

ROUGH TRAIL / SHELTOWEE TRACE TRAIL LOOP

Trail Guide



Driving Distance from St. Joseph:
417 miles | 6 hours 30 minutes

TRAILHEAD NEAR THE SUSPENSION FOOTBRIDGE
STATE HWY 715
NEAREST TOWN IS STANTON, KY

Suggested Activity: Backpacking

Trail Type & Difficulty

LOOP || MODERATE

“Loop” Trail: A trail designed so that the route is a closed circuit connecting a number of points of interest, giving hikers the option of not traveling the same section of trail more than once on a trip.

Total Length

14 MILES

The Rough Trail and Sheltowee Trace Trail connect to make a nice loop starting from the suspension footbridge on State Hwy 715 to Grey's Arch on Rough Trail. From there, head south to reconnect with the Sheltowee Trace Trail back to the suspension bridge. Be aware there are near constant elevation changes and rough topography. You'll also get a chance to take a short side trail to Hanson's Point (best view in the gorge). **Bonus:** To get to this area of the gorge, you'll drive on State Hwy 77 through the Nada Tunnel. It's a tunnel through the mountain with no lighting, and only one car can drive through at a time. There is traffic going both ways, so it makes for an exciting and terrifying experience!

Why We ♥ the Rough Trail/Sheltowee Trace Loop

TRAIL NOTES

Located within the Daniel Boone National Forest and known for its sandstone arches (there are more than 100), the Red River Gorge is an anomaly of a landscape for east of the Rocky Mountains. Rock climbers flock to this region, but there are many foot trails that make interesting backpacking adventures as well. The route we suggest was recently hiked by a Wanderlust team member, so we can vouch for it. Although not a long hike, it's a gorgeous one and worth the drive. Consider extending your trip for some additional Red River Gorge sightseeing while you're in the area.

Camping Options, Entry Fees, & Parking Costs

Camping Options:

“Dispersed” - Camping located outside of designated campgrounds and away from any kind of amenities in a location not reserved for camping.

Entry Fees & Parking Costs: Daniel Boone National Forest Parking & Backcountry Camping - \$3/day or \$5/3-day



TRAIL GUIDE COURTESY OF:

WANDERLUST
—OUTFITTERS—
outdoor apparel. outdoor gear.

Photo Credit: Stephanie Archer