

## Wandering Indiana

Thank you Michael Thissen and Morton Dale. At the Indiana Economic Development Association 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala we were able to purchase a gift basket from Crawford County, Indiana. Wandering is our thing (as you know) and this only helped perpetuate our passion of taking in one of my favorite places to visit. If you like the outdoors, Crawford County is the place to go to take in some sites. You will not be disappointed.

Our trip started out with wandering on the way to Crawford County, imagine that! Avoca Fish Hatchery, Williams Dam, Jug Rock, West Baden Springs, French Lick, Potake Reservoir, and driving through Hoosier National Forest. All great places in themselves but not the focus of this article.

We spent three nights in Fredonia. Where? That is the point! Someplace no one has likely heard of but a place you should experience. [Big Timber River Cabins](#) was a great place to stay. The view of the Ohio River looking into Kentucky was unbelievable. We were probably a couple hundred feet above the river. Like I said, what a view. You could watch the barges traveling the River and even saw a soaring eagle. We just had an awesome location, view and a hot tub. Fun place to be to watch the stars.

[Morengo Cave](#) was our first place to visit. Taking a hike through the cave was very enjoyable and quite interesting. It made it even better with the 50 degree temps in the cave versus the 80's outside. There are actually two public tours; we took one with an eye on going back in the future. We have reason to do so especially since we couldn't canoe on the Blue River. Who would have thought we would have a gully washer of a storm that would raise the level of the River too high for safe conditions. Oh well, reason for returning and enjoying another get away.



When it comes to eating, there is no lack of great places. The Overlook Inn located in Leavenworth is awesome! It has that great Ohio River view just like our cabin. I also highly recommend Schwartz Family Restaurant. That all you can eat luncheon does not disappoint. We ate there after taking the [Hemlock Cliffs](#) hike in Hoosier National Forest. I strongly suggest this hike. It is not too strenuous and because of its location and the tree cover, it stays relatively cool, especially compared to the hot open areas.

Nearby are many other places to visit, O'Bannon Woods State Park has always been a favorite. I remember it as Harrison Crawford State Forest back in the day. There is still an area called this and managed differently than the state park. We attempted to hike the Wyandotte Wetlands trail but ran into the flooding issues and were not able to complete the hike, but what we did hike was awesome. Can't wait to go back and attempt it again.

Of course Historic [Corydon](#) is nearby, many other cave adventures and all kinds of wandering opportunities. One of my favorites is still driving the Ohio River Road and checking out the scenery, outcroppings and the old river towns.

Keep wandering and pass your places to visit along. Would love to check them out!

~ Jeff Banning