

# A Weekend Away

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One of the beautiful things about the University of Southern Indiana being located in Tri-State area is that you are only couple hours away from multiple destinations that make for the perfect day trip or weekend road trip! One of my favorite places to spend the day or the weekend is Garden of the Gods, a recreation area for hiking, camping, and nature watching located in Shawnee National Park of Herod, Illinois. It's only about an hour and a half away by car, but the landscape of rolling hills and towering rock formations give the impression that you've traveled far beyond the flat plains of Indiana. Whether you are an avid hiker looking to spend a couple nights backpacking through the forest or you're someone who would be satisfied meandering the quarter of a mile Observation Trail and finding the perfect lookout spot to set up a picnic, Garden of the Gods is one of many fun, beautiful, and accessible locations to be taken advantage of as a student at the University of Southern Indiana.

