

# Activity Guide

75+ Things to See and Do  
in and around  
Pocahontas and  
Randolph County, Arkansas



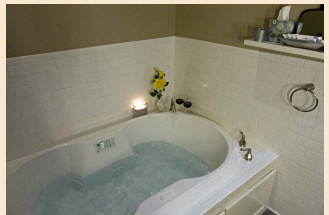
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Things to See & Do in Downtown Pocahontas

Historic District Walking Tour . . . . .	8
NoMa Art and Entertainment District . . . . .	8
Downtown Playhouse . . . . .	8
1872 Randolph County Courthouse . . . . .	10
Capture of Confederate General Jeff Thompson . . .	10
Arkansas's First Quilt Trail . . . . .	11
Studio B Salon and Day Spa . . . . .	12
Black River Beads, Pottery, and Glass Blowing . . . .	13
Randolph County Heritage Museum . . . . .	15
Black River Overlook Park, Lover's Lock Lane, and The Pocahontas Civil War River Walk Memorial . .	15
Arkansas' Oldest Barber Shop . . . . .	17
Randolph County Veterans Memorial . . . . .	17
The Meteorite . . . . .	18
Old Pocahontas Post Office . . . . .	18
Marr Street Productions . . . . .	18
Arkansas' Oldest Drug Store . . . . .	20
Old Frisco Train Depot . . . . .	20
Fitness Worx Health Club . . . . .	20

### Things To Do Just a Short Drive From Downtown Pocahontas

The Eddie Mae Herron Center . . . . .	22
Junction 166 Café: Breakfast With the Locals . . . . .	22
Thomas O. Marr Park and Aquatic Center . . . . .	23
St. Paul The Apostle Catholic Church . . . . .	23
Fishing in Pocahontas . . . . .	23
The City of Pocahontas Sports Complex . . . . .	24
The Pocahontas High School Sports Complex . . . . .	24
Masonic Cemetery . . . . .	24
The Old Steam Engine . . . . .	25

### Things to Do in Randolph County

Outside of Pocahontas	
The 1828 Rice House and Site at Dalton . . . . .	27
The 1830 Looney Tavern and Site at Dalton . . . . .	27
The Mennonite Country Market . . . . .	28
Buck Hollow Elk Ranch . . . . .	29
The Eleven Point River . . . . .	29
Antique Shopping . . . . .	31
Rock and Roll Highway 67 . . . . .	33
Maynard Pioneer Park and Museum . . . . .	33
Rolling Hills Country Club . . . . .	33
Ravenden Springs Community Museum . . . . .	33
Hall's Creek Canyon at Ravenden Springs . . . . .	36
Davidsonville Historic State Park:	
Scenic 15-minute Drive From Pocahontas . . . . .	38
Engelberg German Community: Scenic 20-minute Drive	



From Pocahontas . . . . . 39

Dalton Mennonite Community: Scenic 30-minute Drive  
From Pocahontas . . . . . 39

Five Rivers Rumble Motorcycle & Car Tour . . . . . 40

Three of Arkansas’ four major historic trails originate here  
in Randolph County . . . . . 40

The Southwest Trail . . . . . 40

The Trail of Tears . . . . . 41

Arkansas Civil War Trails . . . . . 41

**Day Trips From Pocahontas**

Forrest L. Wood Crowley’s Ridge Nature Center . . . . 42

The Irish Wilderness . . . . . 42

Mammoth Spring State Park . . . . . 42

Grand Gulf State Park . . . . . 42

The Ernest Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum . . . . . 43

Powhatan Historic State Park . . . . . 43

Walnut Ridge Army Flying School Museum . . . . . 43

Abbey Road Beatles Tribute in Walnut Ridge . . . . . 43

**Special things you can do here if you come equipped for it**

The Five Rivers Challenge - Boat 5 Rivers In One Day . 45

Area Hunting and Fishing . . . . . 45

Area Birding . . . . . 46



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A Brief Review of...

# Our Significant History

*It's said that within 20 miles of Pocahontas, one can see as much or more early Arkansas history than anywhere else in the state.*

Native Americans settled here thousands of years ago and many eras of Native American civilization are represented in Randolph County. In the 1700s, early French explorers found a Michigama village here near the banks of Black River. Archeological digs in the area have recently produced some amazing results and artifacts.

Following French and Spanish exploration of the area in the 1700s, American citizens began settling in what's now Randolph County before the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, due to its location on the first road in Arkansas, the "Trail of Many Names"—Natchitoches Trace, Southwest Trail, Old Military Road. The old road entered Arkansas in northeast Randolph County at Hix (later Pitman's) Ferry (1802, first river ferry in the state) on the Current River. Eighty percent of settlers on the Arkansas frontier came through what became Randolph County. Many settled here and established many firsts for the state. Others arrived here by utilizing the county's five navigable rivers offering transportation to and from the Mississippi River. Pocahontas, the northern-most river port in the state to offer year around transportation, was the state's number one port for freight in and out from 1840 to 1851. The Steamboat Era was very significant here. Among significant sites, Arkansas firsts to be found here are:



1828 Reuben Rice House

1<sup>st</sup> Ferry - Hix Ferry on Current River,  
before 1811.  
1<sup>st</sup> Grist Mill - Demun Mill on, Mill Creek,  
1813.  
Arkansas' first planned town  
Davidsonville, 1815.  
1<sup>st</sup> Court - held Solomon Hewitt's house,  
west of Davidsonville, 1815.  
1<sup>st</sup> U. S. Post Office - Davidsonville, 1817

1<sup>st</sup> School - Ravenden Springs-1817.  
1<sup>st</sup> Methodist Circuit Rider - Eli Lindsey,  
1817.  
1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church - Columbia-1818.  
1<sup>st</sup> Courthouse - Davidsonville, 1820.  
1<sup>st</sup> U. S. Land Office - Davidsonville,  
1820.  
1<sup>st</sup> Masonic Lodge - Brakebill, 1828.  
1<sup>st</sup> Circus Performance - Pitman, 1838.

## **The Pocahontas National Historic District**

Downtown Pocahontas contains a 17 block National Commercial Historic District, one of the best examples of Victorian Era architecture in the state. While details about all the downtown features are listed later in this booklet, this page will give an overall summary of some of what our downtown area has to offer.

In addition to the 1872 courthouse in the center of the town square, the Historic District includes Arkansas's oldest continuously operating pharmacy site (Futrell's Pharmacy, since 1854) which includes a 1950s soda fountain, and Arkansas's oldest continuously operating barber shop, the 1893 Sanitary Barber Shop.

Buildings dating back to 1859 grace the Historic District. Many structures on the square have bronze markers giving the date of construction and history of the buildings. Complete histories of the structures are available through accessing the QR codes on each marker with a smartphone or tablet.

The Historic District contains restaurants and shops, a bakery, and a neighborhood pub with occasional live music. Other features include a dance and music studio, live stage productions, a day spa, the county library, and the Randolph County Heritage Museum.

Several structures in the Historic District have recently under-gone restoration, including the 1920 Frisco Railroad Depot, the Lesmeister Guest House, and the 1859 St. Charles building.

The 1940 Randolph County Courthouse lawn is the site of two veterans' memorials and statues. The Historic District contains Arkansas's first quilt trail, with representations of 50 locally produced heritage quilts gracing the sides of buildings in the district. Pocahontas is home to many other historic structures outside the Historic District including historic churches, cemeteries, and fine old homes.

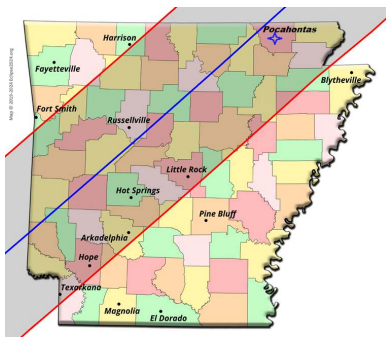
Across Highway 67 from downtown is Black River Overlook Park. The Park has pavilions and picnic tables, the Century Wall of the most influential Americans of the 20th Century, many historic markers, and the Civil War River Walk Memorial Trail—a paved trail along the river bank that gives the history of the war in Randolph County including when Pocahontas was headquarters for all Confederate forces west of the Mississippi River. Extensive paved walking trails traverse the park as well.

Visitors interested in history and heritage will find Pocahontas and Randolph County a delightful and most rewarding place to visit.

# Best Place Under the Sun!

# ECLIPSE 2024

## We'll be ready for you!



Visit <http://seerandolphcounty.com/eclipse-2024/> for  
**Local Lodging   Local Dining   Local Shopping**  
**Local Airport Info**

Pocahontas and Randolph County are within the maximum total eclipse zone for the April 8, 2024 Total Solar Eclipse.

With over 4 minutes of complete darkness, this promises to be, for many, a once-in-a-lifetime event.

After 2024, there will be no other total solar eclipse over northeast Arkansas or southeast Missouri during this century.

After 2024, the next solar eclipse over any part of Arkansas or Missouri or Tennessee or Kentucky or Illinois will be in 2045.

## **TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 4/8/2024**

### **Pocahontas, ARK**

**36°18'18"N 90°00'47"W**

Total solar eclipse visible (100.00% coverage of Sun)  
Magnitude: 1.02



Duration:	2 hours, 36 minutes, 42 seconds
Duration of totality:	4 minutes, 4 seconds
Partial begins:	Apr 8, 2024 at 12:38:01 pm
Full begins:	Apr 8, 2024 at 1:54:51 pm
Maximum:	Apr 8, 2024 at 1:56:53 pm
Full ends:	Apr 8, 2024 at 1:58:55 pm
Partial ends:	Apr 8, 2024 at 3:14:43 pm

Times shown in local time (CDT)

# Things to See & Do in Downtown Pocahontas

## Historic District Walking Tour

A downtown walking tour brochure is available at several downtown locations, including at the Visitor Information Center in the old train depot across Highway 67 from downtown Pocahontas, at the Randolph County Heritage Museum on the north side of the court square. The short tour gives a good introduction to downtown Pocahontas and highlights many points of historic interest, including the site of the 1863 capture by union soldiers of Confederate General Jeff Thompson.

## Short Walks For Exploration

We've defined several short walks that originate at the corner of Marr and Everett Streets on the court square and give nice explorations of different parts of Pocahontas. Look for the WALK YOUR TOWN sign in the planter outside Marr Street Productions at 111 N Marr Street.



## NoMa Art and Entertainment District

Five blocks of North Marr Street (NoMa) is becoming something of an art and entertainment corridor in Pocahontas. North Marr, from its beginning at the intersection of Broadway St. contains coffee shops, Marr Street Productions, which provides dance, music and martial arts instruction, as well as producing musical presentations, Gypsy Girl Boutique, an Italian restaurant with full bar, distinctive guest lodging at the Lesmeister Guesthouse, the Downtown Playhouse which features performing art, the NoMa Art Park, and a neighborhood of restored homes over 100 years old. Many people enjoy posing for photos with the silhouette wall (see photo above).



## Downtown Playhouse

You'll find live Broadway-quality plays skillfully performed at the ADA-accessible Downtown Playhouse at 302 North Marr Street; the Playhouse is housed in the building that was once our town's Art Deco style movie theater.



In 2014, without "a penny or a plan," a small group of friends came together to establish a



unique and casual live theatre venue in Downtown Pocahontas. Luckily, the group had proven expertise and passion for quality theater productions which not only entertain but touch the audience. In July of 2015, Downtown Playhouse opened its doors, and was branded “The Coolest Casual Night in Town”. Its grand premier show was the Broadway hit based on John Grisham’s best-selling novel, *A Time to Kill*. That initial production left the entire audience shaken and breathless; it sold out 13 productions, and experienced a waiting list when the show closed. Since that time, Downtown Playhouse has produced more than 5 full seasons of shows including productions ranging from rousing comedies by Neil Simon, to shows such as the fun and frantic musical *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, the gripping, award winning drama, *Night Mother*, the hilarious but heartwarming *Everybody Loves Opal*, the sensational musical comedy *Always...Patsy Cline*, as well as the ever-favorite, *Steel Magnolias*. These shows, according to Artistic Director and General Manager Kelly Grooms, are exactly the type of productions he and friends of Downtown Playhouse always intend to present. The atmosphere in this intimate-setting, where guests enjoy coffee and dessert along with the play, is perfect!

The experience begins when a patron enters the reinvented and remodeled movie theater. Guests gaze in awe at the intimate coffeehouse setting designed by Grooms, with the help of a couple of talented artists whom he describes as “the magicians who made it happen.” His son, Brenden Grooms, an accomplished portrait artist, drew six iconic Broadway images on the theater’s thick interior plaster walls. Then, father and son chipped away parts of the plaster to accent and add definition to the images. The six massive drawings include well-known imagery associated with *Les Miserables*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Cats* and *Wicked*. Completing the interior of this anything-but-ordinary playhouse, scenic artist Donna Little provided fantastic faux art to create texture, depth & tone to the “café” facade located behind patron seating, and on the proscenium that frames the stage. Both artists are masters in their craft.

The entire operation is a community affair. Grooms considers Downtown Playhouse “a testament to this community.” In just 15 months’ time, the group raised \$156,000 for the renovation of the old movie theater. The renovation was funded totally through private donations, and is managed and operated by members of this all-volunteer 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization; its Board of Directors, staff, actors, production techs, wait staff, in-kind tradesmen and more donate their time and talent.

Within its first season, Downtown Playhouse was named by the “Only in Your State” blog as number two in the “10 Brand New Places In Arkansas That You’ll Definitely Want To Check Out.”

Visit [www.thedowntownplayhouse.com](http://www.thedowntownplayhouse.com) for show schedules and more. Don’t forget to include the word ‘the’ when entering the website address. For tickets and reservations call 870-758-2282. A Season Ticket, which includes all shows within the calendar year Season, is \$60.00 including tax. A ticket for an individual show, dessert, and a beverage is \$25.00 including tax.

## 1872 Randolph County Courthouse

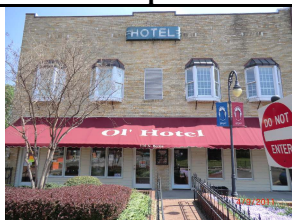
The 1872 Courthouse in the center of the historic court square is considered one of the most significant examples of Victorian Italianate architecture available anywhere. The restored courthouse is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each weekday. Visitors can tour the beautifully restored interior rooms and view framed photographs from Randolph County's history on the walls. Be sure and visit the restored courtroom upstairs as well. The structure also houses the Randolph County Chamber of Commerce.



## The Capture of Confederate General Jeff Thompson

Pocahontas and Randolph County were touched in many ways by the American Civil War (most of Pocahontas was burned by Union troops during the war), but perhaps the most significant event of the war here was the capture by Union troops of Confederate General Jeff Thompson at his headquarters in the St. Charles Hotel on the Pocahontas town square. The St. Charles was built in 1850 and burned in the early 1900's. It was located on the site now occupied by the "Ol' Hotel" building at 116 North Bettis Street. The report of Captain Henry C. Henry, who captured General Thompson, includes this narrative:

“...[my Union soldiers] raised a shout that would have done credit to the Chickasaws, and made the straggling rebels shiver in their shoes (those that had any), and brought the general himself to the window of a lower room at the Saint Charles, and, being front of the house, inquired for General Thompson, and he informed me that he was the man. I informed him that he was my prisoner; he replied, “Certainly, certainly.”



The two-story St. Charles Hotel was so large it occupied the space of this building plus the three buildings to its right (south)!



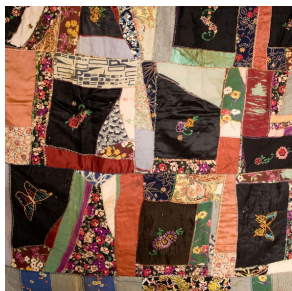
The wood-framed St. Charles Hotel as it appeared about 1900. The brick building to the hotel's right in this photo, built in 1859, still stands where it has been for over 160 years, the only remaining witness to the capture of Gen. Jeff Thompson. (The old courthouse wasn't built until 1872.)

When I dismounted and entered the room, he pointed to his saber setting in the corner of the room [officers surrender by offering their sword to their captor]. He then introduced me to his adjutant-general, and I told him that I was glad to see him; he said he “did not doubt it.” An ordnance officer, a captain, not knowing that the Feds. were in possession of the town, entered the general’s room, by permission of the guard, and saluted the general, who inquired where he was from; he said from Major Crandall’s camp, and, on seeing me, remarked, “You have a Federal prisoner, I see.” “Yes,” says the general, “you are a prisoner yourself.” I then ordered him to hand over his dispatches, when he moved toward the door. The guard brought his “sharp” to bear on him; the general told him to fork over - it was no joke - when he handsomely came down with the papers, and seemed to realize his situation.”

A monument to the Civil War suffering by residents of Pocahontas and Randolph County stands at the St. Charles Hotel site, at the corner of Bettis Street and Everett Street.

### Arkansas’s First Quilt Trail

The Pocahontas National Historic District is home to Arkansas’s first and best quilt trail, with about 50 locally-made quilts displayed on the outside walls of downtown buildings. Many quilt trails around the country just feature a painting of a single square from various quilts, but our trail features near-full-size images of



Crazy Quilt Quilter: Alice White Lindsey  
Owner: Carol Carroll  
Sponsor: Patrick Carroll, D.D.S.

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the whole quilts, photographically printed on vinyl material and mounted on the walls of downtown buildings.

Since it's a continuous loop, you can pick up the trail from any point and follow it back to your point of origin, seeing all the quilts in order. Following the quilt trail gives a good walking or driving tour of the historic district. Maps of the trail, as well as booklets describing each quilt, are available at the Visitor Information Center in the old train depot across Highway 67 from downtown Pocahontas, at Randolph County Heritage Museum, on the north side of the town square at 106 E Everett Street, at Carroll's Variety Store at 211 N Marr Street, and at Black River Beads and Pottery at 213 E Broadway St

### **Studio B Salon and Day Spa**

Studio B is on the Pocahontas town square, at 104 East Everett Street, offers massage and all the pampering any visitor to town could hope for, including manicures, pedicures, and room to add more features in time!

**MurphyDesignCo.com**



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**Murphy Design Co.**  
Home + Events

**103 N. Marr St**

**870.810.0176**



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**200 E. Everett St.**

**On the Historic Court Square**

**Pocahontas, Arkansas**

**Hours: 9:30-4:30 Wed.-Fri. 10:00-2:00 Sat.**



## **Black River Beads, Pottery, and Glass Blowing**

Downtown Pocahontas features the wonderful Black River Beads and Pottery, 213 East Broadway, where James and his wife Mandy put on a real show as you watch them produce hand-thrown pottery, blown glass, and their original product, the glass beads that have been sold worldwide via their website.

Living upstairs over their gallery and gift shop, James, Mandy and their children can be considered pioneers in the redevelopment boom taking place in downtown Pocahontas. When James' factory job was "shipped to Mexico" a few years ago, he and Mandy decided to take the plunge into turning their hobby of hand-made glass beads into a full-time job, and things have turned out amazingly well.

Their shop, in the old Depression-era former City Hall building, even features a wonderful glass-blowing workshop in the old jail cell! And when the weather's nice, James often sets up his potter's wheel outside on the sidewalk in front of the building, where you can watch him work in the fresh air. Don't miss it when you visit Pocahontas. <http://www.blackriverbeads.com>



*Don't Miss*

**Yellow Dog  
Antiques  
& Flea Market**

1012 Hwy 62 West  
Pocahontas

# *Randolph* **LIQUOR** *Store*



**Wine, Beer & Spirits**  
**1000 HWY 62 W, Pocahontas**  
**870-248-0350**

## **Randolph County Heritage Museum**

The Randolph County Heritage Museum, on the Pocahontas town square at 106 East Everett Street, is one of the finest local museums in Arkansas. Since Randolph County was one of the first places settled by Europeans and Africans in Arkansas, there's a long history here and it's beautifully displayed in our local museum.



A few years ago some volunteers moved an old button factory from the banks of Black River just south of Overlook Park, dismantled it, and rebuilt it inside the museum. The button factory demonstrates how, in the days before plastic buttons, local people dredged mussel shells out of the river and drilled round mother of pearl “blanks” out of the shells to be turned into buttons.

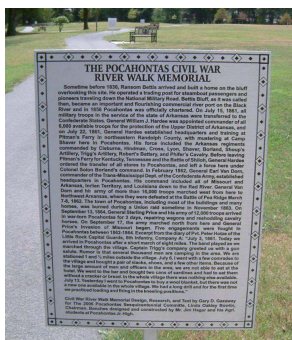
The museum, open most days, also houses our cherished archives of local written memories and many oral history tapes, and it has a wonderful little gift shop full of local souvenirs.

## **Black River Overlook Park, Lover's Lock Lane, and The Pocahontas Civil War River Walk Memorial**

Pocahontas stands on a hill overlooking the Black River. This hill, and the town, were once known as “Bettis Bluff”, after Ranson (or Ransom) Bettis, the town's founder. Nobody really knows why the town was renamed Pocahontas. Lots of theories exist, but proof seems lost to the ages. The banks of the Black River were once home to the “Port of Pocahontas,” the busiest river port in the area during the steamboat era. Before the railroad came to town, the steamboats brought people and goods to this part of Arkansas via the Black River and our river port. That port is now Black River Overlook Park.

The park is just across U.S. Highway 67 from downtown Pocahontas and there's a stop light and a crosswalk to let you safely cross the highway and enter Overlook Park.

During the Civil War, the Port of Pocahontas was a major Confederate supply point for the Confederate armies headquartered in Pocahontas, including The Army of the West under Major General Earl Van Doren, The Army of Northern Arkansas under General Hardee, and the Confederate Army of Missouri under



The Pocahontas Civil War River Walk Memorial, Overlook Park, Pocahontas

General Sterling Price. It was also the site of the first Confederate Military Hospital in Arkansas.

The Park today, on its upper level, contains a series of **6 historic markers** explaining the historic importance of the Black River and the Port, including its Civil War significance. Also at that level is another historic marker dedicated to the history of Randolph County in the Civil War years.



In the Park's lower level, along the Black River, is **the Civil War River Walk Memorial Trail**, a series of 6 historic markers established in 2006 along a paved trail. There's a custom-made bench at each marker, featuring the outline of the cupola of our 1872 courthouse. The markers tell the story of Randolph County's Civil War history in detail, including several major skirmishes in the county. Listed are all units, both Confederate and Union, stationed in the county, description of the capture of General Jeff Thompson, the 1863 burning of Pocahontas by Union forces, and many other significant events that occurred in Randolph County during the war.

In addition to picnic tables and some nice riverside places to rest and think, there are a couple of other nice features in the park that people seem to enjoy: the Princess Pocahontas statue and the Century Wall.

Along the sidewalk approaching the Century Wall (where the flag pole/US flag is located), **Love Lock Lane** is the place where lovers attach to the fence "love locks", padlocks that symbolize their love. The couple's names or initials are written on the lock, and its key is thrown away to symbolize unbreakable love. To participate yourself, visit the Visitor Information Center in the old train depot. They sell locks and can engrave names on them for attachment to the love lock fence.

The life-size **statue of Princess Pocahontas**, for whom our town is named, stands near the entry to the park, in front of the pavilion. The princess has hair blowing in the wind and she clutches a stalk of the grain they lived on. Nearby, the **Century Wall** is a collection (on 3 separate brick walls) of the most influential Americans of the 20th Century, etched in stone. It was erected in 2000 as a tribute to the turn of the century.





## **Arkansas' Oldest Barber Shop**

We encourage people to enjoy their travels more by walking rather than running, spending time studying one place rather than rushing to see as many towns as possible while traveling. One great thing to do while slow traveling would be to get a haircut and spend time talking with the hairdresser or barber about their town and their life. The Sanitary Barbershop, at 105 North Marr Street, provides a nostalgic experience in the oldest barbershop in Arkansas, having been in business in the same place on the town square since the 1880's. The old shop features memorabilia of the shop's 130+ years of barbering history.

## **Randolph County Veterans Memorial**

Any visit to Pocahontas should include a visit to the Veterans Memorial on the grounds of the Randolph County courthouse, on Broadway Street a block off the town square. The memorial includes life-sized bronze statues of servicemen from World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War, plus plaques naming the dead from our county in those wars plus Korea and the Middle East.



There are bricks in the sidewalk naming Randolph County service members from all our wars from the Civil War forward, and benches honoring Randolph Countians who served in operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom.



*Caring for and displaying the rich history  
and culture of Randolph County*

Open Mon - Fri 10-4

Sat 10-1

106 E Everett St

Pocahontas

870-892-4056 • [RandolphCoMuseum.org](http://RandolphCoMuseum.org)

## **The Meteorite**

---

Just steps east of the Veterans Memorial, on the same grounds, you'll find our meteorite. In the fall of 1858, a bright light streaked across the skies of northeast Arkansas. This visitor from the heavens was a large meteor. It's fiery presence grew larger as it approached the City of Pocahontas—it fell to Earth with a great explosion of fire and a great bang! It landed in a field just north of what's today Black River Overlook Park, along the river bank just across Highway



67 from downtown Pocahontas.

The great stony meteorite remained where it fell for four decades until the town's railway station master, Oscar Keith, loaded the rock in a wagon and placed it in his front yard on Vance Street north of downtown where it remained for over a half century. Unprotected, the stone lost over 2/3 of its size as souvenir hunters chipped off many pieces.

The meteorite was more recently moved to a spot on the Randolph County Courthouse lawn (the 1940, art-deco building, not the 1872 "old courthouse"). There it can be viewed today, surrounded by a wrought iron fence. The meteorite's location is near the northeast corner of the courthouse lawn, at the bottom of the large stairway off Broadway Street.

## **Old Pocahontas Post Office**

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Built in the middle of the Great Depression, the old Pocahontas post office building at 109 North Van Bibber Street has an exterior that features, over the windows and door, carvings of an airplane, a train, and a ship, which were the prime ways the mail was moved in the era of the building's construction. If it's open, it's worth stepping inside the lobby of the building to admire the faux oak woodwork.



## **Marr Street Productions**

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Marr Street Productions, at 111 North Marr Street, has helped with the revitalization of downtown Pocahontas by regularly bringing crowds of kids, parents, and fans to the town square. In addition to daily clogging classes, music lessons and performances, a large Taekwondo group holds regular classes and competitions in Marilyn's spacious building. Marilyn almost always has something going on. Any time you're in town and see activity at Marr Street Productions, feel free to stop in and watch as they learn, rehearse, and perform. <https://www.facebook.com/MarrStreetProductions>

# DOWNTOWN PLAYHOUSE



**Exciting, Quality Live Theatre in Downtown Pocahontas**



## **DOWNTOWN PLAYHOUSE**

302 North Marr Street  
Pocahontas, AR 72455  
870-758-2282

[www.thedowntownplayhouse.com](http://www.thedowntownplayhouse.com)



*"The Coolest Casual Night in Town"*

## Arkansas' Oldest Drug Store

There has been a drug store at 115 East Broadway, the corner of Bettis Street and Broadway on the town square in Pocahontas, since 1852, making it the oldest pharmacy in Arkansas at the same location. The Futrell family has owned and operated the pharmacy there since 1962, as Futrell's Pharmacy. They still have a soda fountain and they still make a great milkshake and serve hot coffee! If you get there between 7 and 8 a.m., though, don't expect to get a seat at a table because that's the Pocahontas old timers hour at Futrell's and the regulars will already occupy every seat in the place, as they exchange stories and memories.



## Old Frisco Train Depot

The local train depot was built in 1921 at 200 McDonald Street, near the riverside. The Frisco Railroad picked up their tracks and left Pocahontas in the 1980s, and the City of Pocahontas now owns the restored old depot, which houses the local Visitor Information Center and a museum of local transportation and commerce. There's also a restored railroad caboose on display at the old depot.



## Fitness Worx Health Club

Looking for a place to continue your athletic workouts when you're in Pocahontas? Visit Fitness Worx on the eastern side of the historic district at 306 McDonald Street, beside the town's old train depot. It's in a building constructed during World War II to dehydrate eggs to be sent to American servicemen fighting overseas, Fitness Worx is well equipped to provide a good physical workout.





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**"Stroll the Square"**







## Welcome to Pocahontas!

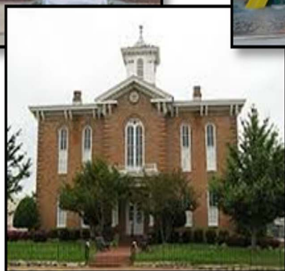
**Pocahontas, Arkansas** is a small town with great history, genuine hospitality, and so much to see and do! It is a river town with more history in our Downtown National Historic District, than in any other town in Northeast Arkansas.

Within the Downtown Historic District, is the wonderful Randolph County Heritage Museum, Black River Beads and Pottery, a local artists Art Gallery, and the Downtown Playhouse, a casual live theatre venue.

Pocahontas is also home to Black River Technical College, where one of the only two Law Enforcement Training Academies in the State of Arkansas, is located.

Come to Pocahontas to visit the sites that reveal not only our history, but the places that allow us to reveal our progress as well. We are very proud of our new Aquatic Center with a wonderful year-round indoor pool and a seasonal outdoor Waterpark for the entire family. The Pocahontas Aquatic Center is home to the award-winning Pocahontas Dolphins Swim Team. Many regional Swim Meets are held at our fine facility. The pools are open to the public, as well.

For more information about Pocahontas and Randolph County, stop by our Visitor Welcome Center within the 1920 train depot located on Highway 67 North near Highway 90 West. Come to Pocahontas, so we can extend our homespun hospitality to you...*within the perfect place to call home!*



# Things To Do Just a Short Drive From Downtown Pocahontas

*(NOTE: When scanned by a properly equipped smartphone, QR barcodes in this booklet will take you to a map from downtown Pocahontas to the location of each featured site.)*

## **The Eddie Mae Herron Center**

The Eddie Mae Herron Center, 1708 Archer Street in Pocahontas, is many things: a museum, an education center, a community center, a heritage and culture center. The Center preserves and displays a portion of over two hundred years of African-American history in Randolph County, Arkansas. The Herron Center, located on a hill a few blocks from downtown Pocahontas,



occupies a building built in 1918 as St. Mary's African Episcopal Church. The church also served as the local "colored school" until racial segregation ended in Pocahontas in 1964. In 2000, former students of



the school joined together to create the Herron Center, to keep their community and their beloved old building alive and thriving. The Center, open most days, contains a re-creation of the one-room school that was once there, as well as a pulpit and pew from the days when it housed a church, and museum displays of the history of the building and the local African-American community. They also have a small gift shop. <http://www.herroncenter.org/>

## **Junction 166 Cafe: Breakfast With the Locals**

Most visitors to our area never find "The 166". It's at the edge of Pocahontas at 3071 Highway 62 West and the parking lot is usually packed with the pickup trucks of local people. But if you can find a parking place, there's always a table available inside, where you'll find the best breakfast in town and excellent lunches. The 166 offers an immersion into the real American small town experience!

Or visit Dora's Salebarn Cafe, 706 Townsend Drive, Pocahontas.

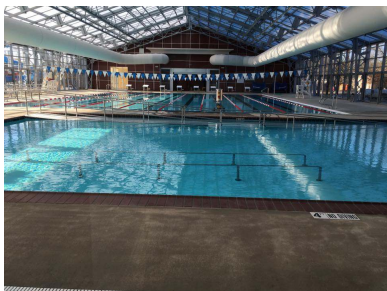


## **Thomas O. Marr Park and Aquatic Center**

Before there was a town here, what's now Pocahontas was the large farm of pioneer settler Thomas O. Marr, who came here in the early 1800s. The site of Marr's home, on north Marr Street, is now Thomas O. Marr Park, a few blocks north of downtown.



The park is home to the town's public water park/aquatic center/swimming pools, community center (with gymnasium), a picnic pavilion and plenty of picnic tables where residents and visitors are welcome to enjoy a picnic meal in a peaceful setting.



The indoor pool at the aquatic center is open all year. Day passes to swim are about \$5.

## **St. Paul The Apostle Catholic Church**



Pocahontas' largest and oldest church building was built in 1901, primarily by German immigrants who moved to this area in the 1880s.

On the grounds of the church stands St. Paul's



Grotto. The rock grotto and garden was built in 1936 as a representation of the Saint Bernadette miracle site at Lourdes, France.

[www.saintpaulscatholic.com](http://www.saintpaulscatholic.com)

## **Fishing in Pocahontas**

There are 2 places to fish within walking distance of downtown Pocahontas.

Black River, the largest river in our county, flows by Pocahontas a 5-minute walk from the town square. Baltz Lake,



Baltz Lake

a city-owned fishing lake with a fishing dock, is a 22-minute walk

from downtown. Both fishing locations are right on highway US 67, so they are quite safe.

The Black River location is in Black River Overlook Park, and there are public restrooms there. There are no public restrooms at Baltz Lake.

People age 16 or older must carry a valid Arkansas fishing license to take or attempt to take fish and frogs in Arkansas. A 3-day non-resident fishing license costs \$16. You can purchase a license online at: [www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com)

You can purchase a license by phone at:

Call 501-223-6349 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. in the Little Rock area. Or call 800-364-GAME (4263) 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Please have your credit card and an identification number ready. Your identification number can be a driver's license, Social Security number, hunter education number, state ID number or passport number. Small game and fishing privileges become effective immediately.

### **The City of Pocahontas Sports Complex**

In nice weather sports fans may catch ball games to watch at the Pocahontas Sports Complex, which features baseball, softball, and soccer matches (and, of course, a concession stand for your dining pleasure).



### **The Pocahontas High School Sports Complex**

Another place to see sports in Pocahontas is at Pocahontas High School, where, during the school months, there's football, baseball, softball, basketball, and other sports going on and open to the public. If you drive by the school after school hours, and see a lot of cars parked there, there may be something going on you would like to stop in and see!



### **Masonic Cemetery**

Our town's oldest cemetery includes the graves of Thomas Drew, third governor of the State of Arkansas, and Drew's father-in-law, Ransom Bettis, who founded Pocahontas. The



cemetery's Founder's Memorial, pictured here, was created during the 2006 celebration of Pocahontas' 150th birthday, and marks the burial place of Governor Drew (his is the tallest monument in the cemetery) and the Bettis family.

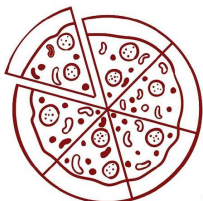


## The Old Steam Engine

Black River Overlook Park was once the Pocahontas industrial area, and a large part of the area was occupied by the Sallee Brothers Hickory Handle Mill, where wood from local hickory trees was turned into hardwood handles for hand tools like hammers and axes. The huge old steam engine that once powered the handle mill has been restored and placed in Riverside Park, south of Overlook Park and the Highway 67 bridge.



# Fat Dave's MAMBO ITALIANO



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Pocahontas, AR 72455  
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Enjoy a comfortable atmosphere and tasty Italian food at Fat Dave's Mambo Italiano. Located in the historic downtown district of Pocahontas, Arkansas, our Italian Restaurant has a full bar, meaning we can pair your favorite dish with your favorite drink. Fat Dave's Mambo Italiano prepares delicious meals, including fresh pasta and homemade, wood-fired pizza that is prepared and cooked right in front of you at our new Pizza Bar. We offer friendly service and delicious food that's sure to have you coming back for seconds.



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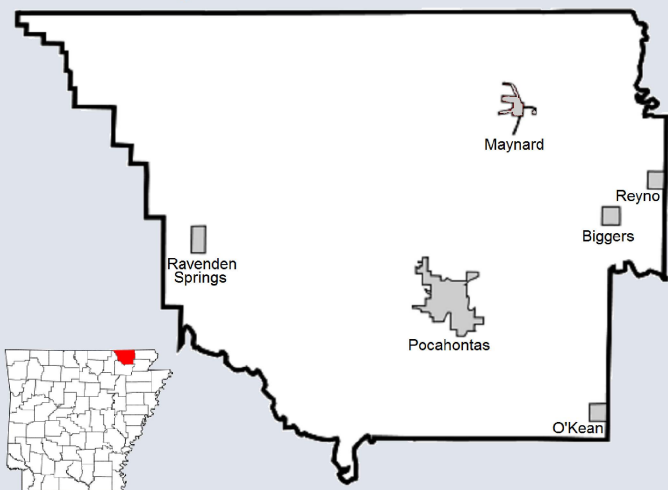




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Arkansas' county of five  
rivers, welcomes you!**



**We have it all:  
Ozark Mountains, rich crop  
land, forests, farms, and  
friendly folks!**



# Things to Do in Randolph County Outside of Pocahontas

## **The 1828 Rice House and Site at Dalton**

---

The oldest log dwelling in the state of Arkansas, the fully-restored Rice House was constructed in 1828 and used as a store and loom house by the builder, Reuben Rice, who established a rural trading center soon after the Rice



family arrived in the Eleven Point River Valley in 1812. The structure features an original log partition wall, a rarity in such early log architecture. A restored 1820s log granary survives from the well-documented trading center days adding to the site's significance. The house is restored to the 1840s era when Reuben's son expanded the main structure to serve as a family dwelling house.

The house, a few miles north of Pocahontas, is open to the public only rarely, but the grounds are always open, and there are many information boards located around the grounds giving interesting information about the history of the site.



The house is only a few feet off of Arkansas Highway 90, however, so it's easy to visit.

## **The 1830 Looney Tavern and Site at Dalton**

---

The oldest log commercial building in Arkansas, the fully-restored William Looney Tavern, stands on a hill across the Eleven Point River from the Reuben Rice House mentioned above.



The tavern is one of the finest surviving examples of early log building traditions in Arkansas. The 1-1/2 story 'dog-trot' constructed of hewn oak logs can be attributed to a team of master folk builders.

Constructed in the early 1830s, it was used as a rural tavern/inn by William Looney. Discoveries revealed during restoration indicate that the structure was also used, in part, for Looney's distilling industry. Prior to his death in 1846 he was producing up to 1500 gallons of apple brandy a year. The Looney family arrived in the Eleven Point River Valley prior to 1815 and their original dwelling site has yet to be located. William descended from a legendary family of frontiersmen, beginning with his great-grandfather Robert Looney who established a ferry in 1742 on the James River in Virginia where the Great Valley Road crossed. His kinsmen participated in opening every new frontier as American settlement pushed westward with William being the first of the family to settle west of the Mississippi.

The house, a few miles north of Pocahontas, is open to the public only rarely, but it's open on some other occasions by special announcement. The tavern is in an isolated location surrounded by private property and it's not easily accessible other than on dates when it's open to the public. One of the best ways to see it is to float the Eleven Point River downstream from the town of Dalton.

### **The Mennonite Country Market**

The USA Today article at <http://goo.gl/a5eRvk> describes the circumstances that caused the Ervin Kropf family, and some other Mennonite families, to move here a few years ago from Huntsville, Missouri. The migration was due to a change in Missouri's law that now requires a photo be taken of all who get a driver's license, something Ervin and his family object to, saying it's a forbidden graven image.

Arkansas law provides a religious exemption from requiring a photo to get a driver's license, much to the benefit of our local community, who have welcomed the Mennonites with open arms. Since our county is right on the Missouri state line, the Mennonites are as close as they can be to their old connections in Missouri. They bought the then-closed general store at our community of Dalton (their store is now the only business in Dalton) and have turned it into a wonderful, and apparently prosperous, business. The Kropf family's Dalton Country Market is often packed with customers enjoying the wonderful sandwiches they prepare to order, using their own fresh-baked bread and your choice from about a dozen different meats and cheeses.

They also offer shelf after shelf of wonderful, hard-to-find foods like oat bran, sesame sticks and candies that they buy in bulk and repackage for retail sale at wonderfully low prices. In season, their fresh produce is the best available locally. It's a reminder of how much better food was in the old days, when it was grown locally, picked when ripe and eaten fresh, as opposed to the picked-green, tasteless produce from California, Texas, Florida and Mexico we're so accustomed to these days.

A trip to the Dalton Country Market is becoming a must-do for



any visitor to our community. I'd post a photo, but they asked me not to! So go in person to see what they have created in their new home here in the Ozarks!

### **Buck Hollow Elk Ranch**

---

See and do! Buck Hollow owns 2600 acres just 15 miles north of Pocahontas, and Keith Futrell, Ranch Manager, offers year-round eco-tours tailored to your interests, like photo safaris and birding. They feature eastern Arkansas' largest Elk herd and fishing on Misty Lake. In season, they offer fully guided hunting tours featuring trophy elk, whitetail deer and turkey.



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Contact Keith Futrell, Manager:

(home) 870-892-8745

(mobile) 870-926-8446

e-mail [keith.futrell@suddenlink.net](mailto:keith.futrell@suddenlink.net)

<http://www.randolphchamber.com/buck-hollow-ranch>

### **The Eleven Point River**

---

Randolph County is the only county in Arkansas, perhaps in America, that has five large, navigable rivers, including the Black River, our largest river, that flows by Pocahontas.



Our pride and joy, though, is the Eleven Point River, our longest and most beautiful river. While there's debate over where the Eleven Point got its name, there's no debate over it being the best kayaking and canoeing river in the county (Particularly north of the town of Dalton). Originating just over the state line in southern Missouri's Ozarks and the Mark Twain National Forest, the Eleven Point enters the county as a fast-flowing white water stream, cuts the county in half from north to south and leaves the county as it joins the Spring River and the Black River to become a slower-flowing bottomlands river.

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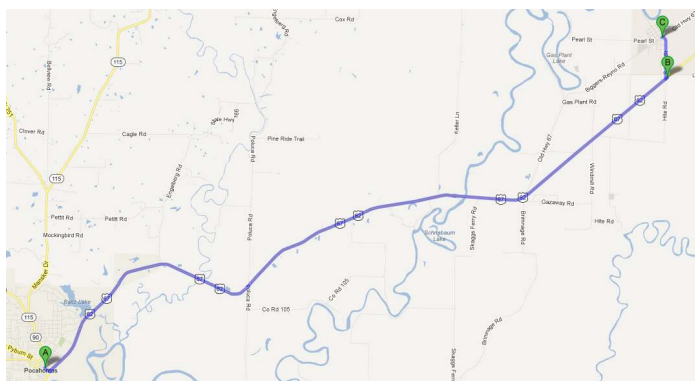
Message 870-810-3486 to Book



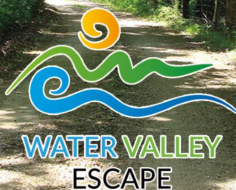


## Antique Shopping

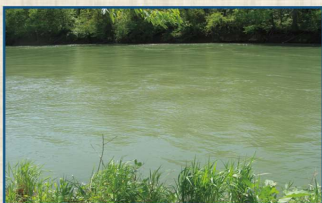
There are some nice antique and crafts markets in the shopping center at the intersection of US 67 and US 62 in Pocahontas. There are also two well-stocked antique stores in the little town of Biggers, 12 miles (19 km) north of Pocahontas on US Hwy 67. Green Gable Antiques (point B on map below) is right on Highway 67 by the turn off the highway onto the road that leads into Biggers. To find Graham's Antiques (point C), turn off of Highway 67 and go on into the little town of Biggers. Graham's is right at the crossroads in the center of town.



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Water Valley Escape is a 3 bedroom,  
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## **Rock and Roll Highway 67**

Before a highway bypass was built between downtown Pocahontas and Black River, Marr Street in Pocahontas used to be U.S. Highway 67, the principal highway between Little Rock and St. Louis. U. S. Highway 67 here in Randolph County, as well as in Lawrence and Jackson counties, has been officially designated as Rock and Roll Highway 67 by the Arkansas Legislature due to the many pioneers and stars of early rock and roll who appeared



at venues here. These include Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Roy Orbison, Jerry Lee Lewis, Fats Domino, Billy Lee Riley, Sonny Burgess and many more. Randolph County venues are marked with historical markers. The longest remaining, drive-able section of the original Highway 67, the very concrete driven by Elvis

and the other old rock and roll artists, runs several miles north of Pocahontas (see QR code map above).

## **Maynard Pioneer Park and Museum**



Housed in a log cabin over 100 years old, the museum is filled with antiques from the 1800s; also has many pictures, newspaper clippings and historical documents making it ideal for genealogy studies for people from that area. Also on the grounds is a park with three pavilions, barbeque pits, playground equipment and 4 RV hook-ups; and a log cabin that served as both church and school. Located in the charming nearby valley village of Maynard.

## **Rolling Hills Country Club**

Visitors to our town can enjoy the 18 holes of golfing at Rolling Hills. They also have a restaurant with bar. 2365 Country Club Rd, Pocahontas 870-892-4931 <http://goo.gl/L4Bdr>



## **Ravenden Springs Community Museum**

This outstanding museum in the small town of Ravenden Springs, a thriving and bustling spa town in the late 1800's and early 1900's, displays the history of the town and its healing springs. It's located in the old rock school building, a National Historic Register property. Visitors wanting to tour the museum should inquire at the Ravenden Springs post office.



The town of Ravenden Springs has other features worth the visitor's notice as well, including

the many abandoned old stone structures to be found along the town's streets, and Halls' Creek Canyon (see the following section).

Of Randolph County's many historic and natural features worthy of a visit, Ravenden Springs is one of the best, yet least known. One is very unlikely to encounter crowds of tourists in this out of the way, but worth the trip, location.

<b>City</b>	<b>Distance to Pocahontas</b>	<b>Driving Time</b>
Memphis	100 mi/150 km	1.5 hours
Little Rock	130 mi/210 km	2 hours
St. Louis	200mi/320 km	3.3 hours
Nashville	280 mi/450 km	4.8 hours
Birmingham	350 mi/550 km	5.8 hours
Tulsa	350 mi/550 km	6 hours
Kansas City	350 mi/560 km	6.5 hours
Louisville	400 mi/640 km	6.7 hours
Dallas	450 mi/700 km	7.5 hours
Indianapolis	430 mi/690 km	7.5 hours
New Orleans	500 mi/800 km	8 hours
Chicago	500 mi/800 km	8.7 hours
Houston	580 mi/900 km	10 hours

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and Randolph County!**

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## Hall's Creek Canyon at Ravenden Springs

For the adventurer, exploring Halls' Creek Canyon, an Arkansas Natural Heritage site, can be a real treat! The canyon is in a wilderness area right at the edge of the town of Ravenden Springs. Turn right off Hwy 90 onto Upper Janes Creek Road. Immediately after crossing the bridge, turn right to park beside the bridge. In front of you is Hall's Creek and Bailey Spring, across the creek. Bailey Spring is the largest of the five springs with medicinal qualities that made Ravenden Springs a popular spa in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20th centuries. After visiting the spring, turn right (southwest) and travel along the creek in the downstream direction. One can hike in the creek bed when the water's low or along the creek bank at other times. (See Ravenden Springs QR code in the previous section.)

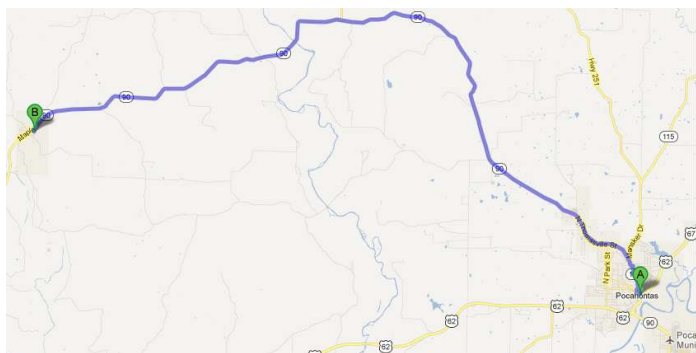


**The deep canyon is a wilderness area surrounded by high, dangerous vertical cliff walls. Enter at your own risk! Be careful! Enjoy the exploration!**

Soon hikers will notice rock formations climbing steeply upward on both sides of the creek. Waterfalls, pools, and torrents also begin to characterize the creek. Some pools are large and deep enough for a refreshing swim. As one travels on down the creek,

the rock bluffs on each side get higher and steeper, and many of the unique features of the canyon begin to appear.

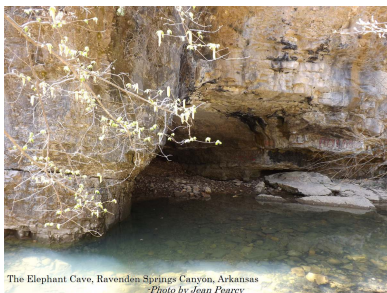
These include the documented site of Arkansas's first school. In



1817 Caleb Lindsey started a school there for the area's children. The school "building" still stands because it was a cave. The School Cave is approximately a quarter mile below the bridge. It's on the southeast side of the canyon. Beside it is the Blue Pool—said

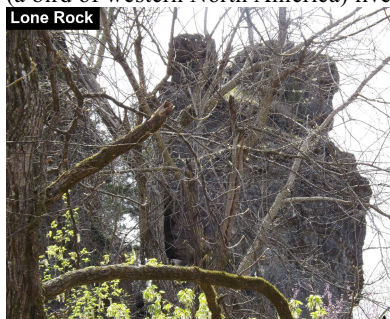
to be bottomless. To reach the School Cave, hikers must travel along the northwest side of the canyon, climb up an easy slope and down a slightly steeper slope below a large rock that's detached from the canyon wall. This is probably the only even slightly challenging part of the hike down the canyon other than having to walk over small rocks along most of the route.

Another quarter mile down the canyon, one comes to two caves on the northwest face of a tall rock bluff. At the base of the bluff is the Elephant Cave, so named for its large size. Above the Elephant Cave on the face of the bluff about 20 feet up is another cave. This is the Raven's Den. Early explorers



The Elephant Cave, Ravenden Springs Canyon, Arkansas  
Photo by Jean Pearcy

of the canyon reported that ravens—crow like (but larger) birds nested there in the cave. Whether they didn't know the difference in a raven and a crow or there actually were ravens in this area then (early 1800s) isn't known, but ornithologists tell us that it's unlikely that the raven (a bird of western North America) lived here at that time.



A bit further down the canyon, one comes to two other primary features located on the southeast side of the canyon. As one approaches Lone Rock, one can clearly make it out before arriving at its base. This is a tall column of rock that has separated from the rock of the canyon wall—quite an impressive site.

Just past Lone Rock is another feature that can be interactive if one chooses, the Needle's Eye. This feature is a large crack or fissure in the solid rock bluff from the bottom of the canyon to the top. The Needle's Eye may be climbed without too much difficulty—it's a moderately difficult climb for youngsters (adult accompaniment is recommended). Climbing the Needle's Eye is a unique experience that most locals have done at least once, probably more often. When reaching the top, one is also near the top of Lone Rock. Though the distance from the top of the bluff to the rock column isn't great, jumping from one to the other isn't recommended—it would be a deadly fall if the jumper failed the attempt.

While that covers the main features of the canyon, the entire hike of a half mile or so each way has much natural beauty and interesting rock formations all along the way. Just below the Needle's Eye, the canyon walls begin to slope down from the top more gently. These rocky slopes are thick with moss and redbud trees—a beautiful sight in the spring when the mosses are bright green and the trees are covered with purple blooms.

For online information about Hall's Creek Canyon, visit [www.arkansasguesthouse.com/halls-creek-canyon-at-ravenden-springs](http://www.arkansasguesthouse.com/halls-creek-canyon-at-ravenden-springs)

## Davidsonville Historic State Park: Scenic 15-minute Drive From Pocahontas

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It's a scenic 15-minute (each way) drive through the hills to this state park that preserves the site of historic Davidsonville. Established in 1815, the town included the Arkansas Territory's first post office, courthouse, and land office. Bypassed by the Southwest Trail, an overland route from St. Louis to the border of Mexico, the town faded by the 1830s.



Archaeological excavations here are uncovering remarkable finds of streets, foundations, and objects that tell a fascinating story of life on the Arkansas frontier following the Louisiana Purchase. Full size "ghost structures" have been built on the sites of the first Arkansas courthouse and post office to show the buildings' sizes and locations. The park's new visitor center contains a full size replica of a flat boat like the original settlers used on the area rivers to bring supplies into this area before there were roads here. Park exhibits and interpretive tours provide information about this important frontier town. GPS address 7953 Highway 166 South.

<http://www.arkansasstateparks.com/olddavidsonville/>

The park includes some nice walking trails:

- **Historic Townsite Trail:** Easy 1/3 mile loop. From 1815 to 1830, Davidsonville was a vibrant town with store-lined streets and people going about their daily lives on the frontier. Although no remnants of Davidsonville are now visible above



### **FIVE RIVERS HISTORIC PRESERVATION, INC.**

*Preserving and Promoting the history and heritage of Pocahontas and Randolph County*

#### **Our projects include...**

- The Downtown National Historic District
- The Randolph County Heritage Museum
- Historic building restorations
- The Randolph County Quilt Trail
- The Civil War River Walk Memorial
- Rock and Roll Highway 67
- The Ozark Hellbender/Founders Day Festival
- The Founders Memorial at Masonic Cemetery
- The Haunted Pocahontas Tour
- Guided Historic Tours
- The Century Farms Program
- The St. Charles Massacre Memorial

the ground, stories are emerging from beneath the surface. This trail takes you around Davidsonville's once-bustling town square. Exhibits on the trail explain more about this historic town and its historical significance to Arkansas. The panels also give you a glimpse of the people who once called Davidsonville home and the archeology that helped fill in the details about life at Davidsonville.

- **Scott Cemetery Trail:** Easy to moderate ½ mile walk. Named for the family buried here, this is a short hike to a post-Civil War cemetery. The Scott family owned and ran the Black River ferry even after Davidsonville was just a ghost of the town it had been. Today, tombstones mark the graves of Mr. and Mrs. Scott and several of their children.
- **Trapper Lake Trail:** Moderate 1-mile loop. The trail meanders through the forest of Davidsonville and partially runs along the banks of Trapper Lake. From beaver gnaw marks to deer tracks to raccoon scat, signs of wildlife are everywhere along this trail.
- **Black River Trail:** Moderate 1-1/2 mile loop. You will enjoy both nature and history along this trail. Black River Trail winds its way through the forest of Davidsonville and alongside the Black River. Turtles and other river animals may be spotted from this trail. Black River Trail also takes you to the older of the two cemeteries in the park, the Phillips/Reeves Cemetery. It is believed that this cemetery was used during the heyday of Davidsonville, from 1815.

### **Engelberg German Community: Scenic 20-minute Drive From Pocahontas**

The community of Engelberg was founded by Catholic immigrants, mostly from Germany, who settled there in the 1880's. It's a scenic 20-minute (each



way) drive through the hills to what's left of the old town: the very active St. John's Catholic Church, parish hall and priest's home. The rest of the community pretty much melted away after the automobile replaced the horse and wagon, making a trip into Pocahontas for supplies quick and easy.



### **Dalton Mennonite Community: Scenic 30-minute Drive From Pocahontas**

The Arkansas state legislature has designated State Highway 90 from Pocahontas to Ravenden a State Scenic Highway. For a scenic 30-minute (each way) drive through the hills on this Scenic Highway, visit the little town of Dalton, in northern Randolph County. Dalton is located on the beautiful, clear and clean



Eleven Point River, the best canoeing river in the county. The best thing to do at Dalton is to visit the Dalton Country Store, run by an Amish Mennonite family. In addition to a great selection of Amish-made foods (jellies, pickles, and lots more), they make wonderful sandwiches to order, using your choice of a large variety of meats and cheeses, served on bread they just baked on-site. The store is open 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 8-5 on Saturday.

### **Five Rivers Rumble Motorcycle & Car Tour**

In a half-day car or motorcycle ride, you can cross all five of Randolph County's rivers, and see some of our finest scenery. The Five Rivers Rumble is a planned route that starts and ends in Pocahontas, but since it's a loop you can start it and end it anywhere you want. To see full information, with turn-by-turn directions, refueling points, restaurants and points of interest along the way, visit:

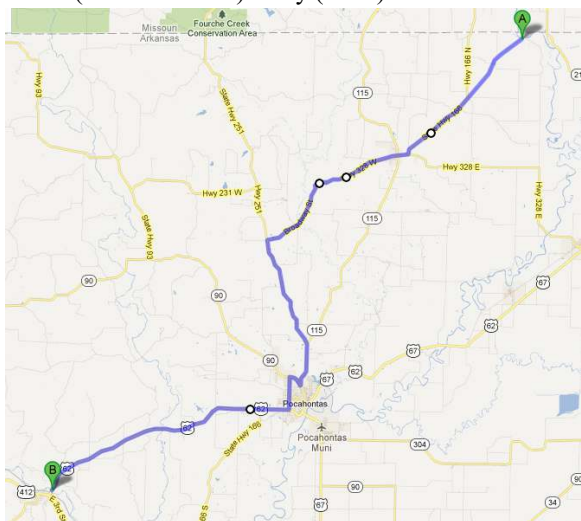
[www.arkansasguesthouse.com/the-five-rivers-rumble/](http://www.arkansasguesthouse.com/the-five-rivers-rumble/)



### **Three of Arkansas' four major historic trails originate here in Randolph County:**

#### **The Southwest Trail**

An ancient trail that originally ran from Vincennes, Indiana to Natchitoches, Louisiana, known locally as the Old Military Road, later split off from its original route in the 1820s and became better known then as the Southwest Trail-the route settlers from the U.S. took on the way to the newly opened territory of Tejas (Texas). The first federally sponsored road in Arkansas, which 4/5 of Arkansas's early population used to enter Arkansas, came into the state at Hix (later Pitman's) Ferry (1802) in extreme northeast





Randolph County (Point A on the preceding map), on the Current River, and proceeded diagonally across the county before exiting into Lawrence County at Miller's Ford just south of Imboden on the Spring River (Point B above).

The current driving trail, created by the Arkansas legislature, begins at the Arkansas/Missouri state line on Hwy 115, proceeds through Maynard to Pocahontas, takes Hwy 63 to Imboden, then proceeds from Imboden to Smithville and eventually goes on to Little Rock and ends at Texarkana.

### **The Trail of Tears**

A drivable/hike-able section of the Trail of Tears passes through Randolph County. The Benge Route of the Trail of Tears reflects the tragic relocation of Cherokee and Creek tribes of native Americans from the southern Appalachians in 1838. The original trail covered the same route as the Southwest Trail in Randolph County (see the previous section and map). It entered Arkansas from Missouri at Hix (then Pitman's) Ferry and exited the county at Miller's Ford. This Heritage Trail continues west across the Ozark Mountains to the Arkansas/Oklahoma state line west of Fayetteville. Several other branches of The Trail of Tears Heritage Trail take different routes through the state. For those who want to hike or drive the route and see the same territory those on the forced march saw, download the information PDF or PowerPoint presentation available here:

[www.arkansasguesthouse.com/hiking-the-randolph-county-trail-of-tears/](http://www.arkansasguesthouse.com/hiking-the-randolph-county-trail-of-tears/)

### **Arkansas Civil War Trails**

A primary Civil War Heritage Trail takes a similar route as the above two trails through this county, following Highway 115 to Highway 63, from the Arkansas/Missouri state line, then Highway 166 to Davidsonville Historic State Park, then on to Black Rock in Lawrence County (Point B on the following map). Featured stops on the trail in the county include Maynard Pioneer Park and Museum; Overlook Park and the Civil War River Walk Memorial Trail in Overlook Park, Pocahontas, and Davidsonville Historic State Park. This Civil War Trail ends at Camden in south central Arkansas. Three other Civil War Heritage Trails were also created by the Arkansas legislature, though the one here in Randolph County is by far the most prominent.

# Day Trips From Pocahontas

## **Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center**

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Located in Jonesboro, the center offers visitors the chance to experience and explore a unique piece of North America and its wildlife. Inside the center, exhibits reveal the natural forces that formed the 200-mile-long ridge and native wildlife, ranging from large game animals to small insects. In addition to self-guided exhibits and trails, Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center offers many activities and nature education programs. 600 East Lawson Road, Jonesboro, Ark. 870-933-6787 [www.crowleysridge.org](http://www.crowleysridge.org)



## **The Irish Wilderness**

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Part of Mark Twain National Forest, the Irish Wilderness is a dense forest of oaks and hickory. The Wilderness is set aside by Congress as a natural area affected primarily by the forces of nature with little evidence of man's works - "where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." Many outdoor enthusiasts seek out its peace and special closeness to experiencing the wonders of nature. No two individuals share the same meaning and values of the wilderness experience, but it is primitive and challenging, and recreationists must be self-reliant. The Wilderness hiking trails are great, but it's also a nice place just to drive through. If you're going to the Wilderness, a GPS unit is recommended!



## **Mammoth Spring State Park**

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Mammoth Spring is Arkansas's largest spring and the second largest spring in the Ozark Mountains. A National Natural Landmark, the spring flows nine million gallons of water hourly. [www.arkansasstateparks.com/mammothspring/](http://www.arkansasstateparks.com/mammothspring/)

## **Grand Gulf State Park**

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Just 11 minutes from Mammoth Spring (above), this Missouri state park is often referred to as Missouri's "Little Grand Canyon." Grand Gulf State Park offers visitors a chance to view a variety of natural wonders. From a canyon to a cave to a natural bridge -- this state park has plenty to see and much to do. The 322-acre park presents the most spectacular collapsed cave system in the Ozarks. Part of the cave's roof forms one of the largest natural bridges in the state, spanning 200 feet with an opening 75 feet high and 50 feet wide. [www.mostateparks.com/park/grand-gulf-state-park](http://www.mostateparks.com/park/grand-gulf-state-park)



## **The Ernest Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum**

In the nearby town of Piggott, the museum includes the family home of Pauline Pfeiffer, second wife of renowned novelist Ernest Hemingway, and a barn-studio where Hemingway wrote portions of one of his most famous novels, *A Farewell to Arms*, and several short stories.



Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum and Educational Center, 1021 West Cherry Street, Piggott, Arkansas 72454 Phone: 870-598-3487  
<http://hemingway.astate.edu/>

## **Powhatan Historic State Park**

Preserves an 1888 courthouse and a small nearby nineteenth-century river port town on the Black River. 870-878-6765



[www.arkansasstateparks.com/powhatancourthouse](http://www.arkansasstateparks.com/powhatancourthouse)

## **Walnut Ridge Army Flying School Museum**

There was a major World War II airfield near Pocahontas. The “Wings of Honor” museum, at the airfield, is a tribute to the airmen of WWII, the planes they flew and the military and civilian personnel who supported their mission.

The Beatles landed at this airport in 1964, then passed through Pocahontas on their way to a weekend vacation at a resort in southern Missouri. 70 South Beacon Road, Walnut Ridge, Arkansas 72476 Phone 800-584-5575



[www.wingsofhoronor.org](http://www.wingsofhoronor.org)

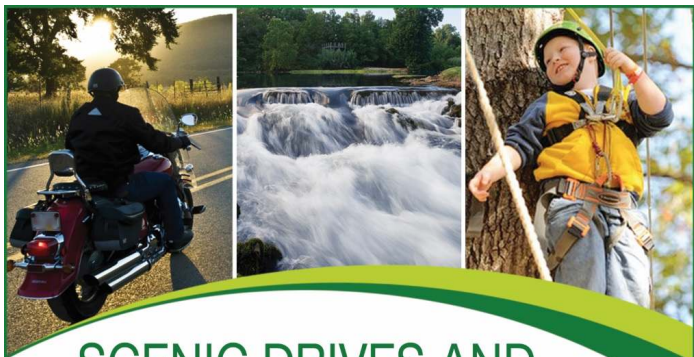
## **Abbey Road Beatles Tribute in Walnut Ridge**

The Beatles landed at the Walnut Ridge airport (see above) in 1964 on their way to a weekend vacation at a resort in southern Missouri. Walnut Ridge recently renamed one of their downtown streets



“Abbey Road” and they’ve erected there a life-size metal sculpture based on the cover of the famous Abbey Road album. If you’re passing through Walnut Ridge, it’s worth seeing. [www.roadsideamerica.com/tip/32429](http://www.roadsideamerica.com/tip/32429)

Also in Walnut Ridge is The Guitar Walk at Cavanaugh Park. A large concrete plaza shaped and tinted like an Epiphone Casino guitar has been constructed to recognize that Walnut Ridge, like Pocahontas, is located on "Rock and Roll Highway 67" where music legends like Elvis Presley, Roy Orbison, and Johnny Cash once performed. The Guitar Walk includes an audio tour of music of the 1950's.



## SCENIC DRIVES AND UNIQUE PLACES

If you are looking for a great place to get away, look no further. The Ozark Gateway Region of North Central Arkansas is packed with unique places that will take you away from the everyday grind! Order your FREE Ozark Gateway Region Visitor/Relocation Guide with our scenic drive map that will help you find great destinations to visit or call your future home.

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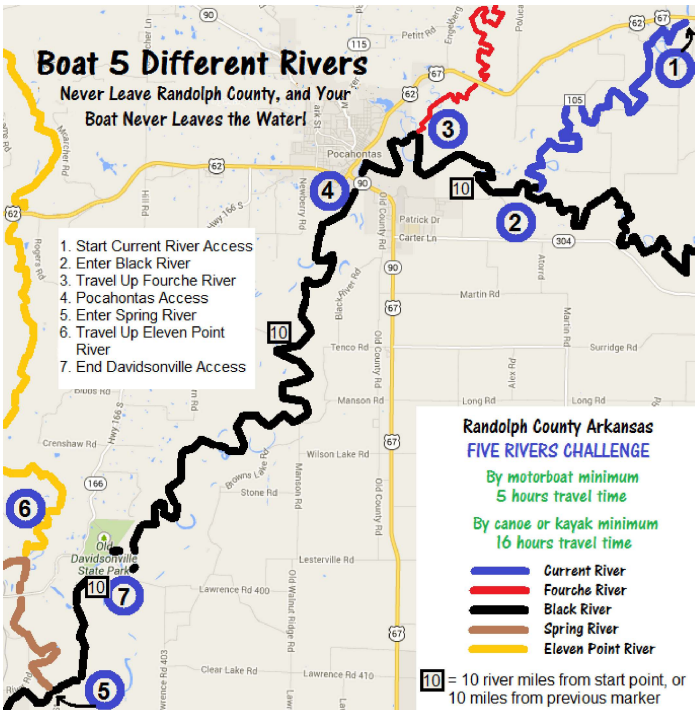
[www.ozarkgateway.com](http://www.ozarkgateway.com)



This ad paid for with a combination of state and Ozark Gateway Region funds

## **The Five Rivers Challenge - Boat 5 Rivers In One Day**

Randolph County is unique for Arkansas, in having five different rivers you can easily navigate by boat. Since the five rivers all converge here in Randolph County, you can boat them all continuously with your boat never leaving the water. It's a trip of about 50 miles by water. *The Five Rivers Challenge: add to your life's achievements by boating in five different rivers, never leaving Randolph County, and never taking your boat out of the water.* There's a full description of The Challenge at <http://goo.gl/8rn3uK>



## **Area Hunting and Fishing**

Our early settlers depended on hunting and fishing to survive. These sports are still popular here with many local residents and visitors, especially at our two Wildlife Management Areas, the Dave Donaldson Black River WMA and the R.L. Hankins Mud Creek Upland. People here hunt for deer, turkey, squirrel, rabbit, dove, crow, and waterfowl such as ducks and geese. We have a wide variety of fish in our rivers, creeks and lakes. Fly fishing is especially good in our creeks.

For full information on Arkansas hunting and fishing, regulations, seasons and permits, visit the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission website at [www.agfc.com/](http://www.agfc.com/)



Map to Donaldson (This will get you close, but it's a rural location so you may need to directions locally, and watch for signs..)



## Area Birding

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Birding (bird watching) is very popular here due to Randolph County's location on two of the main bird migration routes in the U. S.—the Central Flyway and the Mississippi Flyway. These merge just north of us, and their routes narrow here, concentrating the bird population as many, many bird species use these routes when flying to and from South America and the Caribbean during their seasons of migration, many nesting here each year.

**Local flora and fauna photographer Cyndi Barr will be happy to meet with visitors to our area to show them great locations for birding. To contact Cyndi to arrange for a birding tour, contact her by email at [gwbarr@suddenlink.net](mailto:gwbarr@suddenlink.net) There is no charge for her services, though we encourage you to give her a nice tip for sharing her time and expertise with you.**

When birding here, be sure to watch for bald eagles, white pelicans, and the rare and feared extinct ivory billed woodpecker.

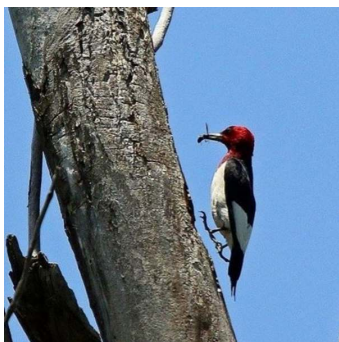
Our county offers excellent opportunities for bird watching as it contains both the uplands of the Ozarks and the wetlands of the Mississippi Delta. Two of the best spots for observing birds are the county's two Wildlife Management Areas (WMA).

The Dave Donaldson WMA along the Black River in east central Randolph County offers, at various times of the year, one of the western hemisphere's greatest concentrations of waterfowl. It's also an excellent place to view the many species that nest or live year around in the riparian zones along the river and the wetland and forest areas. Access is at Shaver's Eddy, 800 Hite Road, Biggers, AR.

The R. L. Hankins Upland WMA located in the foothills of the Ozarks in north central Randolph County offers the birdwatcher a chance to see an even larger number of bird species. Take the county road off Arkansas Highway 115 at Middle-brook as indicated by the WMA direction sign. One of the most colorful birds that nests here each year along our rivers and in wetland areas is the beautiful Prothonotary Warbler. This bird, with its bright golden yellow, rose, and slate blue coloration, nests in the cavities of hardwood trees in riparian and wetland situations here.



Map to Hankins  
*(This will get you close, but it's a rural location so you may need to ask locally, and watch for road signs.)*





## **NATURAL**

Five Rivers. The beautiful rolling hills and high ridges of the eastern Ozarks. Four important resorts, birding, fishing, boating, canoeing, hunting, camping beautiful scenery and fall foliage.

## **CULTURAL**

Downtown Playhouse. Imperial Dinner Theater. Regional Cuisine. Unique Shopping. Items by local artists and crafts persons. Annual festivals and events: Maynard Pioneer Days, Founders Day, Rock and Roll Highway 67 Music Festival. And the friendly residents of Randolph County!

## **HISTORIC**

The sites of thirteen Arkansas historical "firsts". Davidsonville Historic State Park. Pocahontas National Commercial Historic District. Civil War River Walk Memorial Trail. Century Wall. Maynard Pioneer Park. Five Museums. National and State Trail System: Trail of Tears, Arkansas Heritage Trail/Southwest Trail, Civil War Trail, Rock and Roll Highway 67, Randolph County Quilt Trail. Oldest House and Oldest Commercial Building in Arkansas (open one Saturday a month, or by appointment).

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### **RANDOLPH COUNTY TOURISM ASSOCIATION**

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**Phone 870-248-0069**

Or...come by our Welcome Center in the Historic Train Depot on U.S. 67



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# Shady River



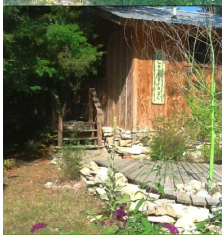
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 or call 870-248-0859



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