





# *An Ode To* **BREAKFAST**

Eating a good breakfast is one of life's simplest pleasures.



BY **GILLIAN FULFORD**

**WITH HUNDREDS OF RESTAURANTS,** Bloomington has some real winners for a feel-good start to any day.

Strolling down Bloomington's streets, the smell of coffee drifts from small storefronts as people eat pastries of all flavor palates imaginable. Local bakeries partner with farmers to bring flavors from near and far to life in the form of donuts, cupcakes, and more.

Rainbow Bakery, Bloomington's first vegan bakery, serves up everything from hand pies to donuts. Jane Kupersmith, co-owner of Rainbow Bakery and Hopscotch Coffee, knows that Rainbow fills a need in the community.

"Food is a core part of how we exist," Kupersmith said. "Sometimes, when you have food restrictions, it feels like you can't be a part of what everyone else is enjoying. Rainbow Bakery becomes a safe space for people who have those restrictions, where they can build community and enjoy this friendly café culture while knowing what they're eating."

Kupersmith, who has a restricted diet, appreciates the level of care the baking team at Rainbow puts into their goods. Whether a customer orders a giant cinnamon roll or a veganized sausage, egg, and cheese biscuit, there's something for everyone.

"Commercial baking is challenging but awe-inspiring," Kupersmith said. "Our baking team does an amazing job—they're equal parts precision and art."

Another early-morning pastry shop may be new to Bloomington's breakfast rotation, but Kassie Jensen and Amanda Armstrong's years of baking experience back their dedication to providing the community with good food that can be tasted with every bite.

Two Sticks Bakery's conscious choice to use high-quality, organic ingredients shines in offerings like danishes, coffee cake, scones, turnovers, and other gems, baked fresh daily in the early morning hours by Jensen and Armstrong.

The attention to detail in the baked goods from Two Sticks are why their treats are the

highlight of so many days, said Jensen, Two Sticks co-owner and baker.

"I wouldn't sell anything here that I wouldn't give to my own grandmother," said Jensen. "The quality of the ingredients we use here is unmatched. It's what makes Two Sticks so special—you know what you're eating is made of the best stuff around."

Jensen and Armstrong recommend getting to the bakery early for the best breakfast bites—it's not uncommon for the bakery to sell out before noon.

Not only home to wonderful bakeries, but sit-down breakfasts full of hearty Hoosier staples are also abundant in Bloomington.

Biscuits and gravy is pretty much a food group in Indiana—filling sausage gravy ladled over soft biscuits is a delight that has sustained Bloomingtonians through game days and brunches alike, time and time again.

It won't be hard to find some good B&G around town. The dish is a comfort-food favorite for Hoosiers as well as visitors, adorning the menus of greasy spoons and elevated brunch spots alike.

The biscuits and gravy at Michael's Uptown Café have been tried and loved by over 40 years of customers.

"We have a really broad and elegant brunch menu now," said Michael Cassidy, owner of Uptown. "But this place was built off biscuits and gravy and home fries—Hoosier favorites."

A breakfast standby in Bloomington is always pancakes. From plain to extravagant, they're a popular offering around Bloomington and one Kirkwood Avenue restaurant has perfected the dish.

Pancakes at the Village Deli are nothing to mess around with—fresh-made buttermilk batter fried to a golden crisp outside and fluffy, sweet inside spill over the edges of plates during the breakfast rush. Creative options, like cinnamon-style and lemon-poppy seed style pancakes, liven up this classic.

"Our cinnamon roll pancake is definitely a signature," said Bob Costello, owner of Village Deli, Soma, and Laughing Planet. "That's

something that people come back to Bloomington and immediately crave."

Paxton's Potatoes, a Village Deli classic, is another noteworthy dish according to Costello. The fried potatoes topped with homemade Hoosier sausage gravy and cheddar cheese have been recognized as Indiana's best breakfast by Food Network.

But the excellent breakfast isn't the only thing that keeps customers coming back.

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"Diners provide a community space," said Costello. "They appeal to everyone and exclude no one. The atmosphere is amazing—you can sit inside and be a part of the busyness or watch Kirkwood go by from the tables outside."

Breakfast may seem like just another meal, but in Bloomington, there's an entire culture forged around the breakfast table. When you eat breakfast in Bloomington, you sit down with a community built on bringing people together using good food.

"Sometimes owning a business is hard," said Jane Kupersmith. "But Bloomington is such a special place—the people here are ridiculously supportive of each other. This community has important safe spaces for people to gather and interact—it's more than just food."





# NEW HAPPENINGS

## *in a Historical City*

Indiana is a state rich with tradition. For years, people have lived, played, and traveled through the lush forests, sweeping valleys, and rolling rivers of our Hoosier heartland. But it's not just the natural wonders that make Indiana so special--the people here are truly one of a kind.



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BY GILLIAN FULFORD

**BLOOMINGTON IS NO** exception to this rule. Since being established as a city in 1818, Monroe County's seat has proved itself a worthy destination for visitors from all walks of life. Home to creative minds and Nobel Prize winners, 46 National Historic Places, and a Big 10 college celebrating its bicentennial, this little city is full of history that's shaping tomorrow.

Indiana University, Indiana's first college, celebrates 200 years of operation in 2020. Bloomington has grown alongside IU since the university's beginning as a humble, one-building seminary with 12 students.

Thanks to IU, Bloomington has been home for notable figures such as World War II

correspondent Ernie Pyle, the revolutionary Dr. Alfred Kinsey, and the first female recipient of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, Elinor Ostrom.

These hometown heroes have drawn attention far and wide to the ingenuity that Hoosiers throughout the years have lent to Monroe County. Bicentennial celebrations will be honoring these and other notable alumni through ceremonies planned over the coming months. If you've ever wanted to explore the people and history that have made IU such an integral part of Bloomington, now is the time to do it.

2020's celebration of Hoosier classics includes bringing new life to a symbol so







closely tied to the state that it graces Indiana license plates -- the covered bridge.

In the 1800s, wooden bridges were covered to help protect them from the elements. Often times, these bridges were on secluded rural roads, near farms and woodland homes. As building strategies changed and wood was phased out, the need for covered bridges went away. Now, there are less than 1,000 authentic covered bridges in the United States.

In 2019, Monroe County welcomed its first covered bridge after the last bridge was lost to arson in 1976. An authentic reconstruction of an 1885 bridge, using original materials, the Cedar Ford Covered Bridge now stands over the Beanblossom Creek, just a short drive north of Bloomington. Indiana has the third most covered bridges of any state in the U.S. and the Cedar Ford Covered Bridge, which took over 19 years to reconstruct, is the 90th in the nation.

Regaining a covered bridge brings a piece of history to life again in Monroe County. A drive along the scenic road that leads to the one-lane wooden structure harkens back to simpler times and encourages visitors to sit and admire the craftsmanship that went into the restoration. Stop along the banks of the creek and take in a piece of history on your Sunday drive.

Monroe County's industrial history will also be showcased and reimaged in 2020 attractions.

Integral to economic and social expansion in Indiana were railways. Indianapolis was the link between east coast businesses and Chicago, as well as the center of urban transit between cities. During the height of its rail days, from about 1840 to mid-1860, Indiana ranked second in the nation in interurban rail transit.

Bloomington also had a hand in Indiana rail history. Where the B-Line Trail currently runs through the town, the Monon Railroad used to carry passengers from all over Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky. All over town, remnants of the rail heyday are still evident in the train overpasses and whistles heard as shipping freights barrel down railroads on the East and West sides.

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After 112 years of service, the last cart departed the McDoel Railroad Switchyard in 2004. The former commerce and transit hub sat vacant until plans were put in place to breathe new life into this piece of Hoosier history.

Community gardens, event spaces, outdoor stages, playgrounds, a skate park, and more all adorn the area where trains formerly deposited goods and people to Bloomington.

The more than 65 acres of Switchyard Park aims to be a gathering space for the community while restoring flora in the previously industrial area. Located right next to the B-Line and local businesses, the park's placement lends itself well to getting a glimpse of the community without ever using a car.

As you plan to adventure over roads new and old to get to your favorite Monroe County destination, don't forget to plan for some incredible experiences seeing the past and present come together in Bloomington.











Bloomington is truly a town where man's best friend can be a part of every aspect of life.

# DOG DAYS

## *in Bloomington*



BY GILLIAN FULFORD

**WE KNOW THAT** your dog isn't just a pet, but a member of your family. Here are the best ways to stay, eat, and play in Bloomington with your "pawsome" pup.

### STAY

Your canine companion wants to stay by your side throughout every aspect of your trip, and you'll rest easy knowing that you can spend all your time together in Bloomington, even if you're staying in a hotel.

At the Graduate Bloomington, your canine companion can hop up on the bed with you and enjoy a good night's sleep, for free. Graduate hotels did away with pet fees in 2017 and started a collaboration with BarkBox to ensure that your dog gets some true pampering when you stay--after

check-in, a free BarkBox along with water bowls and a blanket just for your pet will be delivered to your room.

If you have an active dog, consider staying at the Candlewood Suites. This extended-stay hotel has all the comforts of home and is located close to paths at the Twin Lakes Sports Park, as well as the hotel's very own dog-walking paths. The dog-friendly patio area lets you stay close to your pup while you grill out with friends.

If you're more into outdoorsy lodging, there are some nature-encumbered options for you. The Lake Monroe Village will give you the chance to get away from it all in an assortment of cabins or primitive camping, and your dog will be thankful for miles of beautiful trails around the area.

## EAT

Doggie diets and human food may not be on the same page, but that doesn't mean you can't bring your fuzzy friend to dinner with you.

There isn't a bad view in Bloomington, especially when you're eating on a patio with a dog at your side.

Take a stroll down the B-Line and get some city sight-seeing in before stopping at Bloomington's very own craft brewery and kitchen at Upland Brewery. The patio is perfect walking distance from the B-Line so you and your dog can enjoy the hubbub of Bloomington while enjoying some of the Midwest's best beer.

If you're looking for a caffeine buzz to ward off the post-meal drowsiness, look no further than one of Bloomington's best roasteries, Needmore Coffee. Enjoy an expertly roasted cup of coffee on the outdoor seating area while your dog has a complimentary dog treat from Nashville's Bone Appetit Bakery.

Headed downtown? Stop for a traditional Irish meal at the Irish Lion's garden-like patio, and let your dog enjoy homemade treats and water bowls (both are four-leaf clover shaped!) while you sate your hunger.

If you're looking to take your dog inside, check out Switchyard Brewery. Since they don't sell food, dogs are welcome. Feel free to bring your own snacks, grab a beer, and enjoy some great company.

## PLAY

Everywhere you go in Bloomington, there are endless options for fun with your dog. Bloomington is well-known for its proximity to wonderful outdoor options, with outdoor recreation only minutes away from downtown.

The Sycamore Land Trust has eight protected land preserves around Bloomington, with options to explore like the Porter West Preserve, a forested area full of wildflowers, a spring, and wildlife ponds.

If you and your dog are avid bird watchers, check out the National Audubon Society's Important Bird Area at the Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve. This preserve has a walkway for ease of access, making it perfect for pooches who don't fancy rough terrain.

There are also miles of beautiful trails around Bloomington in areas such as the Yellowwood State Forest, Paynetown State Recreation Area, and Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, to name a few. Grab a leash and your sense of adventure, and get ready for a scenic day with your dog.

Urban trails are perfect for getting around town while giving your pet plenty of fresh air. Walk, jog, or run down the B-Line Trail to get some good exercise in and see a variety of local businesses, restaurants, and art.

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If shopping is more your scene, Bloomington has some pet-friendly retail therapy spots for you. Pop into JL Waters with your dog to see some of the latest and greatest outdoor gear, for humans and four-legged friends. From harnesses to collapsible water bowls, you'll be ready to take on the outdoors side by side with your best friend.

If you're here for business, recreation, or just want to get away for a little, you don't have to sacrifice time with your pup when you come to Bloomington. Whether bipedal or four-legged, everyone is welcome here.



## LOCAL DOG PARKS OFFERING FREE ADMISSION

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### **FERGUSON DOG PARK**

18.7 acre dog park includes two fenced areas, dog drinking bowl and dog wash stations.

*4300 N. Stone Mill Rd.; 812-349-3700*

### **SWITCHYARD PARK**

Two fenced areas (large dog and small dog) totaling 4.7 acres.

*1601 S. Rogers St.; 812-349-3700*

# *Life on the* **WATER**

Bloomington is no stranger to  
beautiful outdoors.



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BY **GILLIAN FULFORD**

**WITH OVER 98,000 ACRES** of forest, 38 different parks, and more than 10,000 acres of protected lands in Monroe County, there is no shortage of ways to spend your time outside.

Almost anywhere you go outdoors in Bloomington, you'll find that water is a common variable. Lakes, rivers, and waterfalls can all be found minutes away from the hustle and bustle of downtown. Monroe Lake, the largest inland lake in Indiana, is found in Bloomington. If you're looking to explore life on the water in Monroe County, you have ample choices.

Boating in Bloomington is a great way to spend a day on the lake. Head out to Lake Monroe Boat Rental to rent a pontoon,

jet ski, ski boat, paddle board, canoe, kayak, and more. If you're interested in fishing, this lake is home to populations of largemouth bass, crappie, walleye, bluegill, and catfish.

If you're looking for solely non-motorized boating, take a drive out to Griffy Lake. This lake offers a quieter alternative for recreation.

Griffy Lake Nature Preserve is home to scenic waterfront as well as ample hiking opportunities around the lake, with miles of trails ranging from easy to rugged. The Griffy Lake Boathouse has rental options for paddle boards, canoes, kayaks, and rowboats for anyone looking to enjoy the scenery from the water.





Boating at Lake Lemon will truly get you away from it all. The 1,650 acre lake is nestled amongst scenic ridges and ravines. Bring your own boat and paddle around the beautiful place that Indiana University's Rowing Team practices, or cast a line at one of Indiana's most productive fishing areas.

If you'd rather dip your toes in the water, Bloomington's lakes have you covered. Along the shores of Monroe Lake, you'll find the Paynetown and Fairfax State Recreation Areas, two popular public beaches perfect for sunbathing, swimming, or picnicking. Both beaches have nearby marinas, if you decide you want to hop on a boat during your day.

The Riddle Point Park at Lake Lemon is an excellent place to swim if you're looking to see more of Monroe County. Find the beach at the end of a beautiful drive down Tunnel Road and enjoy a swim surrounded by lush trees and blue water. The shelter house is available for rental if you're looking to have a beach-side get together with friends and family.

Spending a day on the water in Bloomington doesn't mean you have to spend a day in the water. The beautiful lakes around town are also home to ample hiking, with popular routes at both Griffy Lake Nature Preserve and Monroe Lake providing options from paved to rugged trails, giving hiking options for everyone.

After a long day enjoying the outdoors, a good meal is in order. Some of Bloomington's favorite nosheries can be found lakeside for an opportunity to refuel after a day of exploring and enjoying the water.

Right off Lake Lemon, you can find the Port Hole Inn Bar and Grill. If live music, ribs, fried catfish, and cold drinks are your speed, the Port Hole is the place to be after a day of paddling and swimming around the lake.

Closer to Monroe Lake, options for everything from brunch to pizza can be found. Overlooking the lake, the Scenic View Restaurant gives diners sweeping views of the surrounding landscape while enjoying traditional American food. The Scenic View serves lunch and dinner, as well as a weekend brunch, and the scenic drive makes for a great trip all the way around.

Located within the Fourwinds Lakeside Inn and Marina is the Windjammer Bar and Grill, offering everything from salads to pork tenderloins (a Hoosier favorite) alongside creative cocktail specials. During the spring, summer, and fall, weekend entertainment at the lake-side bar gives you ear-candy to match the eye-candy of the lake.

You don't just have to eat at the Fourwinds- if you're looking for a place to stay right next to the water, staying here will give you access to the marina, heated pools, mini golf, and easy access to the lake.

The lodge at Scenic View also gives you an option for food and rest all in one place. The Scenic View Lodge's close proximity

to the Hoosier National Forest has miles of trails to hike and sights to see, if you want to wander into the leaves alongside the lake.

Camping is also an option alongside the water in Bloomington. Lake Monroe Village and Jellystone Park have primitive, RV, and

cabin lodging options if you want to stay a little more connected to nature throughout your trip.

The best part about staying close to the water? Getting up the next morning and finding a new day's adventures, right past your doorstep.

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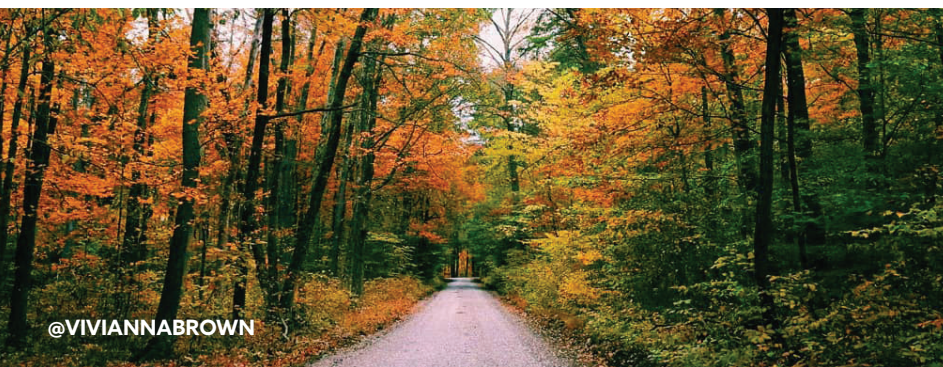
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