

# ILLINOIS

**DAY Twenty-Two Cave N Rock SP Illinois to Cedar Lake Ranch CG 77km**

**April 26/08 Saturday D 77km M 43.3 A12.4 T6h TT8h total 1688.8km**

**Wind** head wind part of the day but not too bad

**Temp** cooler day after thunder and rain storm last night 10C in am up to 22C

**Road Condition** no shoulder; some steep hills on Tower Rock Rd Signs for Amish horse drawn carts, but no “dung” on the road

**Food: Breakfast** cereal then a walk to the Cave site Had French toast and Ken Pancakes at 10am in Elizabethtown

**Lunch** oh our boring pb/jelly sands at tables in Eddyville

**Supper** KD, carrots and some vino

**Accommodation** Well Ken phoned yesterday to check if this place was open and got an answering machine so we assumed it was a okay... NOT There is know one here. The bath house is relatively clean , but needs a paint job and really scrubbing. It looks like it is for sale. Only one wash house and 150 sides a lot really far away. We decided to stay close to the wash house even though the sign said to go to site 139... the power is turned on over there probably... we can do without that tonight we are both so tired.

## Overall:

**Cave-In-Rock** is a village in [Hardin County, Illinois, United States](#). Its principal feature is a 55-foot-wide cave on the [Ohio River](#). Cave-in-Rock was originally a stronghold for outlaws including the bandit [Logan Belt](#), Philip Alston the Counterfeiter, the pirate [Samuel Mason](#), and the [Sturdivant Gang](#). The population was 346 at the 2000 census.

The Cave was really worth going to see. I goes way back into the hillside and then from the top you can see down into it. I will have to look up about it as the only thing I could find out is it has something to do with “pirates” It is nice to see a attraction that hasn’t been over commercialized. No “rubber tomahak stores” around it or anything really.



Ken inside the CAVE





Bird nests on the ceiling



Ferry from the Cave

## The Cave

Cave-in-Rock's primary feature is a striking 55-foot-wide cave, formed by water. The first European to come across it was M. de Lery of France, who found it in [1739](#) and called it "caverne dans Le Roc".

## History

From the 1790s to the 1870s the area around Cave-in-Rock was plagued by what historians as early as the 1830s referred to as the "Ancient Colony of Horse-Thieves, Counterfeiters and Robbers", and better known today due to Otto Rothert's history early in the 20th Century as the "Outlaws of Cave-in-Rock".

Other names for the cave include Rocking Cave, Rock-and-Cave and House of Nature.

In [1790](#) counterfeiters [Philip Alston](#) and [John Duff](#) (John McElduff) used the cave as some type of rendezvous, though details are scarce. Although folklore printed in 19th Century histories failed to establish a prior connection between the two men, both lived in the area of Natchez, Mississippi, at the start of the Revolutionary War.

By the arrival of [Samuel Mason](#) at the cave in [1797](#) Duff was living upriver a few miles either at Battery Rock, or across the Ohio River at what would become Caseyville, Kentucky. Mason had previously made Diamond Island and Red Banks his headquarters. In 1797 he moved his base of operations to the cave and made it the home of river [pirates](#). Two of Mason's brothers had been business partners of Duff at [Kaskaskia](#), Illinois, in the 1780s.

James Wilson is the next leader of the Cave-in-Rock band, and may have been the Wilson who married one of Capt. Mason's nieces. In [1799](#) he's remembered for installing a sign reading "Wilson's Liquor Vault and House of Entertainment" over the cave entrance. Rather than be the actual leader he may have simply been the front man for the operation.

By this time in either [1798](#) or in the spring of [1799](#) Duff and his associates had been making salt (or looking for silver) at the Great Salt Springs area along the Saline River in southeastern Illinois. Soldiers from Fort Massac captured him and three of his men named Blakely, Hazle and Hall. The soldiers took their captives by boat down the Saline River to the Ohio, and then down the Ohio to below the cave. Although the old histories don't explain why they stopped at the cave, subsequent events indicate it may have taken place during the spring of 1799 when Wilson was running his operation, thus making the stop one of refreshment and entertainment. During the stop Duff and his men escaped and captured the soldiers. They placed them tied up in the boat and pushed the boat into the river to float downstream to the fort.

The infamous [Harpes](#) also reached the cave region in the spring of 1799. They were Big Harpe and Little Harpe, who were considered by many historians to be brothers Micajah and Wiley Harpe, though some sources provide different

names and indicate they were first cousins instead. Contemporary references often left off the (e) at the end of their name. They are associated with two separate stories at the cave and one at the infamous Potts Spring area to the north. The first story involves them pushing a young couple off the top of the cliff. They survived. The second involves an act of piracy where only one man survived. Later he was forced off the cliff as well, this time involving a horse. The Potts Spring story is simply recalled as a murder of two or three hunters.

Mason and Wilson's time at the cave may have come to an end during the summer of 1799 when attacked by a group of bounty-hunters/vigilantes under the leadership of Capt. Young who called themselves, "The Exterminators".

No contemporary accounts show the cave occupied by river pirates in the first decade of the 19th Century, but the outlawry continued as the Harpes retreated back into Kentucky, Mason traveled downriver and began to focus on highway robbery along the [Natchez Trace](#), and Duff was killed by assassins on June 4, 1799. By the middle of the decade church services were being held in the cave. These Christians eventually formed Big Creek Baptist Church, the first church organized in southeastern Illinois in [1807](#).

The next generation of outlaws in the region fall either under the [Sturdivant Gang](#), a group of counterfeiters based at Sturdivant Fort on top of the bluffs overlooking the Ohio River at what is now Rosiclare, Illinois; or the Ford's Ferry Gang led by [James Ford](#) based a few miles upriver from the cave at what became known as Ford's Ferry, Kentucky. The Potts Inn stories take place during this time as well.

Law enforcement officials led three raids against Sturdivant Fort in 1822 and 1823. Although it's not clear what happened following the raids, the gang disappears from the area by 1830. The Ford's Ferry Gang was broken up following the mysterious deaths or murders of James Ford's two sons followed by his own assassination in [1833](#). Even after the death of Ford, outlaws remained. Isaiah L. Potts operated Potts Inn on the Ford's Ferry Road in Illinois north of the cave where travelers checked in, but sometimes failed to check out. The legend of Billy Potts, the returning son murdered unknowingly by his father, likely took place in the months following Ford's assassination. Records show the elder Potts and his wife separating in [1834](#) or [1835](#).

Eason Bigsby or Bixby also took up counterfeiting in Hardin County in the decades following the Sturdivants. His attack on his wife Anna in an effort to find out where her first husband's money was buried dates to the early 1860s and led to the legends of Anna Bixby, her treasure and her ghost. She actually survived running off of a cliff in the dark. She's remembered in the 21st Century as the namesake for the Anna Bixby Women's Center in nearby [Harrisburg](#), Illinois.

Although not completely connected to the Ancient Colony, the Logan Belt Gang terrorized Hardin County in the 1870s and 1880s until Belt himself was assassinated.

According to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, "In 1929, the State of Illinois acquired 64.5 acres for a park that since has increased to 204 acres. The well-wooded, 60-foot-high hills and the rugged bluffs along the river - commanding expansive views of the famous waterway - became Cave-In-Rock State Park."

This is just some interesting stuff from the internet on this neat area on the Ohio River

I don't know if it's because I'm a year older, not in shape or these hills are more than usual. We should have asked someone about the Clay St route as it was very hilly with 3 steep and one over steep for a touring loaded bike. Could have gone via 146 all the way to Elizabeth town. The rest was basic hill after hill, but with either quick sharp ups or gradual.

**DOGS DOGS DOGS** What can I say. They are reeking my trip! After Elizabethtown and about 1 km from CR 5 we had just been chased by 2 large dogs about 1km back that were easily chased off, then some people were in the ditch cutting trees and their 4 or 5 dogs attacked us chasing me across the hiway and not responding when the lady told them to "come"...she says "oh sorry" I just could not say anything but cycle off after I stopped so she could catch one dog that would not leave me alone.... Then we are going along minding our own business when I see a boy running across his yard with a white dog and behind him a large golden heavy set dog... the 10 year old or so boy yells something and points at us and the large dog starts off full speed down the hill and across the hiway at us! I just could not believe that he appeared to "sick" his dog on us and stood up there laughing his head off... I never would think I would pick up a piece of metal pipe but it is now my "equalizer" for if a dog decides he is going to bite me. Ken had to kick one of the dogs earlier to get it away from his feet. I just don't get it? We didn't have any more dogs so I didn't have to decide if I would hit one or not, but I'm at the point I just can't stand them attacking us and it is attacking... if they didn't leave their yards we could ignore them charging at us, but I think if I didn't stop one of them is going to knock me down soon..... I will have to find a solution other than a pipe!

The ride itself is nice past farms... mixed farming with chickens, cows, one had a Llama, small crops, non pretentious homes, but not junky as yesterday. More open land, less tree farming. No loggers today

**DAY 22 Cave in Rock SP (Cave In Rock, IL) to Cedar Lake Ranch LLC (Vienna, IL) 77.0**

Leave CG to IL 1 then Lt on Clay St	1km	1km
Turn right at W Clay St <b>I would suggest to anyone loaded to go to IL146 right off</b>	0.3 km	1.3 km
Turn left (continue on!) at Clay St	0.2 km	1.5 km
Continue on Cave in Rock Rd	6.3 km	7.8 km
Slight left at Tower Rock Rd steep steep again	1.5 km	9.3 km
Turn left to stay on Tower Rock Rd	3.6 km	12.9 km
Turn left at IL-146 <b>Elizabethtown AS @16km Grandpa's CG/G/R/SS hotel</b>	24.3 km	37.2 km
Turn right at CR-5	7.1 km	44.3 km
Slight left to stay on CR-5	8.4 km	52.7 km
Turn left at IL-145 <b>Eddyville G/R/SS</b>	8.7 km	61.4 km
Turn right at IL-145/IL-147	10.2 km	71.6 km
Turn right at CR-4 CG on Lt side of rd	5.4 km	77.0 km

Note CG is for sale cedarlakeranchllc.com Cedar Lake Ranch LLC (618) 695-2600 2090 Gilead Church Rd, Vienna, IL 62995 Cedar Lake Ranch has cabins \$60.00 if needed Note none of the towns are very big This CG is really CLOSED ! did have hot showers, but not clean really and no one else there not even to pay... honor box

**DAY Twenty-Three Cedar Lake Ranch CG to Motel 8 Carbondale IL**  
**April 27/08 Sunday D 63.23km M 48.1 A13.1 T4h49 TT?h total 1752.0 km**

**Wind** in and out No problem

**Temp** very cool morning at 10C and only up to 15C

**Road Condition** the best thru Shawnee National Forest... no dogs... past lakes and creeks

**Food: Breakfast** bananas and cereal stopped in Goreville : Delaney's café for omlets oh Ken had pancakes! Neat place. They take pictures of all the cyclists who come thru and put them under glass on the tables... we were added to the album.

**Lunch** stopped for a picnic beside Devil's Kitchen Lake

**Supper** Garfield Restaurant turned out a good Mediterranean salad and a veggie burger for Ken



**Accommodation** Motel 8 it is as we have bike work to be done tomorrow. Very nice, clean and roomy and WARM.

**Overall:** Well we left Cedar Lake Ranch and not too soon. I won't be recommending it. Ken went to have a shower and the pipe broke so he had to turn off the hot water taps. I had a nice hot shower, but it needs painting. There is no one around so we paid into a lock box. It definitely should be closed. I left a note to that effect. We were only snarled

at by a couple of dogs today, saw 2 nice deer and enjoyed the quiet of the ride thru the National Forest. Ken's bike needs a new cog set and chain so we are in Carbondale where there are 3 bike shops all next door to each other. Hope they can get at it tomorrow so we can be on our way.

DAY 23 Cedar Lake Ranch LLC (Vienna, IL) to Carbondale, Motel 8

Head north toward CR-4	93 m	93 m
Turn left at CR-4 [watch out for snarling dog... kind of old so no "equalizer" needed]	3.4 km	3.5 km
Continue on CR-12	14.9 km	18.4 km
Turn right at IL-37	1.7 km	20.1 km
Turn left at Goreville Rd <b>Goreville G/R Great Restaurant: Delaney's Café love bikers</b>	7.0 km	27.1 km
Turn right at Wolf Creek Rd [ride thru Shawnee nation Forest is great]	8.2 km	35.3 km
Turn left at Tacoma Lake Rd	6.7 km	42.0 km
Turn left at Grassy Rd CR 24	5.8 km	47.8 km
Turn right at CR-12/Giant City Rd	3.6 km	51.4 km
Turn left at Boskydell Rd/CR-30	3.3 km	54.7 km
Turn right at Springer Ridge Rd	3.1 km	57.8 km
Turn left at E Pleasant Hill Rd <b>Carbondale AS</b>	2.3 km	60.1 km
Turn right on US 51 [head straight into town]	3.1 km	63.2
Motel 8 Carbondale Illinois 1180 East Main 618 457-8822		

**Best Bike shop: Bike Surgeon 618 457.4521 404 S Illinois ave Carbondale IL**



Typical farms along the way



**I think this is an understatement**



**Now those are huge horns!**



**Very nice looking farm lands**

**DAY Twenty-Four Motel 8 Carbondale IL rest day**

**April 28/08 Monday D5.44 km M 24.8 A 12.2Th TT 26min total 17574 km**

**Temp** COLD Thunder storm with rain to blue sky evening {Tornados 3 touched down in Virginia: emails to Topaz}

**Food: Breakfast** Motel 8 bagel, oranges, juice and Ken's coffee

**Lunch** veggie sub

**Supper** burgers etc

**Accommodation** Motel 8 oh ye ah a repeat

**Overall:** email to home:

*The cycling itself has been very hard. More hilly than expected and the weather is colder than expected once again. Having Thunderstorms and low 35 today high 58. We have lucked out and had rain only at night.*

*If you see our log you will see we are having a lot of DOGS chase us. It could be the trip breaker. One day 40 dogs thru out the day came running snarling out of their yards... we have tried ignore, run like hell, stop and yell and my final is carry a metal bar! Haven't had a dog close enough since I picked up the bar! Ken has had a dog bite his pannier and had to kick one dog. We have had a kid "sick" his dog on us! Go figure. We are hoping to get away from the hillbillies and maybe the dog situation will improve. Yesterday we were thru a park so no dogs.*

*Overall it is fun, tiring and interesting with very friendly people. Be home before we know it. We spent a day with 40 motorcycle campers. Really neat trailers!*

Well we went to the best bike shop **Bike Surgeon** [www.thebikesurgeon.com](http://www.thebikesurgeon.com) on Illinois avenue all loaded up ready to leave town. There are 3 bike shops on the same street, but this one looked like a 'repair shop' so we waited for them to open at 10am. Ken needed a new cassette and chain and back wheel trueing... well 4 hours later the bike was done and the charge.... \$50.64 Can you believe it? The guy replaced his shift cover and rt shifter, replaced 2 spokes, new chain, new rear cogs... oh add \$23.70 for a part from the next shop; These guys are incredible Definitely ANGELS once more. We most definitely need to send them a Christmas present. They charged us nothing for Labor!

We walked and walked headed for Walmart and someone who had seen us at the motel stopped and gave us a ride... where is the ugly American! It did end up a long way from the bike shop and we had to walk all the way back in the rain but hey we had nothing else to do.

We did replace my "equilizer" bar with a Dog HALT sprayer... says used by the US post office for 30 years.. I hope never to have to use it, but I feel a little safer with it.



## DAY Twenty-Five Motel 8 Carbondale IL to Cole Memorial City Park Chester IL

April 29/08 Tuesday D 66.43 km M47.6 A 14.1 T4h43 TT 5.5h total 1823.9 km

**Temp** Well when we left the Motel it was 5C...darn cold at 8am but got up to 20C which was more than predicted

**Food: Breakfast** Motel 8 apples, orange juice and Ken's coffee No services all day so no pancakes!

**Lunch 1400** stopped at Hardees in Chester for Lemonade, we had our bagels/cream cheese at their picnic tables

**Supper** Cooked in the park a nice KD supper

I suppose everyone knows we eat granola bars or cookies at a couple of stops mornings especially

**Road Conditions:** Well gas is going up daily now \$3.99/us gal in California and \$3.49 here Deisel is over \$4.25 and everyone is complaining. Hwy 13 to Murphysboro had a nice big shoulder and rolling hills; then the road down scaled to Hwy 149 with no shoulder and lots of traffic and hills then dropped us down into the Mississippi Valley Back onto the Great River Road [we were on this route last fall in the north] to Hwy 3 also with no shoulder, but lovely flattish along the river valley until 15k from destination when we hit construction and new pavement... they are putting in cement gutters with a 1 1/2" rise from the road so it is so dangerous. The road is not wide enough for the 2 18 wheelers to pass with us beside. At one point 3 were behind us just gearing down and pumping the air brakes; I jumped into the gutter and leaned towards the ditch with my head down wondering if the 3 18 wheelers behind us were going to crush us! Not fun. Thankfully NO DOGS all day! The HALT must be horse-shoes!



**Accommodation** The City park in Chester has no signage to say we can camp here, but is on the Adventure cycle map, so Ken approached a city worker working on the pool and he directed us to a shelter with power, picnic tables, water... all the comforts of home. It really is a beautiful park. { [www.adventurecycling.org](http://www.adventurecycling.org) } Well worth the price of the maps or just download the GPS routes if you are a member.

All the flowering trees are blooming: dog woods, braeberry, wild flowers too. {my allergies abound: Reactine helps... I wonder how Susan B is doing with here allergies to pine pollen? Will have to email her. I would never have said that Pine trees are one of the major trees down here.

And the Park is all to our selves and a few kids in the play ground

### Overall

We should have had 20km to add on to today's milage as we didn't go to Murphysboro on Sunday, but by changing the route and staying on a more major hiway we were able to keep the km down to a reasonable distance of 65km.

Cool start to the day... had on both fleece coat and rain coat and 2 shirts with long cycle pants, wool socks, gortex gloves, ear muffs.... Need I say more... it was COLD! Really glad we were in the hotel. It warmed up quickly especially with the hills. We stopped in a McD's parking lot for a granola bar and use of their washrooms and a Angel just came off the hiway to offer us a home stay in St. Louis. He said he is a tourer also. We had to decline as we don't plan to go to St Louis but really nice to be offered anyways. Everyone is so nice. Really concerned for us with the cold weather particularly. Will see how tonight goes..... Ken read in the paper that in Minnisota where our friends George and Maxine live it was 10C max today! Yikes. And in Yuma, Arizona it was 40C Quite the variance in temperatures across the nation.

We are back into the land of train whistles... have heard 5 or 6 today.

Turtles... tiny 3-4" diameter Look like the ones we had as kids.... Stupid... dead on the road.

Popeye is the mascot for Chester... I think they produce Popeye spinach here. Chester in on a hill and it is up or down hill on every street.

First sightings of the Mississippi River from the Great River Road once again. { we were on this trail in the fall in the north of Illinois }

DAY 24 Motel 8 Carbondale IL to Cole Memorial Park CG (Chester IL) 65km

Head right from Motel on Hwy 13 to <b>Murphysboro AS</b>	15k	15 km
Straight onto Hwy 149 to Grimsby turnoff	13k	28 km
right on Great River Rd/IL-3 No services until Chester	35k	62 km
<b>Chester AS</b>	2 km	64 km

Cole Memorial Park Superintendent (618) 826-4972 800 Opdyke St, Chester, IL 62233 House inside gate of park  
Hi 3 Motel (618) 826-4415 3 E State St, Chester, IL 62233 Best Western Reids Inn (618) 826-3034 2150 State St, Chester, IL 62233  
Rozier's Country Market and Dollar Store close to CG but not able to find: go straight on 3 into town center



Bait Shops all along the route



These wild turkeys are hard to photograph!



Cute mini ponies They were really curious about us



Cute signage



Chester has Popeye stuff everywhere



Accommodation in a picnic shelter once more



With the night light on!