

QUEEN WILHELMINA STATE PARK

Discover a sense of place at Queen Wilhelmina State Park, where the highest summit in the Ouachita Mountains and second highest peak in Arkansas is steeped in history and surrounded by striking scenery.

Situated on the Talimena Scenic Drive, in western Arkansas just 13 miles from Mena, Queen Wilhelmina State Park stands out as one of the state's most iconic mountain getaways. The park is perched high atop rugged Rich Mountain, nearly 3,000 feet above sea level. The natural beauty of the mountain and the intriguing history of the park offer you a vacation experience never to be forgotten. The first lodge, built in 1898 by The Kansas City, Pittsburgh & Gulf Railroad, was designed as a mountain resort retreat for passengers on the line. The three-story lodge became known as the "Castle in the Sky." Since the railroad was largely financed by Dutch interests, the new resort was named in honor of Holland's young Queen Wilhelmina. A royal suite was set aside for her use in vain hopes she would pay an official visit to the area. Only three years later, the lodge was closed and eventually fell into ruin.

In 1957, the area was acquired for development as an Arkansas state park. The construction of a state park lodge on the site of the original inn was completed in 1963. This lodge was a popular Arkansas State Parks attraction until it was destroyed by fire in 1973.

To carry forward this lodging tradition on 2,681-foot Rich Mountain, a new lodge was constructed that opened in 1975. After operating for three decades, this lodge now features a new look and enhanced amenities following a major renovation that was completed in early summer 2015. Large windows frame the views of the panoramic mountain scenery.

The lodge now includes 40 guest rooms, a new Hearth Room, expanded meeting space, and an elevator. The tradition of royal hospitality on Rich Mountain continues at Queen Wilhelmina Lodge, the crowning attraction of Queen Wilhelmina State Park.

FACILITIES

LODGING

- The lodge offers 40 guest rooms including:
- 4 premium with gas fireplaces and spa tubs,
- 1 premium with spa tub only, and
- 1 suite with a queen sleeper sofa and adjoining king bedroom.

FACILITIES

LODGING

- A fireplace in the Hearth Room adds to the welcoming atmosphere near the lobby for meeting and relaxing with other guests
- Gift shop for mementos of your visit
- A private meeting room is available upon advance request (accommodates up to 114 people)

DINING

- Dining in the Queen's Restaurant combines delicious Southern fare with views high above the clouds here in the Ouachita Mountains
- Dining for up to 40 people is available to accommodate groups

CAMPING

- The park campground features 40 campsites and a modern bathhouse
- A trailer dump station is located near the campground entrance
- Separate walk-in tent site south of Lodge
- **NOTE:** All campers must register at the lodge before occupying a campsite. All sites are reservable and may be reserved up to one year in advance. Call the park or go on-line to make reservations.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

- The park's tree-shaded picnic areas offer a scenic view of the surrounding mountains
- Hiking Trails
- Biking Trails
- Visit the Rich Mountain Train Station to get tickets to ride the train, play miniature golf, or pick up a snack, from this private concessionaire

NEARBY

- Hospitals, stores, and other amenities are located 13 miles away in Mena
- A small grocery store is located 1.5 miles from the park

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

- Guided hikes, nature talks, workshops, and special events
- Park Interpreter-led programs are offered on weekends year-round
- Programming for school and civic groups

Arkansas
State Parks
2025

QUEEN WILHELMINA STATE PARK



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LOVER'S LEAP TRAIL

Length: 1.5-mile loop

Trailhead: South-side of Lodge near the Overlook

Trail End: North-side Day Use Area

Difficulty: Moderate (hike), Easy (bike)

Trail Blaze: Yellow

This 1.5-mile moderate loop trail is an aggregate paved with gravel and begins along the north slope of Rich Mountain. Lovers' Leap winds through a forested landscape rich with wildflowers and scenic beauty. Open to hikers and mountain bikers, the trail leads to an observation deck offering a sweeping view of Rich Mountain's south slope, Powell Valley, and the surrounding Ouachita National Forest. Past the overlook, this trail descends along the mountain's south slope through a rich hardwood forest and then returns up to the south side of the Lodge.

RESERVOIR TRAIL

Length: .7-mile round trip

Trailhead: South of the Lodge

Trail End: Return to start of trail

Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult (Hike only)

Trail Blaze: Orange

The Reservoir Trail is a moderately challenging .7-mile hike featuring rock steps leading down into an historic stone reservoir, once used by the original 1898 Wilhelmina Inn. Surrounded by quiet forest, the trail offers a glimpse into the area's past and a peaceful nature experience.

A spur trail leads to primitive walk-in campsite for those who wish to add a rustic touch while connection with both nature and history.



SPRING TRAIL

Length: 1.5-mile one way

Trailhead: East side of the Wonder House

Trail End: West side of campground

Difficulty: Easy (hike), Moderate (bike)

Trail Blaze: Red

Located on the scenic summit of Rich Mountain, the Spring Trail is a gentle 1.5-mile path perfect for a leisurely hike or mountain bike ride. This easy, meandering trail winds through peaceful woodlands and offers a glimpse of local history, featuring natural springs once used by the region's first European settlers in the 1860s. Whether you're looking for a quiet walk or relaxing ride, the Spring Trail offers a rewarding escape into nature.

OUACHITA NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL

Length: 225 miles (Talimena State Park, OK to Pinnacle Mountain State Park, AR)

1.5 miles one way to Pioneer Cemetery

Trailhead: Talimena Scenic Drive past west end of campground and South side of Lodge at Lovers' Leap trailhead

Trail End: Lover's Leap Scenic Overlook

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate (hike), Moderate (bike)

Trail Blaze: Blue

This national recreation trail enters Queen Wilhelmina State Park at the western boundary sharing part of the Spring Trail's path before branching off at the campground and continuing on to the lodge. The Ouachita Trail connects with and shares Lover's Leap Trail's path before branching left past the scenic overlook to exit Queen Wilhelmina State Park to the east.

This trail originates in Talimena State Park in Oklahoma and covers 225 miles to end at Pinnacle Mountain State Park just west of Little Rock, Arkansas.

For a short hike start at the trailhead on the Talimena Scenic Drive just past the west end of the park's campground. You'll hike 1.25 miles to the Pioneer Cemetery on a moderate trail, passing several historic sites along the way.

Several guidebooks and maps containing additional information on this national trail are available in the Lodge Gift Shop.





QUEEN WILHELMINA STATE PARK

EMERGENCY:
CALL 911

MAP LEGEND

- Amphitheater
- Bathroom
- Camping
- Dump Station
- Lodging
- Miniature Railroad
- Overlook
- Pavilion
- Picnic Area
- Playground
- Restaurant
- Restrooms
- Trailhead
- Volleyball



Foot Traffic Only



Reservoir Trail



Multi-Use

Lovers' Leap Trail

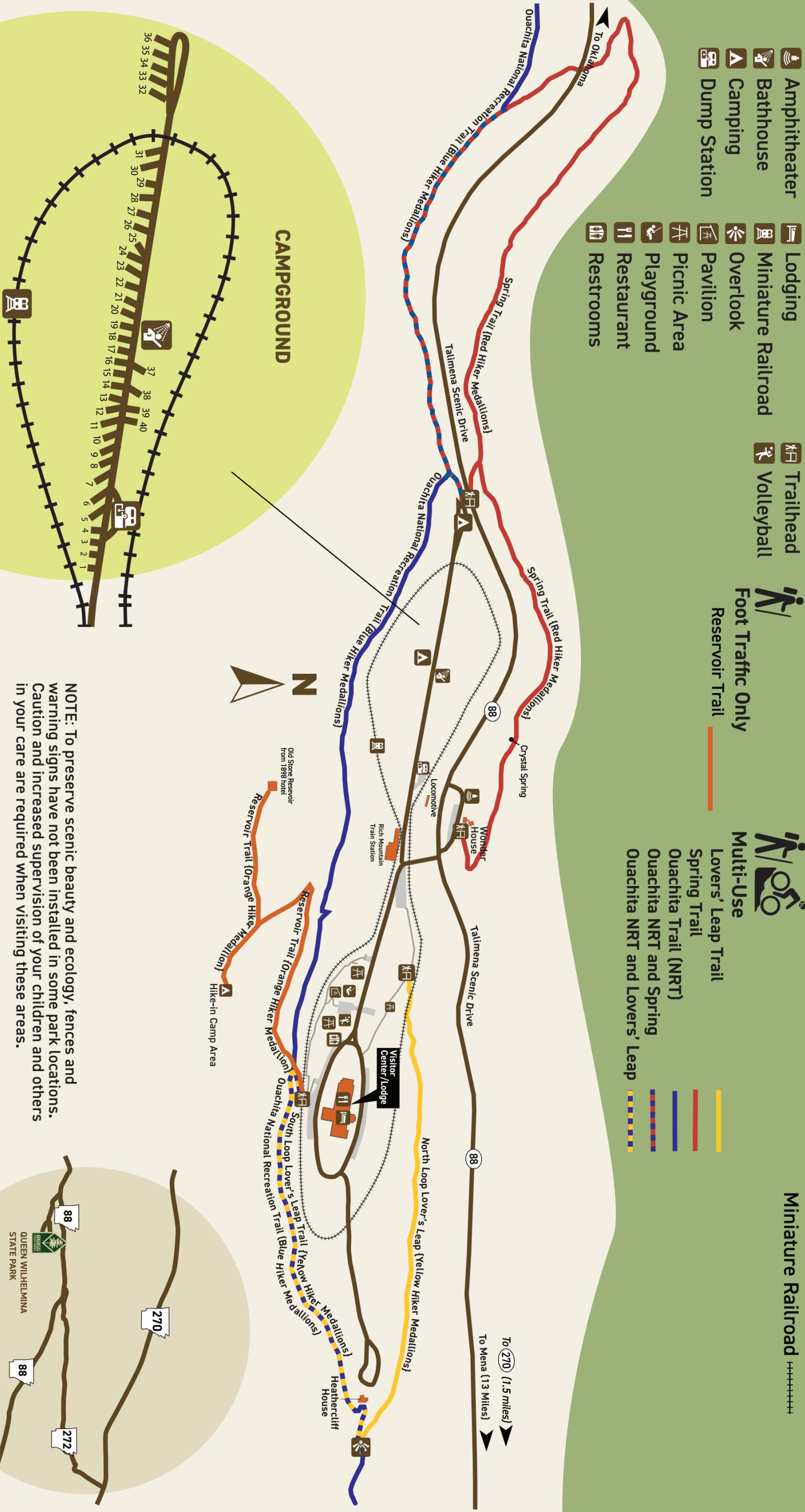
Spring Trail

Ouachita Trail (NRT)

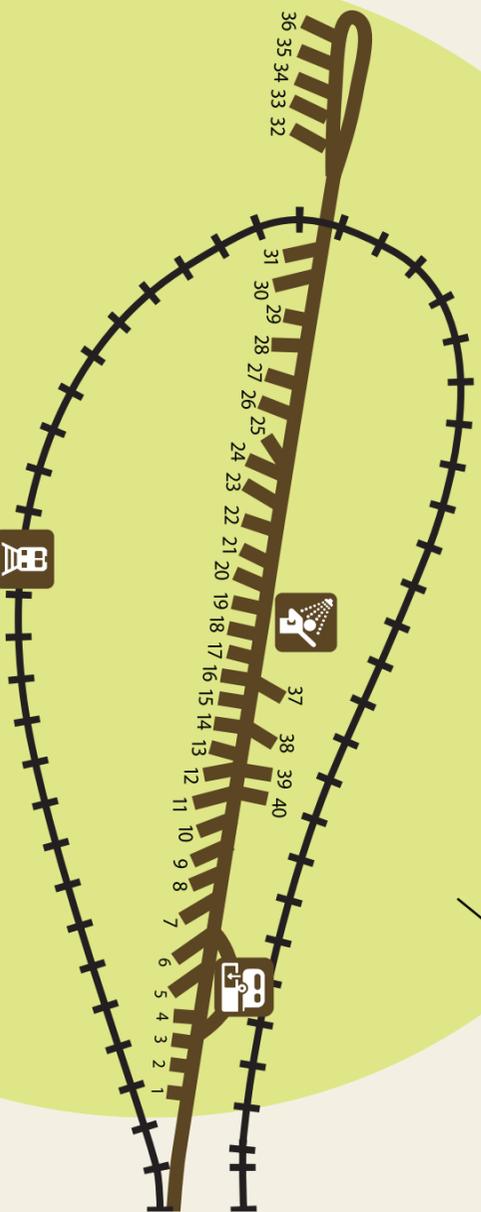
Ouachita NRT and Spring

Ouachita NRT and Lovers' Leap

Miniature Railroad ++++++



CAMPGROUND



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

