



## MARENGO CAVE, U.S. National Landmark

Destination Drive, approximately 70 miles round trip

The year is 1883. Two children are about to make the discovery of their lifetime - a never before seen world waits for them beneath the quiet little town of Marengo. On September 6, 1883 in the early afternoon 15-year-old Blanche Hiestand, a cook at Marengo Academy, overheard some of the schoolboys making plans to explore a deep sinkhole located near the school.

Blanche decided to beat them to it! She excitedly ran home after work and recruited her eleven-year-old brother, Orris. They grabbed some candles and snuck out of the house. Blanche and Orris quickly hiked up the hill past the cemetery by the church. They found the sinkhole, surrounded by a grove of trees, and climbed to the bottom.



Cool air steamed out of the small opening. Lighting their candles, the pair peered inside. Ignoring the darkness and the mud, Blanche squeezed into the hole. Soon she called up to Orris, "Come on in!"

Together Blanche and Orris crawled down the steep, slippery slope. They found themselves in a large chamber that appeared to continue in several directions. They heard water falling and saw formations in the distance.

Though awed by the beauty of their discovery, their flickering candles caused their courage to ebb. The pair

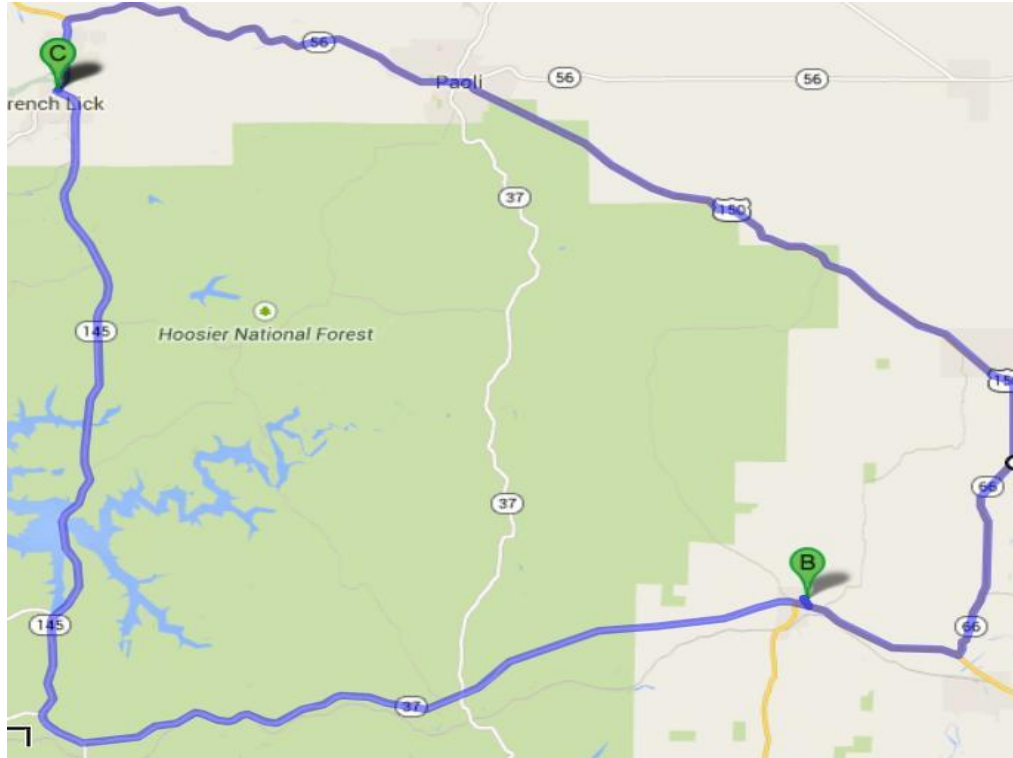
decided to turn back. The slimy, cold mud made climbing out much harder.

Blanche and Orris safely reached the top. The late summer sun felt good on their skin as the two siblings, now covered with mud, headed home. The original landowner was notified of the cave's discovery a few days later and the cave was immediately opened to the public for tours.

Today, there are two separate tours inside the cave: Crystal Palace and Dripstone Trail. Do either one or both! Open 9:00 – 5:00 daily.

Go to [www.marengocave.com](http://www.marengocave.com) for details. The phone number is: (812) 365-2705 for tickets.

## DESTINATION DRIVE to MARENGO CAVE – U.S. NATIONAL LANDMARK



70 miles round trip (One and a half hour driving time.)

- 1.** Proceed to **IN-145 S**
- 1A.** Stay straight and **IN-145 S** will become **IN-64 E**
- 2.** Continue on **IN-64 E**
- 3.** Turn left onto **IN-37/IN-64 E** (Toward English, IN)
- 3A.** Continue to follow **IN-64 E** into Marengo, IN.
- 3B.** Go Straight Go Straight thru stop sign/blinking red light in Marengo, IN
- 4.** Look for this sign:
- 4A.** Turn left into the park.
- 5.** Sharp right into parking lot.

**Marengo Cave**  
**400 East State Rd 64**  
**Marengo, IN 47140**  
**(812) 365-2705**



## RETURN TO FRENCH LICK RESORT

1. Leave park and head back to the main highway.
2. Turn left onto **IN-64 E/IN-66**
3. At flashing yellow light turn left onto **IN-66 E** (This is a Porsche Road.)
4. At stop sign turn left onto **US-150 W**
5. In Paoli, IN at stop sign, turn left onto **E Main St / Rt-56 /RT 150**
6. Go 1/2 way around the Paoli Courthouse Square, and **immediately start looking for a sign for IN 56 W.**
7. Bear right onto **IN-56 W /US-150 W / RT- 37 South** (There is a sign for **French Lick.**)
8. Continue straight on **IN-56 W (Not US-150 W)**. French Lick Resort will be on the right

**French Lick Resort**  
**8670 Indiana 56**  
**French Lick, IN 47432**