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 **Brown County, Indiana**

## 10 Secluded Towns Lost in the Hills of Indiana's Rugged Brown County Region

By Jon Dykstra, 11 hours ago

Tucked away in the rolling hills and thick woodlands of southern Indiana, Brown County is a haven for those seeking solitude, scenic beauty, and a touch of history. With winding backroads leading to forgotten hamlets, hidden valleys, and forested retreats, this region is filled with secluded communities that feel worlds away from modern life. Whether you're drawn by the artsy charm of its historic towns, the untouched wilderness of the Hoosier National Forest, or the peaceful embrace of a quiet lakeside retreat, Brown County's hidden gems are waiting to be explored. From near-forgotten villages to artist enclaves and timber outposts, these ten towns offer a glimpse into a slower, simpler way of life. Join us as we uncover Brown County's most secluded towns—where nature thrives, history lingers, and the modern world seems to fade away.

### 10. Elkinsville: The Lost Town Whispering from the Past

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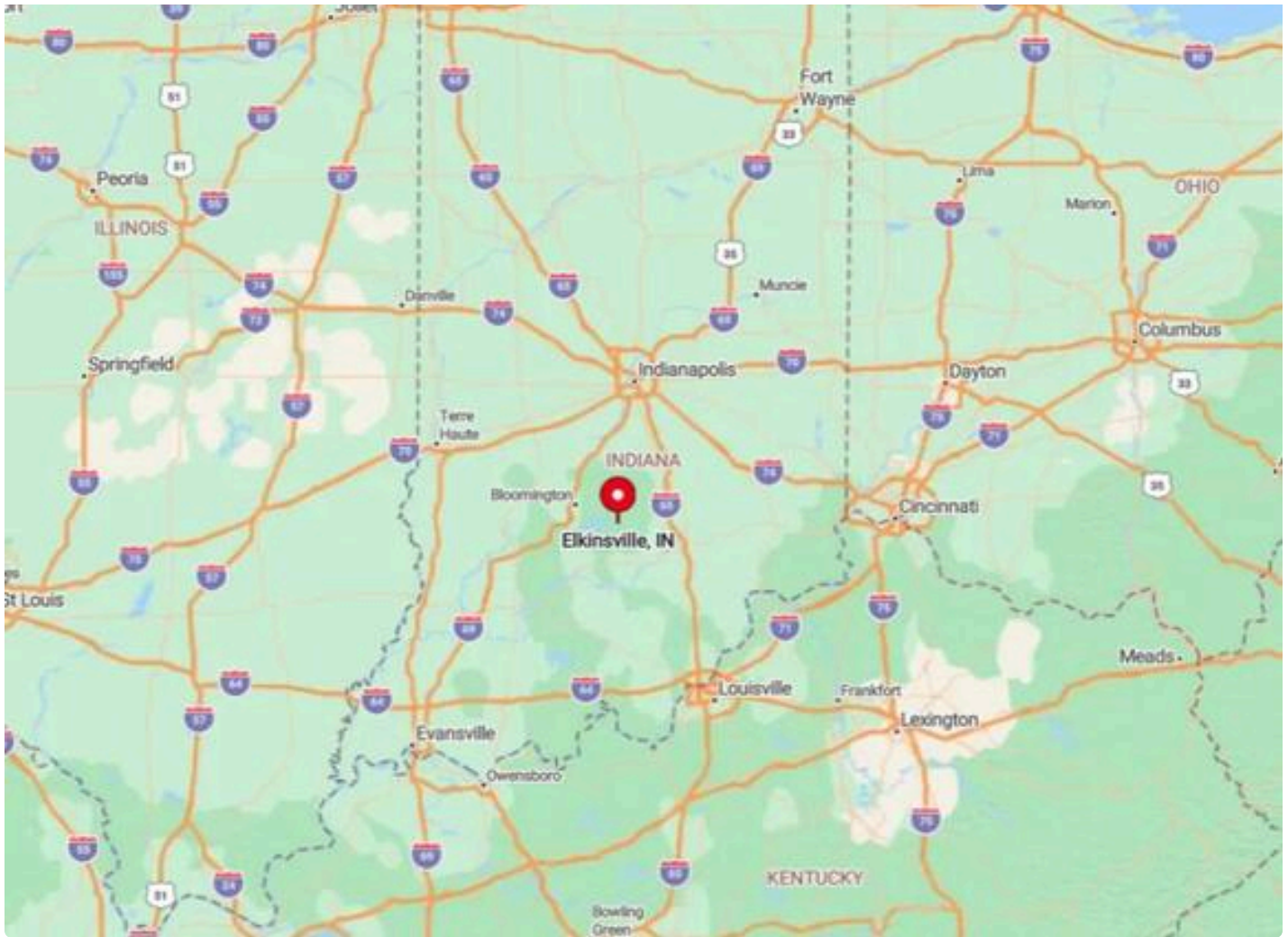
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Elkinsville, once a thriving small town, now stands as a poignant reminder of times gone by, with a population that has dwindled to just a handful of residents. Originally established in the 1800s, this nearly forgotten settlement offers a unique journey into history, with remnants like old foundations and the Elkinsville Cemetery telling tales of the past. Nature enthusiasts can explore the surrounding Hoosier National Forest, where trails lead through secluded woodlands rich with wildlife and natural beauty. The town's industries vanished after the construction of Lake Monroe in the 1960s, which led to the relocation of many families and the submergence of parts of the community. Elkinsville's seclusion is amplified by its reversion to nature, making it a serene and contemplative destination for those interested in Indiana's hidden history.

## Where is Elkinsville?

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Elkinsville is tucked away in the southern part of Brown County, nestled within the Hoosier National Forest. Its remote location, accessible via winding country roads and surrounded by dense woodlands, contributes to its sense of isolation. The absence of major highways and minimal signage make it a true hidden gem that even some locals may not know about. To reach Elkinsville, visitors must navigate through forested areas along State Road 46 and venture onto lesser-known backroads, embracing the journey as part of the experience. Its secluded setting offers a rare opportunity to disconnect from modern life and connect with the natural and historical essence of Indiana.

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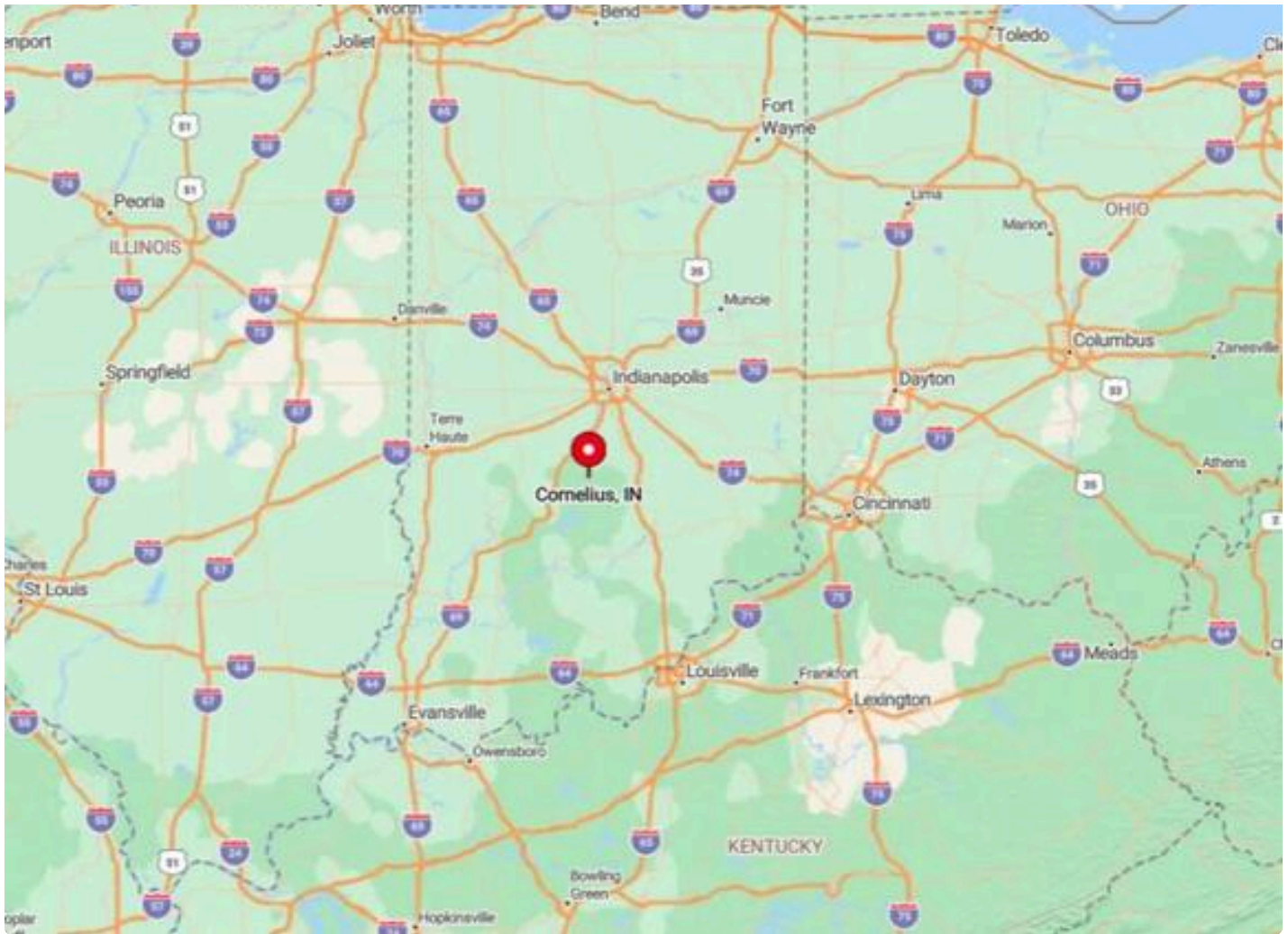
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Cornelius is a small, unincorporated community that embodies the essence of rural tranquility, with an approximate population of just a few dozen residents. Visitors to Cornelius can enjoy peaceful drives along quiet country roads, taking in the picturesque farms and gently rolling landscapes that define this part of Indiana. While there are no major industries here, agriculture remains the lifeblood of the community, contributing to its serene and pastoral atmosphere. The town's secluded charm lies in its untouched surroundings and the simplicity of life that offers a respite from urban noise. For those seeking peace and a connection to the land, Cornelius provides a genuine experience of solitude in the heart of Brown County.

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Situated in the northern part of Brown County, Cornelius is quietly tucked away northeast of Nashville, the county seat. Its location off the main thoroughfares contributes to its sense of isolation, as it's accessible primarily via smaller county roads that wind through forests and farmland. The town's seclusion is heightened by the lack of commercial development and minimal traffic, making it a peaceful spot often overlooked by travelers. To reach Cornelius, visitors can take State Road 135 and then venture onto local roads, embracing the journey through Indiana's scenic countryside. This hidden locale offers a true escape for those looking to disconnect and immerse themselves in a tranquil rural

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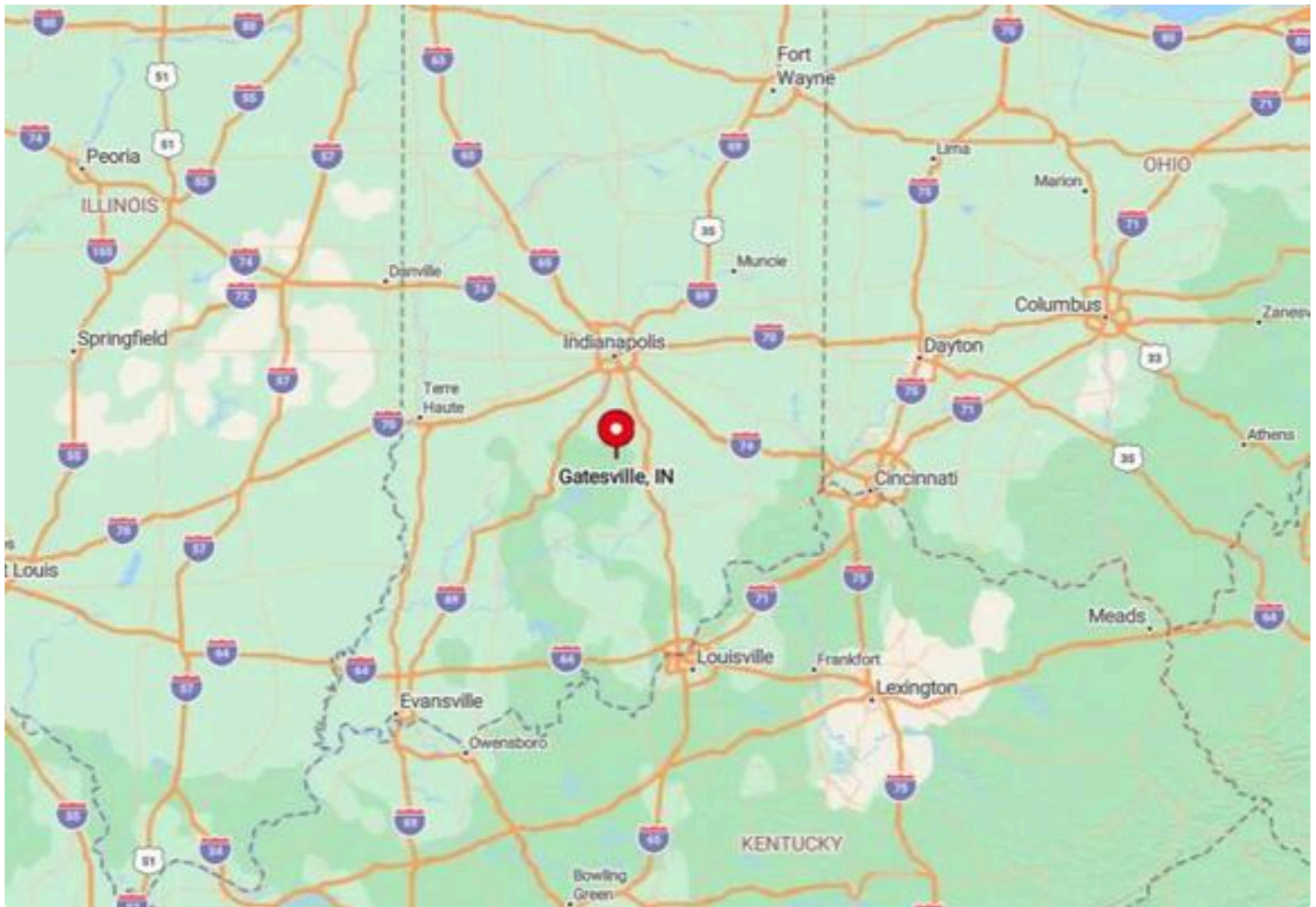
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Gatesville is a small community that beckons outdoor enthusiasts with its proximity to Salt Creek and the surrounding natural beauty, home to an estimated population of just over 100 residents. The town serves as a gateway to some of Brown County's best hiking trails, fishing spots, and opportunities for canoeing along the creek. Local businesses are minimal, preserving the area's untouched appeal, but you'll find a charming general store that caters to both locals and visitors. Gatesville's seclusion is defined by its enveloping forests and the slow pace of life where nature takes center stage. For adventurers seeking a quiet base to explore Indiana's great outdoors, Gatesville offers a serene and intimate setting.

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Located in eastern Brown County, Gatesville sits alongside Salt Creek, nestled among dense woodlands and rolling hills. The town is accessible via State Road 135, but its location away from major highways ensures that it remains a peaceful retreat. The winding roads leading into Gatesville are lined with trees, and the approach itself feels like a journey into seclusion. Visitors traveling from Indianapolis can reach Gatesville by heading south on State Road 135, then turning onto Gatesville Road, embracing the scenic drive as part of the experience. The town's hidden position amid nature makes it an idyllic spot for those looking to escape into the wilderness.

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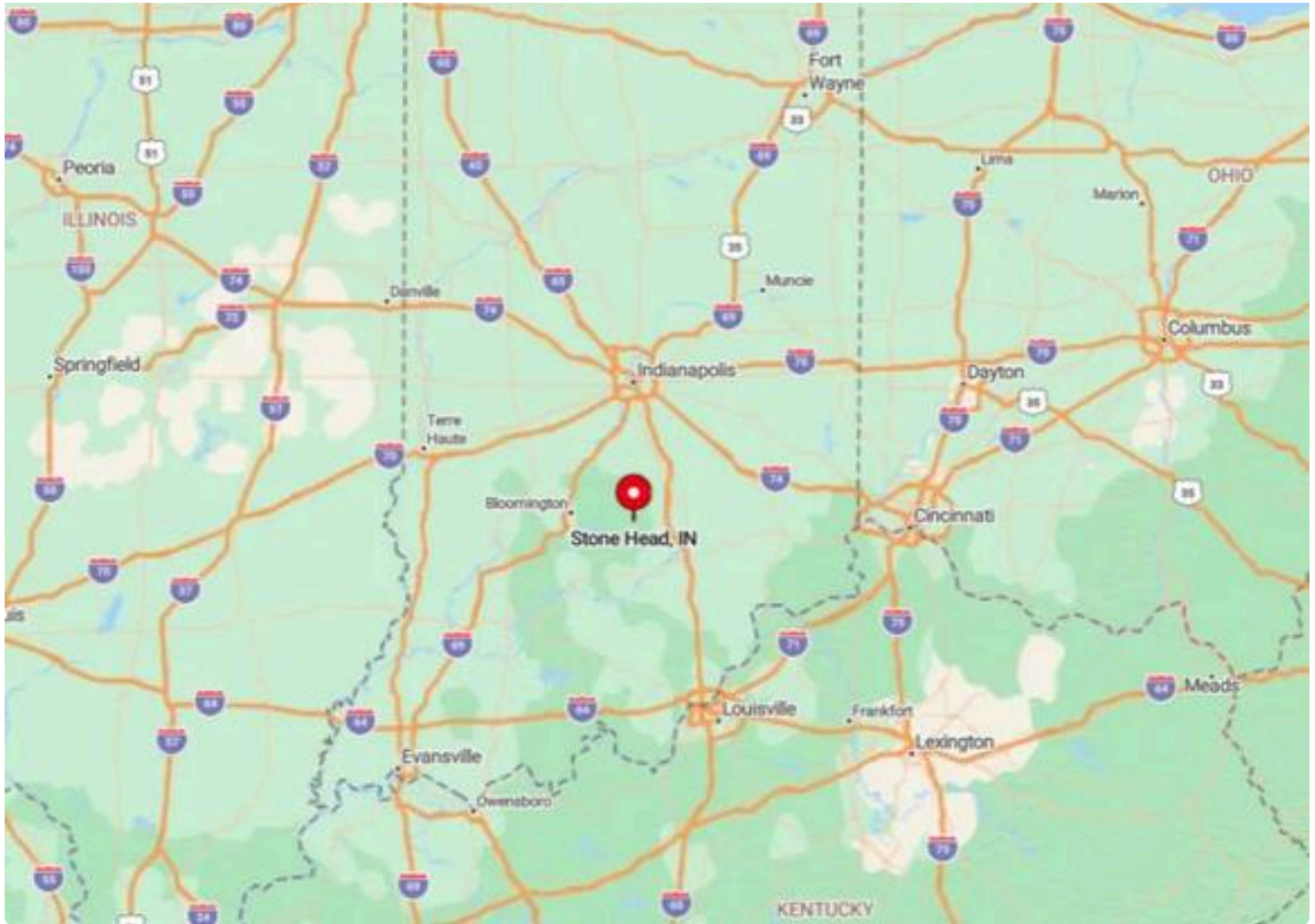
Stone Head is a quaint and historic hamlet named after the iconic stone carving that once served as both a road marker and a local landmark. With an approximate population of just a few residents, it offers a unique glimpse into Indiana's past. Visitors can explore the area to find the replica of the original Stone Head monument, browse local artisan crafts, and enjoy the serenity of the rural surroundings. There are no prominent industries here, which contributes to its peaceful ambiance. Stone Head's seclusion is underscored by its quiet roads and untouched landscapes, making it a delightful destination for history enthusiasts and those seeking solitude.

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Situated in the southeastern part of Brown County, Stone Head is located at the cross-roads of Bellsville Pike and State Road 135. Its remote location, away from bustling towns and cities, enhances its secluded charm. The area is surrounded by farmlands, forests, and the gentle curves of the countryside, contributing to its sense of isolation. To visit Stone Head, travelers can take State Road 135 south from Nashville, enjoying the scenic drive through one of Indiana's most picturesque regions. The town's hidden positioning makes it a peaceful stopover for those who appreciate history and the quiet beauty of rural settings.

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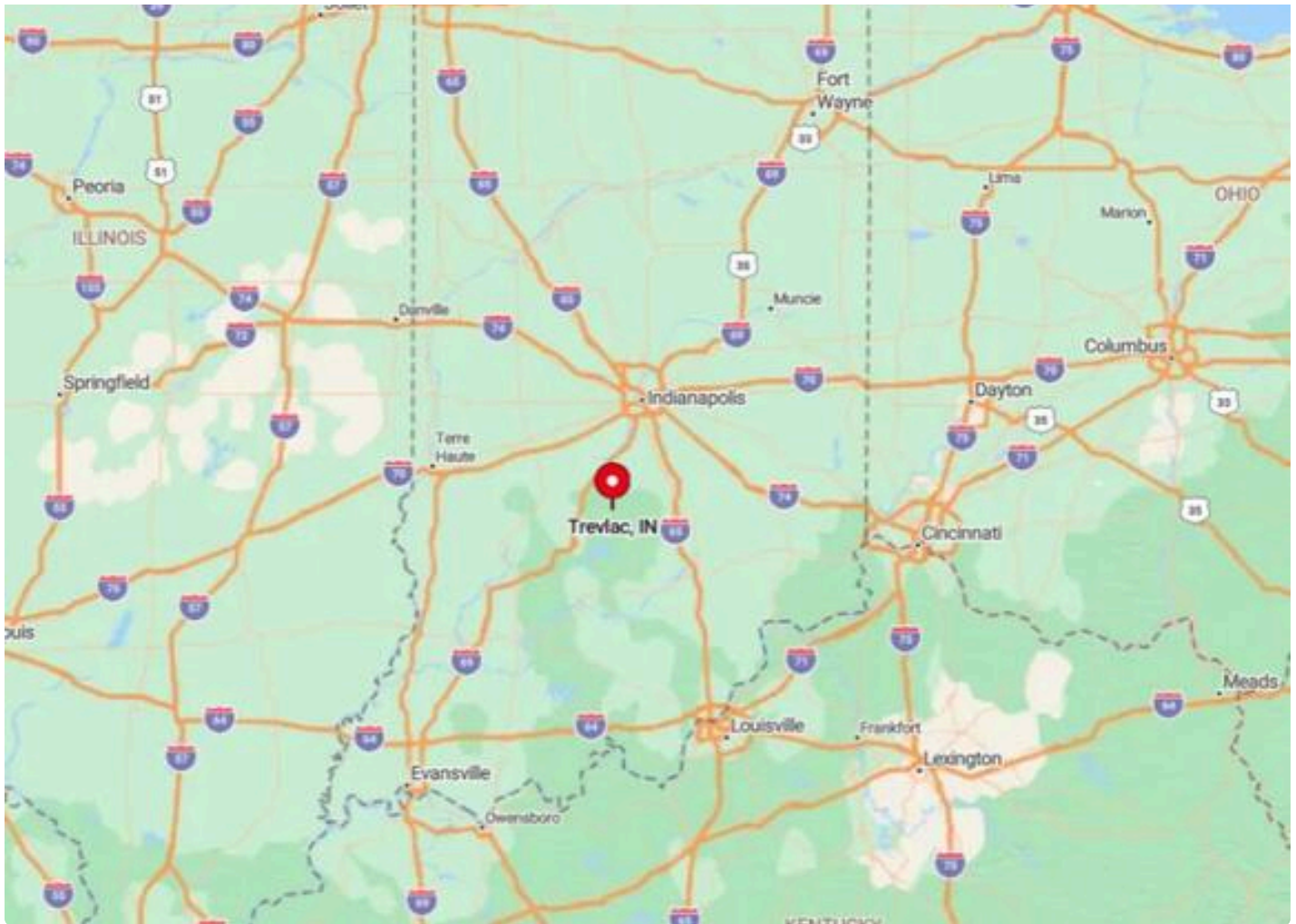
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Trevlac is a small community that offers a tranquil lakeside escape, with a population of just over 100 residents. Nestled near Yellowwood Lake, it provides ample opportunities for fishing, boating, and hiking in the surrounding Yellowwood State Forest. The local area is largely undeveloped, allowing nature to take the forefront and offering visitors a peaceful environment to unwind. There are no significant industries in Trevlac, preserving its quiet, small-town feel. The seclusion of Trevlac is marked by its dense forests and the serenity of the lake, making it a secluded paradise for nature lovers seeking respite from the noise of everyday life.

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Located in northern Brown County, Trevlac sits east of State Road 45, nestled deep within the woods. Its remote position is accentuated by the surrounding Yellowwood State Forest, which provides a natural barrier from the outside world. Access to Trevlac involves navigating through winding forest roads that add to the feeling of seclusion. Visitors can reach Trevlac by following State Road 45 and turning onto local roads leading to the lake, embracing the lush scenery along the way. The community's tucked-away location offers a serene getaway for those eager to immerse themselves in Indiana's natural beauty.

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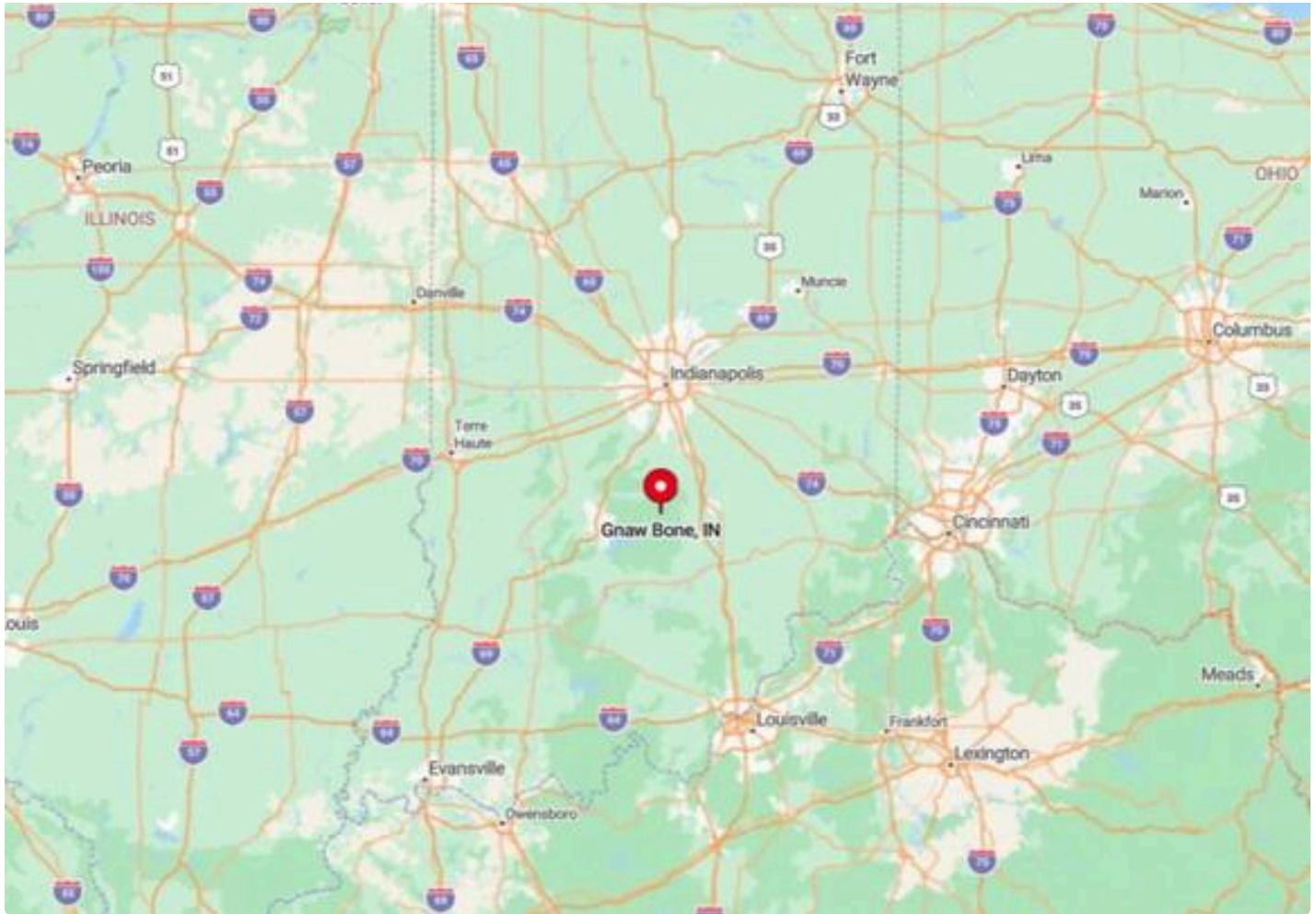
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Gnaw Bone is a small, unincorporated community known for its quirky name and rustic appeal, with a population of around 250 residents. The town is home to a variety of unique shops selling antiques, local crafts, and homemade goods, providing a delightful experience for shoppers seeking one-of-a-kind treasures. While small businesses and artisan crafts fuel the local economy, there are no major industries, allowing Gnaw Bone to maintain its rural charm. The town's seclusion is enhanced by its off-the-beaten-path location and the surrounding hills, offering visitors a taste of rural Indiana life away from the crowds.

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Situated east of Nashville along State Road 46, Gnaw Bone lies nestled among the rolling hills of Brown County. Its position between Nashville and Columbus makes it accessible yet still secluded, as it lacks the hustle of larger towns. The area's thick forests and winding roads contribute to the sense of isolation, making it feel like a hidden gem for those passing through. Travelers can reach Gnaw Bone by following State Road 46, enjoying the scenic landscapes that line the route. The town's rustic setting and unique character make it a charming stop for explorers seeking something different.

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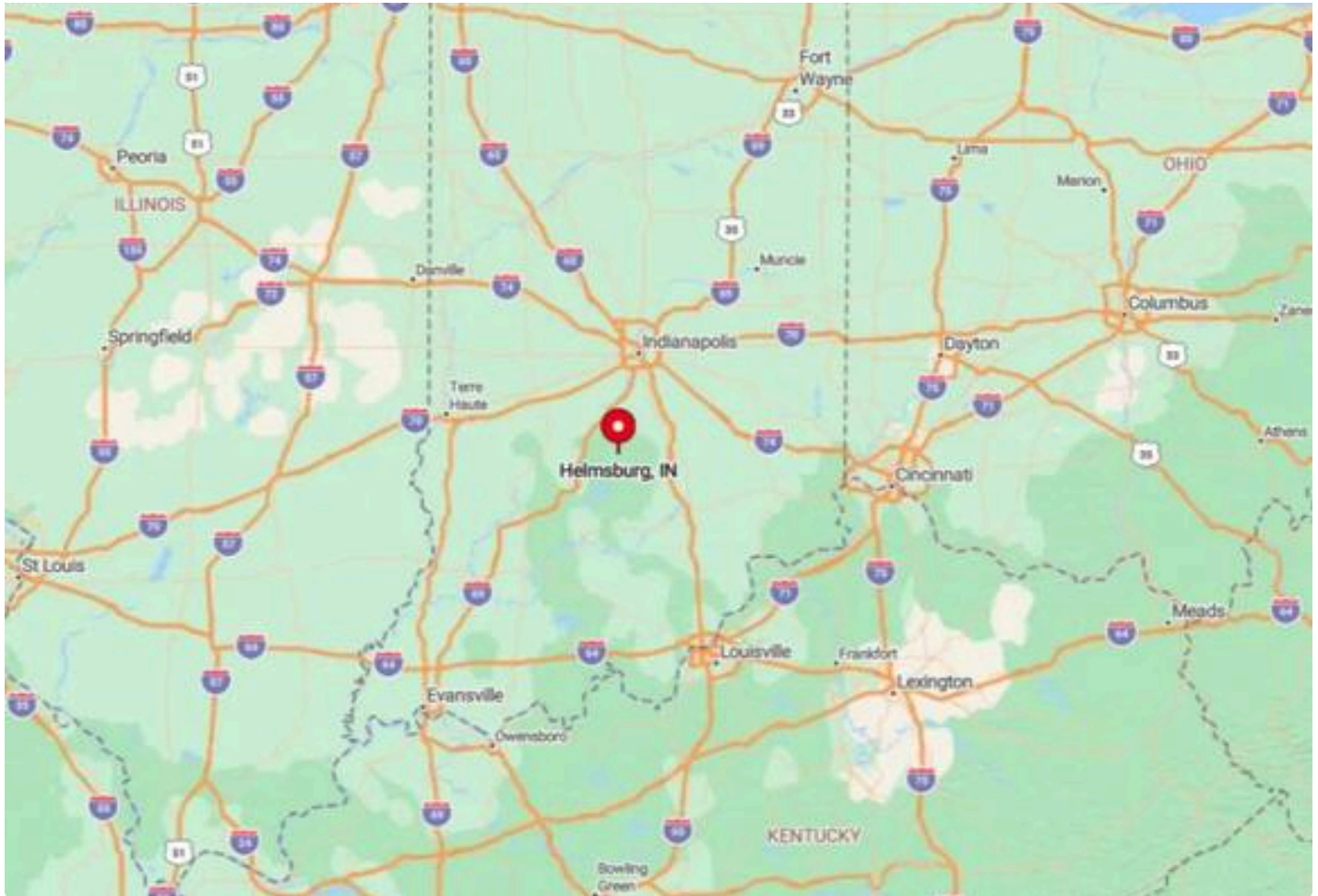
Helmsburg is a tranquil village with a close-knit community of around 150 residents, offering a serene environment amid the rolling hills of Brown County. The town is known for its local artistry, including woodworking and crafts, with studios and shops where visitors can meet artisans and purchase handcrafted items. Without major industries, Helmsburg thrives on small businesses and agriculture, maintaining its peaceful atmosphere. The village's secluded nature is due to its hillside location and the surrounding lush forests, making it an ideal spot for those seeking solitude and inspiration in a picturesque setting.

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Located northwest of Nashville, Helmsburg can be found along State Road 45, tucked away in the heart of Brown County's hill country. The town's remote setting is amplified by the meandering roads that wind through the landscape, away from major highways. This seclusion allows Helmsburg to remain a quiet haven, largely untouched by heavy traffic or commercial development. Visitors can reach Helmsburg by taking State Road 45 from Nashville or Bloomington, embracing the scenic drive through the hills. The village's hidden location offers a peaceful retreat for artists and nature lovers alike.

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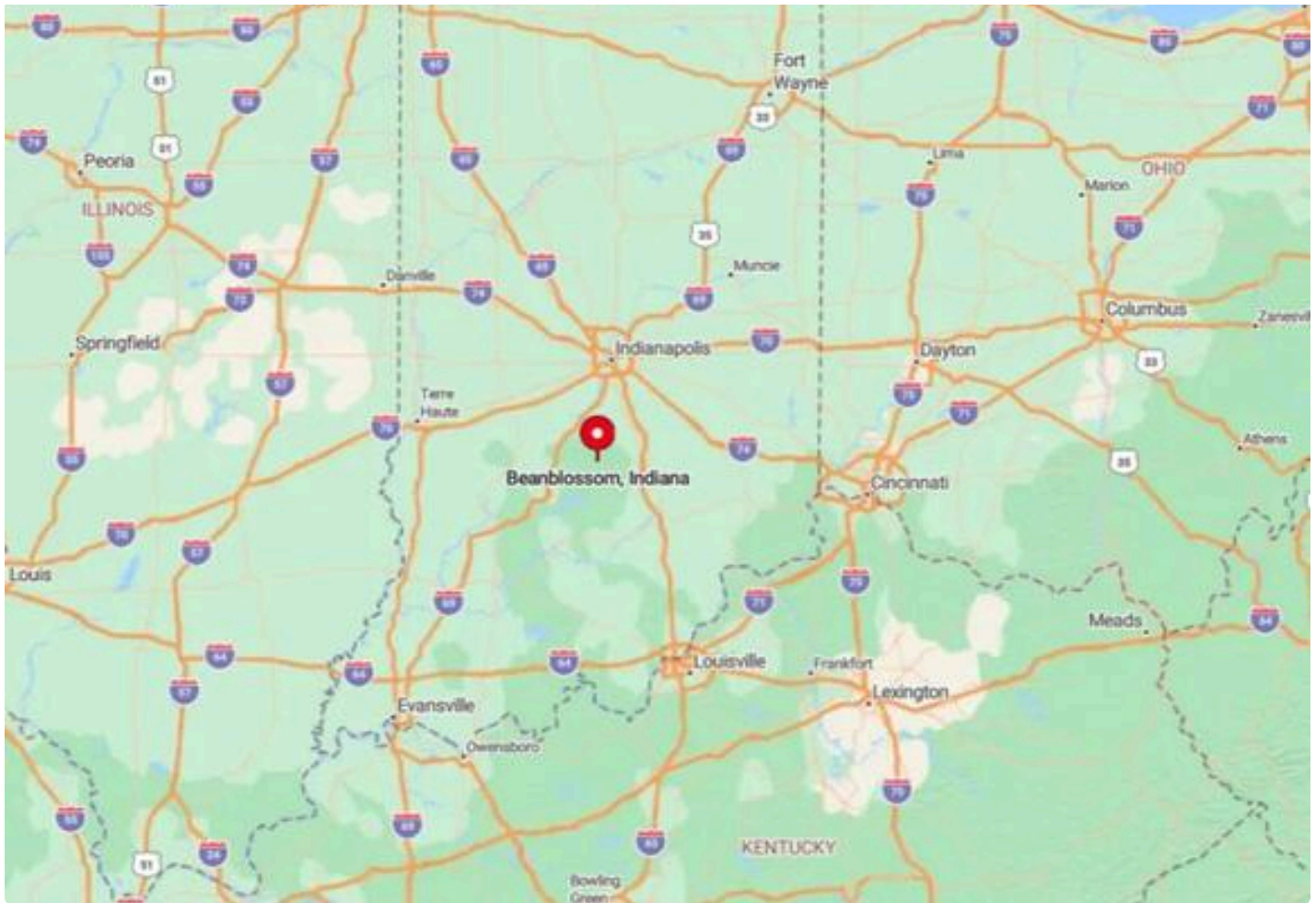
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Bean Blossom is a small community renowned for its rich bluegrass music heritage, with a population of approximately 300 residents. The town hosts the annual Bean Blossom Bluegrass Festival, the longest-running bluegrass festival in the world, drawing musicians and fans to its tranquil setting. Beyond music, visitors can explore the natural beauty of the area through hiking and camping in nearby forests. Local businesses focus on supporting the music scene and provide services for festival-goers. Bean Blossom's seclusion comes from its location amid lush woodlands and its off-the-beaten-path status, offering a unique and tranquil experience for music enthusiasts and visitors alike.

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Found in northern Brown County, Bean Blossom is situated at the junction of State Roads 135 and 45. Its remote location away from larger cities contributes to its peaceful atmosphere, while the surrounding forests provide a natural barrier from the bustle of urban life. To get there, travelers can take State Road 135 north from Nashville or south from Morgantown, enjoying a scenic drive through Indiana's picturesque countryside. The town's hidden positioning and dedication to bluegrass music make it a special destination for those seeking both solitude and cultural enrichment.

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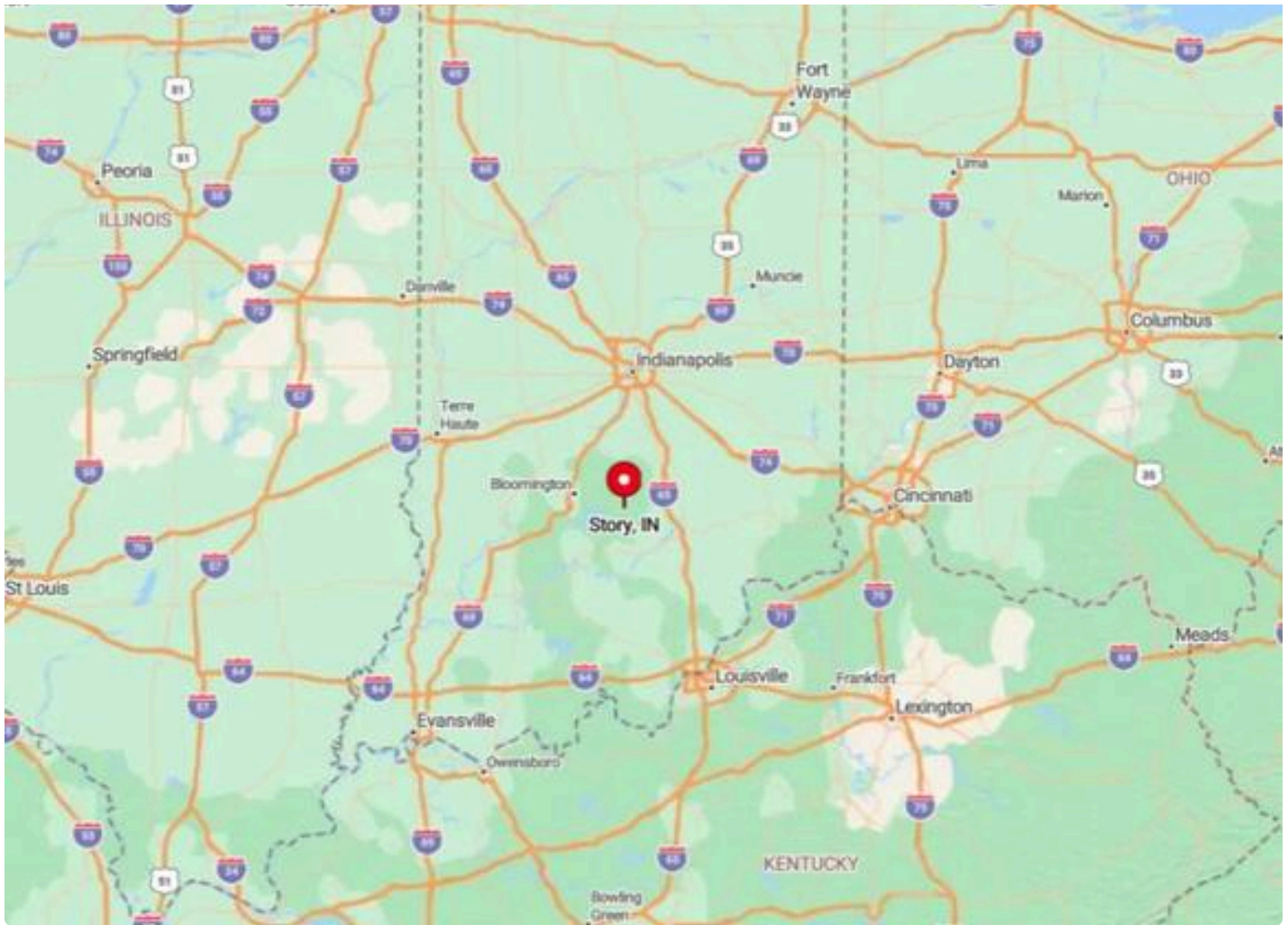
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Story is a tiny village steeped in history, boasting a population of fewer than 10 residents. Founded in 1851, it is home to the renowned Story Inn, a historic establishment offering lodging and fine dining in a rustic setting. Visitors can stay in restored cabins, explore the preserved 19th-century buildings, and enjoy events like wine tastings and live music. With no major industries, Story thrives on tourism and hospitality, providing a secluded retreat for history enthusiasts and romantics alike. The village's seclusion is due to its deep forest surroundings and lack of modern development, making it a perfect escape into Indiana's past.

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Located in the southern part of Brown County, Story lies within the vast expanse of the Hoosier National Forest. The village is accessible via winding country roads, notably off State Road 135 and Elkinsville Road. Its remote position amid dense woodlands enhances its hidden charm, as visitors must journey through scenic, secluded areas to reach it. From Nashville, it's a scenic drive south through forested hills, adding to the feeling of stepping back in time. Story's tucked-away location offers an unparalleled sense of seclusion, ideal for those seeking a historic and tranquil getaway.

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Nashville, the county seat of Brown County, is a charming town with a population of around 1,000 residents. Known for its vibrant arts scene, Nashville is home to numerous galleries, artisan shops, and studios where visitors can browse and purchase works from local artists. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy activities such as hiking and mountain biking in nearby Brown County State Park, the largest state park in Indiana. The town's economy thrives on tourism, arts, and crafts, while maintaining a relaxed, small-town atmosphere. Nashville's seclusion is characterized by its surrounding forests and hills, which provide a peaceful backdrop that feels worlds away from urban life.

## Where is Nashville?

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## A map of the Nashville, Indiana area. A red dot marks the location of Nashville, IN, 47448. The map shows major highways (Interstates 65, 74, 75, 76, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100) and cities including Peoria, Springfield, Danville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Muncie, Lima, Marion, Columbus, Dayton, Cincinnati, Athens, Meads, Lexington, Louisville, Evansville, Owensboro, Bowling Green, and St. Charles. The map also shows the state boundaries for Illinois, Ohio, and Kentucky.

Situated in the heart of Brown County, Nashville is nestled among rolling hills and dense woodlands, accessible via State Roads 135 and 46. Its central location in the county makes it a hub for exploring the surrounding secluded communities. The town is located about an hour south of Indianapolis, yet the meandering roads and scenic landscapes make it feel much more remote. Visitors can reach Nashville by following State Road 46 east from Bloomington or west from Columbus, enjoying the beauty of the countryside along the way. Nashville's picturesque setting and welcoming community make it a perfect starting point for experiencing the seclusion and charm of Brown County.

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