

Welcome PADDLERS

A stylized graphic featuring a large yellow sun with white triangular rays. In front of the sun are black silhouettes of a person in a canoe, a dog, and another person in a canoe. The word "Welcome" is written in red, and "PADDLERS" is written in larger red letters below it.

Tips for First Time Visitors

It's an Awesome Day to Canoe the Blue... (and Kayak too!)

Welcome to Cave Country Canoes. This guide introduces you to a few tips and tricks that will be helpful in making your first time canoe or kayak trip even more enjoyable.

Take a moment and review the next few pages and then get ready to float your boat on the beautiful Blue River, Indiana's first designated scenic river.



Which Trip Is Recommended for First Time Guests?

If you are a first time visitor, we recommend our most popular **7 mile, or half-day trip**. This trip is great for beginners and offers easy paddling with a few riffles and small rapids for excitement.

This trip is perfect for a leisurely float with friends or a great play and explore day with kids.

The half-day trip requires a short bus ride up stream to our private location for launching. Once in the water, paddle at your leisure 7 miles back to our base.

How long will the half-day trip take?

Completion times vary depending on water levels and your personal pace! You should plan for a minimum of 2 hours and expect 4-5 hours.

We encourage you to bring picnic supplies with plenty of water, snacks and sunscreen to best enjoy your day on the river!



Oba Otter's 5 Star Tip



- Half-day trips depart about every 40 minutes beginning at 8:45, last trip leaves at 3:00
- Bring picnic supplies
- No glass containers or styrofoam
- Waterproof everything
- Don't forget sunscreen



What to Expect

Upon arrival, check in at our base in Milltown. We'll make sure your waivers are complete, offer you a river map and answer any questions you may have.

We'll also inform you of current river conditions and the specifics of trip departures.

Modern restroom facilities are just across from our river store. The store has provisions for most anything you need on your trip, including waterproof bags for phones and straps for sunglasses.

After check-in you'll proceed through the store to the paddle room. Here you'll watch a short pre-trip safety video. First timers will learn paddling tips and tricks for your adventure.

Our staff will assist you with your PFD (personal floatation device) and paddle selection. You will also receive a mesh trashbag for litter.



Oba Otter's 5 Star Tip



- Plan to arrive at least 20 minutes before trip departure
- Dogs are allowed on the river but please keep them on a leash for the comfort and safety of all our paddlers



Ready to Rock and Row

Board the bus with your paddle, PFD, and cooler. We will take you to the launch site where your boat will be waiting.

Our staff will assist you in launching your canoe or kayak. You simply paddle at your own pace back to our base and your parked car.

Guests may fish, swim, and picnic along the way. Stay within the banks of the river or on the islands and gravel bars as the property along the river is privately owned.

Blue River is Indiana's first scenic river. Expect to see wildlife including turtles, otters, eagles and even deer.



Oba Otter's 5 Star Tip



- You'll see and experience lots of photo worthy scenes, so share your photos with us at [#cavecountrycanoes](#)
- Be certain to keep your phone or camera in a water tight case
- Please respect the rights of land owners along the river. Use the trash bags and don't litter.



Tips for a great trip.

- Plan to get wet!
- Wear shoes (not flip flops) that will protect your feet from sharp rocks.
- Leave a towel and change of clothes in your car for your return.
- Waterproof everything! All too often phones, keys and wallets don't make it back from the trip.
- We rent lockers for phones and keys. If you must take them with you, make sure they are in water proof containers and secured to boat or person.
- We offer several waterproof solutions in our store.
- Bring along coolers with snacks and drinks.
- Dont forget the sunscreen and sunglasses! The river reflects the sun. Sunburns can be a real pain and ruin the end to a wonderful day.



Oba Otter's 5 Star Tip



- **Bring your friends and family. The more the merrier.**
- **We are open rain or shine. You can check weather and river conditions on our website.**
- **Consider renting a locker to keep your keys and wallet in while you float.**



Paddle, Post, Prize!

Share your photos with us when you post on Facebook and Instagram.

Each month we select several winners for a free pass!



#cavecountrycanoes

We have fun events throughout the season. Be sure to FOLLOW US!