



DISCOVER SULLIVAN

Sullivan County

INDIANA • VISITOR GUIDE

Everything worth a weekend, in a full color guide you can take with you.

discoversullivan.com

WELCOME

Welcome to Sullivan County



The Wabash River from Merom Bluff

Well, look who found us. Welcome to Sullivan County, Indiana: eight towns, 26,000 public acres of lakes and woods, and the Wabash River on our western edge. Since friends don't stand on ceremony, come on in and let us show you around.

Start with the water and the woods, because everybody does. Sullivan County Park & Lake wraps a 461-acre stocked lake in campgrounds, sand, and shade. Greene-Sullivan State Forest spreads 9,000 wooded acres around strip-pit lakes that fish like nobody's business. Redbird State Recreational Area turns old coal ground into off-road trail country, and Merom Bluff Park puts you two hundred feet above the Wabash, where the sun goes down over the river and takes its time doing it.

Then give the towns their turn. Sullivan will fill a morning with unique shops and the Sullivan County History Museum on the square, plus the antique mall up North Section Street. Drive out to Dugger and the Dugger Coal Museum shows you the photographs and mine ledgers this county was dug from. When you get hungry, the food spread here is real: home-style plates, Mexican, Italian, pizza, BBQ, and menus that hold their own against any city's.

Time it right and you will hit a festival. The Corn Festival takes the Sullivan square for four days every September, and Dugger throws its Coal Festival in the fall.

When you are ready to make it real, we have done the homework for you. Twenty-five self-guided trip ideas map out whole days, from a half day of discs at the lake to a holiday weekend. The rest is in the pages ahead.

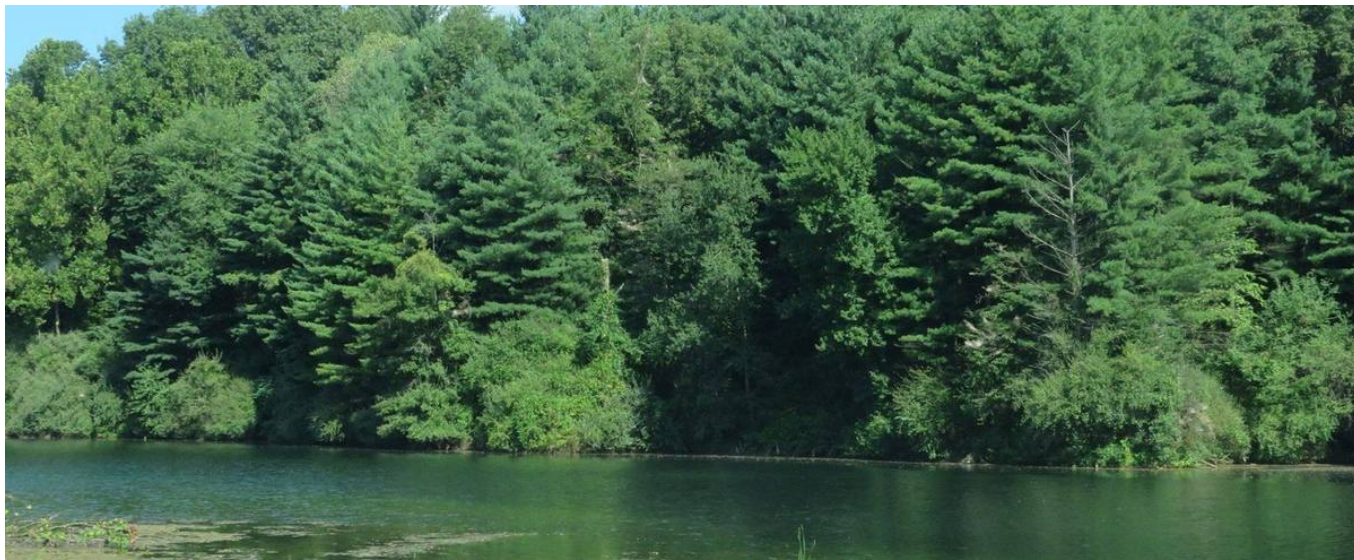
IN THIS GUIDE

Contents

The Outdoors	4
Fishing	5
Boating & Water Skiing	6
Kayaking & Canoeing	7
Swimming	8
Hiking	9
Hunting	10
Bird Watching	11
Golfing	12
Off-Road & Horse Trails	13
The Wabash River & Merom Bluff	14
The Towns & Shopping	15
History	17
The Marker Trail	19
Eat & Drink	21
Festivals & Events	22
Cruise the Square	23
Halloween on the Square	24
Christmas on the Square	25
Family Fun	26
Trip Ideas: 25 Days, Already Mapped	27
Places to Stay	33
Getting Here & Plan Your Visit	35

Every place in this guide is on discoversullivan.com, with hours, maps, and the full list. Hours move with the seasons at the smaller places, so check ahead.

Nature, water, and wide-open space.



A Greene-Sullivan State Forest lake from the shoreline

Bring your boots, your rod, or your saddle; this county has ground for all three. Twenty-six thousand acres of public land lie inside the county line: flooded coal pits gone clear at the end of gravel roads, reclaimed mine ground grown back into forest and grassland, and a river for a western border. Fish it, hike it, ride it, or paddle it. Then pick a different way and come back.

Eleven ways to spend a day

Walk the bluff at Merom and look down on the Wabash, follow trails through reclaimed mine land now turned to forest and lakes, or find a quiet spot and watch the sun set over the water. However you like to be outside, the pages that follow have a day for it.

Fishing. Fish the county for a week and never fish the same kind of water twice.

Bird Watching. A good winter morning on the Wabash can turn up forty bald eagles.

Hunting. Public hunting land runs past twenty thousand acres when you add it all up.

Hiking. Walk a state-park shoreline in the morning and climb a sandstone bluff over the Wabash by evening.

Boating. One lake built for speed, a hundred more held quiet by rule, and both kinds worth a day.

Kayaking & Canoeing. The best paddling in the county is the water you have to carry a boat to reach.

Swimming. Three good ways to get in the water, and all of them the safe kind.

Water Skiing. Exactly one lake in the county lets you drop a skier and open the throttle.

Golfing. A full eighteen on a tree-lined course in town, and nine quick ones out at the lake.

Horse Trails. Saddle up where the coal mines used to be.

ATV Recreation Parks. Fourteen hundred acres of spoil banks and ridgelines, turned over to every kind of off-road machine.

Sullivan County is fishing country.



Bass Lake, in the Dugger Unit of Greene-Sullivan State Forest

Any morning you feel like fishing, this county makes it easy. A gravel road will take you right to a stocked coal pit in the state forest, and there are more than a hundred of them to pick from, clear and deep. There is room on the 461-acre county lake for skiers and anglers both, a power-station lake is warm enough to keep the bite going into winter, and on the western edge the Wabash gives up channel cats and white bass that fight like the river's helping them. You can fish Sullivan County for a week and never fish the same kind of water twice. Bring a boat, a kayak, or just a rod and a folding chair. The bank works fine.

Greene-Sullivan State Forest

Getting a boat on the water at Greene-Sullivan State Forest is no trick at all. Some sixty of its lakes have dirt or gravel ramps right off the county roads, with a 12-volt electric trolling motor limit. In all the forest counts more than 120 lakes across 9,000 acres, almost every one an old surface coal mine that flooded after the digging stopped. Largemouth, bluegill, and redear are the regulars in nearly every pit, and catfish, crappie, and warmouth show up in others. Bass Lake, over in the forest's Dugger Unit, still has muskellunge from a 1997 stocking, and Airline Lake gets rainbow trout each spring; the state record bluegill, three pounds four ounces, came out of Reservoir #26 back in 1972. And if you want a pit all to yourself, the walk-in-only lakes will oblige; take a kayak over your shoulder and you will have water that never sees a trailer.

Sullivan County Park & Lake. A 461-acre lake just east of Sullivan, stocked with hybrid saugeye, walleye, bass, bluegill, and crappie. A 40-foot ramp, boat rentals, and live bait sold at the gatehouse.

Turtle Creek Reservoir. A 1,550-acre cooling lake near Merom that the power station keeps from freezing most of the winter. Bass, bluegill, crappie, redear, and channel catfish, with standing timber holding fish year-round.

The Dugger Unit. Ten strip-pit lakes on 2,150 acres, part of Greene-Sullivan State Forest. Bass Lake runs 220 acres with an island and an accessible pier; the carry-in lakes stay the quietest.

Boating & Water Skiing



A ski boat on Sullivan Lake

There's one lake in the county where you can open up a ski boat, and a hundred more where you can't, and both kinds are worth a day. The big county lake covers 461 acres with a thirty-mile-an-hour limit and no cap on horsepower, room enough for skiers, tubers, and pontoons to share the water. The strip pits and the state-park lakes keep it quiet by rule, holding boats to an electric trolling motor, which is its own kind of good morning on the water. And the Wabash carries a current along the western edge for anyone who'd rather follow the river than circle a lake. Launch the ski boat, drop in the kayak, or idle out with a trolling motor and a rod. The ramp you need depends on the day.

Shakamak State Park. Three lakes across 1,766 acres, held to electric trolling motors, so the water stays calm. Good for a slow troll after bass and bluegill or an easy paddle past the old CCC bridges.

Greene-Sullivan State Forest and the Dugger Unit. More than 120 flooded coal pits between them, most with dirt or gravel ramps off the county roads and an electric-trolling-motor limit. Bass Lake on the Dugger Unit takes a bigger boat than most pits; the carry-in lakes stay the quietest.

The Wabash River. River boating along the county's western edge, with public ramps at Fairbanks Landing up north and at the base of Merom Bluff. The Merom ramp is the only public access on the Indiana side between Terre Haute and Vincennes.

Water Skiing

Water skiing needs open horsepower, and one public water in the county allows it. Sullivan County Park & Lake caps boats at thirty miles an hour and puts no limit on the engine, which is what makes the 461-acre lake the place to ski. Launch off the forty-foot ramp, or use the second ramp at the G camping circle if you're in something smaller. The park rents pontoons and fishing boats if yours stayed home, and the beach has food trucks for when you come off the water. It's open March through October, and Indiana wants a spotter on the skier besides whoever is driving.

Kayaking & Canoeing



Kayakers at Shakamak State Park

Back the trailer down a paved ramp on the river, or drive up to a lakeside put-in at a state park and have a kayak floating before the coffee cools. Easy ways onto the water are the rule here: gravel landings off the county roads, electric-motor limits on most of the pits, a current on the river whenever a loop feels too small. And when you want the far end of it, the carry-in pits wait past where the gravel gives out, glassy and clear, deep and cool, ringed with standing timber, where nothing makes more noise than a paddle. Ease in or pack in. This county gives you both kinds of day.

The Dugger Unit

Put in at any of thirteen access points, no long carry required: ten lakes adding up to more than 400 acres across the Dugger Unit's 2,150 acres of reclaimed mining ground, every boating lake limited to an electric trolling motor. Bass Lake spans 220 acres with an island. The carry-in lakes are the sweetener for anyone who wants the stillest water on the property; with no driving access, they see paddles and nothing else. The unit is managed from the Greene-Sullivan State Forest office on State Road 159 in Dugger.

The Wabash River. The signature paddle in Sullivan County, and it starts and ends at a public ramp: put in at Fairbanks Landing, take out at the paved ramp at the base of Merom Bluff, with about twenty river miles of current doing the work in between, past sandbars, timber, and bottomland with almost no houses on the Indiana side. Shuttle a vehicle to Merom first.

Shakamak State Park. Drive to the put-in, slide the boat off, and go: three connected lakes across 1,766 acres, all limited to electric trolling motors. An easy paddle past pine plantings and the old CCC bridges, a good first day in a boat.

Busseron Creek Fish & Wildlife Area. Nearly 4,000 acres of public land in the north county. Trailer launching is at the gravel ramp on Pintail Pit, and canoes and kayaks are welcome across the carry-in water on the rest of the property. Sign in at the self-service booth on your way in.

Swimming



The Sullivan City Pool

When the heat settles in for the summer, the water around here is the best place to be. A renovated city pool in Sullivan has slides, a diving board, and rock walls off the deep end. A state-park aquatic center cools off campers and day-trippers alike. And the county lake keeps a sandy beach with picnic tables just up from the water. Bring a towel and sunscreen and plan around the season; the pools open for summer and the beach warms up with the lake. The strip pits and the river look inviting on a hot day, but the places set up for swimming are the ones to head for.

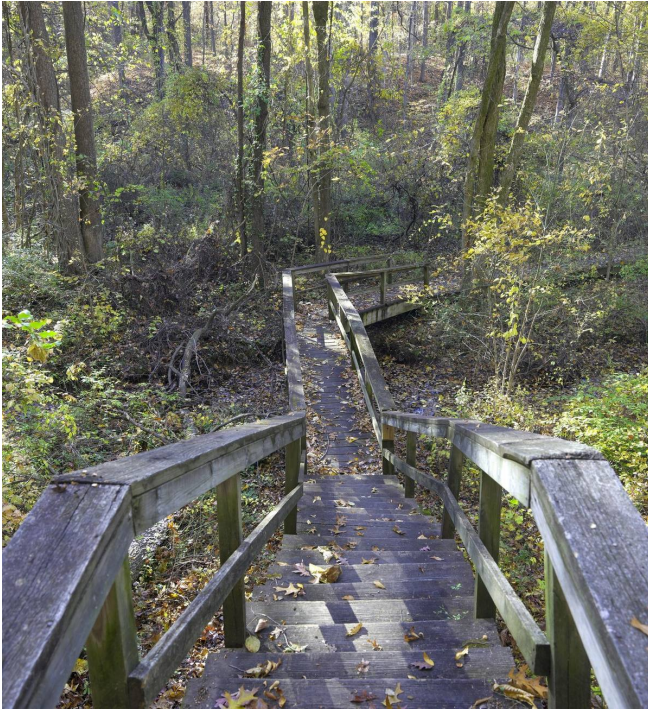
Sullivan City Pool

The pool closed in 2018 and looked like it might stay that way. The city rebuilt it instead, and it reopened in July 2022. There's a kiddy pool and a lily-pad walkway for the youngest swimmers, a sun deck and a bath house, and lap lanes for anyone here for exercise rather than play. Through the season the pool runs free swim, lap swim, lessons, and water aerobics. Open roughly Memorial Day through Labor Day; call (812) 638-4185 for the day's hours.

Shakamak State Park. The family aquatic center runs through the summer with a pool, a slide, and a diving board, an easy way to cool off in the middle of a camping weekend. It sits among 1,766 acres of trails and three lakes, so a swim pairs with a walk or a paddle. Check the park office for current pool hours before you go.

Sullivan County Park & Lake. A sandy beach on the 461-acre lake, with picnic tables in the sand and food trucks rolling in on festival weekends. A lake swim rather than a pool, paired with camping, boating, and a long afternoon by the water. Open with the park, March through October.

Hiking



A Shakamak State Park trail

You can walk a state-park shoreline in the morning and climb a sandstone bluff over the Wabash by evening, and never leave the county to do it. The trails here run through reclaimed coal ground, oak woods, and pine plantings, past flooded pits and old stone bridges the CCC laid down in the 1930s. One keeps to a lakeshore for 1.4 miles. One drops two hundred feet to the river on a stairway of more than two hundred steps. A short one in town was built by high schoolers with hand tools. Lace up something you don't mind getting muddy. The quiet starts about a quarter mile in.

Shakamak State Park

Five trails loop through Shakamak's 1,766 acres, and the trail system is what brings a lot of people back. The headline is the 3.95-mile route around the Lake Shakamak shoreline; the shortest is a 1.4-mile walk along the north shore of Lake Lenape. The paths cross oak woods and pine plantings and pass the bridges and stairs the Civilian Conservation Corps built in the 1930s, work that put the park on the National Register. Watch for white-tailed deer in the wooded stretches and waterfowl along the water. The park office on State Road 48 in Jasonville, north of Dugger, can point you to a trailhead.

Merom Bluff Park. Two hundred feet above the Wabash in Merom, the highest point on the river. The Boardwalk Nature Trail forks at the bottom: one branch runs the riverbank, the other climbs back to the top on 211 stair steps. Walk the bluff first, then take the steps down.

The Dugger Unit. Reclaimed mining ground west of Dugger, part of Greene-Sullivan State Forest. Hiking and wildlife watching are open across both halves, and the trails skirt ten strip-pit lakes. The east side stays free of hunting year-round, so it's the quieter walk in season.

Sullivan County Park & Lake. The Boy Scouts hiking trail cuts through the middle of the park's 460 acres of land, a level walk that keeps the 461-acre lake in view. A good one for an easy afternoon with the family.

General Daniel Sullivan Nature Trail. A short public trail on West Frakes Street in Sullivan, built and kept up by the Sullivan FFA Chapter and named for the frontiersman the county itself is named after. Open dawn to dusk; park in the gravel lot by the red barn just west of Sullivan Middle School.

Hunting



Busseron Creek Fish & Wildlife Area

Public hunting land in Sullivan County runs past twenty thousand acres when you add it all up, and the habitat changes as you move across the county. Bottomland forest and marsh hold whitetail and turkey. Reclaimed coal ground rolls into grassland where rabbit and quail sit tight. River bottoms and flooded pits pull in ducks and geese through the migration. The newest ground alone adds nearly four thousand acres. Check the season dates and the access rules with Indiana DNR before you load up, sign in at the self-service booth where one's posted, and you'll have room to spread out.

Busseron Creek Fish & Wildlife Area

Busseron Creek is the county's newest public hunting ground and the largest conservation acquisition Indiana has made in twenty years. For thirty years the land was leased public ground; the lease ended in 2016, the gates closed, and Indiana DNR bought it outright in 2024 and reopened it in April 2025. The 3,950 acres in northern Sullivan County hold bottomland forest, marshland, swamps, lakes, and upland grass. Hunters work it for turkey and deer in season, with waterfowl through the wetlands and rabbit and quail in the brush. Dog training is allowed in Unit C. Sign in at the self-service booth and complete a one-day access permit before you head into the field.

Greene-Sullivan State Forest. Almost 9,000 acres of reclaimed coal ground across rolling hills and scattered lakes, open for deer and turkey under standard Indiana DNR regulations. The forest office at (812) 648-2810 can confirm current property conditions.

Fairbanks Landing Fish & Wildlife Area. 8,030 acres along eight miles of Wabash River frontage, where the marshland and river bottoms hold ducks and geese during migration.

Turtle Creek Reservoir. A 1,550-acre lake near Merom, owned and operated by Hoosier Energy, that opens to blind-based goose and duck hunts in late fall. Check in at the guard house; hunts run Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

The Dugger Unit. Reclaimed mining ground split at County Road 350 East. The West side allows limited hunting; the East side stays closed to it, so know which half you're on before the season opens.

Bird Watching



A bald eagle at the Dugger Unit

In late January, when the smaller waters freeze, the bald eagles move to the Wabash and the open lakes that stay ice-free, and a good winter morning along the river can turn up forty of them. The rest of the year fills in around that. Hawks ride the thermals over the reclaimed grasslands. Great blue herons don't leave when the lakes ice over; they stand on the ice and work the open pockets, the same patient way an ice fisherman watches a hole. Waterfowl drop into the river bottoms on their way through, and songbirds move with the seasons. Pack binoculars, a thermos, and layers in winter. The birds are out year-round; you just trade eagles for ospreys when the weather turns warm.

Fairbanks Landing Fish & Wildlife Area

Fairbanks Landing covers 8,030 acres of bottomland hardwoods, farm fields, prairie, and river bank across Vigo and Sullivan counties, with eight miles of Wabash River frontage in the northwestern corner of the county. The mix of habitat is what brings the birds: hawks, owls, ospreys, and bald eagles hunt the open ground, waterfowl move through the river bottoms in migration, and songbirds pass through every spring and fall. In winter, the southern boat ramp is a good place to park and scan the trees along the river, when the eagles follow the open water for fish. Stop at the self-service booth for a one-day access permit on your way in; visitors are encouraged to fill one out even when they're only there to watch.

Turtle Creek Reservoir. A 1,550-acre lake near Merom that the power station keeps open through winter. Bald eagles, hawks, and waterfowl all work the open water and the bank lines.

The Dugger Unit East. Strip pits and grasslands east of County Road 350. Red-tailed and Cooper's hawks ride the thermals year-round, and the east half stays free of hunting.

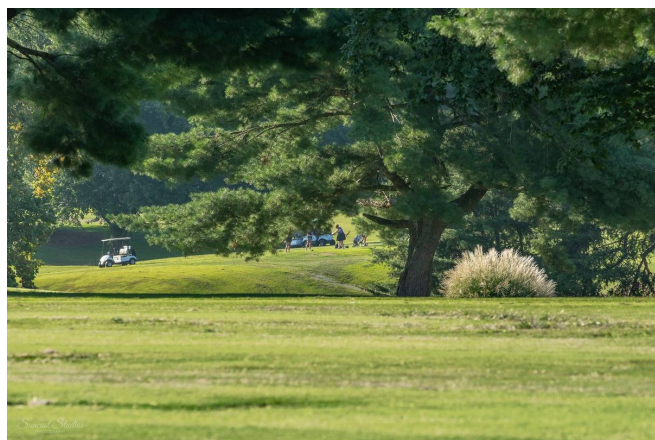
Shakamak State Park. Three lakes across 1,766 acres, with white-tailed deer in the oak woods and waterfowl and shorebirds along the water. The Nature Center runs interpretive programs in season.

Golfing



The nine-hole course at Sullivan County Park & Lake

You can play a full eighteen on a tree-lined course in town, then come back the next morning for nine quick ones out at the lake. The older of the two has been here since 1940, par seventy with tight fairways, water, and sand that keep an honest golfer honest. The lake course is the easy companion round, nine holes with the water in view. Book a tee time for a foursome, or call ahead and see what the day looks like. Either course leaves you close to lunch in town.



The Sullivan Elks course

Sullivan Elks Country Club & Golf Course

The Sullivan Elks Country Club & Golf Course opened in 1940 and still plays as the county's main eighteen: par seventy, 5,960 yards from the back tees, with tight tree-lined fairways and water and sand worked across the layout. It sits on the west side of Sullivan just east of US 41, and the course is public. Warm up on a driving range, a putting green, and a chipping green. Clubs and electric carts are there to rent, and the clubhouse restaurant and bar handle the time between rounds. The season runs March through November; metal spikes aren't allowed. Tee times go through the pro shop at (812) 268-6874.

Sullivan County Park & Lake. A 9-hole course out at the county lake east of Sullivan, the easy companion to a full round in town. Golf cart rentals on-site, the lake in view, and camping and a beach if you make a day of it. Open with the park, March through October.

Off-Road & Horse Trails



Riders at Redbird State Recreation Area

ATV Recreation Parks

Off-road riding centers on one park. Redbird State Recreation Area, north of Dugger, opens marked trail across fourteen hundred acres of reclaimed coal mine, graded from beginner loops to expert climbs, and welcomes dirt bikes, four-wheelers, side-by-sides, and full-size rigs. Motorized trail use needs a Daily Trail Pass or an Annual Off-Road Trail-Use Permit, paid at the gatehouse; helmets are required, and the trails are open sunrise to sunset. Check trail status at the gatehouse after heavy weather.

That same annual permit rides at Redbird's sister property, Interlake, about two hours south in Pike and Warrick counties, with close to a hundred miles of trail and seventeen lakes. Best saved for its own day rather than tacked onto a Redbird trip.

Horse Trails

Horseback riding is one large property done well. Greene-Sullivan State Forest sits south of Dugger on State Road 159, where about thirty miles of moderate bridle trails wind across nine thousand acres of reclaimed coal ground. A horse-only campground near Ladder Lake lets you stay over and ride out from your trailer. It's bring-your-own-horse, first-come, first-served on the campsites, and every horse needs the DNR's annual horse use tag. Plan to wear bright colors if you ride during hunting season.



Riders at Greene-Sullivan State Forest

The Wabash River & Merom Bluff



Sunset over the Wabash at the Merom Public Access Site

Merom Bluff

The view from Merom Bluff is two hundred feet up, looking out over the highest point of the Wabash River. It's the kind of view that does more in person than in a photograph.

People have been coming up to this bluff for over a hundred years. The Merom Chautauqua started in the 1890s and brought speakers like William Jennings Bryan, William Howard Taft, Billy Sunday, and Carrie Nation up here to address the crowds. It still runs every June.

Come up early and walk the bluff first.

The Wabash River

The Wabash runs the whole western edge of Sullivan County, and it gives up the kind of channel cats, flathead, and white bass that people drive hours to throw a line in. They work the deeper bends, and the current does half the fighting for them.

Put in up north at the boat ramp at Fairbanks Landing, with eight miles of river frontage around you, or down south at the paved public ramp at the base of Merom Bluff, the only public access on the Indiana side of the river between Terre Haute and Vincennes. You'll know the southern spot when you see it; the bluff stands two hundred feet over the water. No boat? The bank fishes well too. Set up a folding chair and let the river come to you.

Come in winter and you'll share the water with bald eagles, the ones that move to the river when the smaller lakes freeze. A good January morning can turn up forty.

The Towns & Shopping



The Sullivan County Courthouse on the downtown square

Shopping in Sullivan County happens in storefronts, not strip malls. A jeweler, a flower-and-gift shop, a sports-card counter, and a books-and-cafe spot share one block of the downtown square, with a multi-vendor mall north on Section Street where the booths turn over week to week. Drive the county roads and you'll turn up an antique barn on the highway, a candy maker in Hymera, and a restored building in Graysville stocked with an artist's own work alongside the vintage. You can fill an afternoon on the square or make a day of the whole county. Bring room in the trunk.

Shop the Courthouse Square

The Court House Square in Downtown Sullivan has a great mix of spots worth your time. Find that rare sports card you've always wanted at Hoosier Sports Cards, pick up a piece of fine jewelry at Brown Jewelers, or pull up a chair at Robin's Place, an artsy used bookstore and cafe where the food is homemade. Wild Roots and Amber's Flowers & Gifts round out a square that rewards a slow afternoon. Amber's is open weekdays from 10 to 4.

Old things, good stories.

Antiques are scattered all over Sullivan County, and the hunt is half the fun. Country Attic fills a building with booths on North Section Street, Colonial Antiques sits right on US 41 in Farmersburg with aisles worth a slow walk, and Robin's Place keeps shelves of used books on the downtown square. Out in Graysville, -Ish keeps antiques and art in the oldest standing building in town. Pick a direction and give it the afternoon.



Inside Colonial Antiques, Farmersburg

Country Attic

A multi-vendor antique and craft mall at 1320 N. Section Street, north of the downtown Sullivan square. A rotating set of local sellers fills the booths, so the inventory shifts between visits, antiques one week, handcrafts and primitives the next. There's enough under the roof that a quick stop tends to run long. Open seven days: Monday through Friday 10 to 5, Saturday 10 to 4, and Sunday noon to 4.

A Gathering Place. North on Old US 41 in Sullivan. A roomy gift and home-decor shop with clothing, candles, jewelry, handbags, and primitive and rustic pieces. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 to 5.

Two Centuries of History.



Waapaahsiki Siippiwi Mound Historical Park, near Fairbanks

The county's history reaches from the riverbank to the courthouse square. People crossed the Wabash here for thousands of years, and an Indian mound park near Fairbanks preserves a burial and ceremonial ground that predates the first European maps of the valley. Two hundred years of building came after: a limestone courthouse on the square, two small-town Carnegie libraries, a college hall at Merom, churches and cemeteries on the National Register. Some you can walk into. Some you can only see from the street. Plan an afternoon and you can trace the whole arc, from the people who were here first to the brick the county put up to last.

Waapaahsiki Siippiwi Mound Historical Park

Near Fairbanks, where the Wabash narrows at a crossing the Miami called Waapaahsiki Siippiwi, a Late Woodland Indian mound site lies preserved near the river. Archaeological work dates the ground to between roughly A.D. 500 and 1650, before European contact, when mound builders along the river used places like this one for burial and ceremony. By the late 1700s, Miami, Wea, Piankashaw, Kickapoo, Delaware, and Shawnee people hunted and traded through the valley, and the narrows half a mile away saw crossings documented into the War of 1812. The park is owned and cared for by the Sullivan County American Indian Council and is open dawn to dusk. Walk it quietly; it is a sacred site, not a playground.



Inside the Sullivan County History Museum

Sullivan County History Museum

The county's story has a home on the downtown Sullivan square, at 10 S. Court Street. The Sullivan County History Museum is in the care of the Sullivan County Public Library, and the doors are open Wednesday through Friday, 10 to 4. Saturday hours are set month by month; the current ones are posted on the museum's Facebook page.

Dugger Coal Museum

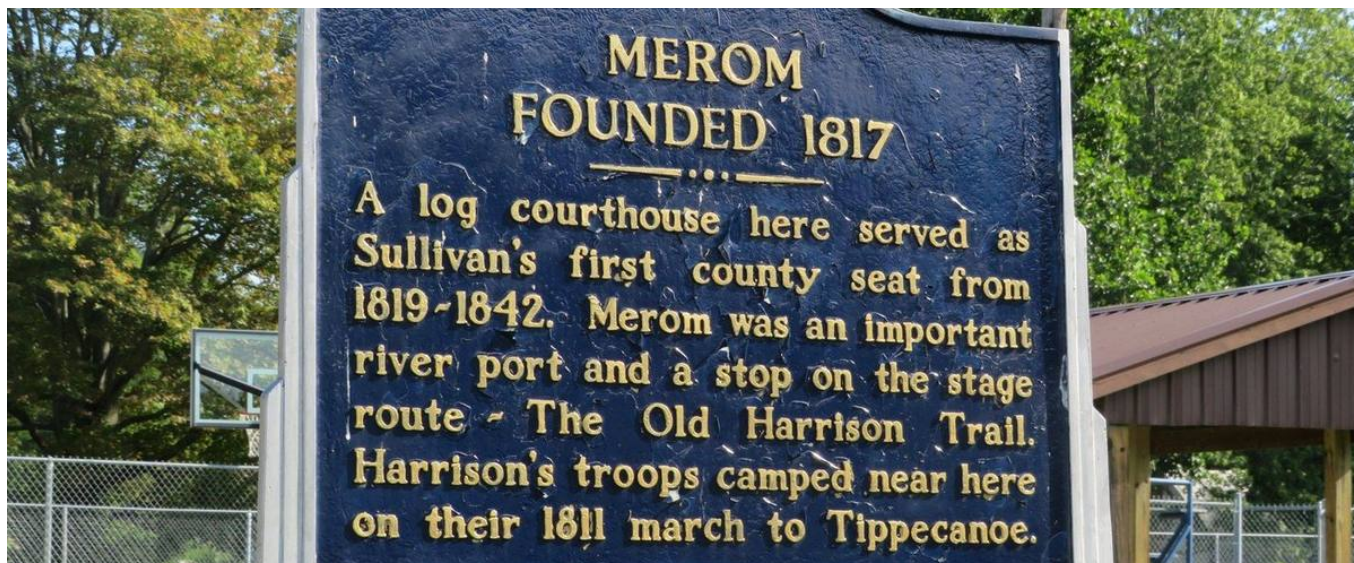
On Main Street in Dugger, the Coal Museum has kept the town's mining history under one roof since 1980. Inside are photographs, mining tools, and the things the miners themselves left behind: the financial ledger of UMWA Local 7220 from 1954 to 1967, and three mine inspectors' notebooks logged shaft by shaft. It's a small collection, and a personal one, gathered by the families of the men in the pictures. The doors open for the Dugger Coal Festival at the end of September and into early October, and by appointment the rest of the year. Call ahead at (812) 648-2332 and someone will meet you there.

Where to start

Sullivan County doesn't have to work hard to impress history buffs. Near Fairbanks, in the county's northwest corner, the Indian mound park and the Fairbanks Community Center, the 1910 schoolhouse volunteers rescued, make a morning on their own. Merom, the village near the bluff, answers with the old college hall, its 1918 library, and the Merom Livery Stable. In Sullivan, the courthouse anchors the square with the Sherman Building, one of the finest theaters in Indiana when it opened in 1915, at the corner of Court Street; the Carnegie library is two blocks west, Center Ridge Cemetery is out on West Johnson Street, and the old Sullivan County Poor Home is out on County Road 75 North.

Eight state historical markers round out the list, from the Fairbanks Massacre to the Merom Bluff Chautauqua, each one a story worth your time. The Sherman Building, the Poor Home, and the Livery Stable are working buildings or private today, so give those three a look from the street.

Pull over for the good parts.



The Merom Founded 1817 marker on State Road 63

Eight official Indiana state historical markers are posted along Sullivan County's roads, and together they hold the county's story, from a Revolutionary War river battle to a Carnegie library with a domed tower. Read in order, they make one easy loop of a drive: start on the courthouse square in Sullivan, head out to Fairbanks, follow SR 63 down past Graysville to Merom, and come home through Carlisle on US 41. Every marker is free to read and out in the open all day.

Stop 1 • Sullivan Carnegie Library

100 S. Crowder Street, Sullivan, on the library's front lawn.

The Women's Club of Sullivan got the library campaign moving in 1902, Andrew Carnegie funded the building with \$10,000, and by January 1905 the doors were open, 1,222 books ready. The building is Bedford limestone under a domed tower, a rare touch on a Carnegie library, and Indiana built more of them than any other state. The marker, placed in 2008, is the newest of the county's eight.

Stop 2 • Fairbanks' Massacre

Northwest corner of Main Street (SR 63) and Market Street, Fairbanks, by the post office. Marker placed 1989.

In September 1812, a supply detail under Sergeant Nathan Fairbanks, bound from Fort Knox near Vincennes for Fort Sullivan at Terre Haute, was ambushed by Indians three miles west-southwest of this corner; most of the men were killed. The community that grew up here afterward kept his name.

Stop 3 • A Civil War Murder

East side of Main Street (SR 63) at North Street, at the north edge of Fairbanks.

Sullivan County divided bitterly over the Civil War, and on July 14, 1864 the division turned deadly at a community picnic near here: an anti-war Democrat named John Drake was shot and killed by a Union soldier, who apparently was never prosecuted. The marker went up in 1992.

Stop 4 • Grave of Jane Todd Crawford

Johnson Cemetery, on SR 63 about a mile north of Graysville.

In December 1809, Jane Todd Crawford rode sixty miles to Danville, Kentucky, for an operation no surgeon had ever done, and survived it. She finished her days in Graysville, and the county's oldest state marker, standing since 1972, is at her grave in Johnson Cemetery.

Stop 5 • Merom Founded, 1817

1997 S. Third Street (SR 63), Merom. Marker placed 1989.

Merom came first. The log courthouse here served as the county's seat of government from 1819 to 1842, the town worked the river trade and the stage line on the Old Sullivan Trail, and troops camped close by on the 1811 march to Tippecanoe.

Stop 6 • Merom Bluff Chautauqua, 1905-1936

Merom Bluff Park, near the pavilion. Marker placed 1989.

Merom's Chautauqua filled this bluff for ten days every summer from 1905 to 1936, and the marker names the speakers who came: Carrie Nation, William Jennings Bryan, William H. Taft, Warren Harding, and Billy Sunday.

Stop 7 • Merom Conference Center

Phillip and 5th Streets at Edward Ouellette Drive, on the Merom Camp & Retreat Center campus.

Union Christian College held its dedication here in 1862 and kept classrooms going until 1924. The grounds came back in 1936 as the Merom Institute and now host camps, conferences, and retreats; College Hall, five stories tall, still rises over them. The marker still says Merom Conference Center, the campus's name when it was set in 1989.

Stop 8 • Westernmost Naval Battle of the Revolution

Off US 41, 0.7 mile south of the SR 58 junction, near Carlisle.

Captain Leonard Helm came up from Vincennes with fifty volunteers in three boats on March 2, 1779, and took a British reinforcement fleet at Pointe Coupee, seven boats and forty men with their supplies and trade goods. It was the westernmost naval fight of the Revolution, and it finished what was left of British military strength in the Wabash Valley. The Sullivan County Historical Society set the marker here in 1985.

Eating well here is no trick at all.

The kitchens of Sullivan County turn out home cooking and barbecue, Mexican and Italian, pizza and Chinese, with a juice bar, a cupcake counter, and drive-through coffee to fill the in-between hours. Breakfast can start at five in the morning if you want it to, lunch is waiting on the courthouse square, and on the right Friday night, supper is a catfish dinner in Merom. Pick a town and a plate; the rest of the evening will follow.

The square sets a good table.

Within a block of the courthouse you can order off the rotating menu at Petty Pit Stop, get a fresh-made smoothie next door at Juicy, and settle in for a pub plate at The Square Pub, with Kara's Kupcakes boxing up dessert on Washington Street and Robin's Place serving homemade food beside its shelves of used books. South of downtown, where State Road 54 meets Section Street, Kat a Korner Diner opens at five every morning but Sunday, and the biscuits and gravy are what they're known for.



The patio at Meier Winery & Vinyard

Meier Winery & Vinyard

Meier Winery & Vinyard is the only winery in Sullivan County, sitting at 4251 N. State Road 63 northwest of Sullivan. The tasting room lays out flights and sells bottles to take with you, and the people behind the counter have time to walk you through what's open. The spelling on the sign is "Vinyard," and it carries through to everything the winery puts its name on. Three Tim's Brewery makes its beer right here too, so there's a glass for anyone who'd rather skip the wine. The tasting room is open Thursday through Sunday, noon to 6 on Thursday and Sunday and noon to 9 on Friday and Saturday.

A festival for every season.



The Corn Festival parade in downtown Sullivan

The festivals are worth planning a trip around: the Corn Festival's four September days on the downtown Sullivan square; Dugger's Coal Festival each fall; four three-day weekends at the county lake between Memorial Day and Halloween; and a Victorian Christmas to finish the year.

Sullivan County Rotary Corn Festival

Each September the Sullivan County Rotary Corn Festival takes over the downtown square for four days: carnival rides, food vendors, a Saturday parade, and a turtle derby for the kids. Stay for the concert on the Central Plaza lawn after supper, every night of the festival. The county has been throwing this party since the 1960s.

Dugger Coal Festival

The Dugger Coal Festival takes over downtown Dugger for several days every fall. It marks the town's coal mining heritage with a parade, special festival dinners, carnival rides, live entertainment, and cruise-in rallies that bring classic cars and pickups onto the streets.

At the lake

Festival weekends pull a crowd: the Memorial Day Tribute Festival, the Fireworks over the Lake Freedom Festival in July, the Labor Day Festival, and the Trunk-or-Treat Halloween Spooktacular in October. Each runs three days, with bounce houses, garden tractor pulls, K-9 demos, decorated golf cart parades, live bands, vendors, and fireworks.

The full calendar, with dates and times, is at discoversullivan.com.

Cruise the Square



Cruising the square at sundown

Remember cruising around like we did back in high school? That's what our Cruise the Square event is all about. And one Saturday night at the end of summer, Cruise the Square brings everybody downtown for a night of cruising the square in Sullivan like the old days, windows down and the radio up, with music, food trucks, and a burnout contest in front of the police station to top it off.

Kids ride their bikes around the square right along with the cars, and half the fun is seeing who's in the next window over. Bring a chair and watch it all go by from the courthouse lawn, or take a lap yourself. The date isn't the same every year, so check the calendar at discoversullivan.com and save that Saturday night.



A wave from the passenger seat



Two up front in the old pickup

LATE OCTOBER

Halloween on the Square



The costume parade makes its loop

Halloween on the Square hands downtown Sullivan to the trick-or-treaters on an evening close to Halloween. Decorated trunks and candy stations ring the square; the first year drew forty-two of them. The costume parade lines up at the Sullivan Civic Center Archway and makes its loop, with the judging at City Hall after, and pets are welcome on a leash.

The Sullivan Fire Department grills hot dogs at City Hall while the square fills. It comes back every year in late October.



Dinosaurs on the loop



Costumes under the streetlights

Christmas on the Square



Skaters at the holiday ice rink

Come December, downtown Sullivan dresses for the Heart of Sullivan's Victorian Christmas. Santa sits for pictures in Victorian dress, carriage rides roll through downtown, the storefronts run their merchant specials, and there's a Christmas lighting contest besides.

Resident volunteers put it on, the same group behind the square's calendar all year.



Lights in the snow at dusk



A snowy evening along the storefronts

Hand the day to the kids.



A chainsaw carving at Waapaahsiki Siipiiwi Mound Historical Park

There's a swimming beach on a 461-acre lake, a town pool with water slides and a climbing wall in the deep end, bowling for a rainy afternoon, and a park where a chainsaw-carved buffalo, a bear, and a Big Foot stand watch over centuries-old Indian mounds. Playgrounds, picnic shelters, and campgrounds fill in around all of it, and it's all an easy drive apart.

Three ways to wear them out.

Sullivan County Park & Lake has a swimming beach and picnic tables, plus boat rentals, a playground, disc golf, and an arcade next to the RC track. In town, the Sullivan City Pool gives the kids two water slides, a kiddy pool, a diving board, and climbing walls in the deep end, open through the summer. And at Shakamak State Park near Jasonville, an aquatic center and three lakes cover the biggest family day of all.

Mounds, miners, and a Big Foot.

At Waapaahsiki Siipiiwi Mound Historical Park near Fairbanks, a walking trail circles Indian mounds from the Late Woodland era, past chainsaw carvings of a buffalo, a bear, and a Big Foot; admission is free, and a donation box waits at the entrance. In Dugger, the Dugger Coal Museum opens for the Coal Festival and by appointment the rest of the year, with photographs and mining artifacts from the town's coal days.

Good Places to Start

Start where the county keeps its stories. The Sullivan County History Museum is on the square in Sullivan, and the public library two blocks west, in its 1904 Carnegie building, has a genealogy and local history room for anyone chasing a family name. For maps, brochures, and straight answers, the Tourism Commission at 25 S. Main Street will point your crew in the right direction.

Pick the day that sounds like yours and follow it.

Twenty-five ways to spend your time in Sullivan County, from a morning on the water to a weekend at the lake. The shortest fits in half a day; the longest runs a holiday weekend. Each one is a route through the towns and the back roads, with the stops, the meals, and the timing already worked out. Four of them are printed in full on the pages after the list; all twenty-five are at discoversullivan.com/trip-ideas/.

DOWNTOWN TO THE RIVER

1. Sullivan to Merom Bluff · day trip

A morning of shops from north of town to the Sullivan square, and out to a sunset on the Wabash.

LAKE LIFE

2. A Weekend at Sullivan Lake · weekend

Two nights at the park, with the lake as the front yard.

RED, WHITE & BOOM

3. Fireworks Over the Lake · 4th of July weekend

Three days at the park for the 4th of July weekend, with music every night and fireworks over the lake on Saturday.

PADDLING THE WABASH

4. Fairbanks to Merom Bluff · day trip

A downstream day on the Wabash River, from the boat ramp at Fairbanks Landing to dinner at Merom.

A HUNDRED HONEY HOLES

5. The Strip Pit Sampler · day trip

A fishing day through the flooded coal pits, from Bass Lake in the Dugger Unit to the forest pits south of Dugger.

OFF-ROAD FOR BEGINNERS

6. First Time at Redbird · day trip

A first day on Indiana's off-road state park, on the easier trails for the novice rider.

FULL-SEND COUNTRY

7. All Day at Redbird · day trip

Sunrise to sunset on Indiana's first state-owned off-road park, with the technical climbs further in.

SMALL-TOWN HOPPING

8. The Northern County Loop · day trip

A day through Farmersburg, Shelburn, Hymera, and Dugger, with antique stops and a town park for the kids.

RETAIL THERAPY

9. The Antique Trail · day trip

A sweep through the county's antique and unique shops, from Farmersburg to Sullivan to Graysville.

THE MAIN EVENT

10. Sullivan's Corn Festival · mid-September

Four days at the downtown square in mid-September, with carnival rides, concerts every night, and the Saturday parade.

MINING-TOWN PROUD

11. Dugger's Coal Festival · late September or early October

A fall weekend in Dugger for the Coal Festival, with the Coal Museum open, a parade, special dinners, carnival rides, and cruise-in rallies.

TEE TIME, TIMES TWO

12. From the Elks to the Lake · half-day to full-day

A golf day for the out-of-county visitor: eighteen holes at Sullivan Elks, nine more at Sullivan County Park & Lake, with the lake to stay over.

CHASING CHAINS

13. A Day of Discs at the Lake · half-day to full day

Eighteen holes of disc golf at Sullivan County Park & Lake, with the beach, the boat ramp, and the campground right there if you want to stay longer.

A SUMMER DAY OUT

14. A Day from Shakamak to Sullivan · summer day trip

Morning fishing and a trail at Shakamak, lunch in Shelburn, and the Sullivan City Pool to cool off.

TIME TRAVEL BY CAR

15. The History Trail · day trip

A day through Sullivan County's historical sites, from the Sullivan Carnegie Library to the Waapaahsiki Siipiiwi Mounds to Merom.

A STATE PARK WEEKEND

16. A Weekend at Shakamak · weekend

Two nights at Shakamak State Park, with three lakes for

fishing, hiking trails for cool mornings, and the family aquatic center for hot afternoons.

WINTER BIRD WATCHING

17. Winter on the Wabash · winter day trip

A day for bald eagles on the Wabash, with hawks at the Dugger Unit, herons at the strip pits, and waterfowl at Turtle Creek.

EAT, SLEEP, CAST, REPEAT

18. A Fishing Weekend at Sullivan Lake · weekend

Two nights camping at Sullivan County Park & Lake with the boat in the water at sunrise, the bank from sundown, and 461 acres of lake all weekend.

GOLDEN HOUR

19. Sunset at Merom Bluff · half-day

A half-day evening at Merom Bluff Park, with dinner in Merom and the sun going down over the Wabash country from two hundred feet up.

FILL THE FREEZER

20. From the Forest to the Fields · weekend

A weekend hunting Sullivan County's public lands: deer in the woods, turkey in the openings, waterfowl on the flooded pits, and small game across the grasslands.

WINE AND THE WABASH

21. From the Square to the River · Friday day trip

A Friday from downtown Sullivan, west to Graysville and the county's one winery, then south along the Wabash to a sunset and a catfish dinner in Merom.

SPOOKY SEASON

22. A Halloween Weekend at Sullivan Lake · long weekend

Three fall days at Sullivan County Park & Lake for the Halloween Spooktacular festival.

LAST CALL FOR SUMMER

23. Labor Day at the Lake · long weekend

Three days at Sullivan County Park & Lake's Labor Day Festival, with live music, good food, and a golf cart parade.

GET YOUR STEPS IN

24. Trails Around the Lakes · day trip

A day of walking three of Sullivan County's biggest lake properties, with a 4-mile loop to open and dinner by the water to close.

TRAIL MIX

25. Hiking Redbird to Merom Bluff · day trip

A day from the off-road park in the north, southwest to the mounds and the Wabash, ending with sunset two hundred feet above the river.

Sullivan to Merom Bluff

A morning of shops from north of town to the Sullivan square, and out to a sunset on the Wabash.

Plan for: 7 to 8 hours • about 21 miles of driving • 8 stops • spring through fall

Start the morning at **Kat a Korner Diner**, at the corner of State Road 54 and Section Street (old US 41), south of downtown. They open early, and the biscuits and gravy have a reputation across the Wabash Valley.

From breakfast, drive north on Section Street (old US 41) to County Road 300 N, then west across US 41. **A Gathering Place** is just past the crossing. They carry clothing, candles, jewelry, and primitive home pieces, and there's room to wander.

Head back east across the highway, then south on Section Street to **Country Attic** for an antique browse.

From there it's a few minutes south into downtown. **Wild Roots** on Court has a gift or a thing you didn't know you needed.

By then it's lunch. **Petty Pit Stop** is a few doors away on Washington Street. Modern comfort food with a twist: a rotating menu, sandwiches, and mac and cheese with serious add-ons. The sister juice bar **Juicy** is right next door if someone in the group wants a smoothie instead.

After lunch, take Washington Street west to US 41, then north to State Road 154 and west toward the river. **-Ish** shows up in **Graysville** about ten minutes out, art-leaning and different from the downtown shops. It opens by appointment, so call ahead at (812) 564-0759 if you want to get inside.

From Graysville, turn south on State Road 63. Follow 63 down into **Merom**, where it ends at State Road 58 near the bluff edge. Turn south on 58. The entrance to **Merom Bluff Park** is on the right. The bluff rises two hundred feet above the Wabash. Plan to be up there before sundown.

If you've timed the day for a Friday, **Meleah's Café** in Merom puts out a catfish-and-shrimp dinner from 5 to 8, a short walk from the bluff. The regulars have been coming for years, and you'll see why. Sit down, no rush.

Drive home with the river behind you, or stay over and do the lake in the morning.

A Weekend at Sullivan Lake

Two nights at the park, with the lake as the front yard.

Plan for: Friday evening to Sunday afternoon • minimal driving once you're there • book ahead for summer and festival weekends • open March through October

Arrive Friday in the late afternoon. Check in, pull into your site or open up the cabin, and walk down to the water before you unpack anything else. The park covers 461 acres of lake and 460 acres of land. Walk it before the sun drops.

Dinner is easy. Cook at the campsite, or drive the two miles into Sullivan and pick something up. Build a fire when you're back. Walk to the lake one more time after dark.

Saturday starts slow. Coffee at the campsite, or a quick run into Sullivan for breakfast. Then the lake. The main boat ramp at the east end of the golf course is 40 feet wide and built for everything from jet skis to ski boats. No horsepower limit. Speed limit 30, which means open water for skiing and tubing in the morning before the wind picks up. If you didn't bring a boat, the park rents pontoons and fishing boats. Bait is at the gatehouse.

Lunch at the picnic tables by the beach. Sand, sun, and room to spread out while the kids swim.

Saturday afternoon is your call. Play the 9-hole golf course, with carts at the office, or run the 18-hole disc golf course that loops alongside it. Take a pontoon out for the slow tour. Fish for bluegill and redear off the bank near G circle. Sand volleyball and horseshoes are by the playground. The Boy Scouts hiking trail runs through the middle of the park if the kids need to burn energy.

Cook at the campsite for dinner, or drive into Sullivan if you didn't pack food. Off-weekends bring live bands and DJs, plus crafts and kids' fishing rodeos through the season. Festival weekends pull a crowd: the Memorial Day Tribute Festival, the Fireworks over the Lake Freedom Festival in July, the Labor Day Festival, and the Trunk-or-Treat Halloween Spooktacular in October. Each runs three days, with bounce houses, garden tractor pulls, K-9 demos, decorated golf cart parades, live bands, vendors, and fireworks.

Late: fire, stars, lake.

Sunday is the slow exit. Coffee on the picnic table. One last cast off the bank or one last lap on the boat. Pack up before checkout and head home by early afternoon.

Come back in October with the kids in costume for the Halloween Spooktacular, or stay an extra night when one of the big festival weekends lines up with your schedule.

The Northern County Loop

A day through Farmersburg, Shelburn, Hymera, and Dugger, with antique stops and a town park for the kids.

Plan for: 6 to 7 hours • about 50 miles of driving • 8 stops • Cindy's Candy Corner is Monday through Thursday • year-round

Head north out of Sullivan on US 41 to **Farmersburg**. **Colonial Antiques** sits right on the highway, the kind of shop where you walk in for a quick browse and leave forty minutes later. A few minutes further into town, **White Light Infusion** does reiki, a salt booth, and a PEMF mat, all by appointment. Different from anything else in the county.

Lunch in Farmersburg at **El Patron**, where the Mexican plates come big and the chips and salsa land on the table before you've finished ordering.

South on US 41 to **Shelburn**. Slow drive through the small town. If anyone is still hungry, swing by **Pizza King** on State Road 48 or **Taco Tequila** on Mill Street.

East on State Road 48 through **Hymera**, a coal mining town a hundred years ago that still wears its history in the old buildings. Stop in at **Cindy's Candy Corner** on Lincoln Street, where the candy is made right there in the shop. They're open Monday through Thursday, 9 to 5. From there, follow N. County Road 700 E south to **Dugger**.

In town, the **Dugger Coal Museum** on East Main Street has kept the town's mining story since 1980: photographs, artifacts, and the mine ledgers. Doors open for the fall Coal Festival and by appointment the rest of the year; call (812) 648-2332 to set up a visit.

The Dugger town park has playground equipment, basketball hoops, and grass for kids to run on while the adults stretch their legs. **Union Station Cafe** or **Antonio's Mexican Restaurant II** are both good for an afternoon coffee or an early dinner before the drive home.

State Road 54 west drops you back into Sullivan before dark.

Pair this with Sullivan to Merom Bluff to sweep the whole western side of the county over a weekend.

The History Trail

A day through Sullivan County's historical sites, from the Sullivan Carnegie Library to the Waapaahsiki Siippiwi Mounds to Merom.

Plan for: 7 to 8 hours • about 32 miles of driving • 8 stops • the History Museum is Wednesday through Friday • year-round

Start the morning at the **Sullivan Carnegie Library** at 100 S. Crowder Street, two blocks west of the County Courthouse. The library opened in 1905 with \$10,000 from Andrew Carnegie and a starting collection of 1,222 books. Bedford limestone, architect Paul O. Maratz, and a domed tower that few other Carnegie libraries can claim. Inside, the genealogy department is extensive, and worth a visit all its own if you're tracing a family line.

Walk the downtown square. The Sullivan County Courthouse sits at the center, with more than a century of small-city Indiana on the streets around it. The **Sullivan County History Museum** is on the square at 10 S. Court Street, doors open 10 to 4, Wednesday through Friday.

From Sullivan, drive west on State Road 154 to **Graysville**. One mile north of Graysville on State Road 63, **Johnson Cemetery** has the grave of Jane Todd Crawford, the first woman to survive an ovariectomy. The 1809 operation lasted 25 minutes, performed without anesthesia by Dr. Ephraim McDowell of Kentucky. Crawford lived to age 78, moved to Graysville late in life, and is buried here with an Indiana state historical marker.

North on State Road 63 to **Waapaahsiki Siippiwi Mound Historical Park** at 9098 W. County Road 825 N., near Fairbanks. Two prehistoric mounds dating to the Late Woodland Era, A.D. 500 to 1650. Walking trail around the site, chainsaw carvings of buffalo and bear and a totem pole, picnic shelters under the trees. The Miami name translates as the reflective waters of the Wabash River. Lunch on a picnic table here.

South on State Road 63 to **Merom**, Sullivan County's first county seat back when its courthouse was a log building. The **Merom branch of the Sullivan County Public Library** opened in 1918 and is the smallest town in the United States to hold a Carnegie-built library. Walk past the **Merom Camp & Retreat Center**, whose five-story brick College Hall was completed in the early 1860s for the former Union Christian College that ran from 1859 to 1924.

On a Friday, close the day with dinner at **Meleah's Café** in Merom, catfish and shrimp from 5 to 8.

Add the Merom Bluff Chautauqua marker and the bluff overlook to the day for a sunset finish.

PLACES TO STAY

Pick the kind of morning you want to wake up to.



A rental cabin at Greene-Sullivan State Forest

Sullivan County gives you more than one way to spend the night. A motel off the highway suits a bed and an early start. Cabins sit in the state forest, tent sites line the strip-pit lakes, and a campsite at the top of the bluff lets you watch the sun drop over the Wabash and still be in your sleeping bag ten minutes later. The room, the cabin, or the campsite follows from there.

Sullivan County Park & Lake

Just east of Sullivan, the county park and its 461-acre lake are built for a weekend with the family. Pitch a tent, pull in the RV, or book one of the deluxe cabins with a full bath, then spend the day on the water: a sandy beach, a swim, and boat and pontoon rentals. When you're off the lake there's a playground, a disc golf course, pickleball and basketball courts, an arcade, and an RC track to work through. Four three-day festivals run across the season, with the July fireworks over the water the one the kids talk about all year, and on the big festival weekends the food trucks come to you. Pack a lunch the rest of the time, cook over the campsite fire, or head into town for a bite. It's close to town when you need a grocery trip or a restaurant, and a world away once you're back at the campsite. Open March through October, at 990 East Picnic Rd. Reserve a site or a cabin at sullivanparkandlake.com.

Camping and cabins

Most of the county's overnight character is outdoors. The state forest, the state park, and the county lake account for the bulk of it, with a small campground on the bluff above the Wabash. Those properties are in the list below, along with the rooms and the rentals.



A rental cabin at Sullivan County Park & Lake

Shakamak State Park. The other big campground stay, just over the line near Jasonville: modern and primitive campsites and family cabins set inside 1,766 acres of trails and three lakes, with the aquatic center open in summer. A good base for a couple of days of hiking, paddling, and a swim without moving the car. (6265 W. State Road 48, Jasonville.)

Greene-Sullivan State Forest. Primitive campgrounds at Narrow Lake, Wampler Lake, and Reservoir #26, around a hundred family sites between them, plus a horse camp near Ladder Lake. Rent-a-camp cabins are available too, tucked among the forest's strip-pit lakes. Quiet, wooded, and close to the fishing. (2551 S. State Road 159, Dugger.)

Merom Camp & Retreat Center. On the old Union Christian College grounds in Merom, the retreat center has cabins and group lodging for church groups, youth camps, reunions, weddings, and corporate gatherings. It's set up for groups booking the grounds rather than walk-up overnights, so arrange a stay ahead. (8555 Phillip St., Merom.)

Merom Bluff Park. A small campground at the top of the bluff, two hundred feet above the Wabash, a short walk from the overlook and the river trail. Sites are reserved online through the Town of Merom at townofmerom.org.

Where to Stay

For a standard room, there's the Days Inn out on State Road 154 west of Sullivan, and a lodge, the Inn at Fairbanks Landing, up at the Fairbanks Community Center. For camping, Sullivan County Park & Lake is the family base on the water, with Shakamak State Park, Greene-Sullivan State Forest, and the campground at Merom Bluff Park covering the rest of the tent sites and RV hookups across the county. For cabins, Park & Lake, Shakamak, and Greene-Sullivan rent them, and the Merom Camp & Retreat Center handles group stays on the old college grounds.

Short-term rentals show up in the county as well, listed on VRBO and Airbnb. Call ahead at the smaller places, where hours and seasons move around.

Getting Here

Getting here is the easy part. US 41 runs straight through the county, north to south, past Farmersburg, Shelburn, Sullivan, and Carlisle, and it ties into the state roads that reach the rest: State Road 54 east toward the lakes, State Road 154 west toward the river. The Wabash River draws the state line along the county's western edge, and the far bank is Illinois.

Flying in? Evansville Regional, eighty-some miles south, and Indianapolis International, about ninety miles northeast, handle the commercial flights, and pilots can set down at the Sullivan County Airport, the county's own field just northwest of town.

Go at Your Own Pace

You don't need a guide in hand to get outside here. Walk the General Daniel Sullivan Nature Trail right in town, watch the sun drop over the Wabash from Merom Bluff Park, or wander among the mounds at Waapaahsiki Siippiwi Mound Historical Park near Fairbanks, a Late Woodland site dating back to A.D. 500. The Tourism Commission office on Main Street has maps and guides for all three.

Plan Your Visit

Sullivan County Tourism Commission

25 S. Main St., Sullivan, IN 47882

(812) 905-0131 • office@sullivancountychamber.com

discoversullivan.com

Attractions, trip ideas, places to stay, and the full events calendar.



That's the tour from the porch. The real one is better. Gas up, pick a Saturday, and come see us. We'll save you a seat.

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