

Horse Trails of Devil's Den State Park

GORLEY KING TRAIL

(RED) 7 MILES, 4 HOURS

The Gorley King Trail is named as a memorial to Mr. Gorley King from Springdale, Arkansas and follows the ridge on which Benjamin Holt settled in the late 1800's. Mr. King was one of the first to ride these trails and blaze routes to Holt Ridge. The trail begins on the east side of the horse camp. As it makes its way down to Lee Creek, it passes through a limestone glade and beside a natural bridge - one of three along this trail. After crossing the creek, the Gorley King Trail forks and joins the Butterfield Hiking Trail, (BHT—blue blazes).

Traveling to the left, or north, the Gorley King, Vista Point, and Butterfield Trails are one and the same. The trails gradually ascend to a level bench some 50 feet above the creek. Camping Area E is across the creek. Just past the maintenance complex, the Butterfield turns to the left, while the two horse trails continue up the hill.

From here the trail ascends nearly 350 feet in one half mile. About half way up, it comes within view of Highway 74. The trail then turns to the southwest and levels out for another half mile. Eventually the trail leads to the Holt Ridge Overlook, a natural cedar and grass clearing, or glade. Looking below, you will see Camping

Area E and the CCC Dam and lake. Looking north, you will see about five miles up Lee Creek Valley. Looking west, you will see the Ellis Creek hollow.

One quarter mile past the overlook, the trail again intersects with the Butterfield Hiking Trail, and the two coincide for the next 1.5 miles. The Butterfield then forks left (east), and the horse trail heads right (west) where it descends the ridge nearly 350 feet to Lee Creek. From there it follows an old logging road, crosses the creek, and heads north through a cedar grove. It crosses the creek again in less than half a mile and then runs along the base of the ridge, occasionally coming within sight of the creek.

About a mile from the last creek crossing, the horse trail again intersects the Butterfield Hiking Trail. From this point on, the trails coincide. The trail finishes its loop just past the natural bridges. To return to camp, simply turn left, cross the creek, and follow the blazes to the horse camp.

VISTA POINT TRAIL

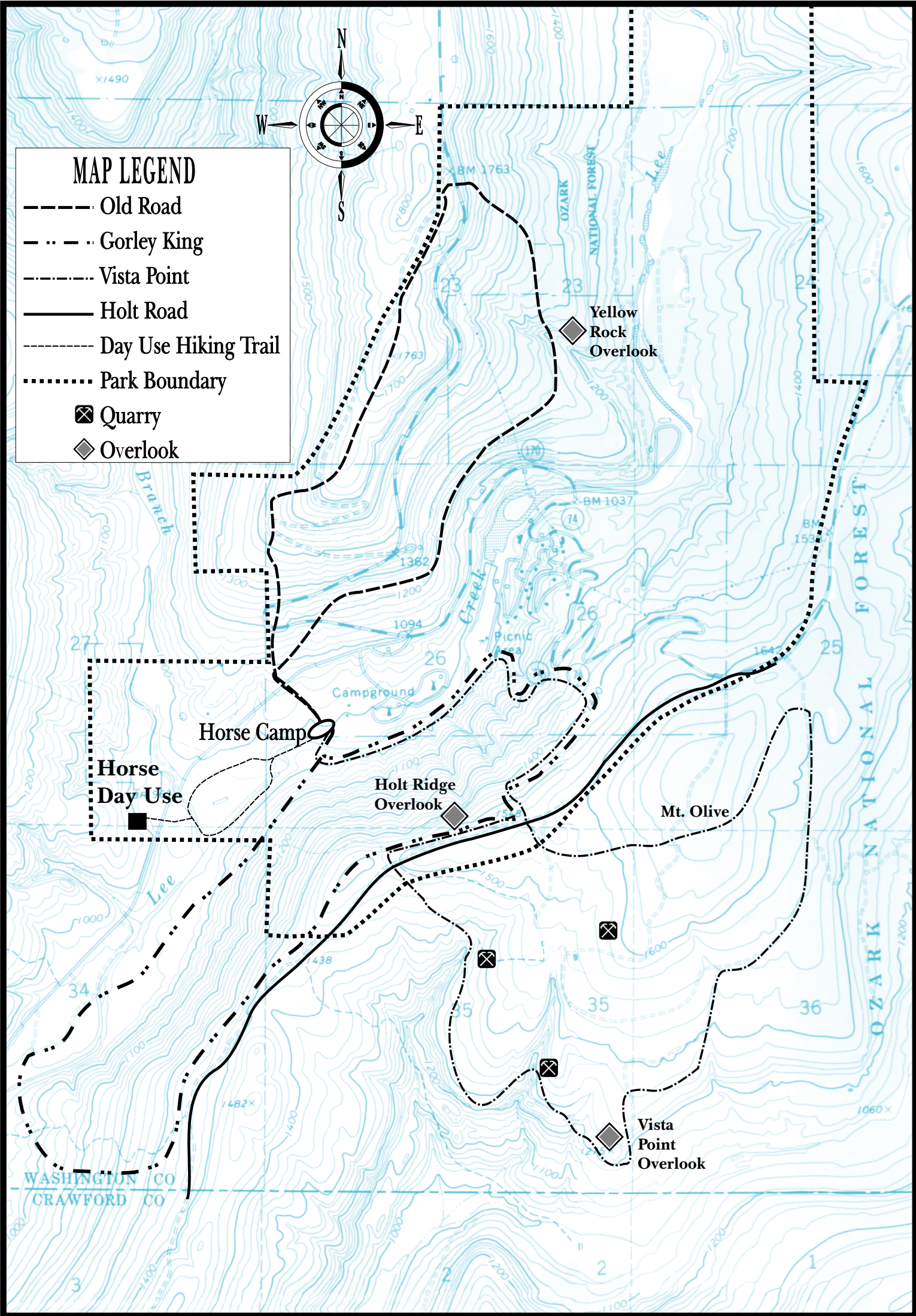
(GREEN) 9 MILES, 5 HOURS

The Vista Point Trail is named after the Vista Point Overlook above Blackburn Creek. The Vista Point and Gorley King Trails are the same for the first 1.5 miles. See the description of the Gorley King Trail for this section.

When the trail forks, follow the trail to the left, or east. The Vista Point Trail gradually ascends the ridge, crosses Holt Road, runs east and then quickly crosses another road which leads to the upper rock quarry used by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The Vista Point Trail then climbs Mt. Olive, crosses the Butterfield Hiking Trail and levels off to the east of the knob.

As it descends, the trail passes within feet of a hand-dug well and a late 19th century homesite. Shortly thereafter it intersects with an old road. Highway 74 is immediately to the left of this intersection; the horse trail follows the road to the right. This intersection is near the site of the old Mt. Olive school and church which served the homesteaders of this remote area from the late 1880's until 1937.

The horse trail follows the old road for a mile and then turns left down another old road.



The horse trail leaves the road and gradually descends to the bluff edge of Vista Point. The Vista Point Overlook offers one of the finest views into the rugged wilderness of the Boston Mountains and Blackburn water shed. About 100 yards past the overlook the horse trail joins the Butterfield Hiking Trail (blue blazes) for a short distance. The Butterfield forks left and down the hill into Quail Valley while the horse trail continues up along the bluff. Quail Valley is a unique geologic area, and it is well worth the time to **dismount** and explore its bluff shelters, crevices and waterfalls.

After leaving the bluff edge, the trail passes through the lower rock quarry where in the 1930's, the CCC removed sandstone boulders to build the cabins, restaurant, Visitor Center and other park structures. From the quarry, the horse trail crosses the ridge and the Holt Road and then rejoins the Butterfield and Gorley King Trails. Follow the blazes to the right, or northeast, to reach the Holt Ridge Overlook and complete the loop. At the loops junction, follow the blazes to the left down the ridge, across the creek, and back to the horse camp.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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SEE OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.ARKANSASSTATEPARKS.COM
WWW.ADVENTURESTATEPARKS.COM

Notice: To preserve scenic beauty and ecology, fences and warning signs have not been installed in some park locations. Caution and supervision of your children are required while visiting these areas.

HORSE TRAILS

of Devil's Den State Park



ARKANSAS

HORSE TRAILS

of Devil's Den State Park

Welcome to the horse trails of Devil's Den State Park. The park has about 20 miles of designated horse trails. They will lead you through the Lee Creek Valley, on top of the surrounding ridges, to historical sites, scenic vistas and waterfalls.

There are three different horse trails, all of which begin and end at the horse camp. Each trail is marked with a colored plate bearing a horse shoe symbol. The Old Road Trail is marked with yellow plates. The Gorley King Trail is marked with red plates and the Vista Point Trail is marked with green plates. Both the Gorley King and the Vista Point Trail begin near the bathhouse in the horse camp. Several portions of these two trails coincide. Both red and green plates mark these sections of trail.

Horses are welcome on Arkansas State Highways 220, 170 and 74 but are not permitted on other park roads or in use areas other than the horse camp. In addition, horses are not permitted on any of the hiking trails other than those places where the horse trail

and hiking trail (as in the case of a portion of the Butterfield) is one and the same. Hikers and mountain bikers are permitted on horse trails but must yield to horses.

OLD ROAD TRAIL

(YELLOW) 4.5 MILES, 2 HOURS

The Old Road Trail is named for the dirt road (old Highway 170) built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933. The horse trail occasionally follows this road. This trail is the only horse trail entirely within the park boundary.

The trail begins in the staging area across Ark. Hwy 220 from the horse camp entrance. The trail immediately crosses an abandoned road which was the main road through the Lee Creek Valley nearly one hundred years ago. As the trail makes its way up the hill, it passes by discarded automobile parts from a bygone era.

The trail passes through a cedar grove and then forks. Although you may ride this loop trail in either direction, this brochure is written as if you were riding it clockwise. Going left at the fork, the trail gradually ascends the hill and comes within a few yards of the 15 mph curve on Highway 170. Eventually the trail intersects the old CCC road which is still well defined. The trail then turns left (northwest) up the hill. There is a small, concrete structure on the left side of this stretch of trail. This small structure was used as an explosives bunker during construction of the old CCC road. Eventually the horse trail rejoins the old CCC

road and continues to the right heading north. It then continues through the woods until it crosses Highway 170. **Please use caution when crossing the highway.**

After crossing the highway, the trail descends 400 feet in less than a mile. As the trail levels off, it crosses the Yellow Rock Hiking Trail. Horses are not permitted on most sections of this trail. However at this point you may wish to turn left and travel about 200 yards down the trail to a hitching post where you may tie your horse. From there you may walk about 100 yards to Yellow Rock, a spectacular bluff that towers 250 feet above the valley floor. **Horses are not permitted at Yellow Rock Bluff.**

From the Yellow Rock intersection, the horse trail is fairly level for the next mile as it follows a bench on the mountainside. The trail works its way along the southwest side of the mountain, nestled between a shelter bluff above and a cliff ridge below. This half mile is especially scenic and offers excellent views of the park and the valley. The trail passes just below the CCC Overlook, and then descends 130 feet where it again intersects Highway 170. After crossing the highway, the trail turns to the west and completes the loop. The trailhead is just down the hill and to the left from this intersection.