

← **SR 37, I465,
& Indianapolis**

THE 160-MILE KNOBSTONE HIKING TRAIL

SUGGESTED KHT DAY HIKES (1-9)

Here are a few possibilities that hikers have been doing for years. Some highlight the KHT's scenic features or seasonal beauties, and some are just convenient for a good walk or run at any time of the year. Make sure you have a map, and plenty of water in hot weather. Trails are well marked and well used, unless otherwise noted. Trails are rated primarily on how often the trail climbs. Slow your pace on the rugged hikes and they will become easier. Ticks & chiggers are mostly only a problem off trail—when looking for a nice log to sit on to eat lunch, and sitting on it, for example....

1. Panther Branch 4 mi. RT, moderate. Park at southern Tecumseh Trailhead. Take T.C.Steele Rd. from US46, 8 miles east of Bloomington. Follow road past Boat Ramp and north 1 mi. to end of paving to parking lot and TT sign. Follow trail 2 mi. to end of TT at Panther Branch. Good vantage point to explore downstream to hollow beech, or to Hoosier National Forest across the creek up onto Miller Ridge. Track on ridge extends S. to Monroe Reservoir. & to Browning Hill, via footbridge over Salt Creek. Avoid in flood.

2. Rock Shelter-Low Gap Loop 3 mi., easy. Park at the Forest Road Trailhead in the Morgan-Monroe State Forest. Exit east off SR37 to the MMSF, 4 miles S. of Martinsville, 25 mi. S. of I465. Lush bottomlands, forested knob and ridge climb. All-season walk—snowscapes (photo), amazing wildflower diversity & fall foliage. Beginning of the Tecumseh and other trails. For 10-mile loop, turn south at the 3-10-mile split and continue on around the bigger loop.

3. Beanblossom Creek Loop to Indian Hill 3 mi, moderate. Park just across ford, going south from US45 via Indian Hill Rd., 4 miles west of town of Beanblossom (on SR135). Walk up hill to striking views of open valley in winter and early spring; wildflowers last for months from bottomlands to bluff. On top of bluff create loop by leaving TT, following logging track out to & returning via Indian Hill Rd.

4. Yellowwood Lake Loop 4.4 mi., moderate. Park at Yellowwood State Forest Office, reached by following Yellowwood Road N from SR56. YSF sign marks turn-off 8 miles E of Bloomington from turn-off to SR446. The trail is so close to civilization, but give a feeling of remoteness with beaver dams, lake views, forest resources exhibit, and a great view on the trail from rugged climb up High King Trail or Scarce O'Fat Trail (4.7 mile loop). The trail on the W side of the lake is part of the Tecumseh Trail.

5. Nebo Trail 8 mi. (one way) moderate. Popular Hoosier National Forest multi-use mountain bike, horse & hiking trail. Approach from Story, 9.5 inconvenient miles S. of US46, 3.6 Miles E. of Nashville. At Story, leave SR135 and go 2 miles S. to sign, cross bridge to Trailhead (on left). Winding, hilly, remote, in area proposed for Wilderness in 1970s. Story Inn sells KHTA t-shirts and good eats.

6. Motocross-Pioneer Trail Barn Loop 5 mi., moderate. Scenic, steep trail chugs through a Motocross course and then calm forest to restored pioneer barn (photo) and

field-side trail; finish with a reverse or road walk for a 5-mile loop. KHTA is working on easement connections N.&S. of loop; stay tuned. 30 miles south of Bloomington via US446, 9 miles E. on SR 58, and 1 mi S on CR 975; park on moto-cross dirt lot. Look for trail post marker at far edge of lot. **This is a multiple use property, not an M-U trail—**



many will be gracious & happy to talk with, and perhaps admire, you!
Camping is allowed at the 3 story Frank Fischer Barn and the HHC property TrHD WCR 325 N.

7. Spurgeon Hollow/Northern Knobstone Trailhead. moderate, 5 mi. to next trailhead; Green valleys, high, long ridge walks. Loops available but have been logged. Easy access via SR135; 12 mi S. of Brownstown, E. 2 mi on Rooster Hill, .5 mi S. on Delaney Creek to KT trailhead sign.

8. Elk Creek Lake to Leota. rugged, 11 mi. one way. Lake views plus good sampling of high, iconic Knobstone dry knob Chestnut oak forest trail. From I65 Exit 29 (Scottsburg) 10 mi W. on SR56; 2 mi S. on Elk Creek Rd. Works as a good backpack; good water at lake. Follow trail signs S.

9. Jackson Rd. Trailhead/ KT rugged 5-7.5 rt

Once most scenic section, steep, sided, with access to now bare trail highpoint of Round Knob (photo left) with views all the way to Louisville., 1 mile of the trail was scalped of trees by tornado in 2011. Visit periodically and watch the vegetation recover. Watch for rock inscriptions, remaining chest-nut oaks (photo below) great bluff view at Mi. 7 (distant skyscrapers peep over cleft in hills to south). Directions: Take I65 Exit

16 to Memphis; go west on SR 160 across I65. Go west 2.3 mi on Memphis-Blue Lick Rd., L. on Bartle Knob Rd., for about 6.3 miles. Pass Mountain Grove Rd. & bear right at next intersection. After a steep climb, Bartle Knob Rd. crosses the KT. Watch on R. for Hilltop Rd. & KT post. Follow Hilltop .3 mi, then R at KT sign onto gravel road .2 mi to Mi. 5 trailhead parking. Trail is 1/2 very steep, 1/2 almost level; 1/2 bare, 1/2 leafy. Walk N. 2 mi to small rocky bluff just past Mi. 7 marker for inscriptions, views. RT loop: return to marker; leave trail, cross 30 yd. to horse trail/graveled Jackson Rd.; go (left) back to parking lot.



KHT ROUTE
from 30 miles
south of Indianapolis
to 15 miles
north of Louisville,
KY.



Trailside cemetery
1873 Pioneer stone,



Trailside wildlife
(timber rattler)

SUGGESTED BACKPACKS (10-13)

- Some loops may be available; study your maps!
- Water availability can be limited in summer and fall.**
- Check the KHTA website for current trail conditions and details about specific areas of interest.
- Shuttles, commercial or with friends, extend your miles.
- But remember, the scenery is always totally different on the way back.



- Here are some ways to do sections of the KHT.

10. Low Gap Loop 10 mi., moderate. Morgan-Monroe State Forest: 4 miles S. of Martinsville, off SR37/I69 25 mi. S. of I465. Park at Forest Office. Camp in Back Country area (camping unrestricted), S. of Low Gap Rd. CCC-planted erosion-control pine forest is a favorite. Explore forested ridges and hollows abandoned by settlers, preserved like wilderness 1980s—2004. Extension of Rock Shelter Loop.

11. Tecumseh Trail 42-mi. one-way, moderate. with shuttle. Directions for the Low Gap loop. Starts 35 miles from I465 around Indianapolis via SR 37I69, and reaches to the edge of Monroe Reservoir, SE of Bloomington. Experience the way the ridge system works at the northern end of the Knobstone escarpment. Trail crosses some ridges, and runs along others. The TT has 4395 ft. of gain, 4752 ft. of loss. Daffodils in the wilderness mark pioneer homestead sites. Foxes Den Shelter at Mile 13 is open, first-come, first-served; 3-5 days

12. Hoosier National Forest

There are many options for out and back and loop hikes within the Hoosier National Forest section of the KHTA. You may find down loadable maps of the Multi Use Trails (MUT), in the HNF at www.hoosierbywaysandpathways.com. You can also purchase maps of the HNF at www.nationalforestmapstore.com/product-p/in-1.htm. National Geographic has an HNF map for purchase at www.natgeomaps.com/ti-770-hoosier-national-forest. In the HNF, the KHTA is adjacent to the 13,000+ acre Deam Wilderness and Lake Monroe. There are many opportunities for camping and hiking in the Deam Wilderness.

13. Knobstone Trail

45 mi., one way, rugged. See KHTA website for details. Best views and steepest terrain are found in S end. Easier N to S. A tornado in 2012 scoured the trail mile 5-6 (photo right). Hikers take 3-5 days; use shuttle. Try 4 days: Spurgeon Trailhead mi 45 to Elk Creek Lake mi 32 for green valleys, moist hardwood forest, not so steep; then to creek at mi 21 on winding high ridges; then water near mi 11 and forested ridges and valleys. South of this is the storm-scarred final section to Deam Lake at S end trailhead. Access from I-65 take exit 16 at Memphis. Go S (right) and immediately turn right (SW) on Crone Rd for about 2.5 miles to a T. Turn right onto Cummins for 0.7 mile to another T. Turn right onto Wilson Switch Rd and follow it to the entrance to Deam Lake Recreation Area. Enter the area and make the first right past the entrance station to the Southern Terminus Trail Head with a parking lot, shelter, and restrooms.

KNOBSTONE HIKING TRAIL GUIDE TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES

Data Format DegMin NAD83 ElevFeet

01,	39°06.529	- 86°18.700	583
02,	39°18.666	- 86°25.499	932
03,	39°15.936	- 86°18.990	648
04,	39°10.968	- 86°20.352	623
05,	39°04.734	- 86°14.870	577
06,	38°56.584	- 86°13.530	876
07,	38,42.793	- 86°02.642	554
08,	38°38.995	- 85°57.001	643
09,	38°31.945	- 85°51.393	963
10,11	39°19.573	- 86°25.199	948
13,	38°27.725	- 85°51.753	590

**FOR GOOGLE MAP LINKS TO TRAILHEADS, GO
ONLINE: www.KnobstoneHikingTrail.org/150-Mile-KHT.**

WON'T YOU JOIN OUR TREK?

The Knobstone Hiking Trail depends on Association members and volunteers for its very existence. Only part of it is maintained by government agencies. Trail conditions are dependent on hiker reports and volunteer action in response to them. The KHTA is a non-profit organization committed to providing low-impact, educational and recreational access to one of the most rugged and scenic areas of the South Central Midwest. We would love to have you become a member!

Membership in the KHTA has many benefits. **Supporting merchants provide discounts to members.*** The *Knobstone* newsletter will update you on Association developments and issues, hikes and events. The Annual Meeting in March features hikes, reports of the behind-the-scene exciting but challenging trail completion process, programs, fellowship and fun. Above all will be satisfaction from helping preserve a vital link with the natural world on Indiana's rugged Knobstone Escarpment.

Members are invited to join our trail volunteer program, which is the force that makes the trail a reality. Volunteers feel extremely rewarded by their efforts to create or maintain such a beautiful opportunity to experience Nature at its wild-est. Besides the camaraderie, there's always the sense of stewardship—this is a forever trail. Access up-to-date work times & locations through

You can help by adopting a section of trail. Or call and ask for projects that need your help. We often have scheduled maintenance projects, and can probably supply volunteers for a project you may propose.



We would like to thank Gayle Coyer and our mentor organization the Superior Hiking Trail Association in Minnesota for their advice and role in producing this publication. We are extremely grateful for the invaluable contribution of Matt Johnson, cartographer, of Journey Maps & Design. Matt produced the master KHT graphic for use here and on the KHT website. Ed Lizewski, Theresa Quill, Tina Stark, Marsha Isbell, and Josie Fox provided essential structural and editorial support.

Additional Information

www.KnobstoneHikingTrail.org

- Obtain trail condition, detailed access directions, trail features, camping choices, links to trailhead maps.
- Buy maps of Tecumseh and DNR Knobstone sections.
- Access trip planning aids & suggestions.
- Corrections, etc.: editor, Suzanne Mittenenthal.



Shuttle Services

- North end: Bloomington Most High Adventures, offers TT shuttles (also for kayakers): Steve Chafin at 812/340-0700.; www.SoilandWater.com.
- Henryville - Kimberly Sue Dickerson - 812-207-4627

- South end: Go Deep Adventures: Jeff Campbell, guide and outfitter, 812/967-4620, /896-7671.

Lodging

- Greater Martinsville Chamber of Commerce: 765/342-8110
- Convention & Visitors Centers:
Monroe Co.: www.visitbloomington.com
Brown Co.: www.browncounty.com
Jackson Co.: www.jacksoncountyn.in
Morgan Co.: www.visitmorgancounty.in

8803

And More

- Trail Racing/Running: *DINO "Doing Indiana Off Road" 317/336-7552 www.DINOSeries.com
- Running/Hiking Supplies & Runs: *Indiana Running Co., Bloomington, 812/ 822-0327: www.INRunCo.com
- Outdoor Camping & Hiking equipment, *J.L. Waters & Co., Bloomington, 812/334-1845: www.jlwaters.com.
- Accommodations, services, etc. surrounding trail: *www.IndianaOutfitters.com
- Indianapolis Hiking club, the closest thing to a statewide hiking club in Indiana: www.indyhike.org.
- Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources Division of Outdoor Recreation, KT information: www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor
- Hoosier National Forest, Bedford office: 812/275-5987
- Morgan-Monroe/Yellowwood State Forest, Nashville Office (local water availability): 812/988-7945.
- Jackson-Washington State Forest: Brownstown (stream water availability): 812/358-2160
- Hiking trail builders: www.hoosierhikerscouncil.org.

KHTA Supporters: Oliver Winery, J.W. Jones Co., Community Foundations of Brown, Morgan, Washington, & Jackson Co., DINOSeries.com, Twin Ridge Farm, Indiana Running Co., IndianaOutfitters.com