

TRAILS OF PINNACLE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK



Trails of Pinnacle Mountain State Park

Welcome hikers young and old! The many trails of Pinnacle Mountain State Park will lead you into bottomland hardwood forests, shaded boulder strewn valleys, along cypress lined rivers and wind swept mountaintops. Whatever trail you choose to take, the following tips and trail choices will help make your experience a more enjoyable one.

Trails

There are over forty miles of trail maintained by the park. They range from a 1/2-mile paved self-guided nature trail to the Ouachita National Backpacking Trail.

Please observe the following:

- 1) Hike only on designated trails to prevent erosion;
- 2) Keep bikes, horses and motorized vehicles off trails;
- 3) Use caution and wear non-skid footgear on steep and rocky trails;
- 4) Take plenty of water on warm days;
- 5) Leave wildlife, rocks and plants undisturbed for the enjoyment of others;
- 6) **Pets must be leashed at all times.**
- 7) While walking the trails, please pick up a piece of litter and do a valuable service in keeping the trails clean. Glass containers are not allowed on any trails.

TRAILHEADS STARTING FROM THE WEST SUMMIT PICNIC AREA

(Located off State Hwy. 300)

West Summit Trail

The trailhead is located near the middle of the picnic area, along the edge of the mountain and nearly across from the rest rooms. The trail

itself starts just past the water fountain and bulletin board, and across a small rock bridge. This trail has been divided into ten equal sections. The sections are designated by metal trail markers that are numbered from zero to ten. YELLOW blazes mark the trail route. If you are reporting trail-related information to the park staff, please take note of the numbered marker nearest you as a point of reference.

It is 3/4 of a mile from the trailhead sign to the bulletin board located in the saddle of the mountain, where you will find trail marker number 10. It is recommended you allow about 45 minutes for your trip to the top, and another 45 minutes for the 3/4-mile trip back down the West Summit trail.

Be aware that taking the East Summit trail, blazed in RED and WHITE paint, down from the top will lead you AWAY from the picnic area where you started.

Take plenty of water if you plan to hike the summit trails in summer. In cases of extreme winter ice, these trails may be closed.

Please do not damage the mountain slope by "short cutting" off the trail, and encourage others to stay on the trail. Hiking off the trail has many negative impacts, the worst two being the erosion of Pinnacle Mountain's already thin soils and the destruction of the native plants found here.

Kingfisher Trail

This gentle 1/2-mile, 30-minute loop is paved and is excellent for baby strollers, the physically limited and for exercise walking. Follow the sidewalk from the picnic area rest rooms to reach the trail sign. This walk is highlighted by huge, 500-600 year-old bald cypress trees along the banks of the Little Maumelle River. A self-guided booklet describing the bottomland forest is available at the trail sign and the Visitor Center. The brochure is free to use if returned to the drop box at the

start of the trail. This trail is a favorite for many school groups. Insect repellent may be needed during the late spring and summer months. For bird watchers the Kingfisher can offer many species during the spring migration.

Base Trail

Starting on the north side (left) of the Little Maumelle boat ramp at the far end of the picnic area, this 1 1/4-mile trail curves around the southeastern base of Pinnacle Mountain and connects with the East Summit Trailhead parking lot. Round trip distance is 2 1/2-miles. The first portion of the trail is fairly level and offers views of the river. Several moderate slopes and a variety of plant communities will be encountered. The trail is blazed in LIGHT GREEN.

TRAILHEADS LOCATED AT THE EAST SUMMIT PARKING LOT

(Located on Pinnacle Valley Road)

East Summit Trail

The start of the trail is in the southeast corner of the parking lot. Walk about 10 yards down the trail to the trail junction, take the right fork following the RED and WHITE blazes. This is the more rugged 3/4-mile ascent to the summit of Pinnacle Mountain and requires crossing several boulder fields. Allow 1 to 2 hours depending on weather for this 1 1/2-mile round trip workout. Remember, when you reach the summit there is another trail that would lead you AWAY from the East Summit Parking Lot, so follow the same RED and WHITE blazes for the shortest descent back.

Ouachita Trail

This section of the National Recreation Backpacking Trail crosses the parking lot and continues west 1/2-mile to State Hwy. 300 where the trail continues north out of the park. In the opposite direction, the trail also crosses

Pinnacle Valley Road and continues 1 1/2-miles east to the main trailhead located at the Visitor Center. This trail is marked in BLUE. (See Visitor Center Trailheads for more information.)

TRAILS IN THE ARKANSAS ARBORETUM

(Located on Pinnacle Valley Road)

The Arkansas Trail

The Arkansas Trail is located near the center of the park within the 80-acre Arkansas Arboretum. This 3/4-mile long, paved barrier free walking trail only, is dedicated to helping students, visitors and Arkansas citizens understand the variety and many values of Arkansas's trees and forests. Interpretive signs with recorded messages located around the trail help introduce the state's trees and it's natural and geological history. Guided tours for groups and field study classes may be scheduled on a staff-available basis, by appointment. In order to help protect the arboretum and arboretum visitors, please observe the rules: 1) All plants and animals are protected (do not pick leaves or flowers!) 2) Please remove all trash or litter 3) Horses, bikes, or motorized vehicles not allowed 4) **Pets must be leashed** 5) Winter hours 8 am to 5 pm.

Additional trails, a greenhouse and an education center are proposed for the arboretum.

TRAILHEADS STARTING FROM THE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER

(Located off Pinnacle Valley Rd. and access road.)

Scenic Overlook

To reach the overlook, start from the east corner of the upper parking lot. Follow the main trail to the first intersection and turn left up the flight of stairs. The overlook is 75 yards from the parking lot. You will find scenic views of the Arkansas River Valley, Pinnacle Mountain and Lake Maumelle, it is an excellent location for observing migrating hawks in the fall. (For

those not able to walk stairs, the Visitor Center balcony offers a view of the Arkansas River.)

Rocky Valley Trail

The trailhead starts at the same location as the overlook trail in the upper parking lot of the visitor center. This 2-mile loop enters into a heavily forested valley after leaving an old rock quarry area. The trail is marked in GREEN blazes. Allow 1 1/2 to 2 hours to go down and back up this valley. (For a longer trip, see listing for East Quarry Trail.)

East Quarry Trail

This trail is a 1/2-mile spur from the midpoint of the Rocky Valley Trail. It leads to the eastern portion of the park and climbs a steep hillside to another quarry area which offers a rock-lined overlook with dramatic vistas of Pinnacle Mountain and the Arkansas River Valley. The trail is 1-mile round trip from the Rocky Valley spur. RED blazes mark the route.

Ouachita Trail

Follow the sidewalk down hill from the Visitor Center to the lower parking lot to reach the eastern trailhead of the Ouachita National Backpacking Trail. The trail winds west two miles inside the park boundary, then continues 222 miles to the Arkansas / Oklahoma border. The trail is blazed in BLUE. Maps and trail guides are available. **Overnight backpackers planning to leave vehicles in the park must register at the Visitor Center.**

OTHER TRAIL ACTIVITIES

Backpacking/Nature Hikes

The park sponsors introductory backpacking workshops and has rental backpacking equipment. Inquire at the Visitor Center for information. Naturalist-led hiking adventures are offered as listed in the park calendar of events. Schools and other groups interested in naturalist-

led programs, should call well ahead to schedule program dates.

Little Maumelle River Canoe Trail

Guided canoe day floats are scheduled in spring and fall. Call early for reservations. A 4 1/2-mile signed float starts from the boat ramp at the West Summit Picnic Area. Inquire at the Visitor Center about river levels and a map.

Birding / Wildlife Viewing Routes

There are many short walks that offer opportunities for wildlife observation. Visit with park staff to find out more. Nature guides, exhibits, and a wildlife feeding area can be found at the Visitor Center.

Hiking Information

The Visitor Center gift shop has hats, walking staffs, maps and trail guides, and vending machines are available for drinks.

Water fountains can be found at the Visitor Center, Arkansas Arboretum, East Summit Parking Lot, and the West Summit Trailhead and rest room area.

Rest rooms are located at the Visitor Center, Arkansas Arboretum and the West Summit Picnic Area.

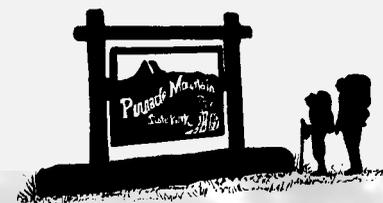
Call or write for more information:
(501) 868-5806 Fax (501) 868-5018
e-mail: pinnaclemtn@arkansas.com
www.ArkansasStateParks.com

Volunteer Opportunities

Anyone interested in becoming a trail guide or adopting a trail should contact the Director of Volunteers at the Visitor Center for more information about our volunteer program.

Pinnacle Mountain State Park

**11901 PINNACLE VALLEY ROAD
ROLAND, AR 72135**



Hiking Adventure



Trails of

