

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. 7 Adventure ~ Relaxation ~ Accommodations ~ Awe Inspiring Natural Beauty ~ Friendly People

September 2023



The Rugged Red is the trail half marathon in the Red River Gorge. During challenging 13.1 miles you will witness 5 rarely seen arches, unmatched views, and you'll get to share the trail with some of the best athletes from around the country. You can expect rough terrain and steep inclines, but it is so worth it! We will be celebrating at the finish with music, food, and more! Join us on September 23 at the Natural Bridge Campground in Slade. For more info visit our website at: <https://www.ruggedred.org/>

A Day In The Gorge Is A Day Well Spent

What to do, what to do?

We're not gonna tell you what to do, but we can tell you what you can do here in the Gorge Area. While you're staying in one of the luxury cabins, you can step out on the porch and enjoy a leisurely cup of coffee while reveling in the cool quiet mornings. Mountain mornings are special, the peaks and valleys often shrouded in mist presenting a vista unique to the Gorge. For a list of some of the many offerings to be found here in our Gorge-ous hills and mountains check page three. Or just call or visit the website of any of those listed. They can answer all your questions

September's Song

Yes, it's September already! We just let another summer go by without getting the yard up to par or spending that long week end at the lake. Lots of folks think of September in just that way; the month we realize summer is over. Not me! I like to think of September as sort of a pre-game show. The lead in to autumn. Sure, there are still some days to come when the temperature and humidity will keep you inside with the AC on full-tilt. But we get nights with their end-of-summer "freezing" 55 degrees.

Yes, all that may be true for some, but you've made the right choice. The best choice. You've traveled to our part of the world and my, my, what a great place to be this time of year.

Here in Eastern Kentucky, we have the great fortune to experience this slow, wonderful, transition period. It's almost like a polite Southern segue from the bounty of summer into the scaling down of autumn.

These are the days of feasting on fresh home-grown tomatoes and green beans. Zucchini and cantaloupes and corn on the cob.

These are the days for getting ready for tailgate parties, camping and hiking amidst the unrivaled beauty of our part of the world. This is corn maze, back to school and close-out sales time.

Time for deciding if you are going to split firewood or buy it this year. And choosing new sweaters for the sprint across the mall parking lot for those late November Christmas shopping bargains.

A time for re-adjustment without the sudden change from warm to cold some areas suffer. We get to drag out the alternating warm periods and cool nights all the way through most of October.

Yes, all that may be true for some, but you've made the right choice. The best choice; you've traveled to our part of the world and my, my, what a great place to be this time of year.

Oh yes, we'll have a real live, gen-u-wine, painted on the trees, leaf-droppin' autumn, but it is still down the road a ways. There's plenty of time left for you to take advantage of one of those sales. Time enough to get the best deal on a bright plaid flannel shirt to wear on the Halloween hayride.

But right now, you're in the cat bird seat as we say. There is no better place to be than right here in the uniquely beautiful Red River Gorge!

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 Red River Gorge Newsletter

Publisher

Jenny Ison

Editor

Jerry Ison

Contributors

Jerry Ison
Joyce Belcher
Nancy Hamann
Sally Cox

Graphics

Ingrid Miller
Red River Gorge Earth Shop



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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

Kentucky State Parks - Create your own Experience.

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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

Red River Gorge Zip Lines **855.ZIP.TOUR 855.947.8687**

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Red River Gorge Cabin Rentals **844.692.2246**

www.redrivergorgecabinrentals.com

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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Things To Do, Places To Visit, Where To Eat In The Red River Gorge



- **Red River Gorge Earth Shop** Local Art gallery & Gift Shop 606.668.5228 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 606-663-2549 Natural Bridge Road (KY Rt. 11) near Slade Exit 33
- **Gorge Underground:** A Unique Waterborne Family Adventure *On The Water, Underground!* Kayak and Pontoon Boat Tours 844-254-6244 Thegorgeunderground.com
- **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 209 N. Main Stanton, KY 606.569.8170 Check us on Facebook
- **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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Safe Hiking in Cliffview and State and Federal Forests of the Red River Gorge Geological Area

The hiking season is now in full swing. Hundreds, thousands of folks from all over the country regularly visit Cliffview Resort and the Red River Gorge Area to enjoy nature's bounty. There is no better way to experience all the area has to offer than to hike the hundreds of trails in federal, state and private land. We want everyone to have the best hiking experience possible and leave the area with fond memories, beautiful pictures and videos. To make the experience fun, informative and safe we offer a few hints and some do's and don'ts.

- * **First and foremost, the Boy Scouts are right, Be Prepared!**
- * The Mountains are known for unpredictable weather. Check the weather forecast for the area.
- * Plan your hike - know about the area and how to get there. Get detailed maps.
- * Take enough food, clothing, and equipment to keep you comfortable for at least another day and night longer than planned in case of emergency.
- * Notify others of where you will be, and when you plan to be home, in case someone needs to contact you. Let them know when you return.
- * If you are a beginner, contact local outfitters or camping and hiking locations for a general check list of needed equipment. It's a very good idea to have a comprehensive Red Cross approved First Aid kit and manual.
- * Take a cell phone with a fully charged battery. Make certain there is service in the area you plan to explore.

- * Download a GPS app so friends and family can track your progress and always know exactly where you are. In areas with no service, inexpensive walkie-talkies are a reasonable alternative .
- * Always bring waterproof matches or a couple of Bic lighters and a knife of some kind.
- * A loud whistle is another good idea. It can be used to attract attention if 'confused' and may convince an unwelcome animal to leave the area.
- * If hiking in an area bears are known to habituate, make some noise while hiking. Sing, clap your hands, talk, whatever. Bears don't like to be surprised and if they know you're approaching, they'll usually go the other way.
- * Remember, you're a guest, be courteous and appreciative.
- * **If you carry it in, please carry it out!**
- * Take only pictures; leave only footprints and leave those only on **designated trails and areas.** Remember, when you're enjoying any federal area, guidelines forbid the taking of even a pebble from national parks.
- * Never, ever cut a live tree for firewood or any other reason.
- * Be respectful of your state and national forests; keep the trees and shrubs alive and growing.
- * If hiking with Fido, keep him on a leash no longer than 6 feet.




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Dogtopia in the Red River Gorge

Happy Trails for you and your canine companion



by Sally Cox

The Red River Gorge is well known for its beautiful scenic trails. An adventurer will quickly discover why the

Gorge is graciously referred to as the "Grand Canyon of Kentucky". Fortunately, most of the trails are dog friendly too! Many hikers bring their furry companions along for a journey filled with exciting sights and sounds for both humans and canines.

Dog owners can also quench their thirst and appetites after a rigorous day of hiking at one of the local restaurants which allow dogs in their outdoor seating area. There's also a plethora of lodging in the RRG area as well. Check out one of the many online websites such as my personal favorites redrivergorgecabinrentals.com and sceniccabin.com.

Most of the RRG trails allow dogs on a 6ft. leash and must be picked up after when needed.

Some treks have off leash areas which are noted online and at entry signs. It's important to know pets are only permitted on Henson Arch and Whittleton Trails in the Natural Bridge State Park.

Ahh, but so many trails and not enough time to tackle them all! Thanks to websites like alltrails.com, I've been able to condense ratings and oodles of comments regarding: level of difficulty, trail distance, time, and scenic highlights.

Some trails can be quite muddy after a rain so make sure you bring a towel to wipe off your puppy's paws before getting back in your car.

The following list is in order of easy to moderate to hard trail ratings.

Let the adventure begin!

1) **Angels Windows Trailhead** - Easy 0.6 mi Pine Ridge, KY. A charming double arch with beautiful rock formations called angel windows.

2) **Creation Falls via Rock Bridge Trail** - Easy/Moderate 1.4mi 40 min Campton, KY Beautiful small waterfall for kids and dogs to cool off in on a hot summer day.

3) **Rock Bridge and Lower Swift Camp** - Moderate 4.0 mi 1 hr 42 min near Campton, KY. A hidden gem of nature featuring a waterfall and a crystal clear creek. Dogs are allowed off leash in some areas.

4) **Copperas Creek Unofficial Trailhead** - Moderate 3.1 mi 1 hr near Wellington, KY. Gorgeous waterfall with some intriguing mushrooms along the path.

5) **Double Arch Trail** - Moderate 4.6 mi 2 hr Stanton, KY. Dogs love this trail with spectacular panoramic views but sheer drop offs so watch your pup closely!

6) **Gray's Arch Trail** - Moderate 2.3 mi 1 hr near Slade, KY Tone your muscles ascending the 86 steps to one of the biggest arches of the gorge!

7) **Rush Ridge to Hanson's Point Loop** - Moderate 7.2 mi 3 hr 16 min near Stanton, KY. It's recommended to traverse the trail clockwise to reach the fantastic view at Hanson's Point. Dogs may be off leash in some areas. In May, enjoy the native orchids in bloom!

8) **Koomer Ridge Trail** - Moderate 8.0 mi 3 hr 43 min near Pine Ridge, KY. Lots of elevation changes make for diverse flora and fauna. Four river crossings add to the fun too! Dogs may be off leash in some areas.

9) **Cloud Splitter Short Cut Trail** - Hard 1.1 mi near Campton, KY. This short and steep large rock scramble requires a rope. Known for birding and dogs can be off leash in some areas.

10) **Bison Way to Indian Staircase to Sheltoewe Trace** - Hard 9.7 mi near Denniston, KY. The incredible awe inspiring rock cliffs, shelters, and waterfalls are rewarding after a challenging hike that is not suitable for young children. Dogs may be off leash in some areas.



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The Red River Museum in Clay City
Natural Bridge Skylift and Gift Shop
Natural Bridge State Resort Park
Pilot Knob

Auxier Ridge Trailhead
Double Arch Trail
The Gray's Arch Trail
Battleship Rock
Mill Creek Lake
Kentucky Dragway

The Earth Shop
Kentucky Reptile Zoo
The Gorge Underground
Meadowgreen Music Park

And So Much More: Antique Stores, Restaurants,
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Powell County Tourism Commission
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For information about these and much more, visit
GoPoCo.Org Or Call 606.663.1161



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Rappelled • Ridden A Horse • Slung Mud • Walked In Nature
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Visited the Gorge Underground • Listened to Live Bluegrass
Today?
You can do all that and more right here
in the Beautiful, Natural and Unique
Red River Gorge

Check Page 3 or Ask One of our Staff



Okay, Let's get to the bottom of this.
The Well is the one and only liquor store in Beattyville selling liquor, beer and wine.

Located in Beattyville on KY Rte 52 in the Boneyard Building at River's Edge.
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145 SteakOut- 148 Main St, Downtown Campton, KY 606-668-7500. Great Steaks and more.

Redpoint Barbeque - On Jim Smith Rd, Rogers, KY Serving American dishes with a full bar. Has indoor and outdoor seating. 606.668.7000.

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