

Caddo Bend Trail

The trail is marked in **red**, **green**, **blue**, or **yellow**. Foot traffic only.

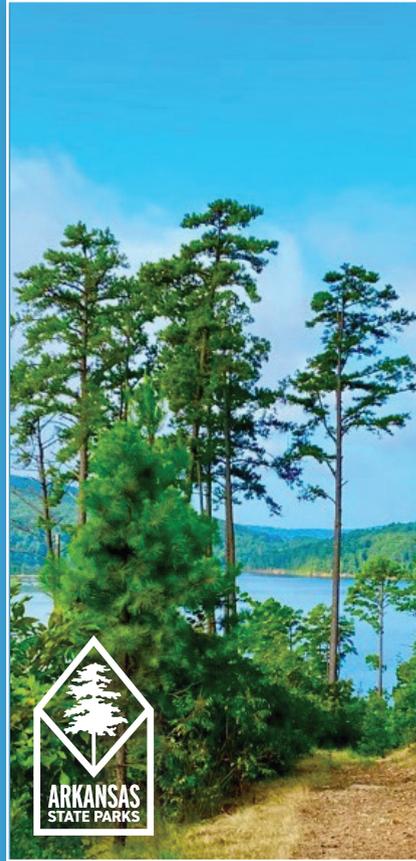
Red trail: .75 mile, 45 minute hiking time

Green trail: 2 miles, 1.5 hour hiking time

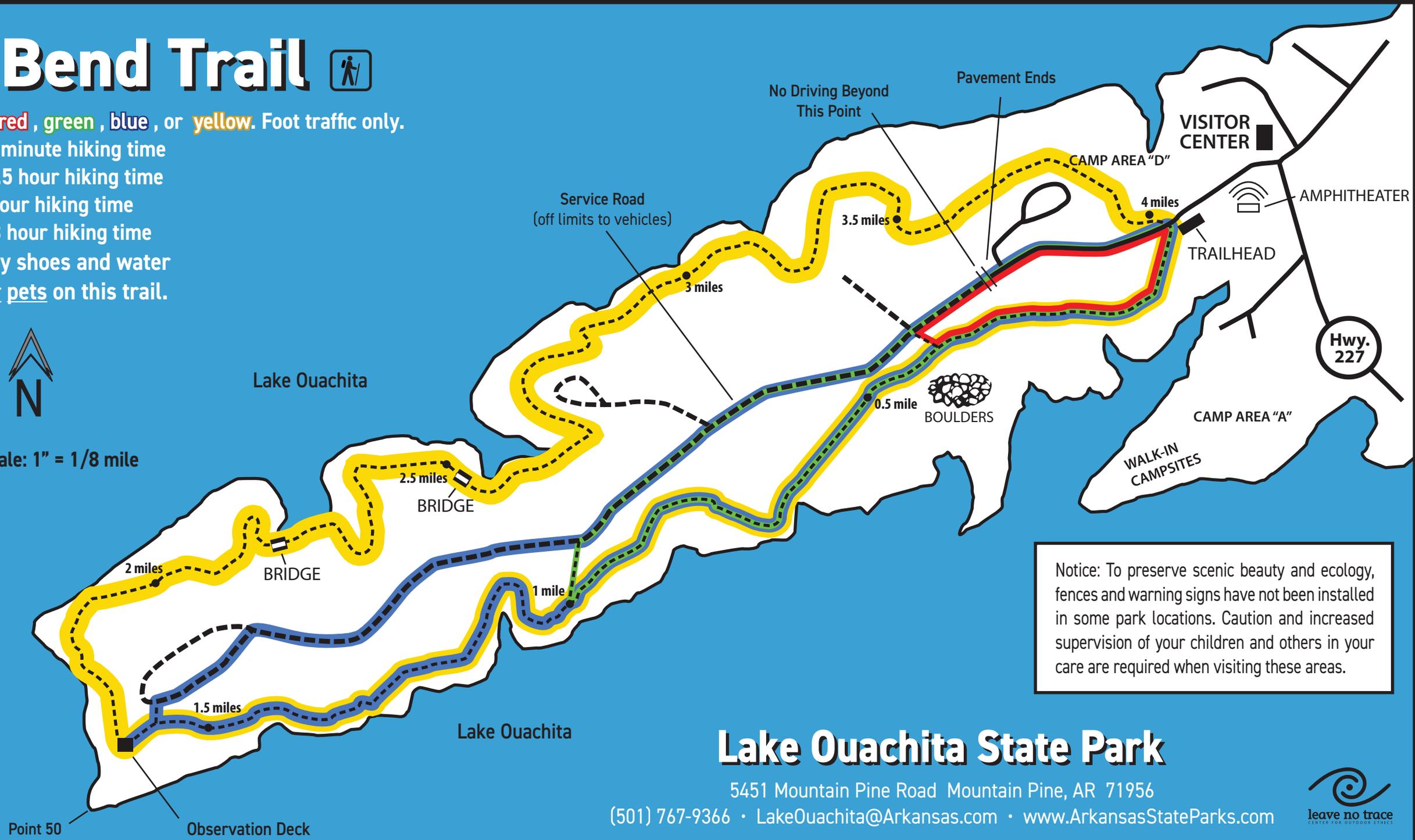
Blue trail: 3 miles, 2 hour hiking time

Yellow trail: 4 miles, 3 hour hiking time

* You will need sturdy shoes and water for yourself and your pets on this trail.



Scale: 1" = 1/8 mile



Notice: 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.

Lake Ouachita State Park

5451 Mountain Pine Road Mountain Pine, AR 71956
 (501) 767-9366 • LakeOuachita@Arkansas.com • www.ArkansasStateParks.com



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO The trail is rocky, so wear sturdy shoes or boots. Bring water for yourself and pets, especially during warm weather. Poison ivy is common along the trail. If you don't recognize it, come by the visitor center and we'll show you how to identify the three-leaf plant. Snakes may be present from mid-spring to mid-fall. If left alone, snakes usually move on as quickly as possible, causing no problem.

PLAN YOUR ROUTE Near the 1.5-mile marker, the trail leads you to the Point 50 overlook. If timed right, you might catch the sun disappearing across the lake and behind the Ouachita Mountains. The beauty of a sunset from Point 50 may leave you speechless. (Watching the sunset involves an evening walk back to the campground, so be prepared with a flashlight.) From Point 50, you have the option to retrace your path along the trail, continue on the trail along the north shore, or take the shorter, easier walk on the service road back to the trailhead. If you continue along the north shore you return to the trailhead in approximately 2.5 miles. The landscape on the north shoreline is different from the south shore; the terrain becomes more difficult. Please watch your footing.

EXPLORE NATURE Caddo Bend Trail passes through a forest canopy of shortleaf pines and hardwoods such as oak and hickory. In April 2011, an EF2 tornado passed over the peninsula and the Caddo Bend Trail. Along your hike, you transition between areas damaged by the storm and sections minimally affected. Starting at the trailhead, you traverse the south-facing slope of the peninsula. This side receives more direct sunlight in winter, and shortleaf pine is the most abundant tree. Understory plants include huckleberry, grapes, persimmon, and poison ivy.

On the north-facing slope, the forest and soils are cooler and more moist because they receive less direct sunlight.



beautyberry

Shaded ravines on both sides of the peninsula create microclimates perfect for ferns, mosses, wild iris, and other plants that prefer moist areas. From spring through fall, a variety of wildflowers and mushrooms add color to the forest.

Wildflowers are especially abundant in very early spring (March and early April). Search along roads and clearings where sunlight reaches the ground. Watch for mushrooms after extended rainy periods. Expect to see flowering trees such as dogwood, wild plum, serviceberry, and redbud in late March and April.

Wildlife commonly seen along this trail includes squirrels, birds, and deer. If you look closely, you might find signs of wild turkey, beaver, fox, coyote, and bobcat. As you walk, scan with your eyes for tracks, hollow logs, rock dens, droppings, deer rubs on young tree trunks, and beaver-gnawed trees. Turtles may be sunning on logs or swimming near the shoreline.



bald eagle



passion flower

READ THE LANDSCAPE Many hikers find the area's geological features fascinating, especially at the tip of the peninsula, near Point 50. Of specific interest are folded layers of Paleozoic sandstone and shale, a bluff of conglomerate rock formed by an underwater landslide, shoreline caves formed by the erosive action of waves, and an abundance of quartz outcroppings. Please practice Leave No Trace ethics and leave natural features undisturbed for the health of the ecosystem and as a courtesy to other guests.

The mountains that surround Lake Ouachita are among the oldest in the United States. They began forming about 500 million years ago, when this area was a huge inland sea. The seabed was covered with sediment that was squeezed over time into rocks, and subsequently, folded into mountains. Since then, these mountains have been eroded by water and wind, leaving what we see today.

Running through these mountains is the Ouachita River, the source for this lake. Blakely Mountain Dam forms Lake Ouachita and is the first of three dams on the river that form lakes Ouachita, Hamilton, and Catherine.

The US Army Corps of Engineers built and maintain the dam, powerhouse, and lake. Construction began in the late 1940s and was completed by 1953. Power generation began in 1955, and the lake was dedicated in 1956. At its normal pool level, Lake Ouachita covers 40,000 surface acres. It is about 30 miles long with about 975 miles of shoreline.

Lake Ouachita State Park was established in 1955 and includes 455 acres on the east end of the lake (one of many camping areas around the area). Most camping areas around the lake are operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

TO DISCOVER MORE Stop by the visitor center to view our exhibits, visit with the park interpreters, or pick up a schedule of upcoming interpreter-led programs and tours.

The park and trails are open year-round, and programs are available upon request. Throughout the summer, park interpreters also offer guided cruises, kayaking tours, nature programs, and special events that focus on the unique character of this lake and forest.

We hope you enjoy your visit to Lake Ouachita State Park and your walk along the Caddo Bend Trail.

LAKE OUACHITA STATE PARK

CADDO BEND TRAIL

Experience the beauty of the Ouachita Mountains and the pristine lake shoreline.

This 4-mile trail takes you along the Point 50 peninsula, which extends into the clear waters of Lake Ouachita. You may choose to walk the entire trail or only a portion of it. Sign the trailhead register to help with our trail use statistics.

To protect both you and the natural beauty of this trail, please obey the following:

- Stay on the trail to reduce erosion and protect vegetation.
- Leave rocks, minerals, plants, and animals where you find them. This is their home.
- Use plastic or metal containers on our trails, not glass.
- Place all litter in the receptacle at the trailhead.
- No camping or fires.
- Keep your pet on a leash.

