

Welcome to Petit Jean State Park!

Whether you're here for 2 weeks or 2 hours, you have time to "see the sights" on Petit Jean Mountain! This easy-to-follow, self-guided brochure is designed to help you make the very most of your stay at Petit Jean State Park. Points of interest are located on the map and described in the text where numbers correspond. Now, let's hit the road before any precious time slips away. (Please observe all speed limit and traffic signs.) Start at the park Visitor Information Center.

We're glad you're here! Petit Jean State Park was the first state park in Arkansas. In fact, it was set aside as park land in 1923, before the Arkansas State Park System was even started! After experiencing the natural beauty and the features unique to Petit Jean Mountain, you will understand why people were so anxious to preserve it for all to enjoy in years to come.

1 Museum of Automobiles

This is a sure stop for automobile lovers. Numerous privately-owned antique and classic autos from the U.S. and abroad are displayed. Open - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. An admission fee is charged.

2 Petit Jean's Gravesite

Experience the mystery of Petit Jean's resting place. Legend tells us a young French girl disguised herself as a cabin boy so she could secretly accompany her fiance to the "new world."

Petit Jean, or "Little John," became fatally ill and requested to be buried here. (A more detailed account of the legend is available at the park Visitor Center.)

To the right, or west of the gravesite, you will see the remains of a 1923 YMCA structure made of "rainbow rock." Rainbow rock contains dark bands of iron oxide which penetrated to different layers in the sandstone.

From the point, you will be able to view the Arkansas River. Notice the navigation markers, and the Arthur V. Ormond Lock and Dam (L&D #9). To your south you can see an extension of Petit Jean Mountain known as Blue Point. The lowland between the two points is Ada Valley.

3 Petit Jean Airport

This mile-long public airstrip is owned by Arkansas State Parks. Landing and take off are daytime visual only. Petit Jean is the only state park having an airport.

4 Winrock International

This private, nonprofit organization, responsible for much of the agricultural research done in third world countries, is

one of the largest of its kind. Visit the museum located under the carport of the main building to learn more about Rockefeller and his works. An information center is located to our left as you face the carport.

5 Winrock Farms

Winrock Farms was started by the late Winthrop Rockefeller, former Arkansas governor. His son, Winthrop Paul, owns this operation today. The farm specializes in raising and selling purebred Santa Gertrudis cattle. The Winrock Farms' headquarters is to your left as you leave the drive of Winrock International.

6 Lutheran Church and Camp

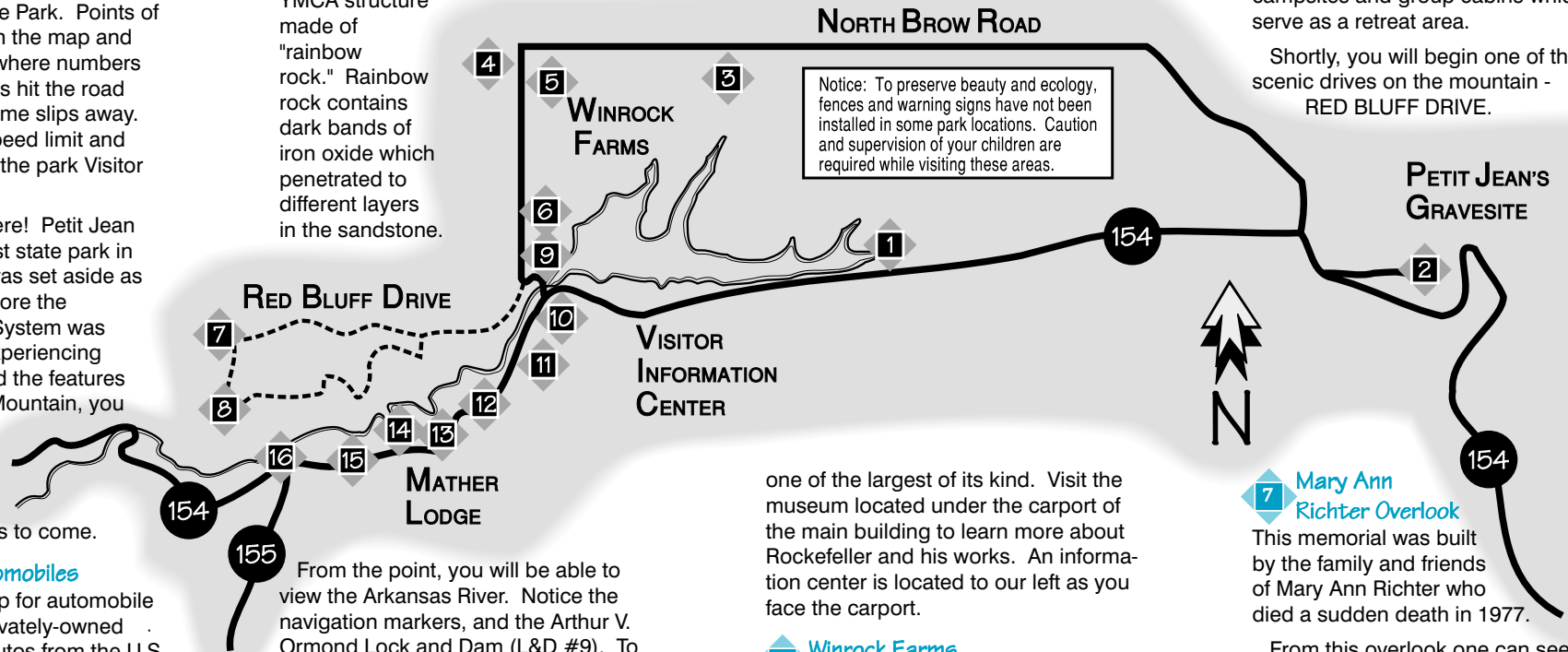
Early mountain families built this small church in 1886. The church is one of the oldest in the area, few changes have been made. Services are given here today. The church has added campsites and group cabins which serve as a retreat area.

Shortly, you will begin one of the most scenic drives on the mountain - RED BLUFF DRIVE.

7 Mary Ann Richter Overlook

This memorial was built by the family and friends of Mary Ann Richter who died a sudden death in 1977.

From this overlook one can see many peaks beyond the Arkansas River Valley including Mt. Nebo and Mt. Magazine (elevation 2,753 ft.) the highest point in Arkansas. Those familiar with the Arkansas River Valley might identify Dardanelle Rock slightly to the right, on the south bank of the Arkansas River. The flatland in the distance is Carden Bottoms and Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge.



8 CCC Overlook

Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the early 1930s, this beautiful stone overlook is perched on the rim of Cedar Creek Canyon. The Petit Jean River can be seen to the west. Black and turkey vultures frequent the windy bluffs and roost on the sheer canyon walls below.



9 Lake Roosevelt & Lake Bailey

These man-made lakes built by the CCC were named for leaders of the day. They are stocked annually and provide excellent fishing. Lake Bailey is to the east of the smaller Lake Roosevelt, and was named for the then current Governor of Arkansas, Carl Bailey. Lake Roosevelt was named after U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt who established the Civilian Conservation Corps.

10 CCC Bridge

The CCC built this bridge from native rock. They used a hand-made crane built from huge pines to move the stones into place. The bridge was completed before the lakes were built.

11 Pioneer Cabin

John Walker, Petit Jean's first settler, constructed this cabin in 1845 at what is

now Lake Bailey. The cabin was built of native pine and hewn with a broad axe. The log home was moved to this site by the CCC in the 1930s. Today, the cabin marks the beginning of Cedar Creek Self-Guided Trail.

12 Cedar Falls Overlook

Walk only a hundred yards to view the spectacular 94-foot waterfall. Also, notice the highly unusual rock formation known as carpet rock which can be seen at the west end of the overlook.

Interested in hiking to the falls? One of the park's most beautiful trails will take you to the base of the falls. It starts at Mather Lodge, our next stop.

13 Mather Lodge

As you enter the drive to Mather Lodge, notice Rockhouse Cave across the canyon to the right.

The CCC began construction of Mather Lodge in the 1930s. A look inside the building will reveal the sturdy beam construction of native pine that supports the roof. Take a peek in the CCC Room adjacent to the lobby to see some fine log construction. The lodge also houses a gift shop and restaurant. Take a little time to look at our lodge rooms and cabins, most of which are also historic CCC structures. If you are interested in a look or a reservation, see the receptionist at the front desk.

Mather Lodge marks the beginning of Cedar Falls Trail. Pick up a brochure in the lodge lobby.

14 CCC Water Tower

This unique rock structure held a water tank in its upper level and supplied the lodge and cabins with drinking water.

15 Bear Cave

You will never see as much with so little walking. Only a few yards from the parking lot, you may walk and observe amazing sandstone formations. Try to imagine how the forces of weather and time continually break down the towering rocks. Bear Cave was named by a mountain resident who shot a bear in one of these small bluff shelters in the 1920s.

16 Palisades Overlook

Peer down into the canyon and across to the CCC Overlook on the opposite rim. The reddish lichen-covered cliff walls contrast with small white patches created by roosting activities of vultures. This area is an excellent spot to watch the sun set over the Arkansas River Valley.

This brochure gives only a glimpse of what Petit Jean has to offer. We have miles of hiking trails that provide a closer look at the wonderful natural resources of the mountain. If you come between Memorial and Labor Day, be sure to attend our evening amphitheater programs and take part in a morning nature hike. Schedules and information are always available at the Lodge and the Visitor Center. This tour includes scenic and historic sites on the Mountain. You'll also find privately operated country stores, craft shops, a motel, and resort accommodations.

For more information concerning park facilities, self-guiding trails, programs and special events, please stop by our Visitor Information Center.

You may call us at (501) 727-5441
or write: **PETIT JEAN STATE PARK**
1285 PETIT JEAN MTN. ROAD
MORRILTON, AR 72110
petitjean@arkansas.com
www.petitjeanstatepark.com



What to see at Petit Jean



Mountaintop Motor Tour

