

CEDAR FALLS TRAIL

Length: 2 miles, (2 hours)

Trailhead: Through Mather Lodge breezeway and to the left behind the swimming pool

Trail end: Backtrack to starting point

Difficulty: Strenuous

Trail Blaze: Orange

The most popular hiking trail at Petit Jean descends deep into Cedar Creek Canyon. Only those in good shape should attempt this hike. Wear shoes or boots which provide ankle support and a firm grip. The first half mile descends more than 200 feet down steps cut from rock by the Civilian Conservation Corps more than 60 years ago. The trail follows beautiful Cedar Creek another half mile to the climax of the hike, Cedar Falls, one of the state's most spectacular sights. Cedar Falls cascades more than 90 feet to the canyon floor. Cedar Creek Canyon was added to the register of Arkansas Natural Areas in 1977.

SEVEN HOLLOW TRAIL

Length: 4½ miles, (4 hours); to Natural Bridge, 1.3 miles; to Grotto, 2¼ miles

Trailhead: 1 mile west of Mather Lodge on Hwy. 154

Trail end: Trail loops back to beginning point

Difficulty: Moderate to Strenuous

Trail Blaze: Light Blue

Seven Hollows Trail is one of great diversity, contrasting the beauty of the lush moss and fern understory of the hardwood forest, the immense rock formations created by centuries of erosion, and the starkness of the rock fields supporting near desert-like conditions. Despite its name, Seven Hollows Trail passes through only four of the mountain's most interesting hollows (the other three are located on private land). Carved by constant stream action, each hollow abounds in its own natural beauty. Allow plenty of time for this hike, as there is much to see and experience. If the trail seems too long, a good place to turn around is the Natural Bridge, located about 1.3 miles from the trailhead.

CEDAR CREEK TRAIL

Length: 1¼ miles, (1½ hours)

Trailhead: Pioneer Cabin, 1 mile west of visitor center on Highway 154

Trail end: Trail loops back to beginning point

Difficulty: Moderate **Trail Blaze:** Red

This trail winds along a scenic section of the Cedar Creek above Cedar Falls. Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the early 1930s, this trail's rock steps and bluffs create a few difficult places. The rocky mountain stream, high bluffs, and thick vegetation make Cedar Creek Trail perfect for experiencing local bird and plant life.

CANYON TRAIL

Length: 1 mile (2 miles if backtracking to Cedar Falls Trail), (2 hours)

Trailhead: Cedar Falls Trail

Trail end: Junction with Winthrop P. Rockefeller

Boy Scout Trail in Blue Hole Area

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Trail Blaze: Yellow

After crossing the bridge on the Cedar Falls Trail, turn left (west) and begin this beautiful hike into Cedar Creek Canyon. The trail follows Cedar Creek's many small splashing falls and deep emerald pools. Boxcar-sized boulders have tumbled downhill and partially blocked the creek's path in some places. You will also pass huge, mature sycamore and pine trees. The Canyon Trail joins the Boy Scout Trail near a long pool, named Blue Hole. From the trail's end, you may backtrack to Cedar Falls Trail. Please note that you must travel ½ mile to get to the Canyon Trail, so for a there-and-back trip between Blue Hole and Mather Lodge, add 1 mile. To loop back to Mather Lodge on the Boy Scout Trail (via Seven Hollows Trail and Bear Cave Trail) add 2-plus miles.

WINTHROP P. ROCKEFELLER BOY SCOUT TRAIL

Length: 12 miles, (8 hours)

Trailhead: Across from group camp at north end of Davies Bridge

Trail end: Trail loops back to beginning point

Difficulty: Moderate to Strenuous **Trail Blaze:** White

The Winthrop P. Rockefeller Boy Scout Trail touches and connects all of the trails previously discussed and follows large portions of some of them. On this trail, you will pass through many of the diverse plant and animal habitats of Petit Jean Mountain, from the lush vegetation of Cedar Creek Canyon to the desert-like conditions of Seven Hollows. All are represented on this trail. The trail is long and difficult. Be sure you are prepared with food, water, appropriate shoes and clothing, and first aid. Start this hike in the early morning so you can safely enjoy this all-day walk. Please sign in at the visitor center before making this hike.

ROCK HOUSE CAVE TRAIL

Length: ¼ mile, (½ hour)

Trailhead: 1 mile west on Red Bluff Drive

Trail end: Backtrack to starting point

Difficulty: Easy **Trail Blaze:** Purple

Rock House Cave is not a true cave, but a large rock shelter. It contains evidence that Native Americans lived on or near Petit Jean Mountain many years ago. Look closely for the faint remains of pictographs on the ceiling towards the back of the cave and imagine what they mean. We may never know for sure. As you return to the parking lot, notice the large "turtle rocks" on whose backs you are walking.

BEAR CAVE TRAIL

Length: ¼ mile, (½ hour)

Trailhead: 1 mile west of Mather Lodge on Hwy. 154

Trail end: Backtrack to starting point

Difficulty: Easy

Trail Blaze: Green

Visitors to Bear Cave can walk under, around, through, and over (with care) these gigantic rocks. Although there is no true cave, the huge rocks form a number of rock shelters and narrow passageways. According to legend, the last bear killed on Petit Jean Mountain was in this area. The cathedral of rock running down the center of the trail loop is believed to have been cut by Cedar Creek long ago. This passageway is called the "Eye of the Needle." Wander through these fragile sandstone monoliths and imagine the tremendous forces of wind and water that caused what you see today.

CCC HIKE & BIKE TRAIL

Length: 1¾ mile

Trailheads:

East-Camp Area B

West-CCC Water Tower near Mather Lodge

Difficulty: Easy

This asphalt-paved trail connects Mather Lodge to the park campgrounds and is named in honor of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) who constructed Mather Lodge and other structures that the trail passes. The winding trail offers access to the Cedar Falls Overlook, the Cedar Creek trailhead at the Pioneer Cabin, the park swimming pool, tennis courts and the visitor center. This trail offers a safe and scenic alternative to traveling along Highway 154 while walking or cycling. Note: the trail is not open to motorized vehicles. Trail Motto: Use good trail manners.

Trail Regulations

In order to protect the environment and for the safety of you and others please note: **It is unlawful to:**

- Hike in designated restricted areas which are hazardous or protected
- Swim in the pool at the bottom of Cedar Falls, or in Cedar Creek
- Possess glass containers and alcoholic beverages on the trails
- Litter
- Deface a natural or historical area
- Camp overnight along the trails
- Allow pets to run loose
- Stray off designated hiking trails
- Ride bicycles or wheeled vehicles on the trails
- Ride horses on the trails

VIOLATORS ARE SUBJECT TO BEING CITED AND FINED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

Volunteer Opportunities

The trails of Petit Jean State Park provide endless hours of fun and beauty for thousands of visitors each year. In order to remain passable and to preserve their scenic beauty, heavily used trails require maintenance. Consider giving something back by becoming a trail volunteer. Trail maintenance can be as easy as picking up litter and removing small debris from trails. Stop by the visitor center or call (501) 727-5441 for further information.

Emergencies

If you are injured or wish to report an injury or emergency, notify staff at the visitor center or at Mather Lodge. An emergency phone number is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For in-park emergencies call 911.

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

As part of our conservation mission, we have printed this brochure on recycled paper using soy ink.

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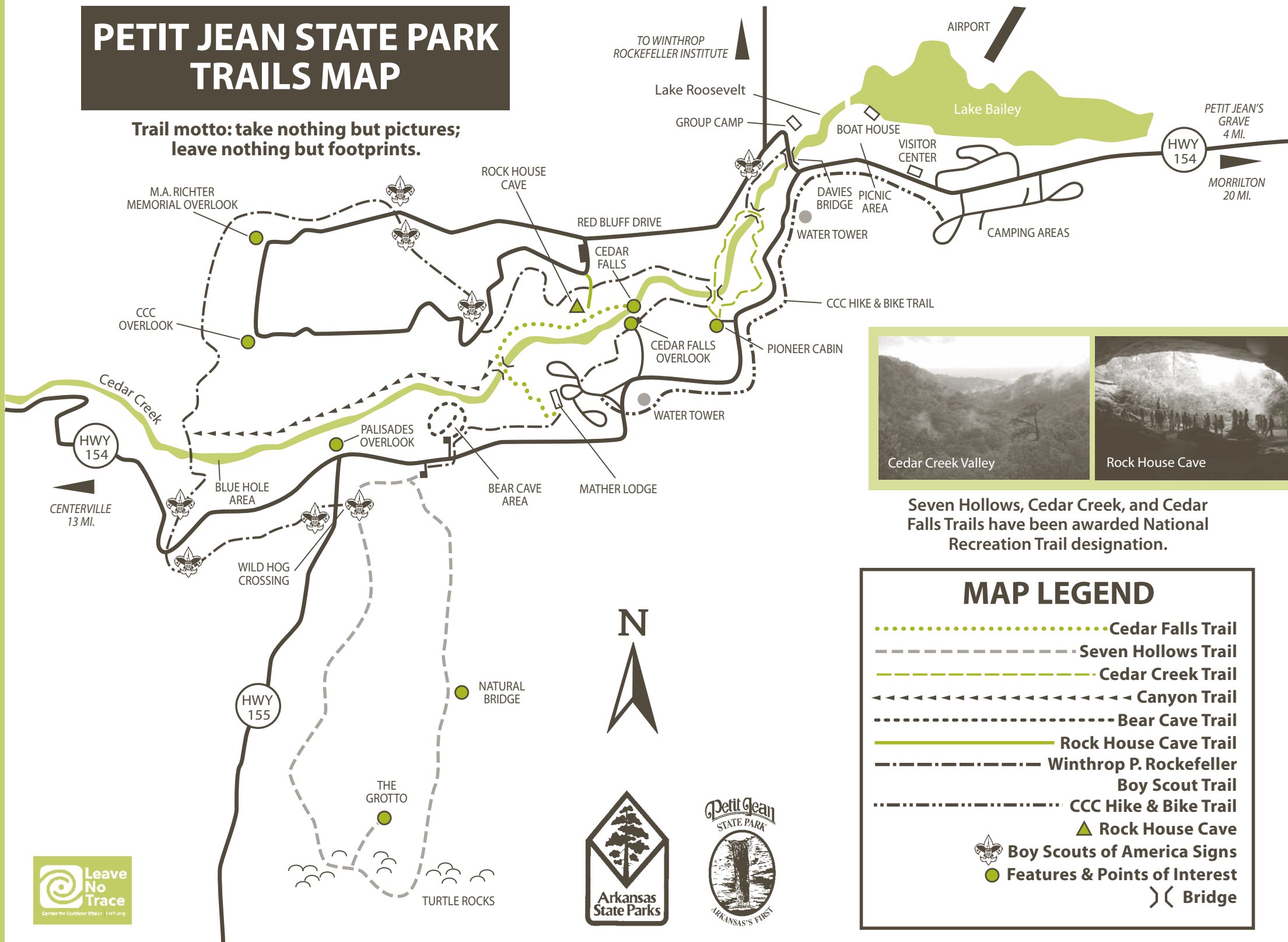


PETIT JEAN STATE PARK TRAILS MAP



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Trail motto: take nothing but pictures; leave nothing but footprints.



Hiking trails are the perfect place to discover the natural side of Petit Jean State Park. To enjoy our trails as thoroughly as possible, we suggest you take time to really look at the beauty that surrounds you. Construction of the trails began in 1933 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. This diverse park provides 20 miles of interconnecting trails. Cedar Falls, Seven Hollows, and Cedar Creek Trails were designated as National Recreation Trails because of their rich history and scenic beauty.

The Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission designated much of the land our trails pass through as "Natural Areas" because of the old-growth forest, rare plants, and diverse wildlife the area supports. These Natural Areas in Cedar Creek Canyon and Seven Hollows will remain uncut and as natural as possible. The scenic beauty of Petit Jean State Park creates excellent memory-making opportunities for you and your family.

Hiker Hints

STAY ON MARKED TRAILS:

All trails are marked with rectangular blazes painted on trees. Each trail is blazed with a different color. Remember, the trails are in Natural Areas. Stepping off the trails kills delicate plants, compacts the soil, and destroys the natural beauty.

WATCH WHERE YOU WALK:

The chief reason for accidents in the park is not watching the spot where your foot will fall. Do not become a victim of avoidable accidents.

WILDLIFE AND PLANTS:

Never harm any wildlife or plants. The park was created for their protection. Each flower picked is scores of seeds lost as food for wildlife and new plant growth.

POISON IVY ADVICE:

"Leaflets three, let it be." The best advice is to stay on the trail where no plants grow. If you are sensitive to poison ivy, take your shoes off after hiking and immediately wash your hands. Most poison ivy rashes are spread from your hands touching something that has touched poison ivy, such as your shoes.

FINISH HIKING BY DUSK:

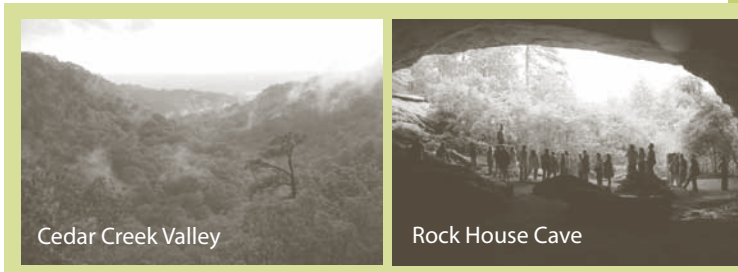
Even though the trails are well blazed, it is easy to become disoriented and lost in the fading light. There are also many cliffs and drop-offs which can be dangerous and are difficult to see in the dark.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Check at the visitor center for details of guided trail walks and literature on the natural features of the trail.

This Is Your Park

Our trails offer wonderful opportunities to study birds, plants, animals, fossils, geology, archeology, and other natural subjects. Take your time when hiking and take in all that you can. Help us protect the park land that is yours. It is possible for the thousands of people that hike our trails to leave our natural areas just as they found them: a wilderness with a single path woven through it.



Seven Hollows, Cedar Creek, and Cedar Falls Trails have been awarded National Recreation Trail designation.

MAP LEGEND

- Cedar Falls Trail
- Seven Hollows Trail
- Cedar Creek Trail
- ←←←← Canyon Trail
- Bear Cave Trail
- Rock House Cave Trail
- Winthrop P. Rockefeller Boy Scout Trail
- CCC Hike & Bike Trail
- ▲ Rock House Cave
- ♣ Boy Scouts of America Signs
- Features & Points of Interest
- }& Bridge

