

Jackson County

Scenic Driving Tour



Hello! We hope you enjoy the Jackson County Scenic Driving Tour!

This tour was established as a way for everyone to enjoy Jackson County's beauty and landmarks. Right now is a perfect time for a driving tour as it limits our contact with others and the weather looks to be improving!

There are some businesses that could use your support along the way, and we encourage you to do so if you can.

The tour is split into four quadrants. You can take them separately, together or in a combination. We have a list of the places on this document and the map is made public through Google Maps.

Enjoy! #explorejacksoncountyin

Northwest Quadrant

This drive is more scenic as you get the opportunity to take in some of the most beautiful scenes Jackson County has to offer. Take in the beautiful landscapes and rolling hills to reconnect with nature and discover just how beautiful our county is. This starts at the Cortland Diner.

Lot Hill Dairy Farm/Roberts Tree Farm

Stop by the Lot Hill Dairy Farm cabin where you can purchase some ice cream or cheese for your drive! You also will pass Robert's Tree Farm, which sells Christmas trees each year and provides for a neat experience.



Salt Creek Winery

Located in the rolling hills of our county and bordering Hoosier National Forest, Salt Creek Winery was established in 2010 by Adrian and Nichole Lee. Every bottle of their various styles of wine is produced, aged and bottled by them at the winery. The drive out to the winery is very scenic and there is a wine for every wine fan. Check out more at saltcreekwinery.com. While you're in the area, check out Sgt. Rick's American Grill and BBQ (6661 N. Union St. in Freetown for a bite to eat!

Northwest Quadrant Continued

Hoosier National Forest

The Hoosier National Forest includes multiple counties and comprises about half of the public forest land in Indiana. The Forest is managed to provide a diverse mix of opportunities and resources for people to enjoy and its size has a key role in providing forest ecosystems that enhance biological diversity on a regional scale. One of the most popular spots in Jackson County is the Fork Ridge Trail in Norman. It's 3.5 miles long!

Norman area

Check out the Norman area, which is home to some great views! This area also provides some of the most scenic landscape in our county!

Northeast Quadrant

This part of the trail starts the Cortland Diner and ends at the Jackson County Visitor Center. We want to make sure you see all the cool sites in Jackson County and don't miss a thing.

Cort Acres

Owned and operated by Rose Acre Farms, Cort Acres Egg Farm is part of the company's production. The company was started by the late David Rust in the 1930s and started as a small family operation. It has now grown into one of the largest companies in the country with 17 facilities in eight states. You also can stop at Wanning Produce (5875 East 875 North Seymour) or Cortland Diner while you're in the area!

Southern Indiana Center for the Arts

SICA is housed in an 1851 two-story brick mansion owned by Seymour native and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductee John Mellencamp. The center provides art education and events to our Jackson County as well as other surrounding communities. Its campus includes the building and gallery, Don Hill Amphitheater, crafts and pottery barn and the Conner Museum of Antique Printing. Stop by Rockford Ridge for a meal or shake!



Chateau de Pique Winery and Brewery

Enjoy the scenic view and beautiful landscape at one of Jackson County's wineries and breweries. The winery sits on 80 acres and produces several grape varieties in the vineyard. The winery is housed in a restored 19th century horse barn.

Visit their website at chateaudepique.com for wines, brews and other information about their wedding and event space.

You can stop by VanAntwerps Farm Market (11181 North U.S. 31, Seymour) on your way to the next stop!

Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge

Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1966 and sits on 7,724 acres east of Seymour. The area serves as a resting place for migratory birds and includes multiple lakes and ponds for public fishing (State-issued license required). More than 280 species of birds have been identified at the refuge. Don't miss out of the auto tour, which will take you through beautiful landscapes and wetlands. Stop by Batar (12649 East U.S. 50, Seymour) if you would like lunch or a sweet treat!

Northeast Quadrant Continued

Freeman Field

Imagine what this place looked like in the 1940s. While today it is an industrial hub, the area operated as the Freeman Army Airfield where 4,237 pilots in 19 classes were trained from 192 to 1945 during World War II. There is a museum dedicated to the airfield near the airport runway. Check out the airport from a distance!

Reno Brothers gravesite



The infamous Reno Gang was notorious for their criminal ways. One, of course, was that the Rockford gang committed the world's first train robbery in Seymour on October 6, 1866. Many members of the gang were lynched, including three brothers, Frank, Simeon and William. Those three were lynched in prison in New Albany on December 15, 1868. They're buried in the city cemetery where their headstones are protected by a fence. Once you're done with this stop, log onto our website at jacksoncountyin.com and click on the dining tab. Since there are so many restaurants in this area of the tour, you can find exactly what you're craving!

John Mellencamp Mural

One of Jackson County's newest attractions has quickly become one of the most popular. Completed by Indianapolis-based artist Pamela Bliss in November 2019 on the side of This Old Guitar, the mural is a tribute to Jackson County's most famous resident. The mural features two iconic images of the 2008 Hall of Fame Inductee. The image where Mellencamp is leaning on his guitar is about 35 feet tall. The other is about 22 feet tall.

The mural makes for some great photos!



Jackson County Visitor Center

The Jackson County Visitor Center is located in the old freight depot at 100 North Broadway Street in Seymour. It operated from 1890 to 1960 and was restored in 2007. We moved our office here in 2008.

We have three staff members, including Arann Banks, executive director; Alicia Froedge, office manager; and Jordan Richart, public relations manager.

As a strong advocate of sustainable tourism and economic development, we market the county's natural and developed environment, historical, cultural and industrial attractions to travelers and groups.

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Southwest Quadrant

This starts at the Jackson County Courthouse and ends at Starve Hollow State Recreational Area. It covers some of the county's most historical and most visited sites!

Jackson County Courthouse

The current courthouse was constructed in 1870, had a renovation in 1910, and is located in the county seat of Brownstown. The Jackson County Courthouse now houses multiple local government offices.

The courthouse includes a clock tower that was added during the 1911 reconfiguration. The iron fence surrounding the courthouse lawn was installed in 1872. It also includes a war memorial.

The courthouse is next to Heritage Park, which is a great place to enjoy a picnic and relax in a green space.

Hickory Hills Golf Course - which isn't too far away - also provides a neat view!



Fort Vallonia

Vallonia was the first settlement in Jackson County in the 1700s. By 1810, Native Americans had become belligerent toward settlers. Then Indiana Governor William Henry Harrison, who would later become president, ordered a fort be constructed to protect 90 families.

The original fort no longer stands, and no photos of it exist, but the dimensions and information was preserved in public records. A replica was constructed in 1969 after a local Lions Club discussed building it in 1968. This started the popular annual Fort ValloniDays festival. The fort provides a neat opportunity to see history of what life may have been like here in the early 19th century. Learn more at fortvalloniadays.com.

You can stop by Stuckwisch Farm Market for some great produce!

Hemlock Bluff Nature Preserve

A good secret of beauty in Jackson County. Most of the preserve is located on the steep slope along the south bank of Guthrie Creek. The slope supports mixed stands of eastern hemlock and hardwood trees. The hemlocks are remnants of a previous glacial period. They persist this far south only on cooler north-facing slopes. The largest hemlock in the state, 33 inches in diameter at 4.5 ft. above ground level, is found here. In addition to the hemlocks, the slope forest includes American beech, sugar maple, red oak, basswood, and red elm.

The next leg of the scenic drive includes Sparksville, which provides great views!

Medora Brick Plant

This plant produced bricks in kilns seen on the ground from 1906 to 1992. There are 10 remaining kilns on the property. Each year there is a fundraiser to help support the eventual restoration and cleanup of the area to make a park. It's important to note that the property is privately owned, so it's best to view the area from your car on the road. Just remain aware of others driving through the area! Learn more at medorabrickplant.org.

Southwest Quadrant Continued



Medora Covered Bridge

The Medora Covered Bridge was built in 1875, and at 431 feet, it is the longest historic covered bridge in the country. It goes over the East Fork White River. The bridge is one of Jackson County's biggest draws with people from all over the country and world visiting every year. Each August, the bridge committee has a dinner on the bridge to help fund the continued upkeep on the bridge. Learn more about the bridge at medoracoveredbridge.com. While you're in the area, give a try to Gobbler Holler General Store, Deli and Bait Shop!

Stuckwisch Round Barn

This barn was completed in 1911 and was patterned after the nearby Mahan round barn.

The barn is 60 feet in diameter with a self-supporting two-pitch gambrel roof and was constructed of locally milled beech wood. This method for constructing barns was not used for very long.

It's not far from the Medora Covered Bridge.

Stop by Hackman's Farm Market while you're in the area!



Starve Hollow State Recreation Area

Starve-Hollow State Recreation Area is a popular place for residents and visitors alike.

What's not to love? The park has trails, public fishing, campsites, cabins and more. Although some of those activities aren't available right now. This is a great and peaceful place to have fun at in Jackson County.

Stop by Tiemeyer's Farm Market while you're in Vallonia and get some good food and ice cream.

Southeast Quadrant

This also starts at the historic Jackson County Courthouse and ends at Schneider Nursery. This shows you some great countryside in Jackson County.

Jackson County Park

The Jackson County Park is south on Walnut Street and features a great place to enjoy some time outside. The park also includes a concrete walking trail that will give you plenty of exercise.

Stop to get something to eat at Blonide's Pizzeria and Pub, Casey's Cakes and Classes, Stahl's Deli or Azteca Mexican.

Jackson County Fairgrounds

The state's best fair is right along State Road 250. It's interesting to see the fairgrounds without anything there and imagining the hustle and bustle of fair time!

Southeast Quadrant Continued

Skyline Drive

One of the highest elevations in Jackson County, Skyline Drive provides an awesome view of the county and a fun trip up the knobs.

Check out the firetower that's in the area, too. This is a good stop for a picnic as well or just a place to spend some time checking out the scene.

You also can enjoy a nice peaceful walk and enjoy an elevating drive or hike!



Wegan and Tampico

Check out these two areas of our county, which feature both great farmland and spectacular countryside. It's one of the more relaxing parts of the drive because of the beauty of flat land and agriculture scenes.

This also is a great place to grow watermelon, which is a crop Jackson County has become known for throughout the years.

Crothersville



Stop by to see Hahmacher Hall and the school to see this quaint community in Vernon Township. Stop by Bard Street Park for a picnic!

The township is separated by the Muscatatuck River. Crothersville was laid out in 1835 and was named after a railroad engineer.

Slide through the countryside and enjoy the view along Chestnut Ridge! Stop at Luke's Country Inn along the way!

Jackson-Washington State Forest

Jackson-Washington State Forest encompasses nearly 18,000 acres in Jackson and Washington counties. This part of the county contains unique topography known as the "knobs". This region provides scenic views second to none and offers some breathtaking hiking opportunities. Bring a picnic lunch and take in the view.



Shieldstown Covered Bridge

A leisurely drive along U.S. 50 between Seymour and Brownstown will lead you to Jackson County's latest restored covered bridge. The Shieldstown Covered Bridge's restoration was completed in October 2019. It was built by J.J. Daniels in 1876 and carried traffic until 1980. It is 331-feet long and crosses the East Fork White River.

Schneider Nursery

Started in 1949 by George and Mae Ellen Schneider, Schneider Nursery has grown to a 500-acre nursery, making it southern Indiana's largest.

It is still operated by the Schneider family and offers various plants, flowers, trees, shrubs, garden decor and more. In addition to a wide range of products, the view is astounding.



Thank you for visiting!

