



# *Visitors Guide*

FALL 2023

*Newton County*  
ARKANSAS



# Visitors Guide

## Newton County

ARKANSAS

This publication is a product of the Newton County Times  
© 2023 Phillips Media Group

P.O. Box 453, Jasper, AR 72641  
870-446-2645

Editor: Lynn Blevins  
Content: Jeff Dezort  
Advertising Account  
Executives: Sheri Underdown  
& Shayne Washburn



### National Wilderness Month

Did you know that more than 80% of National Park Service-administered lands are managed as wilderness? The Wilderness Act ensures that certain spaces will be managed with restraint and humility, allowing natural processes to prevail without human intervention. These spaces need no improvement, only preservation.

#### RICHLAND CREEK

This waterfall is located just south of the Richland Creek Wilderness Area, which also has numerous other beautiful waterfalls, well worth a day of exploring. To get to Falling Water Falls, travel East on AR Hwy 16 from Pelsor/Sand Gap, which is located on Scenic Hwy 7 between Russellville and Jasper.

FILE PHOTO

## The Premier **OUTFITTER** in the Upper Buffalo Area!

Canoes • Kayaks • Rafts • Bunkhouse • Camping  
• Shuttles • Country Store • Showers  
• Cabins with Hot Tubs • Tree House Yurt

[www.lostvalleycanoe.com](http://www.lostvalleycanoe.com)  
Ponca, AR

**LOST VALLEY  
CANOE & LODGING**

37 Years  
Of Outfitting  
& Lodging!



**870-861-5522**

EMAIL: [lostvalleycanoe@gmail.com](mailto:lostvalleycanoe@gmail.com)

We are an  
authorized  
concessioner  
of the NPS

Join Us  
Wednesday  
Nights for  
Karaoke!

Check out our Facebook page for  
**UPCOMING EVENTS!**

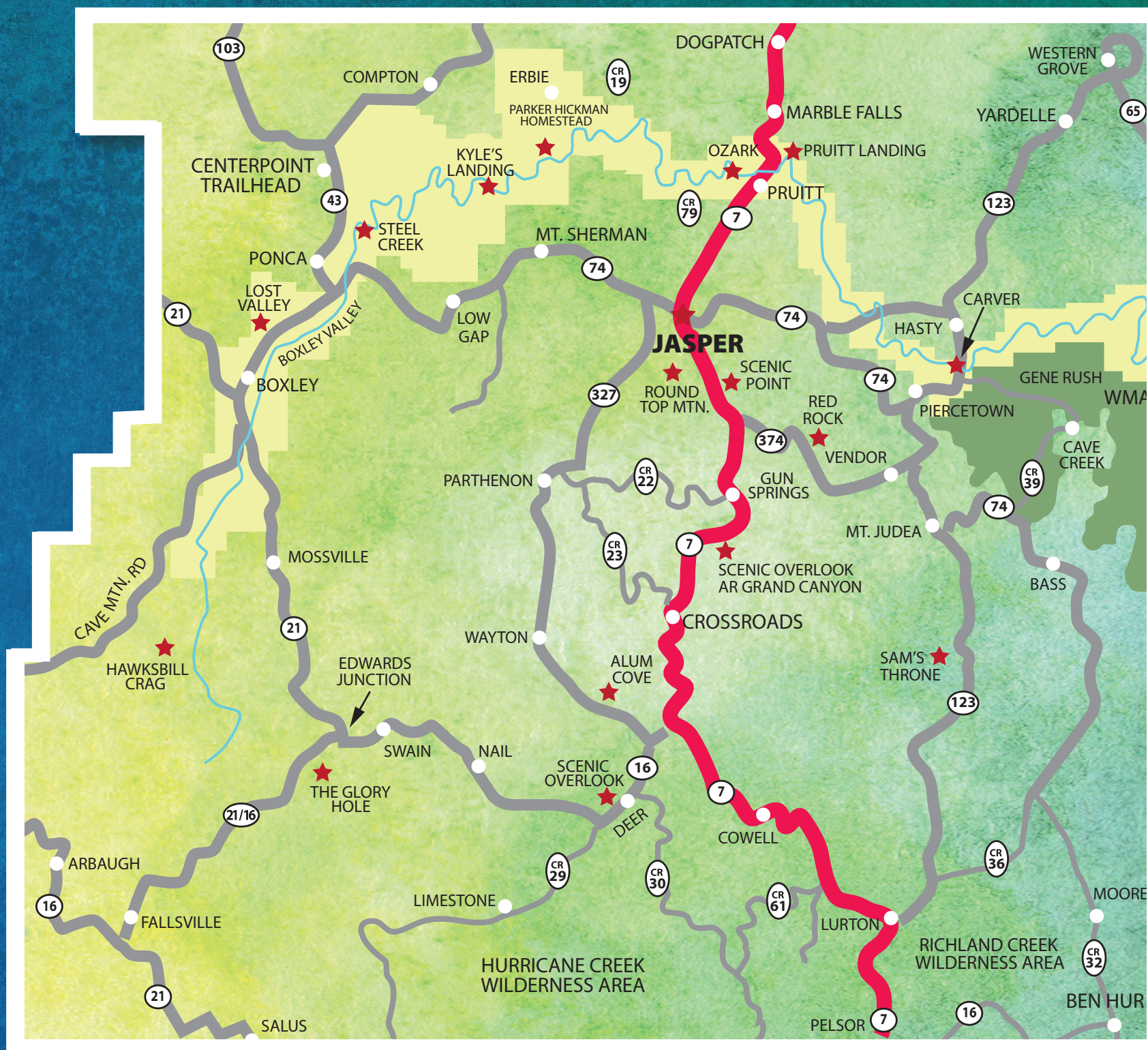


**BAR & GRILL**

**8800 HWY 7 S • HARRISON • 870-204-5100**

OPEN: Sunday - Thursday, 11am - 10pm  
Friday & Saturday, 11am - 11pm





# Newton County

## ARKANSAS



# Spectacular Views



**BIG BLUFF**

NPS PHOTO BY CHRIS LEE

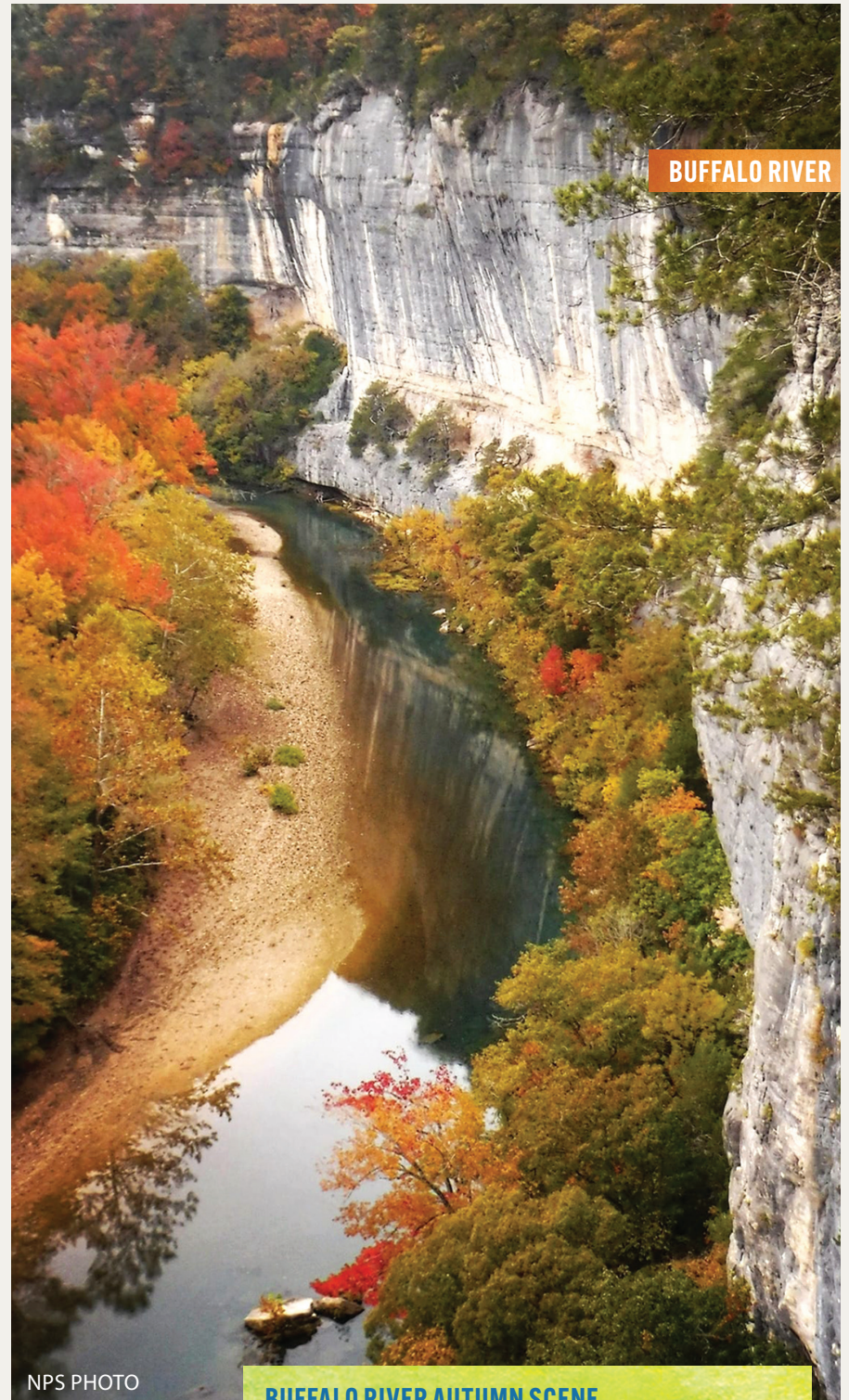
## Did you know...

You can plan ahead for your river trip by taking a virtual kayak tour down any section of the Buffalo? This is an awesome tool that gives paddlers a sneak peek of what to expect. Check out the Paddling page of our website and select the river district and section you're planning to paddle to experience the virtual kayak tour. You can find an example, Steel Creek to Kyles Landing, at this link: <https://www.nps.gov/.../paddle-steel-creek-to-kyles...>

Thanks to Buffalo National River's Volunteer of the Year, Jerry Goller, for this helpful resource!

### BIG BLUFF

Three paddlers with their backs to us paddle down the river with fall colors adorning the banks. Big Bluff, a stone bluff, towers over the river in the distance.



**BUFFALO RIVER**

NPS PHOTO

### BUFFALO RIVER AUTUMN SCENE

A vivid, colorful fall scene of the Buffalo River from the top of a tall sandstone cliff. The cliff follows the right bank of the river as it bends to the left in the distance. On top of the cliff and along the left bank are trees of red, orange, gold, and green. The river is a deep blue color.



HOURS: SUN-THURS, 7A-8P | FRI-SAT, 7A-9P

Located on the Jasper square | 870-446-2976



## ALUM COVE NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL



FS EMPLOYEE ELLEN MCWHIRTER

## Alum Cove Natural Bridge Recreation

The leaves may have fallen The Alum Cove Natural Bridge Recreation Area is designed primarily for visitors to be close to nature. The area offers picnic facilities and the Alum Cove National Recreation Trail for your enjoyment. This looping trail wanders past the natural arch, across a small stream and to the trip hike for 0.4 miles to view the arch. Exercise caution while hiking along the bluff line. Early settlers reportedly used this arch to move their wagons and live-stock across the streambed during wet weather. Water and wind also shaped other interesting rock formations along the bluff line across the cove, including the cave (or "rooms" as they are often called) or overhangs. Native Americans used these rock overhangs for shelter while on extended hunting trips. At one time, free-roaming goats inhabited the caves, giving the formations the local name, "goat houses."

### ALUM COVE'S NATURAL BRIDGE GEOLOGICAL AREA

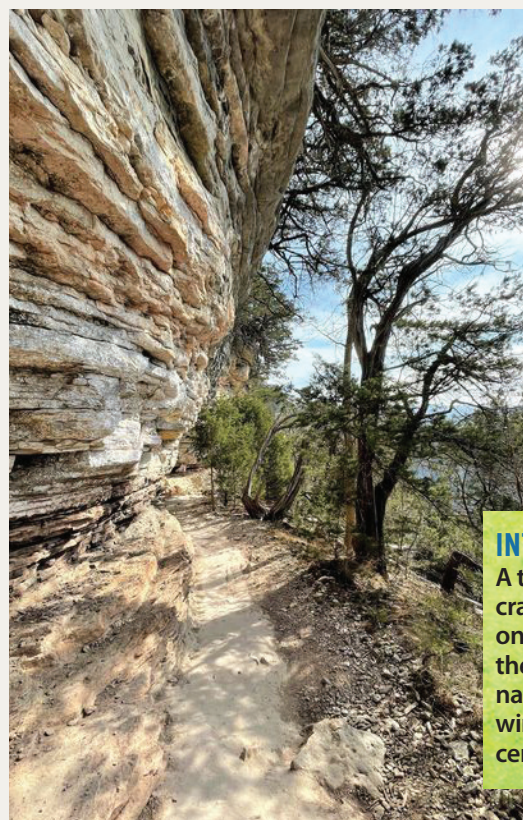
Outstanding among the many natural features of the Ozark Natural Forest is the huge stone arch that forms a natural bridge at Alum Cove National Recreation Trail. The natural arch is all that remains of what was a quartz sandstone cave. The arch is 130 feet long and 20 feet wide. The weathering process of wind, rain and ice formed the opening between the arch and the rock overhang.

## Fall hiking the Buffalo

The leaves may have fallen but some of us (the views and rock loving variety) are very excited! This is one of the best times of year to come out to the Buffalo and hike. The weathers great, plus all the bluffs and river viewpoints have been exposed and are showing off.

### INTERESTING PATHS

A tan and white craggy rock wall on the left side of the photo frames a narrow path which winds through the center of the photo.



## OPEN YEAR ROUND!

- Six beautiful cabins
- Very spacious 30/50 amp full service RV sites
- Electric/Primitive tent hammock sites
- Cable TV and Free Wifi
- Pavilion with kitchen, BBQ, game tables, basketball, playground, horseshoes
- Refreshing Splash Pad
- Propane fill station
- Tucked away from the hustle and bustle
- Paved roads to the campground
- The perfect gateway for fantastic motorcycle rides
- Nearby Activities Include: kayaking, cave exploring, waterfalls, hiking, rock climbing, mountain biking, ATVs & much more

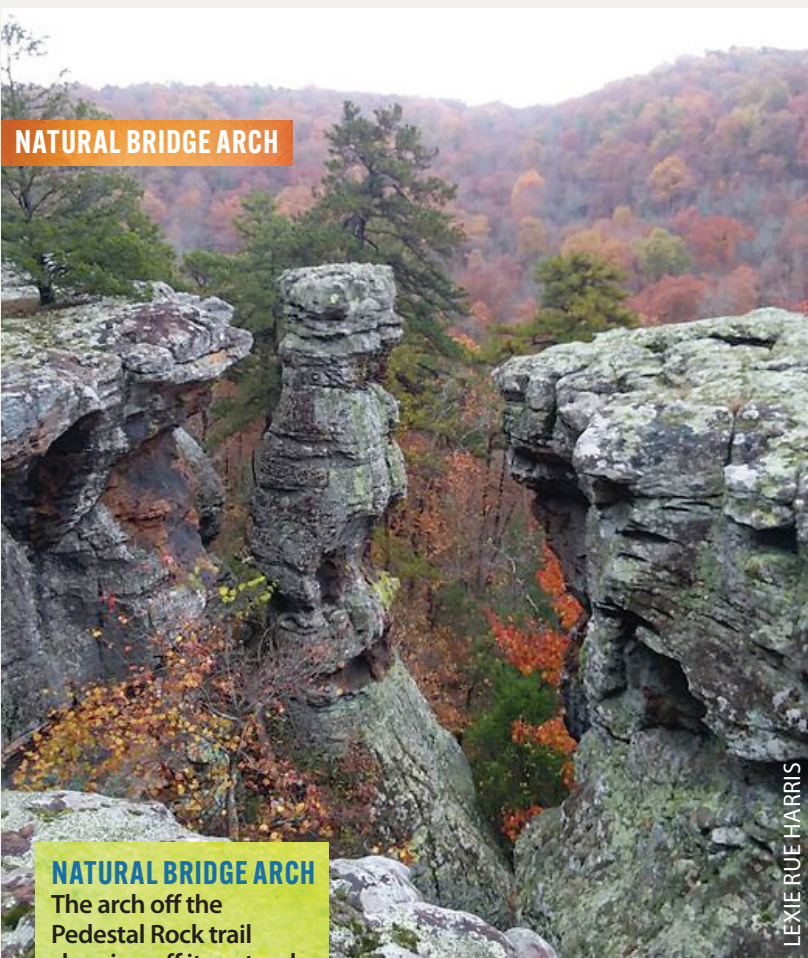
*For more information, visit us at*  
**[www.camptheoaks.com](http://www.camptheoaks.com)**

**960 Hwy 206 E • Harrison • 870-743-2343**

69842703



# Rock Formations



**NATURAL BRIDGE ARCH**

## **NATURAL BRIDGE ARCH**

The arch off the Pedestal Rock trail showing off its natural beauty with a backdrop of colors of fall.

LEXIE RUE HARRIS



**PEDESTAL ROCK TRAIL**

## **PEDESTAL ROCK TRAIL**

This scenic area consists of two hiking trails Pedestal Rocks and Kings Bluff. Pedestal Rocks is 2.2 -miles and Kings Bluff is 1.7-miles long. Although there are some steep sections, the trails are easy to hike with abundant resting places.

NPS PHOTO

## **Arch formation**

Pedestal Rock Trail is located at the top of the Illinois Bayou River Drainage. It offers great views and a history lesson in Arkansas geology. While hiking the trail, you will see layer upon layer of sediment that was deposited when the area was under water millions of years ago. After the water receded, the land raised to form a dome called the Ozark Plateau. Since then, natural erosion has been occurring to form the Ozark Mountains. On the trail, you will see unique formations, called pedestals that were formed by weathering. These are the featured destination of this area. Kings Bluff features a large flat bluff top with a waterfall that flows over the ledge. Please use caution while visiting the bluffs, especially if you have children with you.



## **Brazell Oil Company**

**SINCE 1954**

**Jim Brazell / Bryan Bench**

202 North Olive Street, Harrison, AR

**870-741-4275**

698940ma



698406ma

## **JASPER PHARMACY**

*DRUG STORE & GIFTS*

*"Your Hometown Pharmacy"*

200 West Church Street • Jasper

**870-446-5515**

HOURS: Monday-Friday, 8:30am - 5:30pm  
Saturday, 8:30am - 12:00pm



## SAM'S THRONE

### BIG BLUFF

Primarily well known as a rock climbing site, Sam's Throne, near Mt. Judea, is also a popular hiking, camping and photography destination. Located up on Judea Mountain and overlooking the Big Creek valley below, the scenic views will show you why this is such a popular place.



These Ozark Mountain log cabins are some of the finest cabin rentals to be found in Arkansas. These finely crafted cabins overlook the Buffalo National River with stunning views perfect for canoeing and kayaking.

**Secluded, Handcrafted  
Cedar Log Cabins With:**

Wi-Fi ~ TV ~ Fireplaces ~ Jacuzzi Tubs

Reserve a cabin, today!

**870-446-5055**



[WWW.OZARKBLUFFDWELLERS.COM](http://WWW.OZARKBLUFFDWELLERS.COM) • [OZARKBLUFFDWELLERS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:OZARKBLUFFDWELLERS@GMAIL.COM)

## THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS CARES FOR SENIORS



*Serving our local community for over 44 years.*

**To find a location near you or to get more information,** please visit [www.aaanwar.org](http://www.aaanwar.org) or call 1-800-432-9721, 870-741-1144 or locally at 870-446-2337.

**Now accepting new clients and personal care assistants** in Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Madison, Marion, Newton, Searcy & Washington counties.

The AAANWA is committed to the non-discriminatory delivery of services and is an equal opportunity provider and employer.





# LAND AND WATER *Adventures*

## Full Day Paddling Adventure

For a full day of paddling, visitors may select either of the two premiere float trips in the Upper District.

### Steel Creek to Kyles Landing (8 miles)

Hands-down the most beloved and popular section of the upper river, Steel Creek to Kyles Landing meanders through the heart of the Ponca Wilderness past towering bluffs, hidden side canyons, and relics of early settlement. Alternating between tumbling rapids and long, cerulean pools, paddlers will delight in the variety of pace and challenge. Landmarks along this stretch include Big Bluff, Jim Bluff, Granny Henderson's cabin, Hemmed-In Hollow Falls, and the infamous "Hell's Half Acre." The takeout at Kyles Landing is on river right. Shuttle time between Steel Creek and Kyles Landing is approximately 40 minutes. High clearance and 4-wheel drive are recommended for the Kyles Landing Road.

### Pruitt Landing to Hasty (7 miles)

The float from Pruitt to Hasty is a popular alternative when conditions upriver are too low for paddling. This section flows past geologic curiosities, shaded swimming holes, and cool, dripping springs as the river veers southward in its journey. Welch Bluff, about a mile downstream from Pruitt, contains a geologic fault where visible rock strata have shifted about 100 feet upward on the downstream side of the fault line. At the base of Welch Bluff is the Crow Hole, a shaded swimming area with a primitive campground. Approximately halfway between Pruitt and Hasty, the Little Buffalo River dumps into the "Big Buffalo" on river right; the river typically gains velocity from here. The takeout at Hasty is a sandy beach on river right, directly across from Chimney Rock Bluff. Shuttle time between Pruitt and Hasty is approximately 25 minutes.

## Full Day Hiking Adventure

For a full day of hiking, visitors may select any of the following trails traversing the Ponca Wilderness.

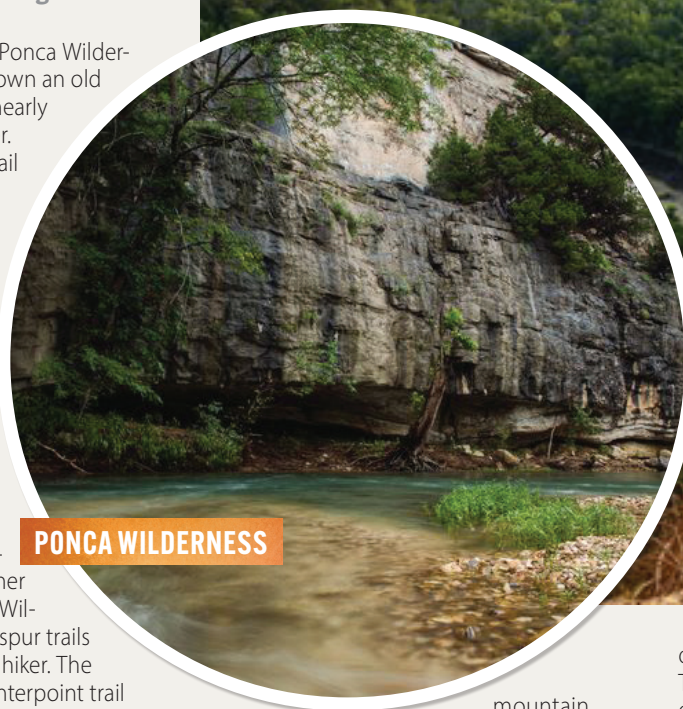
### Centerpoint Trailhead to Big Bluff

The Centerpoint Trail Begins in the heart of the Ponca Wilderness, gradually winding down an old wagon road descending nearly 1,300 ft to the Buffalo River. During the descent, the trail offers outstanding panoramic views of the Buffalo River and the rugged Ozark Mountains that surround it. The Centerpoint Trail is considered to be a strenuous hike. The trail is steep in areas, especially on the hike out; visitors will need to plan to take the entire day to hike this trail due to the rough wilderness terrain. The trail intersects with many of the other trail systems in the Ponca Wilderness creating multiple spur trails for the more adventurous hiker. The spur trails connect the Centerpoint trail with the Chimney Rock Trail, Sneeds Creek Trail, Big Bluff Trail, Compton Loop Trail, and Hemmed-in Hollow Trail. The "Goat Trail" to Big Bluff is narrow and dangerous; visitors should proceed with extreme caution when hiking this section of trail. From Centerpoint Trailhead to Big Bluff and back is approximately 5 miles round-trip with 800 feet of elevation gain on the return hike.

### Compton Trailhead to Hemmed-in Hollow Falls

The Hemmed-in Hollow Trail begins in the heart of the Ponca Wilderness at the Compton Trailhead and winds down the

BIG BLUFF



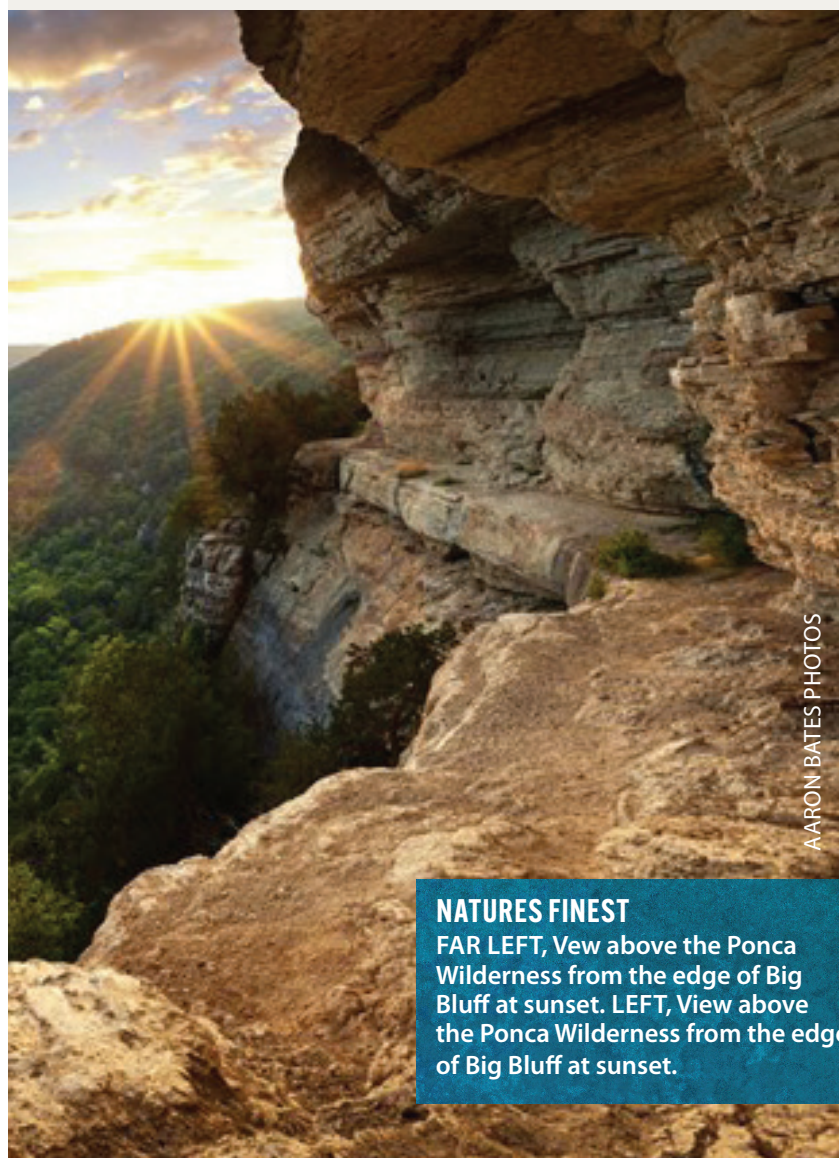
PONCA WILDERNESS

mountain side descending nearly 1,400 ft. to the sandstone bluffs along the Buffalo River. The trail opens up along the way, giving visitors outstanding scenic views of the Buffalo River and the Ozark Mountains that surround it. The gem of the hike is Hemmed-in Hollow Falls. The picturesque Hemmed-in Hollow falls cascade nearly 210 feet over the rugged Ozark bluffs, making it the highest waterfall between the Rockies and the Appalachians. This waterfall only flows after a considerable amount of rain, so please be mindful of recent precipitation before you attempt this

difficult hike. The Hemmed-in Hollow Trail is an extremely steep and strenuous trail that will humble even the most experienced hiker. Visitors will need to plan to take the entire day to hike this trail due to the rough wilderness terrain. The Hemmed-in Hollow Trail intersects with many of the other trail systems in the Ponca Wilderness, creating multiple spur trails for the more adventurous hiker. The spur trails connect the Hemmed-in Hollow Trail with the Sneeds Creek Trail, Centerpoint Trail, Bench Trail, and Old River Trail. For this reason, it's essential to have a detailed topographic map of this area in order to avoid confusion at trail intersections in the Ponca Wilderness. From Compton Trailhead to Hemmed-in Hol-







AARON BATES PHOTOS

### NATURE'S FINEST

FAR LEFT, View above the Ponca Wilderness from the edge of Big Bluff at sunset. LEFT, View above the Ponca Wilderness from the edge of Big Bluff at sunset.

low and back is approximately 5 miles round-trip with 1,200 feet of elevation gain on the return hike.

### Best of Both

You're a brave soul. If you're willing to start at sunrise, it is absolutely possible to do it all in one day. Here's what we recommend:

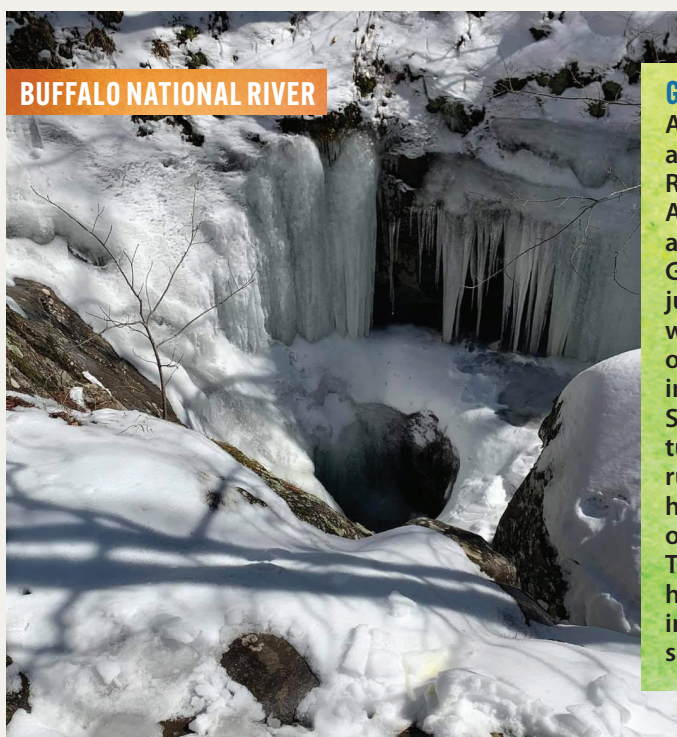
### Complete Half-Day Highlights by 10 a.m.

Rise with the sun. Take in the enormity of Roark Bluff at Steel Creek. Step back in time at Bea-

ver Jim's Homestead. Spot some Rocky Mountain elk in Boxley Valley Historic District. Hike to caves and waterfalls at Lost Valley.

### Float the Buffalo

After a marathon finish of the Half-Day Highlights, it's time to hit the river. If water levels are appropriate, Steel Creek to Kyles Landing is a spectacular, 8-mile stretch of river that traverses the Ponca Wilderness. If the water is a bit low, Pruitt Landing to Hasty is a lovely, 7-mile-long alternative. Click here for more information about these floats.

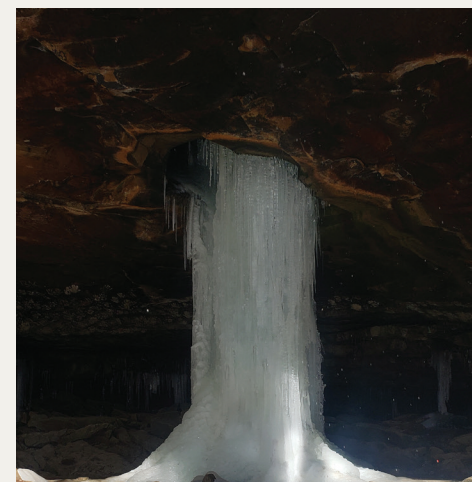
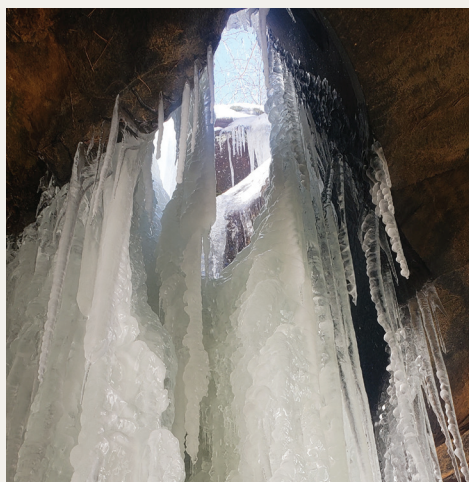


### BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER

### GLORY HOLE

A winter spectacular at Buffalo National River.

At this Buffalo National River landmark, the Glory Hole, located just off of state Highway 16, southwest of Edwards Junction in Newton County. Subfreezing temperatures froze the water running through the hole in the roof of the overhanging bluff. The usual waterfall has been transformed into an amazing ice sculpture.



*Bob's*

**AUTO BODY**

**870-446-2110**

**JASPER**



## 'Arkansas Wildlife' videos available on YouTube

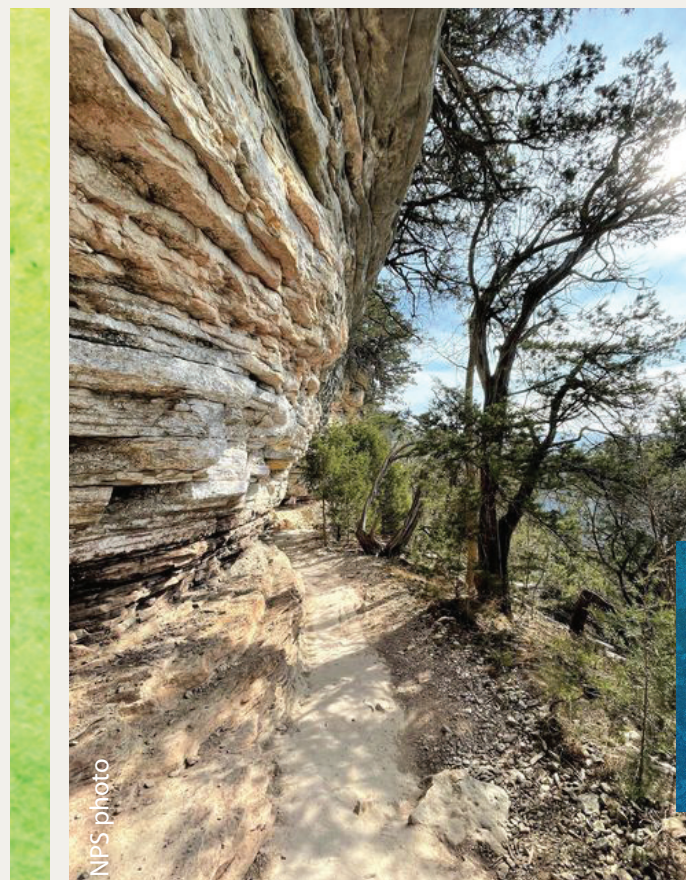
LITTLE ROCK — "Arkansas Wildlife," the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's award-winning television show, airs weekly on broadcast television stations out of Little Rock, Fayetteville and Monroe, Louisiana, but video segments from the show, as well as additional Arkansas Game and Fish Commission videos, can be seen anytime and anywhere on the agency's YouTube channels.

The AGFC manages two YouTube channels: The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission channel ([youtube.com/arkansasgameandfish](https://youtube.com/arkansasgameandfish)), which features videos about the agency's conservation work, AGFC meetings and much more, and the Arkansas Wildlife TV channel ([youtube.com/arkansaswildlifetv](https://youtube.com/arkansaswildlifetv)), which features videos about the agency's conservation work plus hunting and fishing and human-interest stories.

The AGFC channel includes live-streaming coverage of another TV shot 7212021.jpg each month's Commission meeting, plus archives of past monthly meetings. It also has content such as the monthly Wild Science Webinar, in which AGFC staff present research and ongoing projects. There's also other useful information about the agency's work across the state.

The Arkansas Wildlife TV channel is a good place to binge on hunting and fishing programming. Popular segments include deer hunting, waterfowl hunting, bass fishing and much more, including videos about less well-known game species, such as woodcock and snipe. There's also plenty of programming about the agency's work with nongame species like bats, Ozark hellbenders and monarch butterflies.

Many of the agency's YouTube segments are based on content from the "Arkansas Wildlife" television show, but other segments are exclusive to YouTube or appear there before they're available on broadcast channels. It's one more way you can stay connected with the great outdoors and the AGFC's conservation work across The Natural State.



## Fall hiking the Buffalo

The leaves may have fallen but some of us (the views and rock loving variety) are very excited! This is one of the best times of year to come out to the Buffalo and hike. The weathers great, plus all the bluffs and river viewpoints have been exposed and are showing off.

### INTERESTING PATHS

A tan and white craggy rock wall on the left side of the photo frames a narrow path which winds through the center of the photo.

*Come Stay... Come Relax...  
Come Explore*

**Erbie Mountain Cabins**  
870-754-0086  
[www.ErbieMountainCabins.com](http://www.ErbieMountainCabins.com)

**MT. JUDEA  
MERCANTILE**  
Mt. Judea, Arkansas

**LOCAL CRAFTS. LOCAL HISTORY.**

We carry locally-made items, Bentley Drinkware, Rada, t-shirts, and more!

Open September through Christmas, & April through June.

Open Saturdays 10am - 4pm & Sundays 12pm - 4pm.

- Follow us on Facebook
- [mjmercantile.com](http://mjmercantile.com)

Feel free to give us a call.  
☎ 870-704-9940



## SAM'S THRONE



## MONARCHS OF THE AIR

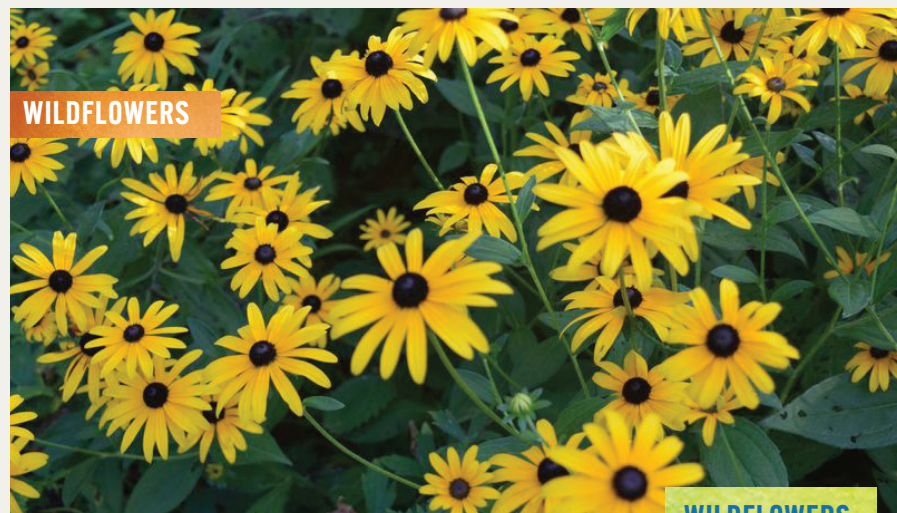
While you're out viewing Boxley Valley's mega-monarchs (Rocky Mountain elk) this fall, take a moment to look up. You may catch a glimpse of another monarch's mass migration: the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*).

## Monarch migration

At Buffalo National River's latitude, the peak of the monarch migration is in early October. Millions of these tenacious butterflies are traveling to their overwintering habitat in southern Mexico, a migration of up to 3,000 miles. The Buffalo River's orientation through Boxley Valley creates an ideal migration corridor to the south/southwest, so viewing opportunities abound near the Ponca Access, Lost Valley Trailhead parking, and all of the valley's designated elk viewing areas. The annual arrival of the monarchs in Mexico coincides with the Mexican holiday Día del los Muertos (Day of the Dead) on November 1. Mexican tradition suggests that the butterflies are the souls of lost loved ones making an annual visit to their families and friends on Earth.



## WILDFLOWERS



## Fall blooms

The Buffalo National River is home to over 1,200 different species of plants, including over 60 different types of wildflowers. While many wildflowers are springtime visitors, some such as Purple Coneflowers, Rose Verbena, Evening Primrose and Black-Eyed Susan (pictured here) can be found along trails and bluffs through October! For a checklist of wildflowers that can be found in the park visit the link below. <https://www.nps.gov/buff/learn/nature/wildflowers.htm>

## WILDFLOWERS IN FALL

Just because summer is starting to fade doesn't mean that the flowers are!

## JASPER ADVERTISING AND PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCED FALL COLOR TOURS AND OTHER AUTUMN EVENTS FOR JASPER ARKANSAS

### Autumn Color tours

**Friday Oct 13-** Featuring Sam's Throne (hike) and Other Historic Destinations within Jasper

**Sat Oct 14-** Featuring Tim Ernst Gallery and Mt. Judea Heritage Festival

### Murder Mystery Weekend Tours

**Friday, Oct 27** Haunted History Tour (featuring Ponca Color Fest)

**Sat. Oct 28** Murder Mystery Tour (Featuring Ponca Color Fest)

### Westbrook Music Series - Halloween Party Edition

**Sat Oct 28-** 7-9 pm Halloween Contest 8 pm. (@ Bradley Park)

### Kiwanis

### Haunted House

**October 28 and Oct 31**

Kiwanis Haunted house \$1.00 admission with proceeds going to Jasper High School Key Club.

### Hometown Haunt:

**Tuesday, Oct 31st** 5:00-8:00pm Haunted house... Nightmare on 9th street. Jasper Arkansas. (Jasper square)

### The November Live

Big Shop Small Town Excursion and Holiday market featuring Senior Center Holiday Market, Farmer's Market Holiday Market, and Kiwanis Christmas Parade. We will also have free Live Music on the Square by Brandy Baker from 11-2 pm. Event will last from 9 am to 3pm. The parade will begin at Bradley Park and travel to and around the square at 6pm. **November 25, 2023**

698605ch

Lisa Duet (337)401-9155 • [lisaduetjapc2023@yahoo.com](mailto:lisaduetjapc2023@yahoo.com) • [japc.ticketleap.com](http://japc.ticketleap.com)





### THOSE ANTLERS HAVE A POINT!

An elk's antlers are not just for us to admire, they're used to help attract a mate, demonstrate a male's health, and can be used for defense. In the spring a male elk begins growing its antlers, and while the antlers develop they are covered in a fuzzy skin called velvet. Over the summer the antlers finish growing and the velvet sheds as the antlers harden. During the mating season or rut in the fall you may see male elk sparring with their antlers as a show of dominance. After the rut, the antlers fall off and the cycle prepares to begin again.

## Ponca Nature Center

The center is now open to the public 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. We are closed on Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Elk are one of the largest members of the deer family in North America and many of us associate this animal with western states. However, the eastern elk was a native of the Natural State. Unfortunately, this subspecies disappeared from our state after 1840 and for almost one hundred years, a bugling elk could not be heard throughout the hills of Arkansas. Between 1981 and 1985, elk were re-introduced to the Buffalo River area, and have become one of Arkansas's most successful re-establishment programs.

Don't miss the opportunity to see elk in their natural habitat along Arkansas Highways 43 and 21 in Boxley Valley. You'll have greater success at dawn and dusk when the elk frequent the grassy fields along the highways. Be alert! It is common for elk to cross highways.

### Facility

Today, an elk herd of about 600 animals makes its home along the Buffalo

National River. To learn more about this animals' recovery, biology and history, check out the Ponca Nature Center. You and your students will find exhibits and meeting space to assist you as you delve into the world of Arkansas elk as well as the other flora and fauna of the Ozark Mountains. Stop by for the latest sightings and area information, or just to relax and enjoy the exhibits and activities for all ages.

Relax in rustic log rockers or benches on a shady wraparound deck overlooking Ponca Creek while observing some of the area's flora and fauna. A lazy trail along the creek offers a closer look, while nearby picnic tables, covered pavilion and large grassy area provide room for fun and games.

For an educational and fun souvenir, shop our gift corner for books, videos, shirts and more. Hunting and fishing licenses also are available. The center is within easy access to some exceptional camping, canoeing, swimming and fishing on the Buffalo National River, along with some of the finest hiking trails in the state. Cabin and canoe rentals are available in the area through private sources.



## PONCA NATURE CENTER

**R**elax in rustic log rockers or benches on a shady wraparound deck overlooking Ponca Creek while observing some of the area's flora and fauna. A lazy trail along the creek offers a closer look, while nearby picnic tables, covered pavilion and large grassy area provide room for fun and games.

For an educational and fun souvenir, shop our gift corner for books, videos, shirts and more. Hunting and fishing licenses also are available. The center is within easy access to some exceptional camping, canoeing, swimming and fishing on the Buffalo National River, along with some of the finest hiking trails in the state. Cabin and canoe rentals are available in the area through private sources.

 Find us on Facebook or on the web at: [agfc.com/en/explore-outdoors/nature-centers/pnc/](http://agfc.com/en/explore-outdoors/nature-centers/pnc/)



VISIT US AT  
4642 AR 43 HWY  
Ponca, AR

**EXTENDED HOURS:**  
(OCT. 1 - NOV. 19)  
TUES. - SUN.  
10 AM - 4:30 PM

**NORMAL HOURS:**  
TUES. - SAT.  
10 AM - 4:30 PM

501-710-6347

608577ma



## COB CAVE ON LOST VALLEY TRAIL

### EXPLORE AND BE A - MAZED IN CAVES

Hidden wonders of caves can come in all forms, from cave formations (speleothems) to fossils to fungi to mammals! Caves are underground mazes of magic. Buffalo National River has more than 500 caves, making it one the most cave-rich National Parks. Voids, interconnected passageways, and cavities carved by flowing water have formed the landscape we see today. These features are able to preserve past records of life, climate, and minerals. For more information about Caves: <https://www.nps.gov/buff/learn/nature/cave.htm>



NPS photo

## Traffic and parking problems at tourist areas

Newton County Sheriff Glenn Wheeler says his office gets busy in the fall with traffic and parking problems, particularly in the areas of Boxley and Ponca and the parking areas for Hawksbill Crag and Hemmed in Hollow. The problems occur every day, but are worse on weekends.

Wheeler says the bugling elk and the fall colors bring a higher number of visitors and with that, a higher amount of disrespect and problems.

"The vast majority of our visitors act as they should and cause no problems at all," Wheeler said. "But quite a few of them do cause lots of issues."

Wheeler said common problems are people stopping in the roadway to watch elk, people parking along the roads in ways that impede traffic and obstruct views, parking on private property and improper driving. Wheeler said the driving issues range from driving so slowly that it impedes the flow of the traffic to very fast and reckless driving.

"We have some of the best roads in the country for fun driving," Wheeler said, "but the way some of the people push the limits amazes me. They seem to forget that we live here, drive our vehicles here, drive our farm equipment here and raise children here. Our area isn't simply their playground or racetrack. Last season we had reports of reckless drivers all over the county."

Wheeler says that even though resources are few in Newton County, he and his staff work hard to try and stay on top of the issues and will be assigning personnel to the areas as feasible. Wheeler said violators will be cited if needed and parked vehicles that are a hazard will be towed at the expense of the owner of the car. Wheeler also said private property owners have the right to have cars towed from private property at no cost to them. The owner of the car is responsible for that cost as well.

"It mainly comes down to common sense and respect," Wheeler said, "we don't go to where they live and park in their streets and roads, or drive recklessly. If we were to, we would expect appropriate consequences. And I'm sure their law enforcement folks, like us, have plenty of other things to do. We would just ask that visitors be respectful of our area and our residents."



*Located Just North of the  
Newton County Line!*

### NICE SELECTION OF:

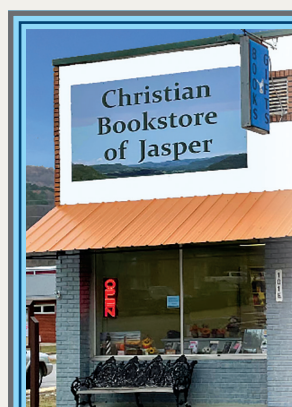
- Wines • Liquor
- Domestic, Imported & Craft Beers

Mon - Thur, 9:00 am - 9:00 pm  
Fri-Sat, 9:00am-10:00 pm; CLOSED SUNDAY

8756 Arkansas 7 • Harrison, AR

**870-204-6614**

69843ma



## Christian Bookstore of Jasper

101 E. Court Street / On the Square in Jasper

**870-446-2446**

Life-Changing Resources, Bibles, Books, CDs,  
and Gifts.

Follow us on Facebook!

69841ma



# WEEKEND GETAWAY UPPER DISTRICT

## Day 1: Paddling and Camping

For a full day of paddling, visitors may select either of the two premiere float trips in the Upper District. Click here for information about paddling safety, river etiquette, and canoe rentals/shuttles.

### OPTION 1:

#### Steel Creek to Kyles Landing (8 miles)

Hands-down the most beloved and popular section of the upper river, Steel Creek to Kyles Landing meanders through the heart of the Ponca Wilderness past towering bluffs, hidden side canyons, and relics of early settlement. Alternating between tumbling rapids and long, cerulean pools, paddlers will delight in the variety of pace and challenge. Landmarks along this stretch include Big Bluff, Jim Bluff, Granny Henderson's cabin, Hemmed-In Hollow Falls, and the infamous "Hell's Half Acre." The takeout at Kyles Landing is on river right. Shuttle time between Steel Creek and Kyles Landing is approximately 40 minutes. High clearance and 4-wheel drive are recommended for the Kyles Landing Road.

### OPTION 2:

#### Pruitt Landing to Hasty (7 miles)

The float from Pruitt to Hasty is a popular alternative when conditions upriver are too low for paddling. This section flows past geologic curiosities, shaded swimming holes, and cool, dripping springs as the river veers southward in its journey. Welch Bluff, about a mile downstream from Pruitt, contains a geologic fault where visible rock strata have shifted about 100 feet upward on the downstream side of the fault line. At the base of Welch Bluff is the Crow Hole, a shaded swimming area with a primitive campground. Approximately halfway between Pruitt and Hasty, the Little Buffalo River dumps into the "Big Buffalo" on river right; the river typically gains velocity from here. The takeout at Hasty is a sandy beach on river right, directly across from Chimney Rock Bluff. Shuttle time between Pruitt and Hasty is approximately 25 minutes.

#### Camp Out

On warm spring weekends with adequate water, every campground in the park's Upper District fills to capacity, often by Friday evening. For this reason, if you'd like to camp in the park during this season, you should either plan to arrive on Friday afternoon/evening or reserve a campsite online. Steel Creek is the only campground that offers advance reser-

ations through [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Kyles Landing, Erbie, Ozark, and Carver Campgrounds are all first come, first served. Click here for more information about camping in the Upper District.

### Watch Wildlife in Boxley Valley

With an estimated population of 100 Rocky Mountain elk, Boxley Valley Historic District is known as the Elk Capital of Arkansas. Cruise the 6-mile stretch of Hwy. 43 and 21 between Ponca and Boxley in the fall or winter for a chance to view these majestic creatures from designated viewing areas. Your best chances of spotting elk are at dawn and dusk. Birdwatchers may view bald eagles, osprey, great blue herons, and egrets in the vicinity of the Boxley Mill Pond along Hwy. 43 approximately 1 mile north of the Hwy. 21/43 intersection.

### Hike the Lost Valley Trail

At approximately 2.5 miles round-trip, the Lost Valley Trail is jam-packed with geological and archeological wonders that will mystify hikers of all ages and abilities. This trail immediately crosses Clark Creek (ABA-accessible pedestrian bridge coming soon) and follows its path upstream into a box canyon. Click here for more information about the Lost Valley Trail. Restrooms, pavilion, and picnic tables available. Pets not permitted on the Lost Valley Trail.

### Visit Roark Bluff at Steel Creek

Roark Bluff is among the most iconic bluffs on the entire length of the Buffalo River. At 3/4 mile long and more than 200 feet tall, this sheer slab of streaked sandstone towers over the river at Steel Creek Campground. Drive to the tent camping area and park near Site #24. A marked trail leads to the river and the upstream end of the bluff. Walk the gravel bar and take in the sights and sounds or perhaps take a swim in the Rushing Hole at the base of the bluff.

### Step Back in Time at Beaver Jim's Homestead

Nestled on a hilltop overlooking the Buffalo River at Ponca is a half-mile loop that circles the historic Beaver Jim Villines homestead. Explore the two-pen log farmhouse, barn, corn crib, root cellar, privy, and other relics of early agricultural life dating as far back as 1854 with additions as recent as the 1940s.

## BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

### BIG BLUFF

Backcountry camping is a popular fall activity at Buffalo National River, but trip planning can be a daunting undertaking if you've never done a multi-day trip before. Check out our Backcountry Camping webpage for backcountry trails/maps, packing essentials, wilderness regulations, and safety information: <https://www.nps.gov/.../planyourv.../backcountry-camping.htm>

### FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED CAMPING AVAILABLE

First come, first served camping sites are located at Steel Creek, Kyles Landing, Erbie, Ozark, Tyler Bend, and Buffalo Point Carver, Woolum, South Maumee, Spring Creek, and Rush. When river levels drop, dispersed camping is available at Mt. Hersey, Grinders Ferry, Shine Eye, and Gilbert (downstream of the entrance road onto the Gilbert gravel bar). In times of wet weather, river accesses and gravel bars are submerged. For more information about camping options at Buffalo National River, visit <https://www.nps.gov/buff/planyourvisit/camping.htm>

## BUFFALO POINT CAMPGROUND

NPS photo T. Fondriest



# Safety first



**HURRICANE CREEK  
TRAIL REGISTER**

## BUFFALO RIVERAUTUMN SCENE

Ozark Highlands Trail at Hurricane Creek. If you should happen to come upon a trail register, be sure to sign in. The information you provide can be useful in an emergency situation, but it is also helpful for the management of the trail. Carry a pencil in your backpack in case there isn't one there at the trail register.

ROBERT DUGGAN PHOTO



**TRAIL PHONES**

## EMERGENCY PHONES

A phone hangs on the receiver on the outside wall of a brown building. Above the phone is a large, blue, square sign with a white phone symbol on it.

ROBERT DUGGAN PHOTO

## Help is a phone call away

When you or someone you know is experiencing an emergency, it is second nature to pull out your cell-phone and dial 911. However, for those of us who love exploring Buffalo National River, it's crucial to know that cell phone service is not always available. That poses the question: "What do we do if an emergency happens in a dead zone?" Luckily, there are several emergency phones strategically located throughout the park.

These phones can be found at Lost Valley Trailhead (restroom), Steel Creek Ranger Station, Kyles Landing Campground (restroom), Erbie Boat Launch (restroom), Ozark Campground (restroom), and the Pruitt Ranger Station. The phones are programmed to only dial 6 numbers, which are listed next to each phone unit: Buffalo National River's 24-hour dispatch center (MROCC) and the five Upper District canoe outfitters. When you contact any of these services during an emergency, it is imperative to remain calm, speak clearly, and provide the dispatcher with as much information as possible. It is also important to note that once you hang up the phone, dispatch will NOT be able to call you back, so it is crucial to stay on the line until directed otherwise.

As you make your way around the park, see if you can spot these phones so you know right where to go if necessary. Always have an emergency plan just in case.

**THE HOTTEST STYLES**  
for Men, Women & Children!

**Fall** looks for the family!

Twisted X, Justin, Ariat, Red Wing, Irish Setters, Danner, Laredo, Durango, Birkenstock, Chaco, Merrell & MANY many more!!!

**HARNES**  
BOOTS & SHOES

West Side of Square • Harrison • **870-741-5750**

*Stop for  
Something Sweet!*

Delectable custom cakes, cupcakes and cookies!

**the Cake shop**  
• custom cakes & treats •

218 W. Stephenson, Harrison, AR 72601  
870-743-2253 | OPEN: Mon-Fri, 9 am-6 pm



# See it all with the Newton County Back Roads Atlas Map



Get yours at select Newton County businesses  
or at **[newtoncountychamber.com](http://newtoncountychamber.com)**



For more information  
please visit  
**[newtoncountychamber.com](http://newtoncountychamber.com)**

