Natural Arch Scenic Area, located on Stearns District of the Daniel Boone National Forest, 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 the overlooks. Picnic sites, group picnic shelters, playgrounds and hiking trails provide year-round enjoyment.

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 cliffline 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: Parking Area Difficulty: More difficult
Ends: Parking Area Surface: Dirt
Length: 5 miles County: McCreary
Quad: Nevelsville Latitude: 36.840417
Closest Town: Whitley City Longitude: -84.512351

Fees
A fee is required at the Natural Arch Picnic Area. Pay at the site or buy a pass at a local vendor or at the Stearns office.

Day use only; closes at 10 p.m. No camping or overnight use in recreation area.
Trails are closed to motorized vehicles.
Consumption of alcohol and open containers of alcohol are prohibited.
Camping and firebuilding in rock shelters is prohibited.
No climbing, rappelling or otherwise attempting to ascend or descend from cliffs, arches or other rock formations at Natural Arch.
Do not feed bears. Unless cooking or eating, store your food inside a closed vehicle with a hard top, the trunk of a car or a bear-resistant container. In backcountry, hang food and trash from a tree, out of bear’s reach. Food and trash storage is mandatory.

Guides like this are available at fs.usda.gov/dbnf. 5/29/2014