

MOUNT MAGAZINE STATE PARK

Magnificent vistas of broad river valleys, deep canyons and distant mountains welcome lovers of beautiful natural scenery and outdoor adventure to Mount Magazine State Park. At 2,753 feet above sea level, Mount Magazine is the highest point in Arkansas. This state park is managed by Arkansas State Parks under a special use agreement from, and in concert with, the USDA Forest Service, Ozark National Forest, and conserves 2,234 acres of Mount Magazine's oak-hickory and pine covered, plateau-like summit. The mountain and the surrounding forests are part of the national forest and offer trails, lakes and forest recreation areas.

On the mountaintop, altitude, geography and climate combine to create unique habitats for rare plants and animals. The elevation also makes it a cool place to be on warm summer days.

Mount Magazine State Park offers a variety of activities for outdoor adventure. Trails provide hours of enjoyable hiking, biking and horseback riding through the forests. For extreme adventure enthusiasts, there is rappelling and rock climbing on 200-foot high bluffs. Take a leap with your hang glider to soar with the birds over the vast Petit Jean River Valley, or enjoy the mountain slowly and quietly through wildflower photography or bird and butterfly watching. Roads complete with bike lanes lead visitors to all park facilities including the lodge and cabins.

The park is surrounded by the Ozark National Forest, which allows you to enjoy hunting, fishing, boating, backpacking, horseback riding, mountain biking and other activities while using the state park as a base.

Although few remnants remain, the mountain was once home to farms, homesites and earlier resort lodges. Attracted by lower temperatures (usually 10-15 degrees cooler than in the valley), as early as the 1850s, settlers and vacationers began using the mountain to escape the summer heat. Drought, erosion and the Great Depression era brought much of that to an end. Campgrounds, trails and a lodge were constructed by the federal Works Progress Administration. That lodge, operated by the U.S. Forest Service, burned in 1971.

FACILITIES

Visitor Center ♦ Features interactive exhibits, an audio-visual auditorium, a wildlife viewing area, concession vending and park offices.

The Lodge at Mount Magazine ♦ All 60 rooms and the Skycrest Restaurant with fine dining offer spectacular views of the Petit Jean River Valley and Blue Mountain Lake. Amenities include an indoor pool; fitness center/game room; conference, banquet and meeting rooms, business center; and high-speed Internet access. Forty guest rooms feature balconies and 17 offer spa tubs. Four corner suites offer fireplaces and two balconies each.

Cabins ♦ Thirteen fully equipped cabins include one-, two- and three-bedroom designs with covered decks and hot tubs offering sweeping views from the bluff. Amenities include wood-burning fireplaces, a private bathroom for each bedroom and high-speed Internet access.

Camping ♦ Cameron Bluff Campground has 18 sites with full hookups (electric, water, and sewer) and a bathhouse with hot showers. An RV dump station is located in the area.

NOTE: Campers must register at the visitor center before occupying a campsite. All sites are reservable and can be reserved up to one year in advance. Call to check availability.

Picnic Pavilion ♦ A group rental pavilion is located at the Greenfield Picnic Area.

Gift Shops ♦ Located at the visitor center and lodge

Future Facilities ♦ Horse camp, 19th-century homestead and amphitheater

RECREATION

Picnicking ♦ Tables and grills are available at the Greenfield, Benefield, Brown Springs and Cameron Bluff areas.

Hiking ♦ The trails on the top of the mountain will lead you through prime examples of oak-hickory and pine forests, wooded glades and soggy seeps. Trail maps are available at the visitor center and lodge.

Cycling ♦ Road cycling is allowed throughout the park. Paved areas feature bike lanes. Mountain biking is allowed on the Will Apple's Road Trail and the Huckleberry Mountain Horse Trail. Maps are available at the visitor center and lodge.

Fishing ♦ The rock quarry holds populations of bream, catfish and largemouth bass; however, anglers may prefer to travel from the park to fish Cove Lake, Blue Mountain Lake, Cedar Piney Lake or Spring Lake.

Swimming ♦ An indoor pool is available for lodge and cabin guests. Swimming can also be enjoyed at Cove Lake, Blue Mountain Lake or Spring Lake. A public pool is located in Paris.

Rock Climbing ♦ This is allowed, but only at certain places to protect the sensitive plants and animals in the park. Check at the visitor center for specifics and register upon arrival.

Hang-gliding ♦ Hang gliding is also allowed but it too has restrictions. Check at the visitor center for specifics and register upon arrival.

Horseback Riding ♦ Horseback riding is permissible on the Huckleberry Mountain Horse Trail that can be accessed at the northeast rock quarry. At the visitor center pick up the Forest Service map for this trail.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

Guided hikes, history and nature talks, audiovisual programs and demonstrations are available throughout the year. Organized groups can request special programs in advance. School groups are encouraged to schedule field trips to the park for hands-on, curriculum-based education programs. Children ages 7-14 are invited to participate in the park's Junior Naturalist and the Arkansas State Park's Explorer programs.

LOCATION

The park is on Scenic Highway 309, 16 miles south of Paris; or 10 miles north of Havana.

Mount Magazine State Park

16878 Highway 309 South

Paris, AR 72855

Park Office/Campsite Reservations: (479) 963-8502

Lodge/Cabin Reservations: 1-877-665-6343 (V/TT)

e-mail: mountmagazine@arkansas.com

For more information and to book online visit:

www.MountMagazineStatePark.com

For information on Arkansas's other state parks, contact:

Arkansas State Parks

One Capitol Mall

Little Rock, AR 72201

1-888-AT-PARKS (V/TT)

www.ArkansasStateParks.com



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Arkansas State Parks 2006

MOUNT MAGAZINE STATE PARK



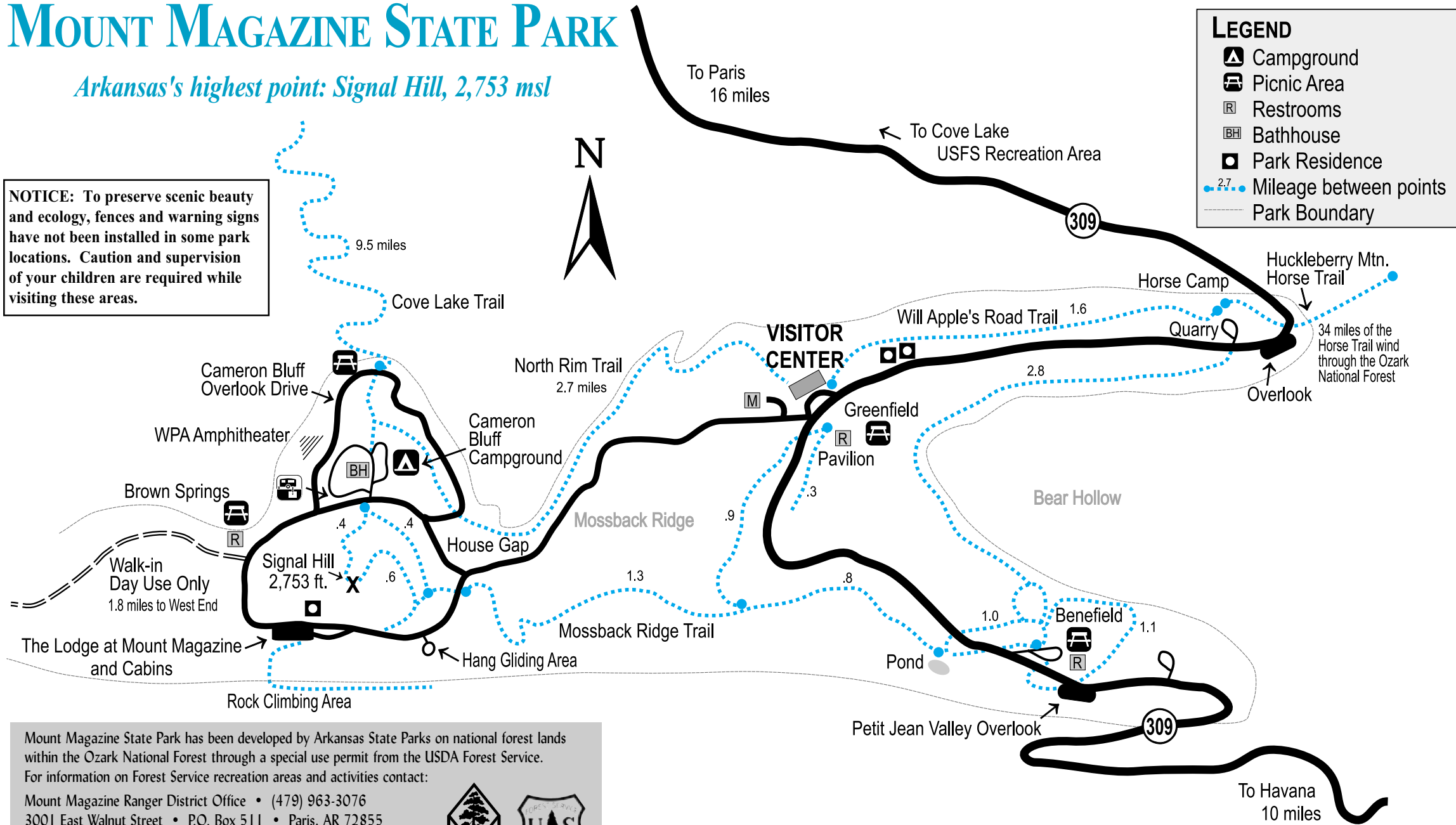
ARKANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & TOURISM

MOUNT MAGAZINE STATE PARK

Arkansas's highest point: Signal Hill, 2,753 msl

NOTICE: 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.



Mount Magazine State Park has been developed by Arkansas State Parks on national forest lands within the Ozark National Forest through a special use permit from the USDA Forest Service. For information on Forest Service recreation areas and activities contact:

Mount Magazine Ranger District Office • (479) 963-3076
 3001 East Walnut Street • P.O. Box 511 • Paris, AR 72855
 Ozark-St. Francis NFS Supervisor's Office • (479) 968-2354
 605 West Main Street • Russellville, AR 72801



EXPLORE THE BEAUTY & HISTORY OF ARKANSAS!

Volunteer Opportunities

Maintenance is required to keep these trails passable and preserve their scenic beauty. Please carry out any litter you see. Groups or individuals interested in volunteer projects are encouraged to contact the park interpreter. Consider joining the Mount Magazine Action Group (MtMAG), a non-profit volunteer organization that supports the park. A brochure is available at the visitor center.

Hiker Hints

Stay on Marked Trails

Leaving established trails often creates new and confusing trails. This can destroy rare and delicate wildflowers. Poison ivy is common along some trails. Avoid ticks and snakes by remaining on designated trails.

Watch Your Step

Some trails take you to the brink of bluffs. Be cautious of loose or wet rocks and rough terrain. Wear hiking boots, carry walking sticks, and drink plenty of water.

Do No Harm

Picking flowers, throwing rocks, and littering are a few ways people destroy the very environment they came to visit. All plants and animals are protected within the park.

Be Aware of Bears

Yes, there are black bears on Mount Magazine. They usually avoid humans. However, bears are attracted to food. Do not feed bears. If you encounter a bear, slowly back away and keep your distance.

Read about mountain history in *Mount Magazine, a History* by Garvin Green, available in park gift shops.

Mount Magazine State Park is managed through a partnership with the USDA Forest Service, Ozark-St. Francis National Forest. For information on Forest Recreation Areas and Forest Service activities contact:

Mount Magazine Ranger District Office

3001 E. Walnut
Paris, AR 72855
479-963-3076

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Attend interpretive programs to learn more about the mountain's unique resources. Guided hikes, audio visual presentations, and demonstrations are scheduled weekly. Shuttle service is available with advanced notice.

For more information, contact:

Mount Magazine State Park

16878 HWY 309 S
Paris, AR 72855



(479) 963-8502



mtmagazine@arkansas.com

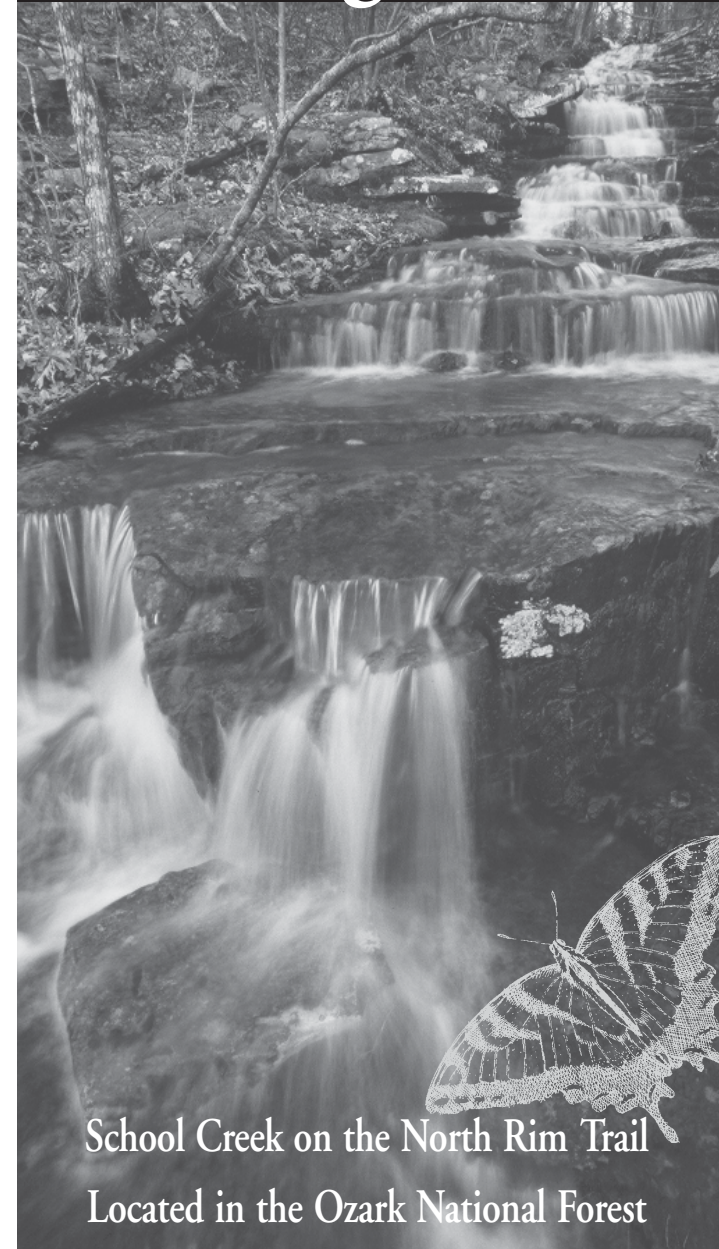
See our websites:

www.MountMagazineStatePark.com

www.ArkansasStateParks.com

Mount Magazine State Park

Hiking Trails



School Creek on the North Rim Trail
Located in the Ozark National Forest

Hiking in

Mount Magazine State Park

Trails on Mount Magazine can provide for endless hours of recreation, solitude, and adventure. You have picked a great place to hike. Whether you are interested in a short woodland stroll or an overnight backpacking trip, you will find it here. A rich diversity of plants, wildlife, remains of historic sites, and spectacular scenic beauty await your discovery on 14 miles of trails. These trails connect with Ozark National Forest trails to offer nearly 60 miles of back country paths.

Mount Magazine has Arkansas's highest natural point and is called an "Island in the Sky" due to its isolated dominance over the surrounding landscape. Many trails originated as game trails followed by Native American hunters. After the Civil War settlers farmed much of the plateau-like summit. Some paths became wagon roads. This trail system offers hikers many options to connect two or more trails to create loops of various lengths. Visitors can enjoy the mountain slowly and quietly while walking through different habitats.

Orient yourself at the park Visitor Center. Information, exhibits, supplies, books, and gifts are available to enhance your visit.

Bear Hollow Trail

The Bear Hollow Trail follows the upper rim of Bear Hollow from the Benefield Picnic Area to its northern trailhead on HWY 309 just south of the horse camp. Some of the best scenery on the mountain is found along this trail. Points of interest include Sunrise Rock, Inspiration Point, and Shoal Creek. Several wet weather creeks lead to beautiful waterfalls. The upper part of the hollow has never been logged and is some of the last remaining virgin hardwood forest in Arkansas. The first part of this trail, just north of the picnic area, was originally constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1938. A spur trail reconnects with the Benefield West Loop to create a .5-mile loop.
Length: 2.8 miles ___ Moderate ___ Orange Blazes

Benefield Trail

The Benefield Trail is divided into two loops. In the 1880s Benjamin Benefield homesteaded 160 acres here. Forty acres were cultivated in onions, turnips, potatoes, an apple orchard and vineyard. One of their seven children is buried beside the entrance road. The 1.1-mile East Loop follows a path originally constructed by the WPA in 1938. It leads to wonderful views of Bear Hollow, Ouachita Mountains, and the Petit Jean River Valley. The .9-mile Benefield West Loop Trail leads to a wildlife pond and connects to the Mossback Ridge Trail. It returns to the picnic area via the entrance road, passing the grave.

Length: 2 miles ___ Easy ___ Blue Blazes

Cove Lake Trail

Starting in the Cameron Bluff Campground this trail descends over 1,500 feet in elevation to Cove Lake. Only .3 of a mile of this trail is in the state park. Most of the trail is in the Ozark National Forest. It is best enjoyed at a slow pace and is excellent for beginning backpackers. Overnight camping is allowed in the national forest. Hunting is allowed in the national forest so be aware of the seasons and wear bright colored clothing. More forest service trails surround Cove Lake. This trail is also called the Mt. Magazine Hiking Trail. An additional map is available.

Length: 9.5 miles ___ Moderate - Strenuous ___ White Diamond Blazes ___

Greenfield Trail

The Greenfield Picnic Area now occupies what was part of a family farm prior to the Great Depression. This trail starts in the picnic area, crosses the highway, the headwaters of Big Shoal Creek, and meets the Mossback Ridge Trail. It climbs 210 feet in elevation. A .3-mile spur leads down an old wagon road to Turkey Springs.

Length: .9 Mile ___ Moderate ___ Green Blazes

Mossback Ridge Trail

Named for Albert Morsbach, a settler, farmer, and teacher, this trail connects with four other trails: Benefield West Loop, Greenfield, North Rim, and Signal Hill. The three ascents are rather steep, but walking is easy on top of the ridge.

Length: 2.1 miles ___ Moderate ___ Yellow Blazes

North Rim Trail

Starting just west of the Visitor Center, this trail follows the north rim of the mountain and connects to the Cove Lake Trail just north of the Cameron Bluff Campground. It winds through hardwood forests, scrub oaks, and cedar glades and crosses several tumbling creeks. Windswept bluffs tower over rugged Gutter Rock Hollow. On clear days the Ozarks can be seen beyond the Arkansas River Valley from Dill Point. A spur connects with the Mossback Ridge Trail to create a 4.4-mile loop.

Length: 2.7 miles _ Moderate-Strenuous ___ Red Blazes

Signal Hill Trail - The Highpoint

At an elevation of 2,753 feet above sea level, Signal Hill is the highest point in Arkansas. No visit to Mount Magazine is complete without having hiked to the highpoint. At the top is a stone map of Arkansas. A wide variety of plants and songbirds make this a nice nature walk in spring and summer. From the campground trailhead the trail climbs 153 feet. A special brochure describes this trail.

Length: 1.4 miles ___ Moderate

Will Apple's Road Trail

Named for a farmer in the mouth of Bear Hollow, this was one of the first roads to reach the crest of Mount Magazine. During the 1800s, wagons hauled produce from the mountaintop to the valley using this path. This trail starts just east of the Visitor Center and ends at the Horse Camp. Features include remains of historic home sites, wildflowers, escaped domestic flowers, stone fences, and ruins of the Buckman swimming pool built in the 1920s. Mountain bikes are allowed on this trail.

Length: 1.6 miles ___ Easy



Hiking Trails @ Mount Magazine State Park

