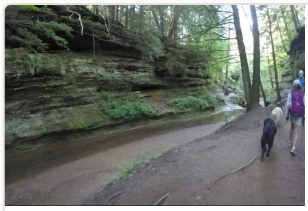
HOCKING HILLS CHEAT SHEET

The Anti-Regret Resource Guide

"I asked the park ranger if I could get cell service at Old Man's Cave. He said, 'No, but if you climb to the rim, you'll get great reception... from the trees.'"

THE TRAIL REPORT: ESSENTIAL HIKES



Old Man’s Cave

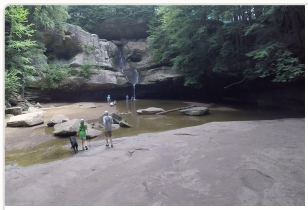
The park's most iconic trail. Includes Upper Falls, Devil’s Bathtub, and the Sphinx Head. Features the Visitor Center (best bathrooms in the park).

Full Guide on CampBrood.com →

Ash Cave

Massive recess cave with a 90ft waterfall. Accessible via the paved Gorge Trail. **WARNING:** The exit involves sharp stretched metal grates that can physically hurt bare dog paws.

Full Guide on CampBrood.com →



Cedar Falls

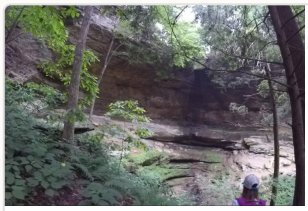
Remote feel with unique rock formations and the 'Democracy Steps'—meticulously spaced to minimize leg strain. The most reliable waterfall in the region.

Full Guide on CampBrood.com →

Rock House

The only true cave in the park. High on a cliff with 'windows' looking out. Historically a hideout for bandits and bootleggers.

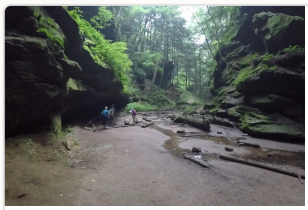
Full Guide on CampBrood.com →



Cantwell Cliffs

Technical and rugged. Home to the 'Fat Woman’s Squeeze.' Perfect for escaping crowds, but very steep and challenging for pets.

Full Guide on CampBrood.com →



Conkles Hollow

A State Nature Preserve. **Dogs are NOT allowed.** Features one of the deepest gorges in Ohio with sheer 200ft sandstone cliffs.

Full Guide on CampBrood.com →

PRO TIPS & LOGISTICS

Midweek Hack: Avoid weekends. The park is 4 hours from 6 major cities; on Saturdays, trails become a slow-moving line. Visit Mon-Wed.

Pet Protocol: Allowed everywhere except Conkle's Hollow. Expect strangers to pet your dog without asking.

Digital Detox: Cell service is non-existent. Download offline maps at the Visitor Center (best bathrooms in the park) first.

Basecamp: **Campbell Cove Campground** is our top pick—private bathhouses and near Oasis Coffee.

THE GEAR AUDIT

Hiker's Essentials (Affiliate Links):

- Teton Sports Hydration Pack
- Camelbak Mini M.U.L.E (Kids)
- Merrell Moab II Men's Hiking Shoes
- First Aid Kit (Our Personal Carry)
- Collapsible Trekking Poles
- Tactical Flashlight
- Liquid Filled Baseplate Compass
- Swiss Army Tinker (14 Function)

Standard Packing List:

- **2L Water:** Essential for the deep gorge hikes.
- **High-protein snacks:** Jerky, trail mix, fruit.
- **Power Bank:** Cold & GPS usage drains batteries fast.
- **Layers:** Gorge floor is often 10° cooler than the rim.

SAFETY PROTOCOL: TIPS TO NOT DIE

1. **The Grate Issue:** Exit stairs at Ash Cave use sharp stretched metal grates. These physically hurt bare dog paws; carry your dog or avoid the loop.
2. **Stay on Trails:** Sandstone cliffs are soft and crumbling. Falls from the rim are often fatal.
3. **No Swimming:** Wading is prohibited to protect the delicate ecosystem.

Join 'The Brood' for more trail secrets at **CampBrood.com**

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