Natural Arch Loop Trail #510
This trail begins at the Natural Arch parking area and runs along a paved pathway to the base of the arch. Trail #508 intersects this trail from the left before you reach the arch and to the right after passing the arch. Follow Trail #510 around the cliff to return to the base of the arch.

Begins/Ends: Picnic Area
Parking: Picnic Area
Surface: Paved/dirt
Difficulty: Moderate

Natural Arch Loop Trail
- Length: 1 mile
- Quad: Nevelsville
- Surface: Dirt
- Difficulty: Moderate

Buffalo Canyon Trail #508
Follow Natural Arch Loop Trail #510 from the parking area past the overlooks, down the steps, and through Natural Arch. At the fork in the trail, take the right fork. The trail will descend from the cliffs to Spruce Creek. You will cross Spruce Creek and then come to Forest Service Road 5266. Turn left and follow the road to a low water crossing. Less than 100 yards after crossing Cooper Creek, you will come to a road junction. Turn left and follow the road and diamond-shaped trail markers for about a mile. The trail will then leave the road and cross Cooper Creek again. The trail will follow Gulf Fork and Cutoff Branch back to the junction with Natural Arch Loop Trail #510 at the base of the stairs. Follow Trail #510 back to the parking lot.

Begins/Ends: Picnic Area
Parking: Picnic Area
Surface: Dirt
Difficulty: Moderate

Buffalo Canyon Trail #508
- Length: 5 miles
- Quad: Nevelsville
- Surface: Dirt
- Difficulty: Moderate

Panoramic View Trail #528
This trail begins at the Panoramic Trailhead parking lot and traverses an old roadway on the ridgeline to the northeast, terminating at a scenic overlook. A second scenic overlook is located to the right, about halfway along the trail.

Begins: Trailhead parking lot
Parking: At parking lot
Ends: Overlook
Difficulty: Easy
Connections: None

Panoramic View Trail #528
- Length: 0.5 mile
- Quad: Nevelsville
- Surface: Dirt
- Difficulty: Easy

Trails
More than six miles of hiking trails provide access to the arch and the surrounding forest. The trails are marked with white diamonds. For trail access, park your vehicle at the Natural Arch Scenic Area or at the Panoramic View trailhead. These trails are for hiking and day use only.

- Natural Arch Loop Trail #510
- Buffalo Canyon Trail #508
- Panoramic View Trail #528
Natural Arch Scenic Area is a great place to enjoy the outdoors with your family and friends. The scenic attraction in this area is a spectacular sandstone arch that spans nearly 100 feet. You can see a panoramic view of the arch from an overlook.

Picnic sites, group picnic shelters, playgrounds and hiking trails provide year-round enjoyment. Special events can be booked in the amphitheater.

Picnic Areas
Eight picnic sites and two group picnic shelters with nearby grills, water fountains and toilets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Each group shelter has six picnic tables, a large grill, a serving table, electricity and water to accommodate up to 36 people. The shelters may be rented up to one year in advance by contacting the Stearns Ranger District office. The area is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

Please dispose of trash properly in nearby garbage containers.

Playground
Swings, horseshoe pits and climbing blocks are provided for your use. Additional play equipment can be set up in the playground area. Remember to remove your personal play equipment when leaving.

Accessibility
The picnic area is accessed by concrete walkways, including a walkway to the Natural Arch overlook.

Directions
Directions from Somerset: Take US 27 South for 21 miles, turn right (west) on KY 927 (Day Ridge Road) and follow the signs for 2 miles.

Directions from Whitley City: Take US 27 North for 5 miles, turn left (west) onto KY 927 (Day Ridge Road). Follow the signs for 2 miles.

Fees
A fee pass is required to use the Natural Arch Scenic Area. You can self-pay onsite at the entrance, or you can purchase a pass in advance at the Stearns Ranger District office, and the Daniel Boone National Forest Supervisor’s Office. Collected fees are used to maintain and improve the recreational facilities.

Special Events
The amphitheater can seat a crowd of about 300 people in a rustic outdoor setting. The covered stage is equipped with electrical hookups for audio and visual equipment.

Commercial events and groups of 75 people or more require a special-use permit from the U.S. Forest Service. These permits take time to process, so plan ahead when organizing an event that may require a permit. The amphitheater is available on a first-come, first-served basis unless posted as reserved. Contact the Stearns Ranger District office to reserve the facility up to one year in advance.

Cultural History
Natural Arch and the surrounding forest are part of our nation’s cultural heritage. Prehistorically, this area was home to a variety of Native American groups. They lived without leaving written records, but evidence throughout this area provides many clues about how they lived.

To help preserve the area’s cultural integrity, leave everything as you find it. Avoid moving rocks or disturbing the soil. Observe signs and obey the rules.

The artifacts and cultural resources in this area are protected by state and federal laws.

Safety
Natural Arch Scenic Area is located in a secluded forest environment. Be aware of outdoor hazards, including poison ivy, venomous snakes and biting insects. Black bears have been sighted in this area.

When hiking or leaving a picnic site, you must move insects. Black bears have been sighted in this area.

To an emergency, call 911. Cell phone service may not be available in some areas due to cell tower location and rugged terrain.

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