

2022 Spring Getaway - Red River Gorge Kentucky

Natural Bridge State Resort Lodge
2135 Natural Bridge Rd.
Slade KY 40376

Wednesday 4/27

7:00 pm Meet in the lobby

- We will do a short walk down to the lake to stretch our legs and visit the nature center if it is open (1-2 miles) level 2. There is a hill we will climb.

Thursday 4/28

Lunch – Bring your lunch. We will be eating in the Gray’s Arch picnic area after the hike. You can leave your lunch in the car while we hike. Note: I recommend that you bring your lunch from home. There are very limited places to buy your lunch in Slade.

Snacks – Bring some snacks for later in the day. It is going to be a long day before we return to the lodge.

8:30 am Be in the lobby and ready to leave! If you plan on eating breakfast in the lodge restaurant, I would recommend that you arrive there at 7:00 am when they open. This will be a long day. We will form **Carpools** since many of the parking lots are small and they get very crowded. If you don’t want to do the Gary’s arch hike you can meet us at 12:30 for lunch ([map](#)) and do the remaining hikes.

- **Gray’s Arch:** 4 mi., 500 ft. elevation gain, 3-4 hrs., level 4. I would rate this hike as strenuous as any of our hardest regular hikes (hills and many steps, some tricky footing). Beautiful arch, breathtaking views, some very interesting rocks and a waterfall if conditions are right. **For a shorter and easier hike** you can hike down to the arch and back 2.3 mi 300 ft gain.
- **12:30 Lunch** in the Gray’s arch picnic area ([map](#)) leave lodge on Hemlock Ridge Rd towards KY-11 (there will be a short right to get to KY-11. If you get to the sky lift then you missed it). Turn left (South) onto KY-11 towards Slade (about 2 miles). Turn right onto KY-15 S. Drive 3 miles and turn left onto Tunnel Ridge Rd (this is a gravel road). Drive about 1 mile to the parking lot on the right.
- **Sky Bridge arch:** 1 mi., 200 ft. gain, 1 hr., level 2 (due to steps at end). Breathtaking views. Some sections might be unnerving for those who have a fear of heights.
- **Chimney Top:** 0.5 mi. flat, 30 min, level 1 (mostly paved). Can be done by anyone. Breathtaking views.
- **Princess arch:** .5-1 mi. 100 ft. gain, 30-45 min, level 2. Easy hike to a pretty arch

Friday 4/29

Make sure you are checked out before we hike.

8:30 am Be in lobby.

- **Natural Bridge arch:** 2 mi, 400 ft. gain, 2 hrs., level 3 (because of 400 ft climb in ¾ mi). The premier arch in the area, breathtaking views, narrow squeezes, fascinating rocks and sheer cliffs. It has it all in a small space.

For those wishing to continue we will caravan to the Rock Bridge Picnic area. Note: We will **not** be coming back to the lodge.

- **Rock Bridge arch:** 2.5 mi, 250 ft. gain, 1.5 hrs., level 2. Pleasant hike to a small waterfall and an arch that actually spans a river.
- **Lunch** – Sky Bridge Station

Following are links to maps of the areas we will be hiking:

- [Red River Gorge](#)
- [Natural Bridge State Park](#)
- [Gray's Arch](#)
- [Sky Bridge Arch](#)
- [Chimney Top/Princess Arch](#)
- [Rock Bridge](#)