

*-Free-*  
**TAKE ONE**

**BROWN COUNTY, INDIANA**

# **MOUNTAIN BIKING GUIDE**

**BROWN COUNTY  
STATE PARK TRAILS**

**GOING BEYOND  
THE PARK**

**WHAT TO DO  
AFTER THE RIDE**

# THE BEST BIKING IN THE MIDWEST

Tucked in the hills of south central Indiana, sandwiched among a handful of America's most populous urban areas, lie 16,000 acres of dense hardwood forests begging to be conquered by mountain bikers just like you.

Welcome to Brown County, Indiana, where dozens of slopes, gullies, ridges, ravines and—let's tell it like it is, folks—bad-ass trails are sure to make your heart pump, legs burn, and spirit soar.

Make no mistake about it. These are among the most challenging and exhilarating mountain biking trails in the Midwest—28 miles of award-winning, well-maintained trails suitable for bikers of every skill set and experience level.

And thanks to a vast network of additional trails located in nearby communities, you'll find all the camping and lodging options you need to make Brown County, Indiana the perfect hub for your next mountain biking adventure.



***Brown County Welcomes You***

Discover why Brown County is a favorite location among all types of mountain bikers.

3

***Map Out Your Ride***

An overview of Brown County State Park's award-winning trail system.

5

***Take to the Trails***

A breakdown of each trail in Brown County State Park from beginner to expert and all of the tips and tricks in-between.

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***Going Beyond the Park***

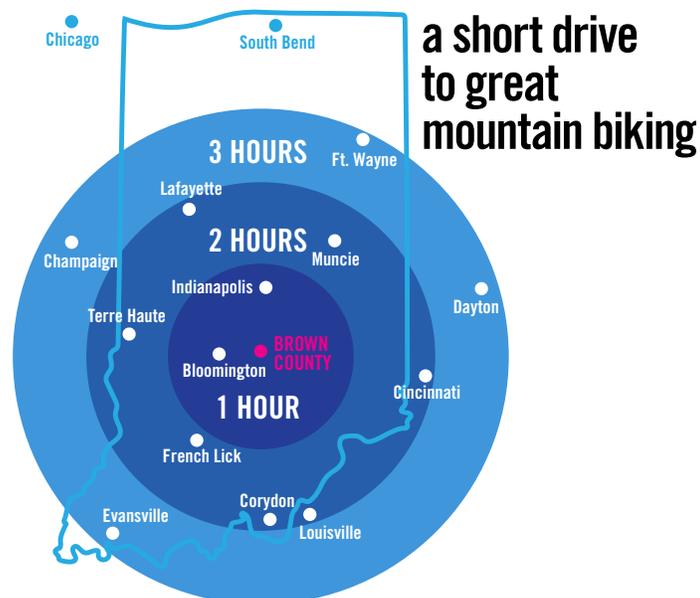
Want to keep riding? Discover these favorite trails outside Brown County State Park.

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***What Riders Love About Brown County***

From what to eat to where to stay, learn what riders like best about mountain biking in Brown County.

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# Brown County welcomes you

Even the most avid, well-conditioned mountain biker needs time to rest, relax, recharge, and get ready for the next thrilling ride.

Regardless of how you like to unwind, you'll find everything you're looking for in Brown County, Indiana. Whether it's indulging in a hot cup of freshly brewed coffee or a cold micro brew...a delicious, wood-fired pizza or a tangy pulled pork sandwich...a gourmet dinner in an acclaimed restaurant or a quick lunch in a quaint old farmhouse, you'll find all the food and drink you need to keep you satisfied and energized.

And if it's a diversion and change of pace you're looking for, you'll find it just down the road in picturesque Nashville, Indiana. Known for its unmistakable charm and warm hospitality, Nashville is home to dozens of shop keepers, restaurateurs, and artisans, all of whom are eager to welcome you.

Go to [browncounty.com](http://browncounty.com) or stop by the Brown County Visitors Center in downtown Nashville for up-to-the-minute suggestions, recommendations, and a friendly hello.



*The Farmhouse Cafe & Tea Room*



*Big Woods Brewing Company*



*Downtown Nashville*



*A Brown County Artisan*



*Downtown Nashville*

NASHVILLE

Freshly-brewed beer only five minutes away!

MAIN PARK ENTRANCE

Watch your head! Only a 9-foot clearance here.

46 135

WEST ENTRANCE

Approximately one mile that way.

# BROWN COUNTY STATE PARK



## MAP KEY

- Water Source
- Campground
- Picnic Area
- Parking
- Trail Head
- Restrooms
- Vista
- Road
- Mt. Biking Trail
- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced
- Expert

SOUTH ENTRANCE

This is mostly for horse people.



**AWARD-WINNING  
ADVENTURE**



**WHAT DO MOUNTAIN BIKERS LIKE BEST ABOUT BROWN COUNTY?**

For some, it's the variety of trails. Many of Brown County's trails require technical skills, but others do not. Some are remote; others are easy to access. Best of all, there's a trail in Brown County perfect for every skill level regardless of whether it's beginner, intermediate, advanced, or expert.

Others like to mountain bike in Brown County because it's the perfect place to "get away from it all" without going very far, taking a lot of time, or spending a lot of money. If you live in the Midwest, you don't have to travel hundreds of miles to find

trails that are fast, fun, and challenging. And thanks to the thousands of acres of unspoiled, old growth timberland, spectacular scenery, and rugged terrain in Brown County, you could be riding in the mountains of Oregon, the hills of Vermont, or almost anywhere else in America.

Finally, some like riding in Brown County because of the support services that are readily available. Brown County is a tried and true mountain biking community. It's brimming with everything from fully equipped RV parks and campgrounds to rustic cabins and luxurious, refurbished rooms. Regardless of where you stay or what your budget happens to be, you'll always feel right at home in Brown County.

*the* **TRAILS**

**BEGINNER**

- Pine Loop – 1.2 miles
- Limekiln Trail – 2.4 miles
- North Gate Trail – 1.2 miles
- North Tower Loop – 3.5 miles

**INTERMEDIATE**

- Green Valley Trail – 5.0 miles
- Aynes Loop – 3.4 miles

**ADVANCED**

- Hesitation Point – 2.1 miles
- Walnut Trail – 2.1 miles

**EXPERT**

- Bobcat Bowl – 3.5 miles
- Schooner Trace – 4.1 miles



# taking it easy

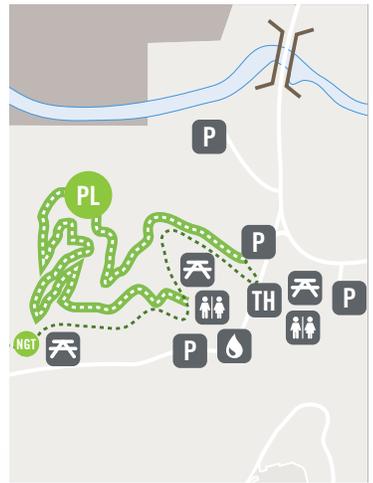


If you're looking for an approachable ride, this is the trail for you. Best for families and beginners, **Pine Loop** is a fun, twisty track with minimal climbing. This trail has just enough turns to whet your appetite for what's ahead in the park, but it's easy enough to be a good time for the whole family. While you're pedaling on a blanket of pine needles, be on the lookout for bridges, rocks, and ramps on the sides of the trail where more experienced riders will find optional challenges. Whether you're warming up for more exciting trails or it's your first time on a mountain bike, excitement awaits you on the Pine Loop trail.



### Fast Facts

- 1.2 miles
- Beginner
- Easiest trail in the park
- Large parking lot at trailhead
- Inviting smell of pine trees



*The most popular area to park and start your day is on the north side of Brown County State Park where you'll find restrooms and plenty of parking spaces. When you see the covered bridge, you know you're in the right spot. If you try to drive through with bikes on top of your car, you know you've made a big mistake. Be mindful of the 9-foot clearance—it's no joke.*





# from tent to trail



## Fast Facts

- 2.4 miles
- Beginner
- Parking available near campgrounds
- Kid-friendly
- Good flow
- Named after Limekiln Ridge



Start your day with this family-friendly ride. **Limekiln** is a perfect beginner trail for campers looking for their next adventure. Riders can gear up by the parking lot near the campgrounds or at the end of Walnut Trail. With lots of fast flow and low effort climbs, this winding track is often described as “a rollercoaster” that’s sure to put a smile on your face and butterflies in your stomach.



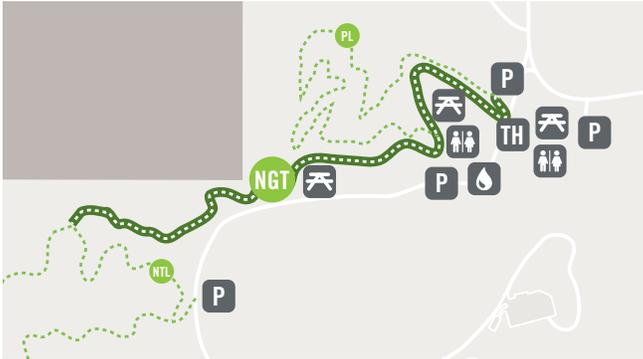
**Pitch a tent or bring your RV to one of four campsites in Brown County State Park. With access to an abundance of amenities including shelters, bathhouses, grills, a general store, and even horseback riding, it's easy to sleep under the stars and stay close to the trails.**



# your adventure connection



You'll gradually climb and ride over lots of roots on this trail as you make your way deeper into the dense, hardwood forest. Begin your journey at the trailhead by the North Gate parking lot or look on the map for other great places to start. **North Gate Trail** is also located close to the road, so you may hear some cars passing by as you make your way to the heart of the park's trail system. As you ride along, you will discover lots of nice surprises like hidden ponds and open meadows.



While you travel the trails, don't forget to pack a small bag to take with you. Stuff it with granola bars, mini sports drinks, and—of course—water. You'll also want to bring a helmet, gloves, and eye-protection, along with a tire repair kit complete with tire lever and compact pump. And maybe even throw in some duct tape. You never know.



### Fast Facts

- 1.2 miles
- Beginner
- Connector trail
- Parking at trailhead
- Close to road





# switching gears

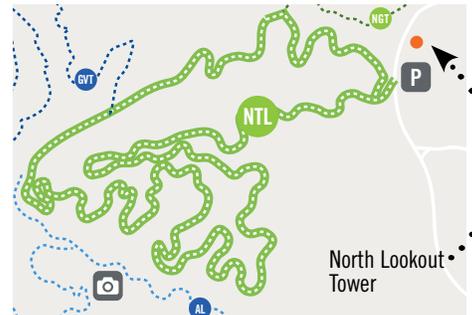
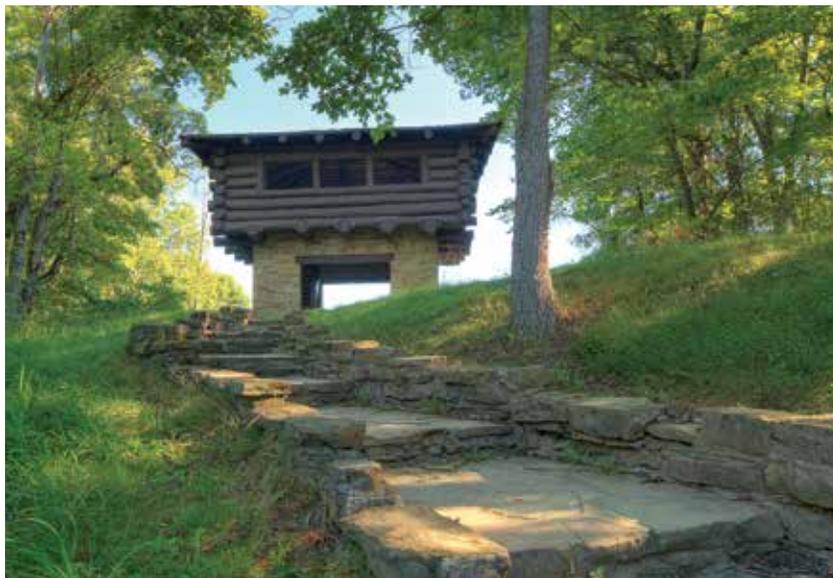


After you have a good grip on the beginner trails, continue to **North Tower Loop** from North Gate Trail for an easy transition into intermediate rides. You also can access this trail from two points on Aynes Loop.

North Tower is filled with a lot of fun turns and switchbacks that will keep you on your toes. This is the most technical of the beginner trails, so be on the lookout for tree roots and fallen logs. North Tower Loop has a good climb-to-flow ratio. It's a challenging ride for beginners as well as a great warm up for more experienced mountain bikers.

## Fast Facts

- 3.5 miles
- Beginner
- Most technical beginner ride
- Good climb-to-flow ratio
- Goes near North Lookout Tower



*Climb the steps of the two-story North Lookout Tower for a picnic, a place to relax, and another spectacular view of Brown County. Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, this is the perfect spot to take a breather.*



# a rollercoaster ride

If you're looking for fast flow, this is the place to go! Not only is **Green Valley** the longest trail in the park, it's also a crowd favorite. While it's the least technical of the intermediate trails, there are some nice switchbacks and lots of reversals. The real fun comes when you soar down hill after hill. At the right speed, you'll be sure to grab some air.

Riders can hop on this trail from a couple points midway on the North Tower Trail or further south at Aynes Loop.

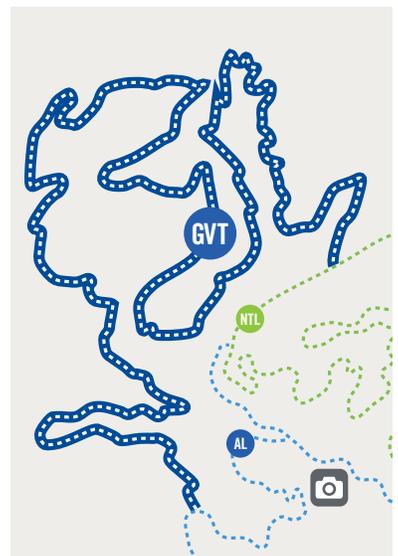


## Fast Facts

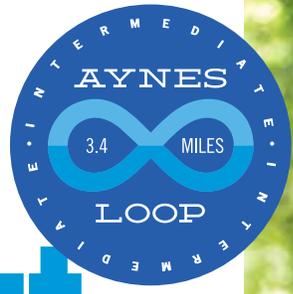
- 5.0 miles
- Intermediate
- Most remote trail in the park
- Crowd favorite
- Best flow trail in the park



**Suspension is a key attribute in determining which mountain bike is right for you. Rigid bikes don't have any suspension. They're usually easier to maintain and less expensive to buy. Hardtail bikes have a fork in the front to help absorb impact on the front wheel. These are the most common bikes for riders to own. Finally, full suspension bikes have a front fork and rear shock to absorb the most impact and create better traction. These bikes are typically more expensive and require more maintenance.**



# a true workout



Your endurance is sure to be tested on **Aynes Loop**. It's a long, intermediate trail that is a more aerobic and technically challenging ride. If you're starting from North Tower Loop, you will begin the trail with a long, tough climb featuring several switchbacks and lots of tree roots. Before you start, stop at the historic Green Valley Shelter at the base of the climb for a quick break or moment of relaxation. As you continue on the trail, you'll ride by a pond and cross shallow creek beds. You even might see some wildlife! You can also start this trail either at the southern end of Green Valley Trail, the northern end of Hesitation Point Trail, or at Bobcat Bowl via the Aynes Connector.

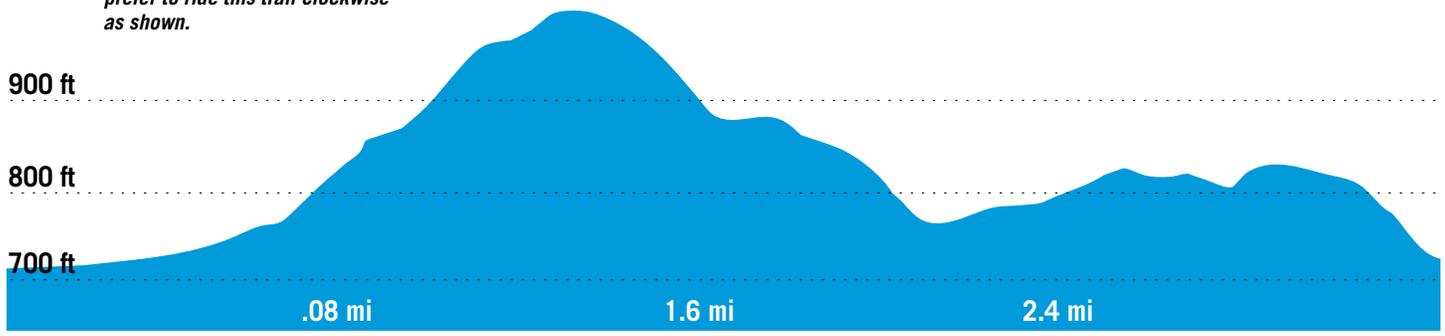


**Fast Facts**

- 3.4 miles
- Intermediate
- Technical trail
- Lots of climbing
- Very rooty




*Pictured below is an elevation profile of Aynes Loop. Most riders prefer to ride this trail clockwise as shown.*





# a new point of view



## Fast Facts

- 2.1 miles
- Advanced
- Best view in the park
- Parking lot nearby
- Perfect for a picnic



Most riders agree the best view of the park is on **Hesitation Point Trail**. Coming off Aynes Loop, you will have a short downhill ride before passing by the ruins of an old brick shelter. Then you'll take a long, sustained climb over roots, rock gardens, and switchbacks as you ride to Hesitation Point Overlook for a view that will take your breath away.

You can also choose to start this trail at the small Hesitation Point parking lot. After taking in the view and perhaps visiting the restrooms, this is a great place to start the awesome downhill ride to Aynes Loop.



**ABOVE:** The perfect time to take in the beauty of Hesitation Point Overlook is at sunset. You'll be among friendly locals who love to make their way to the top of the hill for a view that never gets old.

**RIGHT:** Hesitation Point Bicycles, owned by Tad Armstrong, is one of Brown County's favorite bike shops. It's the place to go whether you need a bike rental, a quick routine repair, or even something more involved like a custom wheel build. And the best part is, it's only a couple of miles from the trails!





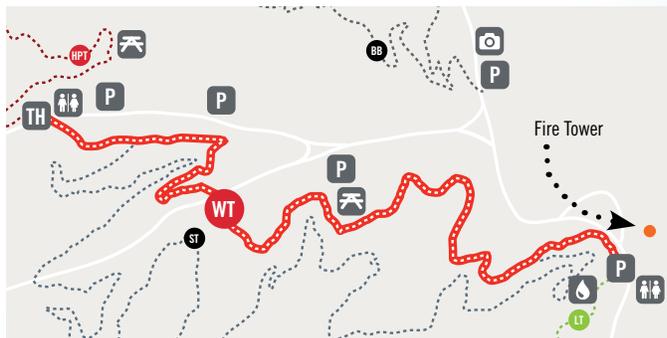
# step it up

This advanced trail is a nice challenge for riders who have conquered Hesitation Point and Green Valley trails and are looking to step it up. Filled with off camber turns, bridges, and rock gardens, **Walnut Trail** offers an exciting mix of fun flow with some technical rocky and rooty sections. With trailheads at the Hesitation Point parking lot and the Hoosier's Nest parking lot, this is an out and back trail. So be aware of returning riders.



## Fast Facts

- 2.1 miles
- Advanced
- Fun obstacles
- Close to Fire Tower and Walnut Shelter



*The Hoosier's Nest parking lot has restrooms, an open field, and a fire tower. If you're not bothered by a fear of heights, climb the steps of the fire tower for an incredible view of Brown County State Park. Or if staying closer to the ground is more your style, check out Walnut Shelter to rest or have a picnic.*



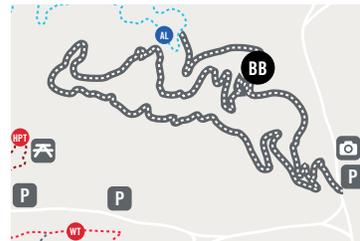


# a variety of challenges



### Fast Facts

- 3.5 miles
- Expert
- Variety of scenery
- Lots of technical areas



**Bobcat Bowl** is an expert trail that starts at Aynes Loop.

Beginning with a slight climb over plenty of rocks and roots, this is a narrow trail with a lot to look forward to. As you reach lower elevations, the lush ferns and cool, damp air will greet you for a moment of welcome relief before going back into warmer climes. While this is a difficult trail to go down, the journey back up will give you a nice challenge—to say the least.



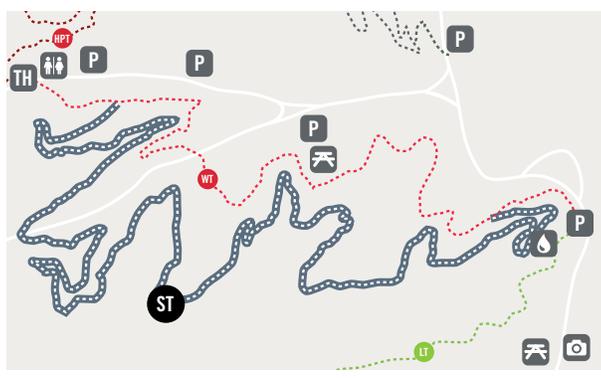
*To give this trail even more of an edge, machines were brought in to assemble an impressive rock feature to greet riders as they descend into the bowl.*



# experts only, please



Schooner Trace is not for the faint of heart or those with a lack of skill. As the most technically demanding trail in the park, riders are encouraged to stop and scout features such as challenging rock gardens and tight switchbacks before riding them. This very narrow trail will demand sharp focus as you ride close to the edge of steep drop-offs. Start this ride on either the northern or southern end of Walnut, and get ready for a ride you won't forget.



*"Schooner is great because it's so humbling. It reminds me that I'm not as much of a bad-ass as I think I am."  
- Gonzo Dies, Expert*

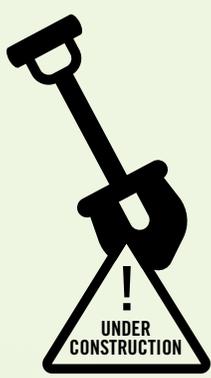
### Fast Facts

- 4.1 miles
- Expert
- Most difficult trail the park
- Pronounced: /'skōōnər/

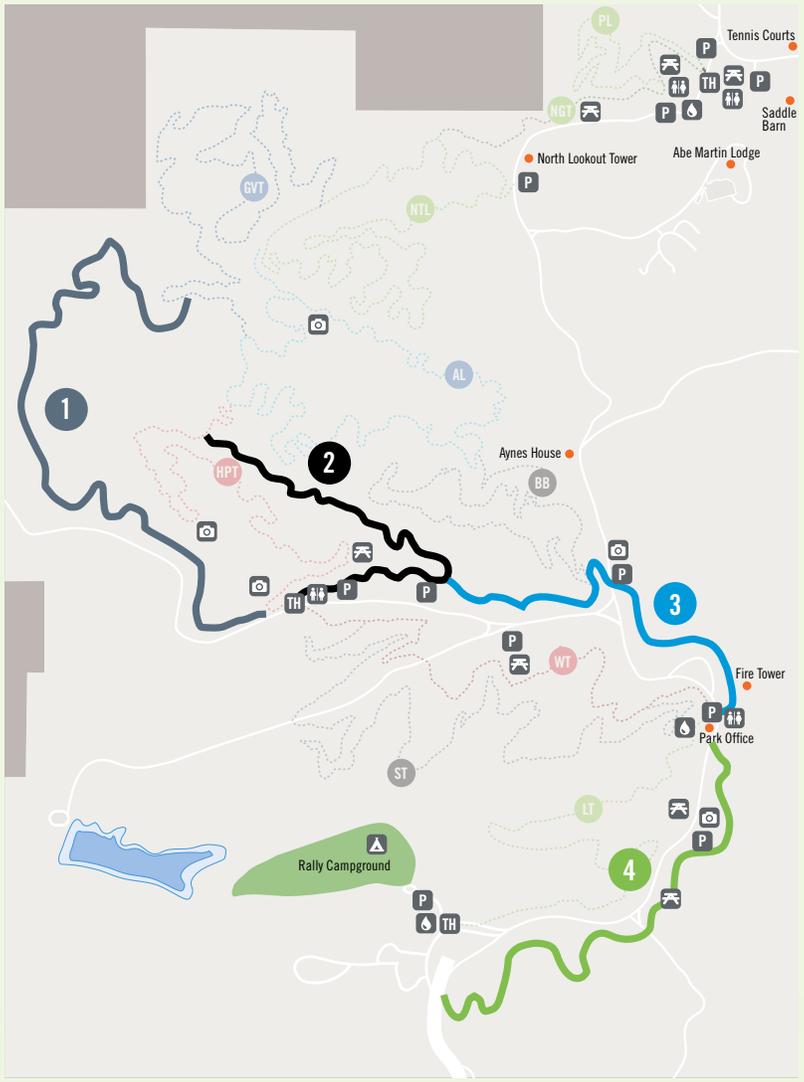


# MAKING BROWN COUNTY BIKING EVEN BETTER

Mountain biking opportunities in Brown County continue to evolve in exciting and dynamic ways both through the maintenance of existing trails and the development of challenging new ones. Here are four NEW trails that are either under construction or in the planning stages.



- 1. HOBBS HOLLOW**  
 A downhill optimized, four-mile expert flow trail.
- 2. HESITATION POINT EAST**  
 An expert 2.25-mile trail.
- 3. WEEDPATCH**  
 An intermediate 1.5-mile trail connecting Hesitation Point East to Bobcat Bowl & Limekiln.
- 4. LIMEKILN EAST**  
 A 2.5-mile beginner trail.



*Founded in 2002, The Hoosier Mountain Bike Association, Inc., or HMBA, is a statewide volunteer organization that promotes responsible mountain biking throughout Indiana. HMBA volunteers have led the way in the creation and maintenance of all of the mountain bike trails in Brown County State Park. They also are advocates for common land access and natural resource protection. The organization accomplishes these goals with the help of established relationships among policy makers, the cycling industry, race promoters, and of course, mountain bikers.*



# the ultimate challenge

## BROWN COUNTY IMBA EPIC RIDE

Intermediate / Advanced

27.9 miles long

1,048' high point / 653' low point

**Utilizes:** All trails outlined in black on the map

Welcome to 27 miles of pedal-driven heaven. This award-winning collection of trails is the premiere way to experience Brown County State Park while pushing your endurance and technical skill to the limit. This ride covers most of the beginner and intermediate trails on the northern end of the park and includes plenty of fun, downhill riding.

### MOUNTAIN BIKING TERMS YOU OFTEN HEAR ON THE TRAIL

**Berm:** An embankment on a trail.

**Flow:** The rhythm or feel of the trail where there is great momentum with minimal pedaling. A trail can be open and flowy or tight and technical.

**Off camber turn:** The banking of the turn is in the opposite direction of the corner. Sloped ground that makes handling difficult.

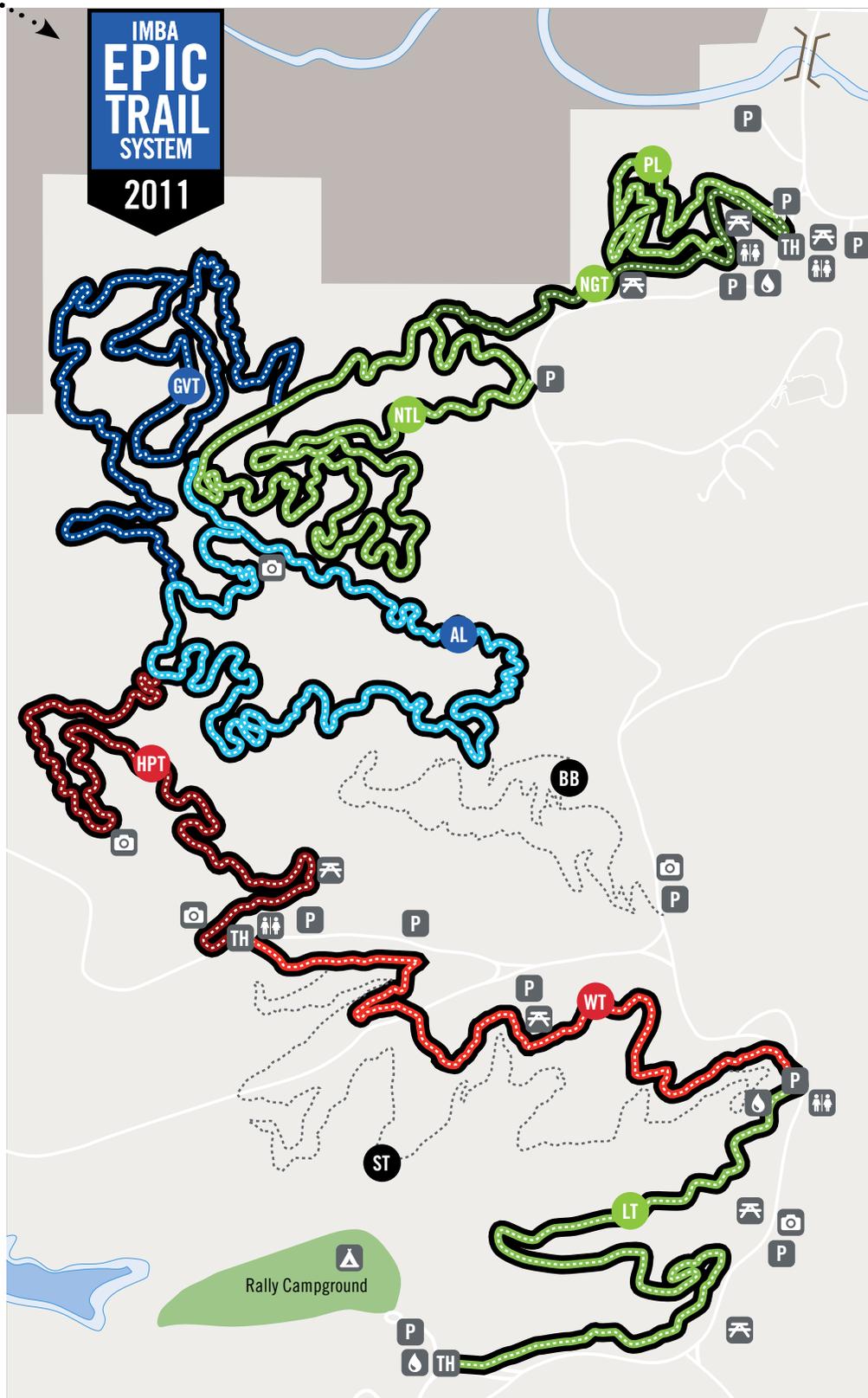
**Out and back:** A trail that requires riders to take the same path "back" to the trailhead that they originally rode "out" from it. There are no loops or alternative ways to return.

**Switchback:** A turn where the trail switches back upon itself. Often seen on hills to reduce the grade of the trail.

**Singletrack:** A narrow trail that must be ridden single file.

**Spur trail:** A trail that leads from a primary trail to points of interests such as overlooks, campsites, etc.

**Trailhead:** The beginning of a trail.



# TRAILS JUST OUTSIDE THE PARK

It's true that Brown County State Park boasts some of the best trails in the Midwest, but you'll find other, more secluded mountain biking destinations throughout the entire county. We've listed five fantastic places to explore after your initial rides are finished.

Nebo Ridge Trail, located in Hoosier National Forest, is one of the top backcountry rides in the entire State of Indiana. While in Hoosier National Forest, be sure to check out the Hickory Ridge Loop, a nearly 30-mile blockbuster ride that takes you about as far from civilization as you can go.

If you're looking for a more challenging mountain biking adventure, Gnow Bone Camp is a great option. In addition, eXplore Brown County offers more than 30 miles of doubletrack trails, zip lines, off-road vehicle tours, and paintball.

## NEBO RIDGE TRAIL

**Intermediate**  
**8.0 miles**  
[MTBProject.com/Trail/5526493](http://MTBProject.com/Trail/5526493)

This is THE classic Indiana backcountry singletrack trail. Your ride will be scenic, secluded, and peppered with juicy technical challenges. Featuring long climbs and some gratifying downhill sections, Nebo Ridge Trail is the experienced rider's first choice when visiting Hoosier National Forest.

## GNOW BONE CAMP

**Intermediate / Advanced**  
**25+ miles**  
[IndyTriple.Tripod.com/GnowBone.html](http://IndyTriple.Tripod.com/GnowBone.html)

Gnow Bone Camp is nearly 1,560 acres in size and is made up of 25 miles of mostly rugged singletrack trails and old fire roads. For those looking beyond the state park, this backwoods alternative is heavily wooded and very scenic with steep, technical climbs, fast descents, stream crossings, slate rock navigations, and wooden bridges. Though listed as intermediate to advanced, there's a trail for all levels of mountain bikers at Gnow Bone Camp. After your ride, be sure to check out the campground and general store.

## YELLOWWOOD STATE FOREST

**Advanced / Expert**  
**16+ miles**  
[IN.gov/DNR/Forestry/4817.htm](http://IN.gov/DNR/Forestry/4817.htm)

Yellowwood State Forest is an easily accessible, exciting complement for experienced riders to challenge themselves while in Brown County. Featuring seven backwoods-style, singletrack, doubletrack, and old fire road trails, Yellowwood State Forest rides will take you deep into an active forest. So keep your eyes open while exploring! In addition to technical rock drops, steep descents, and beautiful foliage, riders may encounter hunters, horseback riders, wildlife, and forest service personnel.



*Quincy Robinson (above) owns Q's Bikes—a shop that specializes in fat tire bike rentals and offers an alternative kind of ride. Located at eXplore Brown County, Q's Bikes is the perfect match to its rugged and fun trail system.*

## eXplore BROWN COUNTY

**Beginner / Advanced**  
**30+ miles in total**  
[ExploreBrownCounty.com](http://ExploreBrownCounty.com)

You'll find more than 30 miles of challenging single and doubletrack trails on rugged Indiana backcountry terrain at eXplore Brown County. Within a short car ride from Brown County State Park, eXplore Brown County has trails with plenty of ups and downs to challenge and thrill riders. After you've conquered the trails, there are tons of other outdoor activities for the entire family to enjoy, including zip lines, paint ball, arrow tag, and off-road vehicle tours. If you don't have your own backcountry bike, you can rent one here!

## HICKORY RIDGE / HOOSIER NATIONAL FOREST LOOP

**Intermediate**  
**29+ miles**  
[MTBProject.com/Trail/7007675](http://MTBProject.com/Trail/7007675)

This ride features much of the Hickory Ridge trail system to create a nearly 30-mile blockbuster ride. Riders will experience one of the most exciting adventures in all of Hoosier National Forest. Be warned: this trail is for riders who truly want to reconnect with nature and will take you deep into the hills and valleys of Brown County.

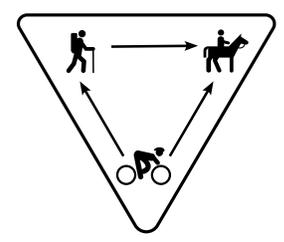


Hoosier National Forest



*Trail Etiquette*

Remember, you will be sharing the trails you ride. Before you venture out, be sure to know proper trail etiquette to keep everyone safe. All mountain bikers must yield to hikers and horses. For a list of all of the rules of the trails, visit [IMBA.com/About/Rules-Trail](http://IMBA.com/About/Rules-Trail).



\*This map is an approximation. Stop by the Brown County Visitors Center in Nashville for exact directions and a high five.

# BROWN COUNTY IS YOUR BIKING HUB

Veteran mountain bikers know that the State of Indiana offers many other great trails within a short distance from Brown County. These four rides are handpicked beauties located within two hours of Brown County State Park.

French Lick Resort boasts two professionally crafted singletrack trails located in a luxury resort setting.

Versailles State Park is located east of Brown County and is home to a group of trails in picturesque Ripley County. Town Run trail is nestled just off 96th Street in Indianapolis. Finally, O'Bannon Woods State Park offers one of the more technically difficult rides in Indiana.

All four options provide a unique mountain biking experience. Needless to say, a trip to Brown County not only provides some of the best rides in the Midwest, but also acts as the de facto capital for Indiana's central and southern mountain biking world.

## FRENCH LICK RESORT

**Beginner / Intermediate**

**Approximately 8 miles**

**[FrenchLick.com/Activities/Outdoor/HikingAndBiking](http://FrenchLick.com/Activities/Outdoor/HikingAndBiking)**

Nestled about an hour and a half south of Brown County State Park, French Lick Resort offers two professionally crafted singletrack trails for beginner and intermediate mountain bikers to ride. Not only will riders experience a few exhilarating hours of expertly crafted trail riding, they also can explore the entire resort community featuring restaurants, golf courses, pools, and a casino. Parking, trails, and experiences are free of charge—just bring your bike and you're ready to ride.

## VERSAILLES STATE PARK

**Intermediate**

**12.1 miles**

**[MTBProject.com/Trail/3505105](http://MTBProject.com/Trail/3505105)**

Located approximately an hour and a half east of Brown County State Park in Ripley County, Versailles State Park is home to a fantastic group of singletrack trails. The Outer Loop Figure Eight rides high on the bluffs of the park with great views of the valleys below. Starting clockwise at Shadow Run maximizes the fun you'll have on the downhills. To challenge yourself on difficult hill climbs, simply reverse the direction of your ride at the starting point. If you're visiting in July, be sure to check out Oldenburg's Freudenfest—a festival featuring beer, singing, and plenty of great family entertainment.

*Tired of leaving a paper trail? Download the Maprika app or the MTB Project app before heading out on the trails. These apps are linked to the official park trail map, so you know exactly where you are and how to get where you're going.*



# TOWN RUN TRAIL

**Intermediate**  
**6.6 miles**  
[MTBProject.com/Trail/1368043](http://MTBProject.com/Trail/1368043)

Town Run Trail is a fun, intermediate ride located just off 96th street in Indianapolis—approximately an hour and a half north of Brown County State Park. The ride is open, flowy, and fast with sections having a rollercoaster feel. This trail is one of the best in Central Indiana and, therefore, can be busy on nice days. You'll especially enjoy the wooden wall segment included in this loop! Parking is available. However, be sure to bring in your own water and other supplies.

# O'BANNON WOODS STATE PARK

**Intermediate / Advanced**  
**17.4 miles**  
[MTBProject.com/Trail/3679028](http://MTBProject.com/Trail/3679028)

This modified figure eight loop in O'Bannon Woods State Park features steep hills, deep ravines, limestone bluffs, caves, and waterfalls on an approximate 17-mile journey. With its rugged, rocky terrain, this ride can be more difficult than many other options. For beginner and intermediate riders, segments of the trail may be challenging but can provide a great opportunity to improve and test your skills. Some trails can be ridden in both directions.



## WE WELCOME THE RAIN AROUND HERE.

Rain? Sure. Snow? No problem. Regardless of the weather conditions, there's always an exceptional ride awaiting you. Brown County has dozens of asphalt and gravel roads criss-crossing more than 316 square miles of forested land. You are welcome to stop by the Brown County Visitors Center and pick up a map of the entire county. Then on rainy days you can map out a ride of your own. Here are two picturesque rides to get you started.

### PAVED ROAD ROUTE Stone Head / Combs Road

*32 miles / Out and Back*

- From the park entrance, head right until you see IN-135 S
- Follow IN-135 until you see Stone Head—take the opportunity to checkout some Indiana history
- Continue on IN-135 through Story, going on to Elkinsville / Combs Road
- Before turning back, check out Browning Mountain—“Indiana’s Stonehenge” for an interesting history lesson

### GRAVEL ROAD ROUTE Yellowwood State Forest

*11.5 miles / Loop*

- Park at the camp entrance and head north following Yellowwood Lake Road to Lanam Ridge Road to Dubois Ridge to Yellowwood Road
- This route follows all of the roads in the park and takes you to Yellowwood State Forest
- These roads have a backwoods feel and are narrow; cars on this path may have to ford a creek in various places

772 South Yellowwood Road, IN 47448  
 812.988.7945  
[IN.gov/DNR/forestry/4817.htm](http://IN.gov/DNR/forestry/4817.htm)

### Trail Etiquette

Riding the trails when they're too wet is frowned upon! What's too wet, you ask? If your bike is leaving deep tracks, it's best to bike on another day. Try one of these outstanding road routes instead!



## THESE ARE A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS



### KATHY OREN

ADVANCED | Columbus, IN

Kathy Oren has seen the Brown County State Park trails from numerous points of views through the years. Since the inception of the trail system in 2004, Kathy and her husband began to teach their three young sons an appreciation for mountain biking. As time progressed, the family also took on a role in the trail building process. Now with her sons on their own and the trail system well-established, Kathy still visits the park once or twice a week. Her focus, however, is now herself. “Mountain biking not only helps me get my weekly exercise, it’s also my time to unwind and relax by myself after work,” says Kathy.

Her favorite trail is the fast and flowy [Green Valley Trail](#). “It truly is like a rollercoaster! I find myself usually laughing and screaming ‘WAHOO’ all by myself.” Kathy also connects with the trail on a personal level. She recalls a snowy Christmas a few years back when a tree fell on one of Green Valley’s bridges. “My husband and his four brothers all hopped in the truck to clear the tree and make the repair. They traded their Christmas dinners for something warmed over the fire that year!”

Kathy’s favorite place to visit in downtown Nashville is the [Trilogy Gallery](#), a shop filled with distinctive, one-of-kind gifts varying from hand-crafted furniture to delicate ceramics to intricate word-workings. “It’s my go-to place if I ever need to get a wedding shower gift. Picking something out there is a lot more fun than choosing something off the registry!”





## GONZO DIES

EXPERT | Bloomington, IN

Gonzo Dies, an experienced mountain biker, got his start before mountain biking was technically a sport. He spent his childhood riding BMX bikes with big knobby tires along the rugged back roads of his little hometown in Mexico. Years later, when he moved to Indiana, there was an expectation that his days mountain biking had concluded. That is, until he saw the trails at Brown County State Park. “Brown County has remarkably high-quality trails that take advantage of the land’s existing topography.”

Gonzo works full-time at Hesitation Point Bike Shop, which happens to share a name with his favorite trail, **Hesitation Point Trail**—the most scenic trail in the park. Hesitation Point has several challenging sections but each is broken up by relatively long stretches of flow trail. “As I’m grinding over the rock gardens on the almost three-mile uphill climb, I always look forward to the rewarding view at the top, and of course the rollercoaster of a descent after that!”

When he’s not zipping down the most challenging trails the park has to offer, Gonzo’s favorite place to go is quite a contrast. He and his family are frequent visitors of the **Abe Martin Lodge**, a peaceful and rustic hotel that offers both rooms and personal cabins right in the middle of the state park. “It’s where we go to feel closer to the park,” says Gonzo. “One time, my son and I were banned from our own house due to my daughter’s birthday slumber party. We headed straight to Abe Martin for a boys weekend. Since it was during the winter, we spent our time at the indoor pool, where he enjoyed the slide and lazy river.”



## KELSEY STEUER BEGINNER | Indianapolis, IN

Kelsey Steuer is new to the Brown County State Park mountain bike trails and to mountain biking in general. But that has not stopped her from developing a new appreciation for both! Kelsey started riding about five months ago and since then has discovered that the sport has impacted the way she handles a challenge. “I always have had a great deal of self-doubt and hesitation when it came to new things. But since taking up mountain biking, I’ve adopted a fresh outlook. Now I’m not afraid of failing or looking silly.”

Kelsey’s favorite trail is **Pine Loop**. The trail has mostly flat terrain and a trailhead located adjacent to the parking lot, making it easy to find. “I love Pine because it isn’t intimidating to ride but has a few hidden challenges to keep things interesting!”

In addition to hitting the mountain bike trails, Kelsey also enjoys spending time horseback riding at **Schooner Valley Stables**. She originally began visiting the stables on weekends while enrolled at Indiana University in nearby Bloomington. “The one hour trail rides were a fun change of pace and also super affordable for us college kids!”



## PAUL ARLINGHAUS EXPERT | Fishers, IN

Paul Arlinghaus, an expert mountain biker and experienced trail builder, is one of the leading reasons Brown County State Park has any mountain biking trails at all. He was one of the initial builders to break ground back in 2004 and, since then, has made the construction and upkeep of the trails his utmost priority. And that’s why we put him on the cover of this guide. “The hard work of building a trail always seems to be worth it when you see it come to life during your first ride-through,” says Paul.

**Schooner Trace** is Paul’s favorite trail. “Schooner is like a puzzle that isn’t meant to be solved,” he says. Although remarkably difficult, the trail passes through some of the park’s most scenic areas as it winds over rock bridges, past waterfalls, and next to steep drop-offs that plunge into lush valleys. “It rewards those who are willing to challenge themselves!”

Paul’s favorite place to eat in downtown Nashville is **Big Woods Brewing Company**, the resident hangout for many of the park’s mountain biking regulars. “They’ve got delicious burgers and craft brews and are an avid supporter of the mountain biking community,” says Paul.



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# THANK YOU

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Thank you to all who were involved in the creation of this guide. Your efforts, whatever they may have been, were essential in helping us showcase the award-winning mountain biking trails of Brown County State Park. This guide was made possible by the Brown County Convention and Visitors Bureau through a matching grant from the Indiana Office of Tourism Development. Thank you!

A special thanks to the Hoosier Mountain Bike Association for being an advocate of the sport of mountain biking in Indiana as well as for the hard work and dedication you put toward the construction and maintenance of these trails each and every day. Without you, this guide would not exist.

Thanks to all of the mountain bikers who we featured in photography: Paul Arlinghaus, Tad Armstrong, Cassidy Davis, Reid Davis, Gonzo Dies, Jeff Fetterer, Crystal Kennard, Sean Leslie, Len Logterman, Landon Mackey, Frank Merritt, Kate Nolan, Kathy Oren, Kelsey Steuer, Colin Whited,

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Thanks to our skilled photographers, Zach Dobson (who managed to capture amazing shots of the trails and the mountain bikers while perching on precarious rocks, lying in the mud and risking poison ivy) and Eli Kean (who beautifully captured the essence of all things non-biking in Brown County).

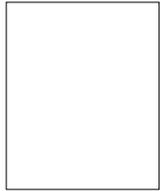
Thanks to our friends at the Brown County State Park, Doug Baird, Park Property Manager, and Kevin Snyder, Assistant Property Manager (who graciously carted our crew around the trails all day in their Gator). Without you guys, we might still be out there.

And last but certainly not least, thanks to the wait and cooking staff at the Abe Martin Lodge restaurant who kindly served us lunch despite our arrival minutes before closing time on the day of the photo shoot.





Brown County Convention  
& Visitor's Bureau  
P.O. Box 840  
10 North Van Buren St.  
Nashville, IN 47448



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