

# PERRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

## 2018 Tourism Map & Guide



It's Just Our Nature



Buffalo River



Mousetail Landing State Park



Historic Courthouse



Commodore Hotel



Pinckney's Tomb Historic Site



Cedar Grove Furnace Historic Site



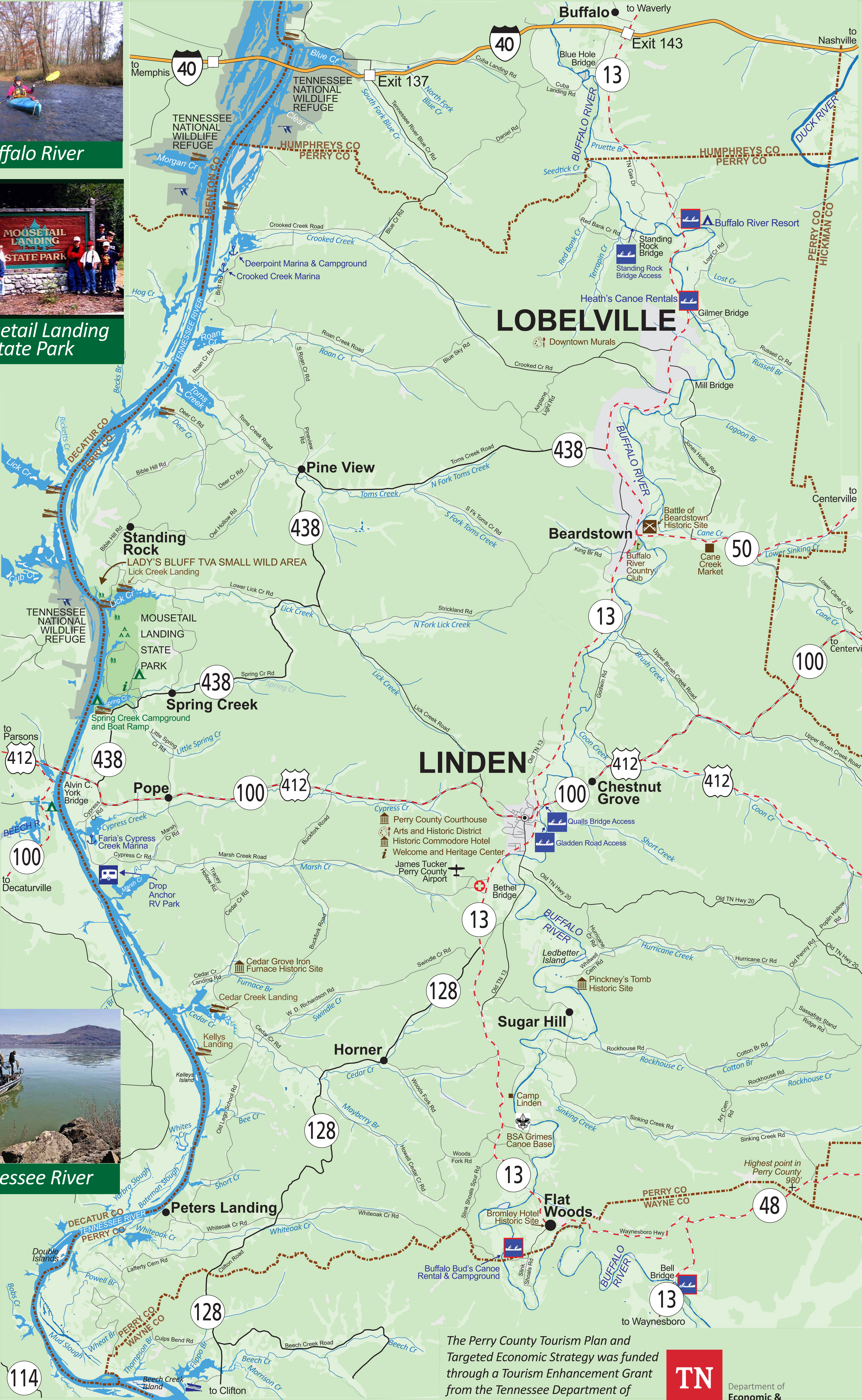
Traditional Foods & Crafts



Buffalo River Artisans



Perry County Chamber Visitor Center



Tennessee River

The Perry County Tourism Plan and Targeted Economic Strategy was funded through a Tourism Enhancement Grant from the Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development



Department of Economic & Community Development



OUR CITIES

LOBELVILLE

The Queen City of the Buffalo River was founded in 1854 by French trader Henri de Lobel. He established his trading post on the Buffalo River expecting that it would become a trading route. The proximity of the Tennessee River made this an unprofitable venture, but the settlement that sprang up around the post grew in the 1880s when John Leeper built a mill that provided Lobelville with a sawmill, grist mill, and electricity. Timber and agriculture have always been mainstays of the local economy; in the early twentieth century, the area was heralded for the cultivation of peanuts. Today, thousands of visitors are drawn to the Buffalo River to enjoy paddling and excellent smallmouth bass fishing; two outfitters offer boats and shuttle services, and one has a large campground. Others enjoy golfing at the Buffalo River Country Club, a nine-hole course open to the public and bordering the scenic namesake stream. Visit the historic downtown shopping district and view the murals depicting local history or choose from several dining options and check out the local shops. In late March, the Buffalo River Springfest is the premier high school girl's invitational softball tournament featuring lots of excitement as TSSAA Class A/AA teams from across the region compete. Every other Saturday from Memorial Day to Labor Day, enjoy the free Music on Main Street celebration featuring a variety of artists, and if you are here on the first Tuesday of the month, stop in at the Lobelville Public Library and partake in the free monthly Country Dinner.

LINDEN

Our county seat offers “small town charm with a lot going on!” Nestled just above the scenic Buffalo River, Linden was established in 1848 as Perry County’s third county seat and was incorporated the following year. Centrally located in the county and along the main early route between Nashville and Memphis, it was a natural choice for the seat of government. Early industries in the area included tanyards, gristmills, wool carding mills and sawmills; of these, only lumbering is still conducted.

Today, the town has become a regional tourist mecca. Many visitors come to paddle or fish on the Buffalo River or to enjoy the “big water” of the Tennessee River twelve miles to the west. The historic Commodore Hotel in downtown Linden is celebrated as a boutique hotel offering beautifully renovated rooms in the 1939 Staley Building and other distinctive downtown buildings as well as upscale dining and craft cocktails at the Commodore Speakeasy. Charming shops offer unique shopping experiences. Be sure to check out the Buffalo River Artisans Cooperative for regionally made crafts. Hungry? You can choose from more than a dozen enticing options ranging from quick bites to steakhouses, Tennessee River catfish and more.

Linden is home to a number of popular festivals and events. The season starts out with the Blooming Arts Festival in late March; the ten-year old festival features local artisans as well as those from well beyond the region, along with music, food and fun. The same weekend, Linden hosts additional games from the Buffalo River Springfest, the renowned high school girls’ regional softball tournament. In mid-May, experience living history encampments and the thrill of compelling Civil War reenactments at the “Capture and Burning of the Courthouse by Federal Troops.” From Memorial Day until Labor Day, our downtown comes alive for “Music on Main Street” on alternating Saturdays. And in late September, join thousands for the unforgettable “Remembering World War II” celebration, an incredible living history event with reenactments, vintage vehicles, live big band music and a chance to meet and express your appreciation to actual WWII veterans.

HISTORIC SITES

HISTORIC PERRY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Linden is actually the fourth seat of government for Perry County. When the county was organized in 1819, it included what is now Decatur County on the western side of the Tennessee. The first court met at the home of James Dixon on Lick Creek, then chose a site on the river for the county seat and named it “Perryville.” After the lands west of the river were ceded to Decatur County in 1846, the small settlement of Harrisburg, a few miles south of Linden, was made the new county seat. Two years later, county residents voted to move the county government to Linden.

The first courthouse in Linden was a temporary log structure; it was soon replaced by a two-story frame courthouse completed in 1850. During the Civil War, on May 12, 1863, Linden was attacked by Union forces in an amphibious assault from the Tennessee River and the courthouse and all the county records were burned. No replacement was built until after the war when in 1868 county officials spent \$9500 to construct a new brick courthouse.

By the late 1920s, the 1868 brick courthouse was too small to meet local needs, so in 1927 the Perry County Court voted to renovate and expand the structure. However, while work was underway the following year, it too burned. The Court then determined to construct a much larger structure to meet the governmental needs; they wanted it to be stylish as well in order to showcase that Perry was a progressive county. They engaged Nashville architect Clarence Kelley Colley to design the structure; Bell Brothers & Company of Nashville was the contractor. The edifice is a good example of the twentieth century Colonial Revival style incorporating recessed columns and pilasters and Palladian pediments over the north and south entries. The striking courthouse continues to serve as the seat of government and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1995.

*Located on the Linden Public Square at 121 East Main Street. Visitors are welcome but must go through security screening. Cameras and cell phones are not allowed while court is in session.*

CEDAR GROVE FURNACE

Located on the Furnace Branch of Cedar Creek, two miles east of the Tennessee River, the Cedar Grove Iron Works was once Perry County's largest industrial operation. It produced pig iron from ore mined from nearby pits. The iron was melted using charcoal made from trees cut from the surrounding forest. Originally constructed as a single stack furnace in 1832, it was rebuilt the following year as a double stack furnace, allowing one furnace to be “in blast” while the other was being reloaded. This may have been Tennessee’s first “hot blast” furnace in which heated air from the burning charcoal was forced back into the furnace. This reduced the amount of charcoal needed and the accompanying labor.

By 1850, the furnace was producing 1,800 tons of iron annually. Ore came from open pits on Marsh Creek to the north. More than 120 workers, many of them African-American slaves, mined the ore, cut trees and made charcoal, or tended the furnace. Teamsters hauled finished iron pigs from the furnace in ox-drawn wagons to Cedar Creek Landing on the Tennessee River where they were loaded onto large flatboats for transport to markets. During production, the landscape would have looked much different than it does today as most trees for miles would have been cut to make charcoal, and even the belching smoke from the furnace would not have concealed the gashes of the open mine pits.

The Civil War dealt a death knell to the local iron industry. Following the fall of Fort Henry on the Tennessee River in February 1862, Union gunboats steamed upriver. One shelled the furnace from the river

nearly two miles away. Although the shells did little or no damage, they frightened away much of the workforce. The ironmaster, William Bradley, was ambushed and killed by pro-Union partisans in 1863. His son took over the works but operations ended soon afterwards, and by the 1880s little remained except the limestone stacks.

*From downtown Linden, drive west on US Hwy 412 for 6.6 miles and turn left onto Buckfork Road; there is a Tennessee Historical Marker about the furnace at the intersection. Drive south on Buckfork Road, crossing straight across Marsh Creek Road in 2.3 miles, and continue another 2.9 miles. The furnace will be on the right.*

PINCKNEY’S TOMB

(Hufstедler Cemetery)  
The Hufstедler Cemetery predates the construction of “Pinckney’s Tomb” by at least two decades and contains the graves of eight known members of the Hufstедler, Whitwell and Randel families. The earliest burials are those of twins Louisa Moore Hufstедler (d. 30 June 1864) and Robert E. Lee Hufstедler (d. 3 May 1865). In 1887 and 1889, Nathaniel Moses Randel and his wife, Mahalia Marcum Randel were buried in the cemetery; they were the parents of Louisa Jane Randel, who married Pinckney Hufstедler. Pinckney and Mahalia were the parents of the two young twins as well as Josephine Hufstедler Whitwell, who died and was buried here in 1901, as was her husband, Egbert Med Whitwell (d. 1896). Pinckney died in 1895, and his widow Louisa Jane in 1923 or 1924; they would become the final two occupants of the gravehouse.

Local folklore states that Pinckney Hufstедler had an aversion to the possibility of water getting into the graves and built the wooden gravehouse about 1885. Gravehouses differ from mausoleums in that they are built over graves, not as structures constructed to hold the burials themselves. Their construction may be a folk manifestation mimicking the elaborate tombs of the well-to-do.

Pinckney’s Tomb is basically unaltered since the time of its construction. It suffered from long years of neglect and encroachment by trees and vegetation but was recently restored by the Perry County Historical Society through a grant from the National Park Service through the Tennessee Historical Commission. A small marker outside provides brief interpretation about this unusual landmark.

*From the traffic light in downtown Linden, go south on Mill Street for 1.2 miles, crossing TN 13 at another light. Turn left (E) at Veterans Park on to Old Hohenwald Road, then follow the signs on Hurricane Creek Road and Whitwell Cemetery Road to the site.*

BATTLE OF BEARDSTOWN CIVIL WAR SITE

By late 1864, Union forces were generally in control of Middle Tennessee but Confederate cavalry and guerrillas forced them to deploy significant forces to protect railways and supply lines. The important rail line connecting the key Union supply base of Johnsonville on the Tennessee River (about 45 miles northwest of Linden) with Nashville was a key target. To drive off some raiders, a Union force of 400 or 500 men from the 2nd Tenn. Mounted Infantry (U.S.) under Col. John Murphy ventured south into Perry County on September 26. The following day, they encountered an equal number of Confederates from the 19th Tenn. Cavalry (C.S.A.) under Col. Jacob Biffle near Lobelville. An all-day action ensued, with the Confederates chasing Murphy’s men south as far as Beardstown when night fell.

The next day, the Union troops began to withdraw due to low stocks of ammunition; they headed up Cane Creek towards Centerville when Biffle’s forces attacked the rear guard. The federals made a hasty 2-day retreat (sometimes described as a “panicked run”) to Centerville. As a result, the three-day Battle of Beardstown is locally called “the Running Battle.”

Today, the site of the first evening’s action is commemorated by historical markers placed by the Lee’s Long Rider Camp 2184, Perry County, and the Sam Watkins Brigade, Tennessee Division, of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

*From Lobelville, drive south on TN Hwy 13 for 6.2 miles and turn left (east) onto TN Hwy 438. Cross the Buffalo River Bridge and the marker is at the first farm lane to the left.*

PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS

MOUSETAIL LANDING STATE PARK

This 1,247-acre state park is popular with anglers, hikers, campers and day users who enjoy the park’s beautiful location along the Tennessee River extending from Lick Creek south to Spring Creek. This very diverse park includes open river, large estuaries from three creeks flowing into the Tennessee, rolling hills and a mixed hardwood forest.

The land was originally part of a 5,000-acre tract belonging to German immigrant Charles Frederick Gotthart, a tanner by trade, who located an extensive tanyard here because of the numerous oak trees. A warehouse was constructed at the river to ship the goods to market. According to legend, during the Civil War period, the tannery caught fire, and because so many rats were seen fleeing the fire, the landing was given the moniker of “Rat Tail Landing.” Another nearby landing became known as Mousetail Landing, from which the park takes its name.

Visitors can enjoy hiking on three trails ranging from the short and easy half-mile Spring Creek Trail to the rather strenuous 8-mile Eagle Point Trail Loop. There are also 13 miles of mountain bike trails of moderate to strenuous difficulty; these offer steep climbs and great downhill and provide some of the best mountain biking in the region.

Fishing is one the park’s most popular pastimes. Bank fishing is pretty good and the park offers an accessible fishing pier at the mouth of Spring Creek. Spring crappie is a big draw from March through late May, while bluegill and sunfish are year-round staples. Catfish are commonly landed in late summer and fall, and bass, the most popular sport fish, are best caught in spring and fall. A fishing boat will offer even better opportunities, and the park has a free boat launch area on Spring Creek.

For those wanting to stay and enjoy all the area has to offer, the park provides two campgrounds. The main campground has 25 sites of which 19 feature water and electrical hookups; there is also a showerhouse and an RV dump station. The rustic Spring Creek Campground, located right on the river, has 21 primitive sites, many of which can accommodate small campers. The park also features a scout camp and a primitive group camp. Camping reservations can be made online at <https://tnstateparks.itinio.com/mousetail-landing>.

Other activities include picnicking, an archery range, swimming at the park’s beach (no lifeguards), and wading in the cool waters of Spring Creek. Visit the park Visitor Center to learn about the wildlife and folk culture of the area and check out the adjacent aviary to view native birds of prey. This Perry County treasure has something for all!

*Mousetail Landing State Park, 3 Campground Road, Linden. 731 847-0841, <https://tnstateparks.com/parks/mousetail-landing>*

*From downtown Lobelville, head south on South Main Street/TN Hwy 13 for 3.6 miles and turn right (west) onto TN Hwy 438. Remain on TN*

*438 at all turns for 18.2 miles to the park entrance. This highway is not recommended for RVs or vehicles towing trailers; continue south on TN 13 to Linden and follow those directions instead.*

*From downtown Linden, head west on West Main Street/US Hwy 412 for 11.1 miles. Turn right (north) onto TN Hwy 438 and drive 3.3 miles to the park entrance.*

LADY’S BLUFF TVA SMALL WILD AREA

Lady’s Bluff, a TVA Small Wild Area, is a pocket reservation centered around high limestone bluffs on the Tennessee River. The area is characterized by varied ecosystems, including the bluff, the Lick Creek embayment, limestone glades and outcroppings, natural sinks and intermittent spring-fed watercourses. Many of the native trees are marked by small signs giving some facts about the species.

A 2.7-mile round-trip foot trail winds from the parking area through a typical upland forest, following the Lick Creek Embayment out to the main body of the Tennessee River and then looping to the top of Lady’s Bluff. Atop of the bluff, you can stand among gnarled old cedars and see the Busselltown Unit of the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge on the opposite bank. In mid-October, this whole area becomes a landing strip for thousands of migrating ducks and geese making their annual visit to the refuge. The Tennessee River below Lady’s Bluff passes through “The Narrows,” the most constricted part of the Lower Tennessee. Two barges cannot pass through here as they can on other stretches of the river. The Lady’s Bluff Trail is a designated National Recreation Trail.

Access is by foot traffic only; no bicycles, horses or ATVs are allowed. Exercise caution near cliffs; rappelling and overnight camping are prohibited.

*From downtown Lobelville, drive south on S Main Street/TN Hwy 13 for 3.6 miles and turn right (W) onto TN 438. Drive west on TN 438 for 7.4 miles to Pine View and turn left to continue on TN 438. Drive another 3.5 miles and turn right (W) to stay on TN 438. In 0.9 miles, bear slight right onto Lower Lick Creek Road and follow the signs 4.8 miles to the site.*

*From downtown Linden, drive west on US Hwy 412 for 1.3 miles and turn right onto Lick Creek Road, In 5.9 miles, turn left (W) onto TN 438. In 0.9 miles, bear right (V) onto Lower Lick Creek Road and follow the signs 4.8 miles to the site.*

RIVER RECREATION

BUFFALO RIVER RESORT

Looking for a family friendly place to go canoeing, kayaking or tubing on the longest unimpounded river in Tennessee? The Buffalo River Resort offers trips ranging from five to eight miles, as well as a 26-mile overnight float (by reservation only). Choose from canoes, inflatable or hard shell kayaks, rafts or innertubes; shuttle services are also available for those providing their own equipment.

Want to stay and enjoy the river and the area a while longer? Buffalo River Resort offers a variety of lodging options including shady rustic tent campsites and RV spots with full hookups; campers have access to a bathroom with full showers. Want a little more comfort? Choose from cabins with kitchens and satellite TV, or the wonderful Sunset Lodge that can accommodate groups of up to sixteen.

We’re located on one of the quieter and most scenic sections of the river below Lobelville. Enjoy paddling on one of Tennessee’s most beautiful free-flowing rivers or just relax while camping in the trees along the river.

*3520 North Highway 13, Lobelville. 931 593-2000. <http://brrtn.com/>*

HEATH’S CANOE RENTALS

Johnny Heath’s family has been helping paddlers enjoy the scenic Buffalo River for a quarter of a century and is ready to take care of you as well. Choose from floats ranging from two hours to two days, it’s up to you. Canoes and kayaks are available, as are shuttle services for those bring their own boats. Staff are committed to your safety and we inspect our top-quality equipment before and after every float.

Our main padding section near Lobelville is home to many species of Tennessee flora and fauna. Deer, fox, turtles, raccoons and more are frequently spotted. Birdwatchers will want to bring along binoculars to watch hawks soaring above the treetops or cranes dancing across the water. Keep your eyes open, there is a lot to see! If fishing’s your thing, then bring your pole. The Buffalo is renowned for its excellent smallmouth bass fishing. It’s also excellent for fly fishing, and many sections of the river can be waded.

We’ve been operating on the river longer than anyone in these parts. Call us; we want you to have the best experience possible.

*1076 North Highway 13, Lobelville. 931 593-2306. [www.canoethebuffaloriver.com](http://www.canoethebuffaloriver.com)*

BUFFALO BUD’S KAYAKS, CANOES, CABINS & CAMPGROUND

Spend a relaxed weekend on the scenic Buffalo River at the famous “Blue Rock” near Flatwoods. We offer authentic river cabins for fishing getaways, plus a primitive riverside campground and canoe and kayak rentals.

At Buffalo Bud’s, paddling is our passion. Choose from a variety of trips for individuals and families of varying lengths. Multi-day trips are available as well as shuttle services if you prefer to use your own equipment.

The fast-flowing clean waters of the Buffalo around Flatwoods are prized by boaters. Come see why so many of our customers have been paddling with us for years. We look forward to getting you out on the water as well.

*580 Slink Shoals Road, Linden. 931 589-3500.*

CROOKED CREEK MARINA

Welcome to the only full-service marina on the Tennessee River in Perry County. We’re located in a protected embayment just off the main channel of the Tennessee. We have open and covered slips, marine fuel, a convenience store with courtesy dock stocked with cold beer, groceries, fishing bait and supplies, as well as a boat ramp for launching.

Our Burger Shack is known up and down the river for great food. Come order a 1/3 pound burger and watch it cooked on an outdoor grill right before your eyes. We also offer sandwiches, pizza, snacks, Sno-Cones and everyone’s favorite, hand-dipped ice cream!

Bobby and the staff know this part of the Tennessee better than anyone and are eager to help you have a great day on the river. It’s always River Time at the Crooked Creek Marina!

*142 Crooked Creek Marina Road, Lobelville, Tennessee River Mile 121.5. 931 593-2112.*

DISTINCTIVE LODGING

COMMODORE HOTEL

This historic boutique hotel prides itself as “Close to Everything Yet a World Apart.” Located in the 1939 Staley Building at the southwest corner of the Linden Public Square, this 3-star hotel offers charmingly outfitted rooms in the fully-renovated landmark. Situated in the center of Linden’s Arts and Cultural District, the hotel is just a few minutes’ walk from the Perry County Courthouse, the Linden City Park, and the town’s distinctive shops.

All twelve individually furnished and air-conditioned rooms in the main building include free Wi-Fi and room service. Guests also find coffee makers along with flat-screen TVs with satellite access to premium channels. Private bathrooms include tubs or showers. Parking is free, and there is ample space for trucks, buses and RVs.

The Commodore Café, located just off the main lobby, offers a warm and inviting ambiance. The black-and-white tile floor, low lighting and opulent décor is reminiscent of a European bistro. The Café specializes in Southern Comfort cuisine and is open for lunch and dinner. Owner Kathy Dumont and the chef dream up fresh specialties each week; the food is locally sourced whenever possible. Live music, often featuring nationally and internationally known touring artists, is offered every weekend.

Guests can enjoy “vintage spirits and forgotten cocktails” in the hotel bar, the Speakeasy Lounge. In homage to the Prohibition era, the speakeasy offers dim lighting, serious cocktails, and even a secret entrance for those who wish to be unseen.

In addition to the main hotel structure, the Commodore Collection includes a 1,200-square foot guest room in the renovated First National Bank building, two floors of oversized guest rooms in the 1930s Miss Bertie’s Boarding House, and the Mayberry’s General Store.

The revitalization of this landmark hotel and associated buildings by owners Kathy and Michael Dumont was a catalyst in the rebirth of downtown Linden. Come stay where it all began at the historic Commodore Hotel.

*114 East Main Street, Linden. 931 589-3224. [www.commodorehotellindentn.com](http://www.commodorehotellindentn.com)*

ARTS

BUFFALO RIVER ARTISANS COOPERATIVE

Buffalo River Artisans was founded in 2009 by a group of Perry County artists and craftspeople who live and create in the beautiful hills and hollows between the wild Buffalo River and the Tennessee River. Located in downtown Linden, just a few doors down from the historic Commodore Hotel, local artists and craftspeople connect with people interested in supporting creativeness through the Buffalo River Artisans Cooperative gallery/shop. An eclectic assortment of heirloom crafts and fine art are displayed for sale in a wide price range.

From its inception, Buffalo River Artisans Cooperative has welcomed diverse makers. Director Melissa Goodwin not only grows the fibers she uses in her textiles but spins and weaves them into beautiful garments and household accessories. Hand thrown pottery often features a bit of whimsy as well as function. Jewelry ranges from intricate beaded items to colorful fused glass. Paintings in a variety of mediums, reflect the rich scenic vistas of Perry County. Other artisans draw on their heritage, basket weaving, handknitting, metalworking, and wood carving. There is something for everyone looking for fine handmade arts and crafts.

As well purchasing unique pieces in the shop, visitors can tap into their own creative spirit by taking a class, hosting an art party, or purchasing art supplies to spark their inner artist. Stop in and support and encourage Cooperative members and the arts in Perry County or find them on their website.

*110 E Main Street, Linden. 615 945-4347. <http://buffaloriverartisans.indiemade.com/>*

TENNESSEE RIVER TRAIL SCENIC BYWAY

Perry County is a gateway to the Tennessee River Trail Scenic Byway, a more than 600-mile tour following the great river of Tennessee through picturesque countryside and small-town America. The Byway winds through nine counties along the eastern and western banks of the Tennessee River in West and Middle Tennessee. Home to some of the state’s most significant resources and attractions, this region offers visitors a glimpse into the past and insight into the events that shaped the course of our nation’s history. Very few places in the country offer visitors the chance to cross a river by ferry and there is no better place to see the impact of the Tennessee Valley Authority, which transformed life in the Tennessee River Valley region during the mid-1900s.



Whether you are a history buff, a wildlife enthusiast or an outdoor recreation enthusiast, the Byway has something for you! Tour some of the most significant Civil War battlefields from the war’s Western Theatre, learn about river life and culture, or enjoy local food and locally produced wine. Five state parks, a national recreation area, two national recreation trails, two national wildlife refuges and dozens of wildlife management areas and state natural areas offer plenty to do for outdoor recreation enthusiasts.

The Tennessee River and Kentucky Lake have an abundance of marinas and campgrounds that provide for many recreational opportunities such as sport fishing and water skiing. The many rivers, streams, and lakes in the region provide a wide variety of canoe, kayak and fishing options for the outdoor adventurer.

Stop by the Perry County Welcome Center to learn more about the Tennessee River Trail Scenic Byway, or visit our website for more information and an interactive map.

*<http://driveanddiscover.com/>*



DISCLAIMER: This handout has been provided for general information purposes only. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and completeness as of the publication date, but the Perry County Tourism Committee, Pawpaw, and other contributors are not legally responsible for errors, changes, modifications and omissions contained within.

This project was funded in part through a Tourism Enhancement Grant from the Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development.

Produced by Pawpaw, natural and cultural resource planners, 2018.