

Lake Charles State Park's Kayaking Adventures

will introduce you to the wonders of nature on Northeast Arkansas's largest man-made lake. Adventurers will observe a variety of animal and plant species on the tour.

The lake, within the Mississippi flyway, is used by many migratory birds such as the white pelican, double-crested cormorant and several species of ducks for a resting area during their migration. Great blue heron, belted king fisher, and bald eagle are regularly seen here.

Deer, raccoons, opossums, and grey squirrels can be observed as you glide silently along the shoreline of the lake. Kayaks are great for viewing wildlife because they allow you to get close without the roar of a motor. It is surprising what can be seen while gently gliding on the lake in a kayak!

Lake Charles State Park offers guided and self-guided kayak tours. Kayaks are relatively easy to use and anyone in moderately good condition will have no trouble. Both tours include paddles and personal floatation devices and last about 1.5 hours. Bring along a bottle of water to ease your thirst. Glass containers are not allowed.

Tours begin at the swim beach. The tour route is marked by white buoys. Pre-register at the visitor center. Participants are asked to arrive 15 minutes before the scheduled tour time. We have a select number of tandem kayaks for those wishing to share. After a short orientation, participants will launch their kayaks.

The tour begins along the shore of the day use area, be careful not to disturb the fishermen. As you paddle toward the first buoy, the tour leads you into open water. Gliding along, the conversation may be interrupted at anytime by a call of a bird or a fish seen. As you paddle across the main body of the lake, stop and allow the kayaks to drift. This is a good opportunity to watch birds that are in the area.

Follow the buoys toward Flippo Cove. The cove is the largest on the lake and many springs surface in it. Before the lake was built, these springs were used as a water source by residents in the area. The cove has standing timber that many birds use as a resting area. Most of the area is undeveloped with the oak-hickory forest growing up to the water's edge. Different species of mammals may be seen as you glide along the shore. Notice the green, erect plant that grows along the shoreline. It is called alligator weed. During the summer, it blooms with small white flowers. We have alligator weed but no alligators.

Follow the buoys to the back of the cove where a small stream enters the lake. Keep your eyes and ears open for wildlife as you quietly paddle up the stream for a few hundred feet. At this point, observe the forest. Listen to the sounds of nature. This is a good time to reflect on what you have seen, take a break and have a drink of water. More wildlife may be seen as you return to the day use area.

Guided kayak adventures are scheduled each Saturday and Sunday morning from April through October. Groups (maximum of eight) may schedule a private guided group tour with advance notice.

Have fun and enjoy nature on one of Lake Charles State Park's kayaking adventures!

Kayak Adventure Fees

(Guided and Self Guided)

Adults.....\$10

Children (6 - 12).....\$5

Children under age 6.....Free when riding tandem with an adult.

Lake Charles State Park Mission Statement

To promote tourism by providing high quality services and facilities to all park visitors while preserving the resources within its boundaries.



Lake Charles State Park

3705 Highway 25

Powhatan, AR 72458

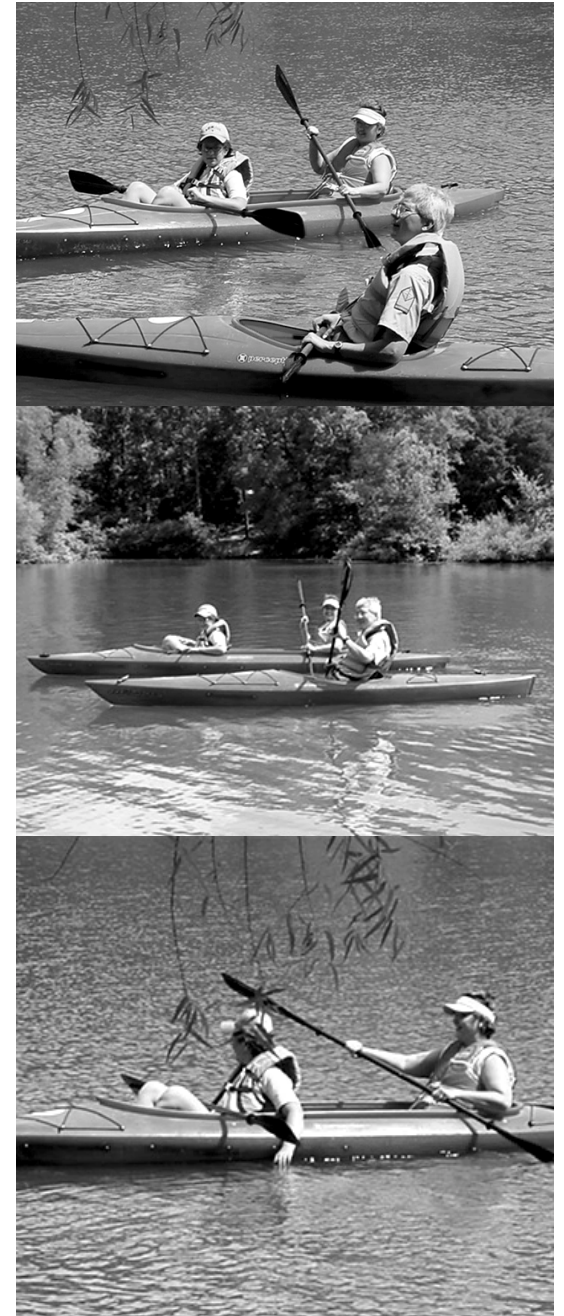
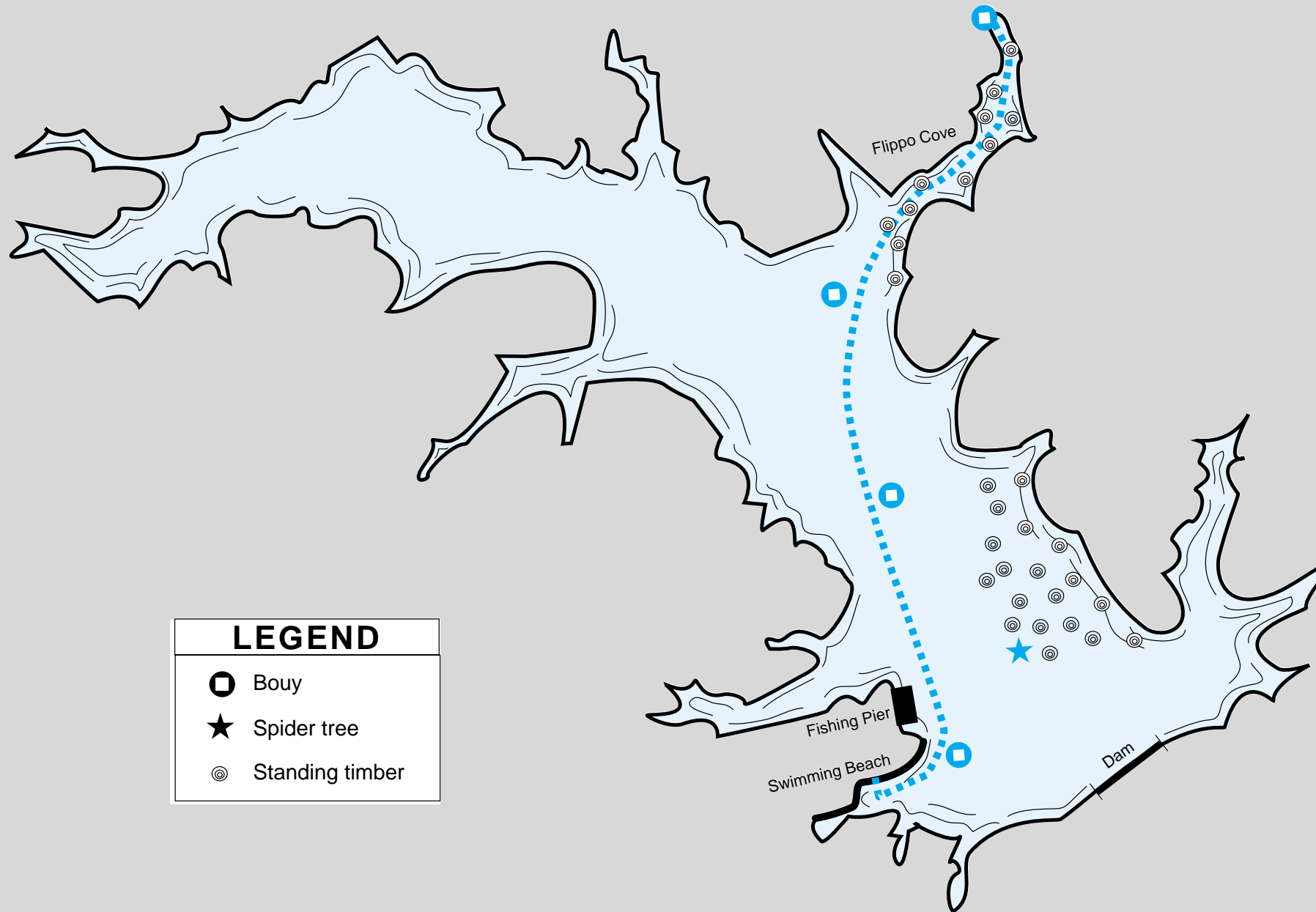
(870) 878-6595

lakecharles@arkansas.com

www.ArkansasStateParks.com



Lake Charles State Park



Kayaking Adventures at Lake Charles State Park.