

## HIKER HINTS

### STAY ON MARKED TRAILS

Leaving established trails often creates new and confusing trails as well as destroys rare and delicate wildflower communities. This regulation is especially important to observe on the Devil's Den Trail which is visited by several thousand visitors each year.

### WATCH YOUR STEP

Many trails take you to the brink of crevices and bluffs. To avoid accidents, be cautious of loose or wet rocks. Be aware of the rugged terrain.

### DO NO HARM

Swinging on trees, cutting switchbacks, picking wildflowers, throwing rocks at snakes or bats and littering are a few of the ways people destroy the very environment they came to visit. All plants and animals are protected within the park.

### AVOID UNWANTED ENCOUNTERS

Poison ivy is a common plant on many of the trails. Snakes will also be seen from time to time. To avoid encounters with either, remain on the designated trails. To help you identify poison ivy, snakes and other forest creatures, attend one of our scheduled interpretive walks.

### CONCLUSION

The best way to enjoy the park is to explore the rugged beauty along the trails. Over one thousand species of plants and animals await your discovery. Field guides and other books on the natural environment are available at the park store and Visitor Center. To learn more about the park's unique geological features, plants, animals and cultural history, attend one of our many scheduled interpretive programs. Programs for groups are offered with advance notice.

### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

If you are injured or wish to report an injury or emergency, please notify personnel at the Visitor Center, the park store or by calling from one of the pay phones in Camping Area 'E' or at the Visitor Center. Park rangers are available to respond to emergencies 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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# TRAILS



# DEVIL'S DEN STATE PARK



## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Devil's Den State Park and the upper Lee Creek Valley. You've picked a great place to hike. Whether you are interested in a short interpretive trail or an overnight backpacking trip, you will find it here.

Because of its striking and unusual natural features, Devil's Den was selected in 1933 as the site for one of Arkansas' first state parks. A few of the more popular trails, as well as most park facilities, were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) from 1933-1942.

Historic homesites, natural bridges, waterfalls and caves are just a few of the features that await you on more than 20 miles of hiking trails. Additionally, there are over 20 miles of horse and mountain bike trails that are also suitable for hikers. For information concerning special routes, inquire at the Visitor Center.

An interpretive guide to many of the trails is available at the Visitor Center for \$1. The booklet provides information corresponding to stations on the Devil's Den and Woody Plant Trails. A detailed map of all the trails in the park and the surrounding Ozark National Forest is available for \$.50.

## TRAIL REGULATIONS

To protect the environment and for safety of yourself and others, it is unlawful to:

- \* Possess alcoholic beverages on trails
- \* Carry glass containers on trails
- \* Litter
- \* Camp overnight on trails within the park
- \* Deface natural or cultural features
- \* Allow pets off leash
- \* Ride bikes on Devil's Den, Yellow Rock and CCC Interpretive Trails
- \* Ride horses on trails other than those designated for horses
- \* Harass or kill wildlife
- \* Pick wildflowers or remove plants
- \* Swim in the lake or Lee Creek

## VIOLATORS ARE SUBJECT TO BEING FINED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The trails of Devil's Den State Park provide endless hours of recreation, solitude and adventure for thousands of visitors each year. To keep these trails passable, and to preserve their scenic beauty, these heavily used trails require maintenance. The park's volunteer organization, the Friends of Devil's Den State Park, schedules several trail maintenance projects each year. Membership applications for this group are available at the Visitor Center. Also, you are invited to contact one of the park staff in advance if you or your group would like to volunteer time or resources for a work project. Park staff may be reached at the Visitor Center at (479) 761-3325.

### **DEVIL'S DEN TRAIL**

Length: 1.5 miles, 1 1/2 hours (loop)

Trailheads: Behind visitor center and at Highway 170 bridge

Elevation Change: 100 feet

Recommendations: Hiking boots, flashlight, interpretive booklet

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The Devil's Den Trail was built during the 1930's and is a designated part of the National Trails System. Features include: Devil's Den Cave, Devil's Ice Box, Twin Falls, Cold Springs, and many other unique natural features. This is the park's most popular trail, and can be crowded on weekends. Exploration of the sandstone caves is strictly at your own risk. The caves are safe, but sometimes people are not.

### **YELLOW ROCK TRAIL**

Length: 3 miles, 2 hours (loop)

Trailheads: Highway 170 overlook and near camping area 'A'

Elevation Change: 300 feet (lower trail head), 100 feet (upper)

Recommendations: Hiking boots, water, camera

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The Yellow Rock Trail is another original CCC-constructed trail and is a designated part of the National Trails System. Features include: Wild Dog Crevice, The Devil's Teapot, The Devil's Race Track, Yellow Rock, cedar glades and old-growth woodlands. Although this is the park's second most popular trail, there are few hikers, even on weekends. While the upper loop is not as steep, some of the best features are seen along the lower trail beginning near camping area "A".

### **LEE CREEK TRAIL**

Length: 1 mile, 1 hour (loop)

Trailhead: Camping area 'A'

Elevation Change: 30 feet

Recommendations: Creek shoes, hiking stick

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The Lee Creek Trail is Arkansas' only designated creek trail. Features include: fossils, coal veins, and evidence that the CCC was in the process of building a second, larger lake in the park (c. 1942). After coinciding with the Butterfield Hiking Trail for .5 miles, the Lee Creek Trail forks left (BHT forks right and Fossil Flats Mountain Bike Trail jogs left and then straight). By continuing straight at the fork, one could extend the round-trip hike another mile. After turning left at the fork, the trail descends the hill to Lee Creek. The hiker returns by wading the creek. Most of the year the water depth does not exceed two feet. After heavy rains, wading the creek should not be attempted.

### **LAKE TRAIL**

Length: 1 mile, 45 minutes (not a loop)

Trailheads: Upper end of lake and camping area 'E' Bathhouse

Elevation Change: 40 feet

Recommendations: Camera

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The Lake Trail was built by the CCC. There are many photographic opportunities especially near the dam and along Lee Creek. By crossing the suspension bridge below the dam, you can walk completely around the lake, a gentle 1.5 mile loop. Notice the blue-green color of the lake. This color is produced by light reflecting off suspended minerals in the water.

### **WOODY PLANT TRAIL**

Length: .25 miles, 30 minutes (not a loop)

Trailheads: Camping Area 'E' near site #79 and Bathhouse

Elevation Changes: 20 feet

Recommendations: Interpretive booklet

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The Woody Plant Trail has 16 stations which correspond to information in the interpretive booklet available at the Visitor Center. A spur trail leads to a fossil area, and scenic views of Lee Creek are featured.

### **CCC INTERPRETIVE TRAIL**

Length: .25 miles, 30 minutes (loop)

Trailheads: Adjacent to the park pavilion below the dam

Elevation Change: 40 feet

Recommendations: Self-guiding brochure

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The CCC Interpretive Trail was constructed in 1992 with a grant from the CCC Company 3795 Reunion Association, Arkansas State Parks, and the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. The trail features wayside exhibits explaining the ruins of the 1934-1942 CCC camp. A self-guiding brochure is available in the Visitor Center.

### **BUTTERFIELD HIKING TRAIL**

Length: 15 mile loop, 8-10 hours

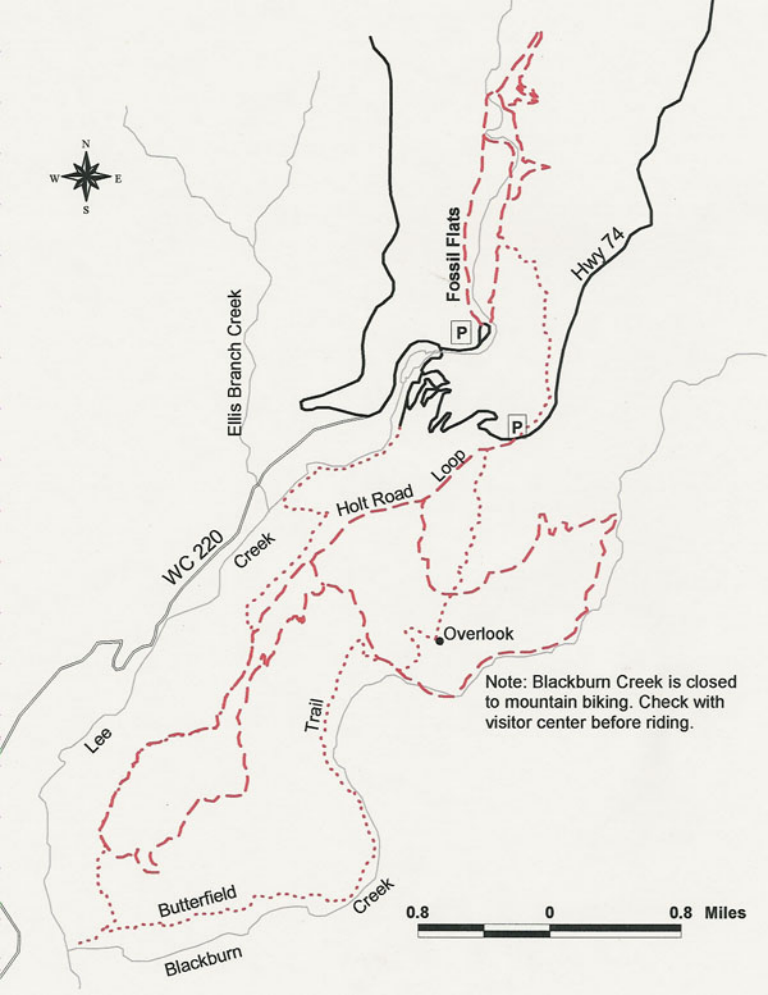
Trailhead: Near suspension bridge below the dam

Elevation Change: 900 feet

Recommendations: Trail permit, BHT brochure, detailed map, hiking boots, hiking stick, water, food, emergency survival kit, camera

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The Butterfield Trail is designed to be an overnight hike, although hikers in good shape may hike it in a long day. The trail features historic sites, scenic vistas, waterfalls, and natural bridges. Inquire at the Visitor Center for shorter day hikes on portions of the BHT. Camping on the BHT inside the park boundary is prohibited; however, once the trail enters the Ozark National Forest, camping is permitted anywhere except within 100 feet of the trail or a water source. Two designated campsites are located along the trail.



Ellis Branch Creek

Fossil Flats

Hwy 74

P

P

Holt Road Loop

WC 220

Creek

Overlook

Note: Blackburn Creek is closed to mountain biking. Check with visitor center before riding.

Lee

Trail

Butterfield

Creek

Blackburn

0.8

0

0.8 Miles