

QUEEN WILHELMINA STATE PARK

Discover a sense of place at Queen Wilhelmina State Park, where the highest summit in the Ouachita Mountains is steeped in history and surrounded by striking scenery.

Situated on the Talimena Scenic Drive, in western Arkansas just 13 miles from Mena, Queen Wilhelmina State Park stands out as one of the state’s most scenic mountain getaways. The park is perched high atop rugged Rich Mountain, nearly 3,000 feet above sea level.

The natural beauty of the mountain and the intriguing history of the park offer you a vacation experience never to be forgotten.

The first lodge, built in 1898 by The Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf Railroad, was designed as a mountain resort retreat for passengers on the line. The three-story lodge became known as the “Castle in the Sky.” Since the railroad was largely financed by Dutch interests, the new resort was named in honor of Holland’s young Queen Wilhelmina. A royal suite was set aside for her use in vain hopes she would pay an official visit to the area. Only three years later, the lodge was closed and eventually fell into ruin.

In 1957, the area was acquired for development as an Arkansas state park. The construction of a state park lodge on the site of the original inn was completed in 1963. This lodge was a popular Arkansas State Parks attraction until it was destroyed by fire in 1973.

To carry forward this lodging tradition on 2,681-foot Rich Mountain, a new lodge was constructed that opened in 1975. After operating for three decades, this lodge now features a new look and enhanced amenities following a major renovation that was completed in early summer 2015. Large windows frame the views of the panoramic mountain scenery.

The lodge now includes 40 guest rooms, a new Hearth Room, expanded meeting space, and an elevator. The tradition of royal hospitality on Rich Mountain continues at Queen Wilhelmina Lodge, the crowning attraction of Queen Wilhelmina State Park.

FACILITIES

- LODGING
- The lodge offers 40 guest rooms including:
 - 4 premium with gas fireplaces and spa tubs,
 - 1 premium with spa tub only, and
 - 1 suite with a queen sleeper sofa and adjoining king bedroom.

LOVERS’ LEAP TRAIL

Length: 1.3-mile loop
Trailhead: Across Railroad tracks North of Lodge
Trail End: Across Railroad tracks South of Lodge
Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult
Trail Blaze: Yellow

This 1.3-mile loop trail begins with an easy stroll along the north slope of Rich Mountain. With bridges, stairs, and benches to rest on, enjoy a gentle climb to the wooden platform overlook. There, you are rewarded with a sweeping view of Rich Mountain’s south slope, Powell Valley, and the surrounding Ouachita National Forest. Past the overlook this trail’s difficulty increase due to elevation changes and rocky terrain. It descends along the mountain’s south slope through a rich hardwood forest and then returns up to the south side of the Lodge.

RESERVOIR TRAIL

Length: .7-mile roundtrip
Trailhead: At stairs south of the Lodge
Trail End: Return to start of trail
Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult
Trail Blaze: Orange

This trail’s rugged terrain and diverse flora and fauna offer you an immersive Ouachita Mountains experience and a path to the past. Beginning at the stairs south of the lodge and ventures downhill for 1/3 of a mile to the historic stone reservoir. Along this trail is a spur leading to primitive walk-in campsite.



FACILITIES

- LODGING
- A wood-burning fireplace in the Hearth Room adds to the welcoming atmosphere near the lobby for meeting and relaxing with other guests.
 - Gift shop for mementos of your visit.
 - A private meeting room is available upon advance request (accommodates up to 114 people).

- FOOD SERVICES
- Dining in the lodge restaurant combines delicious Southern fare with views high above the clouds here in the Ouachita Mountains.
 - Private dining for up to 56 people is available to accommodate groups.

- CAMPING
- The park campground features 40 campsites and a modern bathhouse.
 - A trailer dump station is located near the campground entrance.
 - separate walk-in tent site south of Lodge.
NOTE: All campers must register at the lodge before occupying a campsite. All sites are reservable and may be reserved up to one year in advance. Call the park or go online to make reservations.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

- The park’s tree-shaded picnic areas offer a scenic view of the surrounding mountains.
- Hiking Trails
- Relaxation and enjoyment can be found in many forms at the park.

NEARBY

- Hospitals, stores, and other amenities are located 13 miles away in Mena.
- A small grocery store is located 1.5 miles from the park.


INTERPRETIVE SERVICES


- Guided hikes, nature talks, workshops, and special events.
Park Interpreter-led programs are offered 7 days a week between Memorial Day and Labor Day, and Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays year-round.
- Schools and civic groups programming

Arkansas State Parks 2025



QUEEN WILHELMINA STATE PARK





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SPRING TRAIL

Length: .5-mile one way
Trailhead: Behind the amphitheater
Trail End: West end of Campground
Difficulty: Easy
Trail Blaze: Red
Starting behind the stage of the amphitheater, you walk west 100 yards to the spring. Once a favorite gathering place for early European settlers on the mountain, and still and oasis of relaxation and reflection. The trail continues past the spring for about .5 miles and comes out on State Highway 88 across from the west end of the campground. You may return by the same trail or cross the road into the park.

OUACHITA NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL

Length: 225 miles (Talimena State Park, OK to Pinnacle Mountain State Park, AR)
1.5 miles one way to Pioneer Cemetery
Trailhead: Talimena Scenic Drive past west end of campground
Trail End: Pioneer Cemetery
Difficulty: Easy to Moderate
Trail Blaze: Blue

This trail passes through Queen Wilhelmina State Park at the western boundary through the campground, passes by the lodge, and continues along Lovers’ Leap Trail to branch off to the left going east out of the park. This trail originates in Talimena State Park in Oklahoma and covers 225 miles to end at Pinnacle Mountain State Park just west of Little Rock, Arkansas.

For a short hike start at the trailhead on the Talimena Scenic Drive just past the west end of the park’s campground. You’ll hike 1.25 miles to the Pioneer Cemetery on a moderate trail, passing several historic sites along the way. For more information on this trail several guidebooks and maps are available in the Lodge Gift Shop.



QUEEN WILHELMINA

STATE PARK

EMERGENCY:
CALL 911

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

- Amphitheater
- Bathhouse
- Camping
- Dump Station
- Lodging
- Overlook
- Pavilion
- Picnic Area
- Playground
- Restaurant
- Restrooms
- Trailhead
- Volleyball



CAMPGROUND



MAP LEGEND

- Miniature Railroad
- Lover's Leap Trail
- Quachita National Recreation Trail
- Reservoir Trail
- Spring Trail

