

For a scenic adrenaline rush, you can take a flight with Pilot Harry Sowers of Hocking Hills Scenic Air Tours. You'll go up in a 4-seater Cessna 172 Sky Hawk to view the picturesque landscape of cozy cottages, glistening rivers and lush forest down below. The best part is when Harry takes the plane to zero gravity, inducing a rollercoaster-like stomach flip like you've never experienced

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If you prefer land-based adventure, Hocking Hills is home to over 100 miles of hiking trails. This is also budget-friendly, as all state parks in Ohio are free to enter. Visit Hocking Hills State Park, Ohio's largest state park, and enjoy scenic cave, waterfall and forest hikes. To learn about the various flora, fauna and geology, it is recommended to take a naturalist guide. Some other worthwhile parks include Lake Logan State Park, Clear Creek Metro Park, Lake Hope State Park and Kessler Swamp State Nature Preserve.

### Cultural Experiences

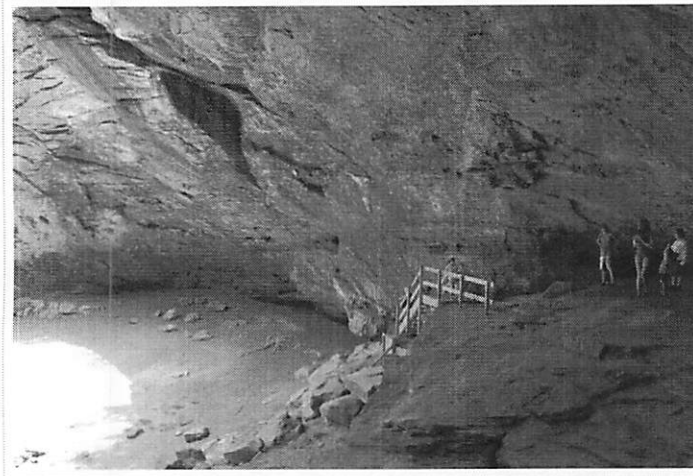


Image credit: bobosh\_t

Ohio has a rich Shawnee culture, and Hocking Hills Adventure Trek helps you to explore it through Shawnee storytelling. Accompanied by a naturalist guide, you'll trek to Salt Petre Caves to hear Shawnee Indian Wehyehpihrsehnhwah retell the stories of his grandfather, as well as what it's like to live in harmony with nature and the effect humans have on the land.

You can also experience Hocking Hills' sustainable culture at Judy and Mike Hard's Wind Chime Shop. While they feature Ohio's largest collection of wind chimes, the real draw is the candle-making experience. Choose from an array of unusual scents, some of which include Cilantro, Santa's Pipe and Bacon, as well as standard floral and dessert smells. You'll make your own candle using aromatic essential oils and local wax. Moreover, at the nearby Scenic Way gift shop and art glass studio showcases hand-blown glass creations by owner Audrey Martin. Audrey also displays and sells the work of local artists, with pieces ranging from clay to jewelry to metal.

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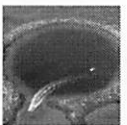
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to bagpipe players, enjoy a Scottish poem before dinner and immerse yourself in an old-world Scotland atmosphere. In their restaurant, multi-course dinners are served using fresh, local ingredients.

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## Quirky Offerings

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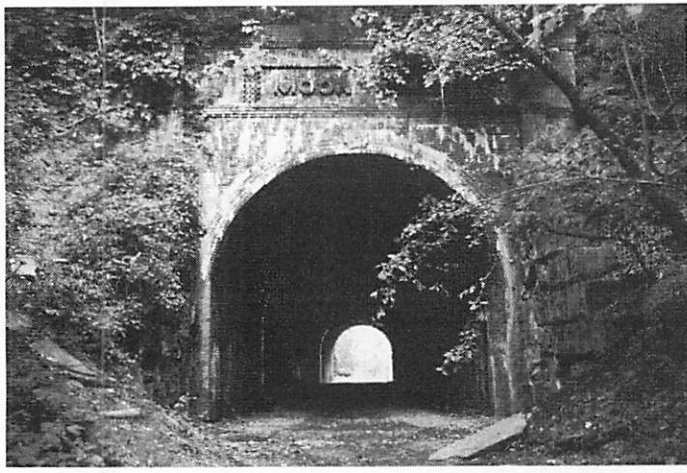


Image credit: Jayson Shenk

For those looking for something quirky to do, there are an array of offerings. Start at the Columbus Washboard Company, the country's only washboard factory. You can tour the facilities and see how washboards are made using the same machines from the factory's opening in 1895, as well as learn to play the washboard as a musical instrument. From there, visit the nearby Pencil Sharpener Museum, where there are now 3,500 pencil sharpeners on display. Said to be the largest pencil sharpener collection in the country, the sharpeners are arranged according to various themes like History, Christmas, Spain, Body, Disneyland, Cats and more.

If you're interested in Ohio's haunted offerings, head to Hocking Hills State Park and go on a search for the undead with certified ghost hunter Pat Quackenbush. He'll let you use his EMF detectors, spirit boxes and digital infrared thermometers to try to find Mary, a woman murdered on the property, as well as Richard Howe, who is said to roam the woods late at night with his hounds. You can email Pat at [pat.quackenbush@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:pat.quackenbush@dnr.state.oh.us).

## Adventurous Options

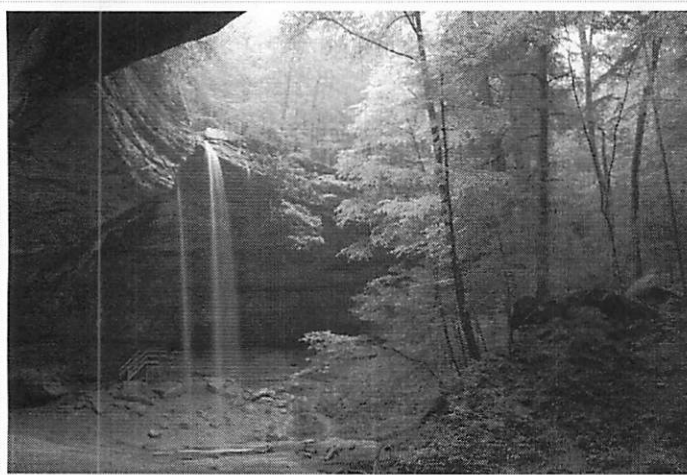


Image credit: BIGDOG3c (J. Todd Poling)

Named by Discovery.com as one of "10 amazing zip-lines around the world," Hocking Hills Canopy Tours' "SuperZip" is intense. You'll fly superman-style through the forest trees and over a lake at up to 50 miles-per-hour. To make the experience even more thrilling, complete the entire 10 zip/5 skybridge course, do the SuperZip at night or combine the zip-line with a kayaking experience from the Hocking Hills Canoe Livery.

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by Jessica Festa | on January 15th, 2013 | 0 comments

PLACES TO VISIT

While many may not think of Ohio as a must-visit destination, the state has much to offer the curious traveler. This is especially true in Hocking Hills, a middle-of-nowhere destination with a range of attractions. Full of adventure, beautiful scenery, cultural experiences and quirky offerings, the area is worthwhile for all types of travelers.

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## Stay



Image credit: BIGDOG3e (J Todd Poling)

The Inn & Spa at Cedar Falls is a cozy accommodation surrounded by the Hocking Hills State Park that can give you a firsthand glimpse into the area's local philosophy. While the cabins, cottages and buildings were constructed by hand using locally-sourced wood, the decor features pieces from local artisans like stained glass birds and ceramic housewares. In the onsite restaurant and bar, enjoy locally-sourced ingredients and organic beers.

Another option is the Glenlaurel, a luxury Scottish country inn that allows guests to enjoy the beauty of Hocking Hills with an international twist. Play golf on their traditional Scottish links golf course, listen

Get them all right here.

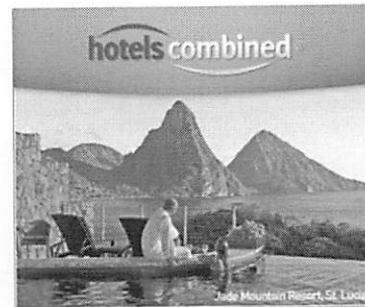
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