gorge history dates back more than four hundred million years to when Africa slammed into North America creating the Appalachian Mountains.

Millions of years later sediment washed down from Pennsylvania and formed the sandstone cliffs that are the defining feature of the Gorge.

These unique cliffs are the reason the Gorge is highly regarded for climbing with 3,000+ clifflines in the Daniel Boone National Forest alone.

Just after the Glacier retreated about 12,000 years ago, people moved into the Gorge. Those people are known to archeologists as the Paleo Indians. At that time, the weather was cooler and the Gorge was mostly covered with evergreens. Woolly mammoths, giant bison and mastodons were plentiful and hunted by these early people using only spears tipped with stone points.

These and later groups of ancient people had the Gorge to themselves for ten thousand years. Around four hundred years ago, they began trading with Europeans, a 100 years later the area became the state of Kentucky.

Three hundred years after that we arrived, constructed the Resort and later the Zipline and many others facilities. Here you'll find something that will appeal to every family member 'cause there's no age limit on fun!

Adventure opportunities, trails to hike, horses to ride, off road tours, underground water bourn tours, varied cuisine places to eat and the accommodations are almost unlimited in number and luxury levels!

So, get out there and experience the *Joy of the Gorge*. Take a hike, climb a cliff, Zip through the beautiful forests, catch a fish (but be sure to release it unharmed), grill some burgers, Grab onto an ATV and journey through the Gorge at your own rate on the Off-Road Tours adventure, whatever tickles your fancy.

The point is, there is so much to do and see; don't let this opportunity to appreciate one of Nature's finest examples of her best work pass by.

While you and your family are enjoying this handiwork, remember there will be others to follow and they too would love to experience the Gorge in it's natural and as pristine state as did you.

The rule is simple, leave only footprints (*And please, leave those only on designated trails*), take nothing but photographs and pleasant memories.

Electrifying News!

At Cliffview Resort we have three Tesla Charging Stations, one of which is universal. Now you can recharge your Tesla, Prius, Leaf, Volt, or any electric or hybrid car while enjoying unforgettable time in the Gorge zipping, hiking or just napping. And, we offer this service to anyone, you do not have to be a guest at Cliffview. Oh yeah, I almost forgot - you can charge absolutely free! Uh huh. Free!

THE GORGE GAZETTE

The official newsletter of
The Red River Gorge
Slade, Kentucky

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The Gorge Gazette is published monthly except January and February for entertainment of Red River Gorge Guests, Owners, Visitors, Staff, Tourists and Friends.

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HELPFUL WEBSITES & PHONE NUMBERS

State, County & City Facilities

Natural Bridge State Resort Park General Information

606.663-2214 or 1-800-325-1710 (reservations) 2135 Natural Bridge Rd. Slade, KY 40376 Trail map & descriptions, park laws and regulations, lodging, camping, group meeting facilities, group programs
"Natural Bridge State Resort Park is hiking, arches, exploring, scenery, reflection, and making memories."

www.parks.ky.gov/findparks/resortparks/nb

Kentucky State Nature Preserve Commission

www.naturepreserves.ky.gov

Red River Gorge National Geological Area **606) 663-8100**

www.fs.fed.us/r8/boone/districts/cumberland/redriver_gorge.shtml

Gladie Cultural-Environmental Learning Center **606.663-8100**

www.fs.fed.us/r8/boone/districts/cumberland/gladie.shtml

Red River Gorge Trail Crew (Volunteers) www.RRGTC.com

Leave No Trace – Outdoor Ethics www.lnt.org

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Lee County Tourism Commission

Dedra Brandenburg Director **606.464.5038**

www.visitleecountyky.com

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www.cliffviewresort.com 455 Cliff View Road, Campton, KY 41031

The Lodge, The Retreat and Lakeside Lodges are available for groups, weddings and retreats. Also available is the 8,000 sq foot Reception Hall

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The Gorge Underground **844.254.6244** Thrillsville.org

The Red River Inn On Parkway, Campton

The Gorge Gazette Jenny or Jerry Ison **865.674.6740**

Email stories, ideas, suggestions, news to: jerrywrison@gmail.com

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- **Gorge Outfitters Gear, Clothes Trail Food** 606.481.3989 Nat Bridge Rd. Slade
- **Red River Climbing Guides** where “*Your Adventure Awaits!*” Catering to all ages and experience levels. Visit: RedRiverClimbingGuides.com or call 629.207.0697
- **HillTop Pizza:** Pizza, Salads, Subs, Spaghetti, Lasagna.
Delivery to Cliffview available. 606.464.9990 2034 Hwy 11N Beattyville.
- **Daniel Boone Coffee Shoppe & Deli:** Gourmet Coffees, Deli Foods, Camping Supplies
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- **Gorge Underground:** A Unique Waterborne Family Adventure *On The Water, Underground!*
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- **Natural Bridge State Park, Lodge & Sky Lift:** Camping, Hiking, Rooms, Fine Dining
parks.ky.gov/resortparks/nb/index.htm
- **Mill Creek Lake: Kayak & SUP Rentals** 859.300.1330
- **Red River General Store:** Hand Dipped Ice Cream, Hoodies, Gifts, Camping Supplies, T-Shirts
Fudge, Local Artisan Crafts 1321 Natural Bridge Road (KY Rt. 11) Slade, KY 606.663.885
- **Daniel Boone Liquor:** 606-663-2549; Natural Bridge Rd (KY Rt 11)
- **Red River Gorge Hiking, Rock Climbing:** fs.fed.us/r8/boone/
- **Red River Adventure:** Kayaking and Canoeing redriveradventure.net 606-663-1012
- **Via Ferrata Rock Climbing Park:** Great for beginners 606-668-6441 torrentfalls.com
- **Mr. Ed’s Hot Dogs** Great Hot Dogs smothered with Famous Chili Sauce
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- **The Well** Beattyville’s only liquor store selling Liquor, Beer & Wine Come down and sip a glass
sitting on the patio watching the Kentucky River flow. On rte 52 Beattyville
606.208.8017 tony@theboneyardwell.com
- **Beech Fork Golf Club:** In Clay City - 606-663-9479
- **Sag Hollow Golf Course:** In Booneville 606-593-4653
- **Beattyville Public Golf Course:** Off Rt. 52 in Beattyville, KY
606.356.4199

If a **Holiday Party, any Party, Family Reunion, Corporate Meeting, Church Retreat or Wedding** is on your to-do list, go ahead and check it off. We have the perfect solution to party planning from catering to lodging to activities. The **Lodge at Cliffview** will sleep 64. The 7000 square foot **Reception/Activity Center** seats up to 250 and has a fully equipped *commercial grade kitchen*. Our newest Lodges, the **Retreat** and **Lakeside** will each sleep up to 50. Both have *double appliances* kitchens and technically compatible *theater style media rooms*.

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Tips To Help You be A Happier Camper



Preparation

- * The Mountains are known for unpredictable weather. Check the weather forecast for the area.
- * Plan your trip--know about the area and how to get there. Get detailed maps.
- * Take enough food, clothing, and equipment to keep you comfortable in case of emergency.
- * Notify others of where you will be, and when you plan to be home.
- * If you are a beginning camper, contact your local camping outfitter for a general checklist of camping equipment.
- * Take a cell phone with a fully charged battery - and - a spare fully charged battery. Make certain there is service in the area you'll be camping. Turn it off until you need to place a call.
- * Inexpensive walkie-talkies are also a good idea; with fresh batteries and spares.
- * A loud whistle is another good idea. It can be used to attract attention and is a good way to ward off an unwelcome animal.

Personal Safety

- * Prevent animals from getting into your food. Consider placing it in your vehicle, or hanging it in a tree (12' high, 4' from tree trunk).
- * State and national forest campground wells are approved by that governing body.
- * Keep a few logs in your tent to keep them dry.
- * Always bring extra matches and at least three or four Bic lighters.
- * Never even consider a camping trip without a comprehensive and fully stocked first aid kit and the American Red Cross first aid handbook. These may be more important in an emergency than any other items you could have.

The 'No Impact' Camper follows these guidelines to ensure that today's forest and campground resources are available to tomorrow's users:

- * If you carry it in, please carry it out-this will eliminate litter.
- * Camp in a designated campsite within designated campgrounds, unless you have obtained an undesignated camping permit.
- * Protect water sources from contamination; do any washing at least 100' away from source.
- * Use biodegradable soap, or try hot water, soapless dishwashing, bathing and clothes washing.
- * When using soap (even biodegradable) and toothpaste, do so at least 100' away from natural water sources, well or faucet water sources.
- * Take only pictures; leave only footprints and leave those only on *designated trails and areas*. Remember, when camping in any federal area, guidelines forbid the taking of even a pebble from national parks.
- * Never, ever cut a live tree for firewood. Never, ever bring wood from another area or state to local forest areas. Check with visitor center about obtaining approved firewood of local origin.

Prevent forest fires.

- * Keep fires small.
- * Have water available to extinguish the fire properly.
- * Never leave a fire unattended.
- * Maintain a 10' diameter and debris-free area around the fire.
- * Make sure ashes are cold when you leave a fire.

Reminders:

- * Be careful with your campfire -- keep it small.
- * Be a good neighbor -- control your noise and pets.
- * Be respectful of your state and national forests; keep the trees and shrubs alive and growing.
- * Always keep your dog on a leash no longer than 6 feet, and away from public swimming areas.



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WILDFLOWERS DON'T CARE WHERE THEY GROW



Wildflowers come in such an incredible variety of color, style, size and numbers, I'm not sure if they weren't one of God's favorite creations. Look at a field of white Queen Anne's

Lace interspersed with the brilliant purple of Joe-Pye weed, the bright sunny yellows of Black Eyed Susans and the brilliant orange of the Day Lilies and tell me this just happened by chance.

Could you imagine what a wonderful sight a field of wildflowers would be to an alien from a world where there were no such thing?

I would bet when they left for home, the old saucer would be crammed full of Laurel, Bluets, Anemones, Daisies, and even Dandelions.

Wildflowers are so diverse and plentiful that they must not all try to blossom at the same time. There are spring bloomers, summer bloomers and fall bloomers. Some even blossom through the snow.

The Spring Bloomers are, for the most part, usually small, pastel colored, delicately patterned flowers that favor the shady obscurity of the moist woods.

The summer bloomers, on the other hand, are usually much bigger and more boldly colored and prefer the hot conspicuousness of the open field. Showy and even a little pushy, these flowers demand attention.

The Joe-Pye weed topped with deep purple flowers seems to be competing with the equally impressive Ironweed, Boneset and Goldenrod.

These flowers appear to be trying to outdo each other and stretch higher and higher to get the most sun. Some may reach a height of seven feet or more by August. Even the delicate Queen Anne's Lace, gets in on the act, vying for more of the sun's attention by growing tall and in great assemblages.

These late summer bloomers are not only able to tolerate the heat and abundant sun, but actually thrive where the more moisture loving spring plants wouldn't last an hour.

Some late summer plants such as the Jimsonweed will grow in an area where no other plant can survive. The middle of dried up feed lot, in the gravel alongside train tracks. Places other plants find too hostile are frequently home to many late summer wildflowers.

What a wonderful way to introduce Spring and punctuate Summer, these wildflowers.

Natural Bridge Park Events In May



For more information: Contact Samantha Evans at (606) 663-3575 or samantha.evans@ky.gov
(All presentations and field trips are subject to change)



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We Have So Many Varied, Exciting and Unique Venues, There's Something For The Entire Family

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- The Gray's Arch Trail
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- Mill Creek Lake
- Kentucky Dragway
- The Earth Shop
- Kentucky Reptile Zoo
- The Gorge Underground
- Meadowgreen Music Park
- And So Much More: Antique Stores, Restaurants, Souvenir Shops, Horseback Riding, ATV Trails



Powell County Tourism Commission
info@gopoco.org
606.663.1161

For information about these and much more, visit **GoPoCo.Org** Or **Call 606.663.1161**

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145 SteakOut- 148 Main St, Downtown Campton, KY 606-668-7500. Great Steaks and more.

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Zipped • Picnicked • Had a Hot Dog • Camped Under the Stars
Visited the Gorge Underground • Listened to Live Bluegrass

Today?

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Check Page 3 or Ask One of our Staff




Okay, Let's get to the bottom of this.
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