

### PINNACLE MOUNTAIN



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

#### TRAIL GUIDELINES

There are over 40 miles of trails maintained by the park. They range from a .5 - mile paved self-guided nature trail to the 223 mile Ouachita National Backpacking Trail. *Please observe the following:* 

- Hike only on designated trails to prevent erosion
- 2. Keep bikes, horses and motorized vehicles off trails.
- 3. Use caution and wear sturdy, non-skid footgear on steep and rocky trails.
- 4. Always carry plenty of water for yourself, children, and pets.
- 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 near the middle of the picnic area, at the edge of the mountain and nearly across from the restrooms. This trail is been divided into 10 equal sections, designated by metal trail markers that are numbered from zero to 10. Yellow blazes also mark the trail route. If you are reporting trail-related

information to park staff, please note the numbered marker nearest you as a point of reference.

It is .75 miles from the trailhead sign to the interpretive sign located in the saddle of the mountain near the top, at trail marker number 10. We recommend you allow about 45 minutes for your trip to the top, and another 45 minutes for the .75-mile trip back down.

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 also 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 .5-mile, 30-minute loop is paved and is excellent for baby strollers, guests with mobility limitations, and for exercise walking. Follow the sidewalk from the picnic area restrooms to reach the trailhead. This walk is highlighted by huge, 500-600 year-old baldcypress trees along the banks of the Little Maumelle River. 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 offers many species during spring migration.

#### **BASE TRAIL**

This trail is blazed in **light green**. Starting at the West Summit Trailhead, approximately 50 yards up the trail you will encounter the Base Trail. You can choose to hike the Base Trail clockwise around Pinnacle

Mountain by going left or you can go right to make the Base Trail loop around the mountain in a counterclockwise direction. This 3-mile trail circles the entire base of Pinnacle Mountain and conveniently connects the West Summit Trailhead with the East Summit Trailhead. While hiking the Base Trail you will encounter intersections at the West Summit Trail, East Summit Trail, and Ouachita Trail. The Base Trail is fairly level and offers dramatic views of the Little Maumelle River. Visitors will encounter several moderate slopes, a wide variety of plant communities, and a diversity of wildlife.

## TRAILHEADS LOCATED AT THE EAST SUMMIT PARKING LOT

(Located on Pinnacle Valley Road)

#### EAST SUMMIT TRAIL

The start of the trail is on the south side of the parking lot. Walk about 10 yards up the trail to the trail junction, take the left fork following the **red** and **white** blazes. This is the more rugged .75 -mile ascent to the summit of Pinnacle Mountain and requires crossing several boulder fields. Allow 1 to 2 hours depending on weather for this 1.5 -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 descent to your starting point.

#### **OUACHITA TRAIL**

This trail is marked in **blue**. This section of the 223-mile National Recreation Backpacking Trail crosses the parking lot and continues west .5-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 1.5-miles east to the main trailhead at the Visitor Center. (See Visitor Center Trailheads for more information.)

#### **BASE TRAIL**

This trail is blazed in **light green**. Starting at the East Summit Trailhead, approximately 25 yards up the trail you will encounter the Base Trail. You can choose to hike the Base Trail clockwise around Pinnacle Mountain by going left or you can go right to make the Base Trail loop around the mountain in a counterclockwise direction. This 3-mile trail circles the entire base of Pinnacle Mountain and conveniently connects the West Summit Trailhead with the East Summit Trailhead. While hiking the Base Trail you will encounter intersections at the West Summit Trail, East Summit Trail, and Ouachita Trail. The Base Trail is fairly level and wildlife may be encountered.

## TRAILS IN THE ARKANSAS ARBORETUM

(Located on Pinnacle Valley Road)

#### THE ARKANSAS TRAIL

The Arkansas Trail is near the center of the park within the 80-acre Arkansas Arboretum. This .75-mile paved, barrier-free walking trail 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 help introduce the state's trees and natural and geological history. Guided tours for groups and field study classes may be scheduled on a staff-available basis, by appointment.

To protect the arboretum and visitors, please observe the following:

- 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 a.m. 5 p.m.

## TRAILHEADS LOCATED AT THE VISITOR CENTER

(Located on Pinnacle Valley Road 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. This 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

This trail is marked in green blazes. The trailhead starts at the same location as the overlook trail – the upper parking lot of the visitor center. This 2-mile loop enters a heavily forested valley after leaving an old rock quarry area. Allow 1.5 to 2 hours to go down and back up this valley. (For a longer trip, see listing for East Quarry Trail.)

#### EAST QUARRY TRAIL

Red blazes mark this route. This is a .5-mile spur from the mid-point 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 one mile round trip from the Rocky Valley spur.

#### **OUACHITA TRAIL**

This trail is blazed in **blue**. Follow the sidewalk downhill from the visitor center to the lower parking lot to reach the eastern terminus of the Ouachita National Recreation Trail. The trail winds west two miles inside the park boundary, then continues 22 miles to the Arkansas /Oklahoma border. Maps and trail

guides are available. Overnight backpackers planning to leave vehicles in the park must register at the visitor center.

#### RABBIT RIDGE MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL

The Rabbit Ridge is a .7-mile, beginner mountain biking trail offering novice riders a chance to improve their skills before attempting longer, more technical trails. The trail does have rocks, roots, and elevation changes that give riders a true mountain biking experience. A bench is located at the top of the ridge where riders can rest and non-riders can enjoy the environment while waiting on riders.

#### JACKFORK MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL

The Jackfork is a 6.5-mile intermediate/ advanced trail designed for experienced mountain bikers. Elevation gain, rocks, and technical turns will keep a rider's attention. If you are uncomfortable with a section of trail, walking your bike is an acceptable option. (Hint: always turning right at the trail intersection is the easiest route.) Please report any problems with the trail, including bridge issues, to the park office.

#### OTHER TRAIL ACTIVITIES

#### BACKPACKING AND NATURE HIKES

The park sponsors introductory backpacking workshops. Interpreter-led hiking adventures are offered as listed in the park calendar of events. Schools and other groups interested in interpreter-led programs should call ahead to schedule program dates.

#### LITTLE MAUMELLE WATER TRAIL

Guided canoe and kayak day floats are scheduled in spring and fall. Call early for reservations. A 4.5-mile float starts from the boat ramp at the West Summit Picnic Area. Inquire at the visitor center about river levels and a map.

#### BIRDING AND 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 observation area can be found at the visitor center.

#### **VISITOR SERVICES**

The visitor center gift shop has hats, walking sticks, maps, and trail guides. Vending machines are available for drinks.

Water fountains can be found at the visitor center, East Summit parking lot, and the West Summit Trailhead and restroom area.

Restrooms are located at the visitor center, West Summit Picnic Area and the Big Maumelle Boat Ramp Area. A porta-potty facility is available at the Arkansas Arboretum.

#### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Anyone interested in becoming a trail guide or any other volunteer oportunities should contact the Volunteer Coordinator at the visitor center.

# PINNACLE MOUNTAIN State Park







#### PINNACLE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

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