

GONE FISHIN'  
with the Kids

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AUGUST 2012

# Kentucky Monthly

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If you go ...  
**Jane's Saddlebag**  
13989 Ryle Road  
Union  
(859) 384-6617  
bigbonelick.com  
Operations are seasonal, so check the website or call ahead.

“ We want this to be the kind of place three generations can come enjoy together—and all have something to do. ”

## No Big People Allowed

By Sarah J. Dills, Photos by Sarah Dills Photography

Driving up the road to Jane's Saddlebag is like taking a trip back in time to the nostalgic summer camps of youth—except this is the coolest summer camp because Jane's Saddlebag has a wine-tasting room and homemade food for Mom and Dad to enjoy while the little ones run wild across a rolling, grassy lawn surrounded by a miniature wooden town representing the historical elements of Big Bone Lick.

Owners Nancy and Peter Blackmore wanted to create a “little tourism spot” in Big Bone Lick after Nancy wrote *The Story of Big Bone Lick* about the animals of the Ice Age.

“Nancy's always been fascinated by the history of this area,” her husband, Peter, explained. “She loves giving guided tours to children's groups because she gets to explain the history.”

Nancy and Peter definitely have made learning fun at Jane's Saddlebag, where children can get locked in jail at the sheriff's office, couples can get married at the chapel, and visitors can walk through a flatboat on the water's edge.

But a visit would not be complete for any child without a trip to the petting zoo, with goats, horses, cows and “Miss Piggy, the Big, Fat Hog” (as the sign on her pen reads).

## Exploration Vacation



Peter is amazed how quickly Jane's Saddlebag has become a sought-out destination, especially while reflecting on where they started.

"This was an abandoned farmhouse," he said of the structure where the restaurant sits today. "It had two front doors and a central chimney, so it was referred to as a saddlebag house—which is how we came up with the name.

"And Jane is my mom," Peter added, pointing to a portrait of his mother hanging over the counter in the dining room.

"Now we're going into our eighth summer, and we recently had a birthday party for a 4-year-old with a \$12,000 budget.

"When we started, we were 80 percent bikers. Now we're 20 percent bikers and 80 percent families—and that's what we want. We want this to be the kind of place three generations can come enjoy together—and all have something to do."



Five miles east of Cumberland Falls State Park is a wilderness retreat where wooden wagon rides transport visitors into a forest just waiting to be

explored. Canoeing, rafting and tubing trips make children feel like **Daniel Boone** exploring new lands. And the popular Rainbow Mist rides give every member of the family (with a minimum weight requirement of 25 pounds) the opportunity to see Cumberland Falls from the best view—below the falls.

With on-site lodging and packages available, Sheltowee Trace Outfitters is a wonderful family destination.

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If you go ...

**Sheltowee Trace Outfitters**

2001 Hwy. 90

Corbin

1-800-541-7238

ky-rafting.com

Note that not all excursions leave from the main location. Make sure you know when and where you are supposed to meet your guide. Visit the website or call to find specific dates for specialty excursions.

## Stick 'Em Up!



Imagine the excitement on your children's faces pressed against their train seat window as they watch a band of robbers approach on horseback. They need not worry, though, because the sheriff and his deputies are on hand to protect everyone, just like Woody from *Toy Story*.

Thanks to the Kentucky Railway Museum in New Haven, 11 miles south of Bardstown, you can create an experience like this for your family. It hosts the Train Robbery seven times a year with the next event on Aug. 18-19.

Not only is this a fun outing for the whole family, it also benefits a wonderful cause. Lynn Dawson, museum marketing director, said the raiders board the train and "rob" passengers. "They will be robbed, and the robbers expect them to give in to them with a donation," Dawson added. "At the end of the year, we donate all of our 'loot' to the Crusade for Children, helping children with special needs."

The Kentucky Railway Museum also hosts a day out with Thomas the Tank Engine, Christmas trains, mystery theatre and dining trips.

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If you go...

**Kentucky Railway Museum**

136 South Main Street

New Haven

1-800-272-0152

kyrail.org

Train excursions leave the depot every Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Visit the website or call to find specific dates for specialty train rides like the Train Robbery (offered one weekend a month from August through November).