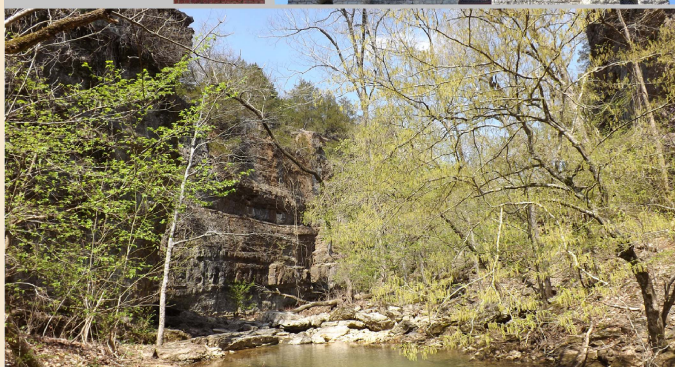
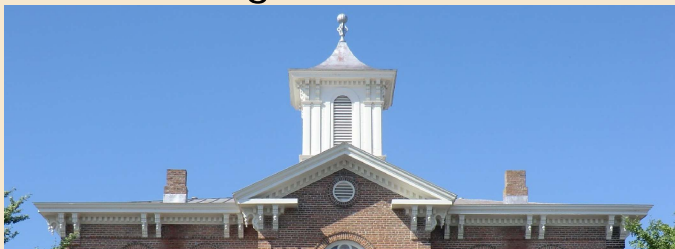
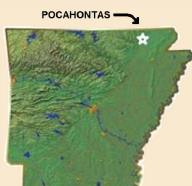


Activity Guide

75+ Things to See and Do



in and around
Pocahontas and
Randolph County



Arkansas ! USA

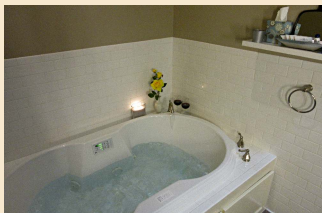
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Our Significant History

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



1828 Reuben Rice House

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:

1st Ferry - Hix Ferry on Current River, before 1811.

1st Grist Mill - Demun Mill on, Mill Creek, 1813.

Arkansas' first planned town Davidsonville, 1815.

1st Court - held Solomon Hewitt's house, west of Davidsonville, 1815.

1st U. S. Post Office - Davidsonville, 1817

1st School - Ravenden Springs-1817.

1st Methodist Circuit Rider - Eli Lindsey, 1817.

1st Baptist Church - Columbia-1818.

1st Courthouse - Davidsonville, 1820.

1st U. S. Land Office - Davidsonville, 1820.

1st Masonic Lodge - Brakebill, 1828.

1st 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 1860 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 art galleries, flea markets, and a variety store featuring Arkansas products and souvenirs. Other features include a dance studio, an on-line radio station, a day spa, a downtown woolen mill, 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 Carroll's Variety Store.

The 1940 Randolph County Courthouse lawn is the site of two veterans' memorials and statues. The Historic District contains Arkansas's first and only edition of the National 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.

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 old courthouse, and at Carroll's Variety Store at 106 W Everett Street. 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.

NoMa Art and Entertainment District

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 the



Gallery on the Square which features unique art and showcases artists on a regular basis, Marilyn's Clogging Company which provides dance, music and martial arts instruction, Marr St. Productions which produces and sponsors musical presentations, Gypsy Girl Boutique, Bella Piazza Restaurant (the only place in town with a bar permit), distinctive guest lodging at the Lesmeister Guesthouse, body art at Generations, the Downtown Playhouse which features performing art, the soon to be completed NoMa Art Park, and a restored neighborhood of historic homes. The 5 block art corridor on North Marr Street in Pocahontas is referred to as NoMa. Many people enjoy posing for photos with our silhouette wall (see photo above).

Downtown Playhouse

You'll find live Broadway-quality plays performed at the ADA-accessible Downtown Playhouse at 302 N Marr Street, housed in the building that was once our town's art deco-era movie theater.



In 2014, without "a penny or a plan," a small group of friends came together to build a theatre in Downtown Pocahontas. Luckily, the group had proven expertise and passion for good theater and great stage productions that not only entertain but touch the audience. Within one year, the Downtown Playhouse opened with its first breathtakingly moving production, "A Time to Kill," selling out 13 productions and with a waiting list when the show closed. Since that time, the Downtown Playhouse has produced "The Sunshine Boys," a rousing comedy from Neil Simon, the fun and frantic "Pump Boys and Dinettes," a griping and award winning drama, "Night Mother," that left the audience shaken and

breathless and the hilarious “Everybody Loves Opal,” a kinder gentler show. And that, according to Artistic Director and General Manager Kelly Grooms, is exactly the kind of production he and friends of the Downtown Playhouse had in mind. The atmosphere in this intimate-setting, where guests enjoy coffee and dessert along with the play, could not be more perfect.

The experience begins when a patron enters the renovated and remodeled movie theater, described variously as “urban grudge,” “shabby chic,” and a place “where Beale Street meets Broadway.” Guests gaze in awe in all directions in the intimate coffeehouse setting, designed by Grooms with help from a couple of talented artists 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 from “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 the faux art to create texture, depth & tone.

The entire operation is a family & community affair. Grooms considers the Downtown Playhouse “a testament to this community.” In just 15 months’ time, he says they raised \$156,000 for the renovation and remodeling, all privately funded and volunteer labor.

Within its first season, The Downtown Playhouse would be 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.”

For reservations, visit the playhouse website at www.thedowntownplayhouse.com or call 870-758-2282. Don't forget to include the word ‘the’ if using the website. Tickets for the show, dessert, and a drink are \$18 plus tax & fees.

Bella Piazza Italian Restaurant

Don’t miss our only downtown restaurant. Bella Piazza, whose Italian name is a comment on its position on our beautiful town square, serves excellent pasta dishes and pizza in a casual atmosphere. Full bar. www.facebook.com/bellapiazzallc

Carroll’s Variety Store and Flea Market

For fun shopping and souvenirs of your visit to Pocahontas, Carroll’s Variety Store and Flea Market, just off the town square at 106 W Everett Street, sells an assortment of items made in Pocahontas, in Randolph County and in Arkansas, including works of art by area artists. Carroll’s also sells Arkansas-made fudge and other candies, jellies, local honey, and goat’s milk soap they make right in the store. They also sell items used in the Lesmeister Guesthouse, including the Lesmeister coffee mugs, wine glasses, and bath robes. The store also offers works of art and jewelry by local artists and craftsmen.



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.



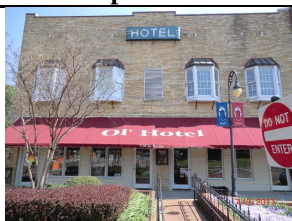
The Capture of Confederate General Jeff Thompson

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 1853 and burned in the early 1900's. It was located on the site now occupied by the "Ole 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."

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



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 1860, still stands where it has been for over 150 years, the only remaining witness to the capture of Gen. Jeff Thompson. (The old courthouse wasn't built until 1872.)



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' Only Quilt Trail

The Pocahontas National Historic District is home to Arkansas' only 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 the whole quilts, photographically printed on vinyl material and mounted on the walls of downtown buildings.



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

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

studio

B

~104 E Everett St. ~
Downtown Pocahontas
On the Historic
Courthouse Square

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We offer complete hair care,
manicures, pedicures, facials,
massage and more!

Gift Certificates Available
and Free Wi-Fi!

~ Salon and Spa ~

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!

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>

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 every day except Sunday, 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.

The Treasure Trunk Eclectic Shopping

Step into the Treasure Trunk, at 108 N Bettis Street, for the joy of shopping! Featuring an eclectic mix of treasures, they offer unique items to complete any home decor.

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

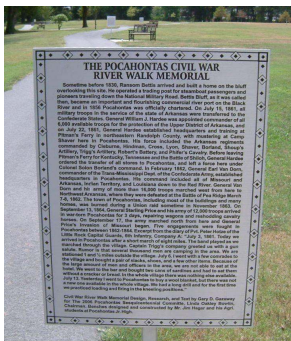
Pocahontas stands on a hill overlooking the Black River. This hill, and the town, were once known as “Bettis Bluff”, after Ranson (or Ransom) Bettis, the town’s founder. Nobody really knows why the town was renamed Pocahontas. Lots of theories exist, but proof seems lost to the ages. The banks of the 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 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



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



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.

Love Lock Lane was under construction in the park as this guide went to press. A love lock is a padlock that sweethearts lock to a public fence to symbolize their love. The couple's names or initials are written on the lock, and its key is thrown away to symbolize unbreakable love. The Love Lock Lane is located along the sidewalk leading from the Overlook Park parking lot down to the Century Wall (where the flag pole/US flag is located). 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** 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.



**"Our
County's
Attic"**

*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

Futrell's Old Time Hardware

Take a step back in time and connect with a simpler way of life as you see a real old time downtown hardware store. Futrell's Hardware has occupied the southeast corner of the Pocahontas town square, at 102 South Bettis Street, for as long as any of us can remember, and during all that time, nothing has changed in this time capsule of the 1930s!



R. J. Reynolds-Pearcy Art Gallery



R. J. Reynolds? You mean the huge tobacco company has a gallery in Pocahontas? No, not at all. R. J. Reynolds is the maiden name of artist Jean Percy, and her art gallery on the Pocahontas town square at 103 North Marr Street is her pride and joy. The gallery, established in 2009, charges no admission, and artists pay nothing to have their works on display there, primarily paintings, drawings, photography and sculptures. Among new artists who had their first public showing at The Gallery are Adam Hogan, now an art teacher, Zack Roach, now in the very elite Otis School of Art and Design in Los Angeles, Lance Laymon, soon to start his

student teaching, and Jacob Pipkin, and ASU Art Education Major. The Gallery also features well-attended poetry readings every four months. Jean loves the wonderful old 1880's era building that houses her gallery. She sees herself as the building's temporary caretaker.



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.



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.

Generations Tattoos & Body Piercings

Located at 215 N Marr Street, Generations can let you keep your memories of Pocahontas with you where ever you go! Their staff have many years of experience and an excellent reputation for their talent. Visit them on Facebook at <http://tinyurl.com/9cd7nkh> or phone 870-378-4838.

DOWNTOWN PLAYHOUSE



**Exciting, Quality Theatre in
Downtown Pocahontas**



Unique Theatrical Venue



The set from our first production, "A TIME TO KILL,"

**Unsurpassed Theatrical
Experience!!**



DOWNTOWN PLAYHOUSE

302 N Marr St

Pocahontas, AR 72455

870-758-2282

www.thedowntownplayhouse.com

Camera Corner Photography Studio

Strolling the Pocahontas town square can take you by so many interesting places, including James and Cindy Throgmorton's Camera Corner Studio at 201 East Everett Street on the corner of Everett and Bettis Streets. Cindy uses settings around downtown Pocahontas for her portrait photography. Real artists, James and Cindy are known all over Arkansas as experts in restoration of old photos, and Camera Corner features a great library of historic Pocahontas photographs. They have created a wonderful souvenir CD of some of the best old photos. <http://www.cameracornerstudio.com/>

Back Door Children's Store

If there are children in your family, or if you ever a child yourself, you will enjoy this store in the basement of the Camera Corner building (see previous entry). Walk down the steep hill beside Camera Corner to find the store entry.

They carry hundreds of hair clips, many handmade, as well as tutus, dresses, sets, leggings, head bands, bows, shoes, animal prints, tops, petti rompers, petti tops, petti pants, boys bow ties, boys regular ties, hats, wands, crowns, and beanies.

Old Pocahontas Post Office

Built in the middle of the Great Depression, the old Pocahontas post office building at 109 North Van Bibber Street now houses our local newspaper, the Pocahontas Star Herald. The exterior of the building 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. It's worth stepping inside the lobby of the building to admire the faux oak woodwork.



R.J. REYNOLDS-PEARCY

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The Gallery
ON THE SQUARE



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. A visit to Futrell's takes you back in time. 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 discuss the local rumor mill.



Marilyn's Clogging and Music Studio

Marilyn's Clogging Company, 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 and performances, a large Taekwondo group holds regular classes and competitions in Marilyn's spacious building. Marilyn's almost always has something going on. Any time you're in town and see activity at the Clogging Company, feel free to stop in and watch as they learn, rehearse, and perform. <http://marilynsclogging.com/>

Old Frisco Train Depot

The local train depot was built at 200 McDonald Street, near the riverside, in 1921. 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. There's also a restored railroad caboose on display at the old depot.



Fitness Worx Health Club

If you are looking for a place to continue your regular 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. Housed 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.





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.)

Imperial Dinner Theater

Pocahontas is home to the finest dinner theater in Arkansas, featuring Broadway quality shows in a fine dining atmosphere. The Imperial, at 1401 Highway 304 East, is home to The Imperial Players, the resident acting company, producing professional quality plays and musicals.



Call the Imperial at 870-892-0030 to make reservations by phone, or stop by in person. Your seats are reserved at the moment you pay for them! When you go to the Imperial, you are greeted by a hostess then ushered to your reserved seat. You'll find a candle-lit table, fine linens and china. From that point on, you are waited on like royalty (gratuity is not included in ticket price), with no buffet lines. www.imperialdinnertheatre.com



D. René Tyler CPA, P.A.
Certified Public ACCOUNTANT

870.892.7064 phone

870.892.7062 fax

renetyler@drenetylercpa.com • www.drenetylercpa.com
1495 Highway 62 W | Pocahontas, Arkansas 72455

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 Café: 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, seven days a week, plus great evening meals on Friday and Saturday nights. The 166 offers an excellent immersion into the real American small town experience!



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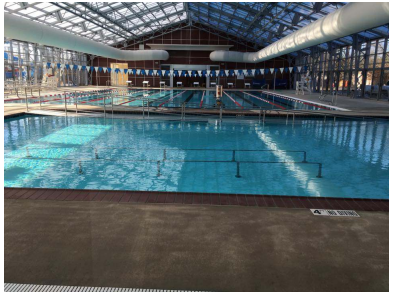
Thomas O. Marr Park and Aquatic Center

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

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, 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.



Baltz Lake

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:

<https://www.ar.wildlifelicense.com/start.php>

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.



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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.





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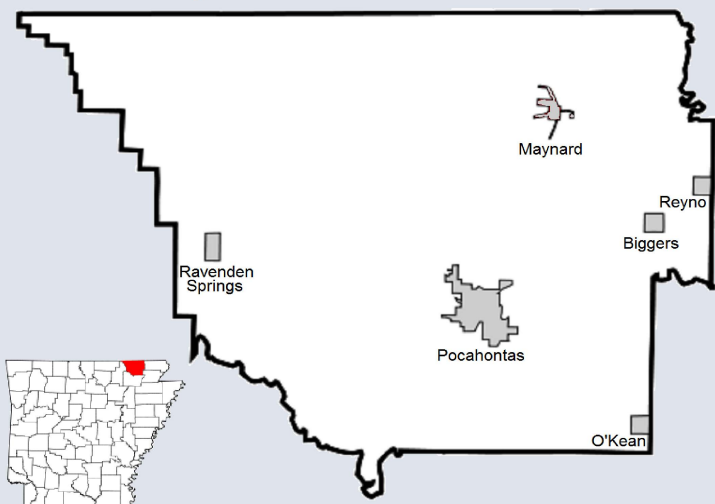
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friendly folks!



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, currently on the second Saturday of June, July, August, and September, and on the third Saturday of October. It's also open on some other occasions by special announcement. The house is only a few feet off of Arkansas Highway 90, however, so you can get very close to it, even if the site is closed, and study the log construction.



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

The house, a few miles north of Pocahontas, is open to the public only rarely, currently on the second Saturday of June, July, August, and September, and on the third Saturday of October. It's also 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.

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

-27-

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.



CamoLodge, their guest cabin, provides all the comforts of home, including kitchen facilities, bathroom, heat and air conditioning, satellite TV and sleeping accommodations. The porch overlooks a surrounding food plot with a feeder to attract wildlife for your viewing.

Contact Keith Futrell, Manager:

(home) 870-892-8745

(mobile) 870-926-8446

e-mail keith.futrell@suddenlink.net

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

Buck Hollow Stables

Buck Hollow offers camping, trail rides and arena events. For details call 239-225-5992 or visit <https://goo.gl/UJn60U>

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.



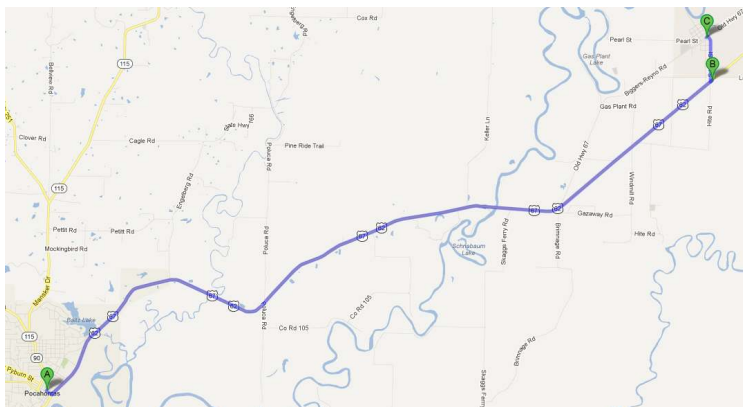
Our pride and joy, though, is the Eleven Point River, our longest and most beautiful river. While there's debate over where the Eleven Point got its name, there's no debate over it being the best kayaking and canoeing river in the county (Particularly north of the town of Dalton). Originating just over 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.

Historical Living Farm Museum

The Good Earth Association runs a historical living farm museum on the Eleven Point River, home of the 1844 Carton Water Powered Grist Mill. They present at least two living historical farm shows each year, one in the spring another in the fall. It is a sixty acre wooded farm with a fish packed 5.2 acre lake. They provide camp sites, and educational farm equipment displays. Located at 320 Kilo Vista Road, Pocahontas. Phone 870-378-0285 or 870-892-9545 for information on when it's open.

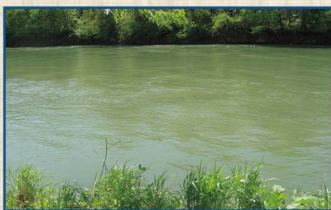
Antique Shopping

In addition to Carroll's Variety Store & Flea Market in downtown Pocahontas (described in the first section of this booklet), there are 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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to reserve online
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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).



Scene from the mid-to-lower Eleven Point.

Davidsonville Historic State Park provides float information and shuttle service for two river floats:

- Black River Float: 4 to 6 hours long. Canoes are put in at Davidsonville and picked up at Powhatan Historic State Park.
- Eleven Point River Float: 6 to 7 hours long. Canoes are put in at the Hwy. 90 Bridge and picked up at Lloyd Williams Access.
- Float trip participants must be at the park no later than 8:30 AM and must be at their pick up destination no later than 4:00 PM.
- Canoe and Kayak river floats are priced at \$30 a vessel. Includes shuttle, vessel, life vests, and paddles.
- Shuttles for those with their own equipment are \$30 a vessel.
- To reserve a float trip, Davidsonville Historic State Park must have 24 hour notice. For more information please contact, Davidsonville Historic State Park at 870.892.4708 or come by the park at 7953 Hwy. 166 South Pocahontas, AR. 72455



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.



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Hall's Creek Canyon at Ravenden Springs

For the adventurer, exploring Halls' Creek Canyon 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 19th 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.)

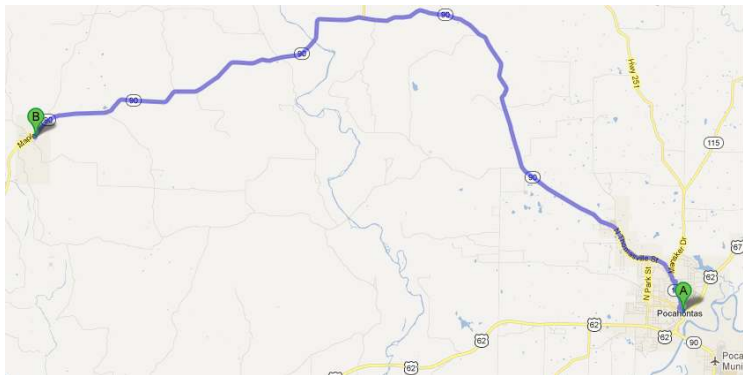


The deep canyon is a wilderness area surrounded by high, dangerous vertical cliff walls. Enter at your own risk! Be careful! Enjoy the exploration!

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.

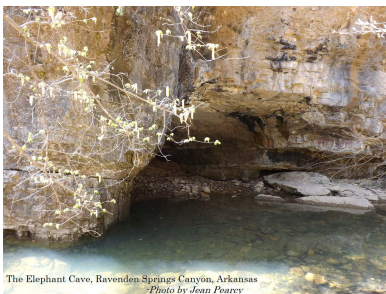
These include the documented site of Arkansas's first school. In 1817



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.

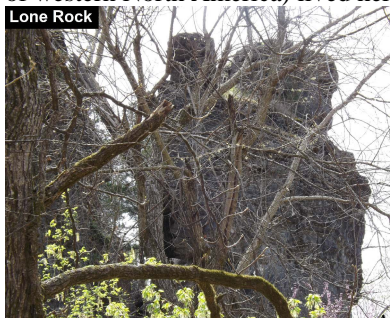
Another quarter mile down the canyon, one comes to two caves on the northwest face of a tall rock bluff. At the base of the bluff is the Elephant Cave, so named for its large size. Above the Elephant Cave on the face of the bluff about 20 feet up is another cave. This is the



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

Raven's Den. Early explorers 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.

Lone Rock



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

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

It's a scenic 15-minute (one 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 the ground, stories are emerging from beneath the surface. This trail takes you around Davidsonville's once-bustling town square. Exhibits on the trail



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- 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

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 (one 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

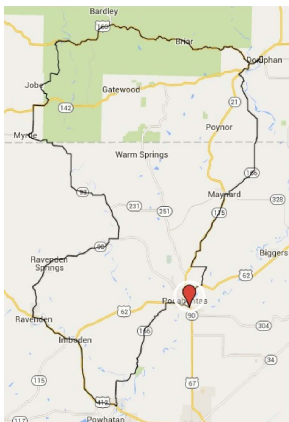
The Arkansas state legislature has designated State Highway 90 from Pocahontas to Ravenden a State Scenic Highway. For a scenic 30-minute (one way) drive through the hills on this Scenic Highway, visit the little town of Dalton, in northern Randolph County. Dalton is located on the beautiful, clear and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



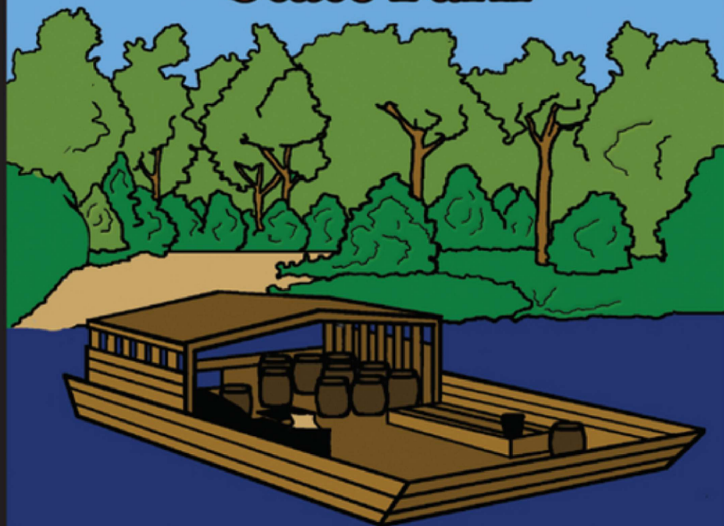
Three of Arkansas' four major historic trails originate here in Randolph County:

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 Texas (Texas).

The first federally sponsored road in Arkansas, which 4/5 of Arkansas'

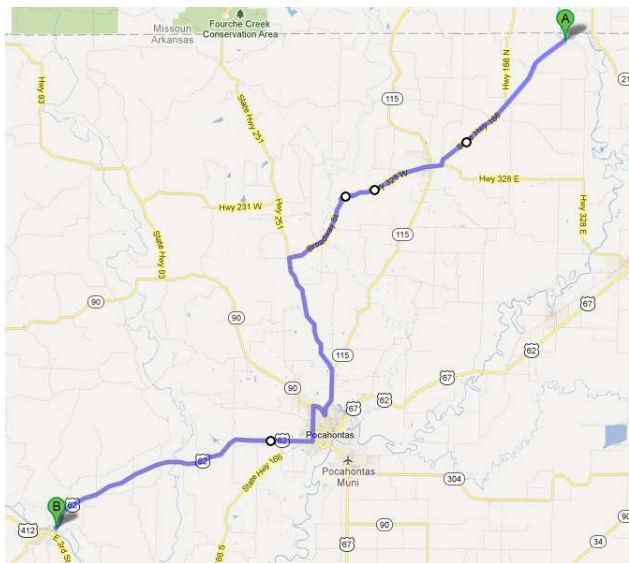
Davidsonville Historic State Park



8047 Hwy 166 S Pocahontas, AR 72455

Phone: 870-892-4708 Email: davidsonville@arkansas.com

Web: www.ArkansasStateParks.com/olddavidsonville



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 map above), 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/

Arkansas Civil War Trails

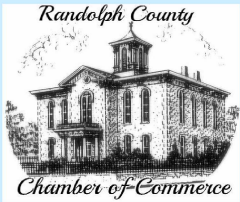
A primary Civil War Heritage Trail takes a similar route as the above two trails through this county, following Highway 115 to Highway 63, from the Arkansas/Missouri state line, then Highway 166 to Davidsonville Historic State Park, then on to Black Rock in Lawrence County (Point B on the following map). 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.



Welcome to Pocahontas, Arkansas!

Randolph County
Chamber of Commerce
107 East Everett Street
Pocahontas, Arkansas 72455
870-892-3956
www.randolphchamber.com
chamber@randolphchamber.com



Day Trips From Pocahontas

Winery Tours and Tastings

Grapes of Held Winery & Vineyard

Just 45 miles northeast of Pocahontas, just over the state line in southern Missouri, you'll find the Grapes of Held Winery and Vineyard. It's not a big operation with a lot of staff. It's a small family owned and operated business by Missouri natives Fred and Tracy Held.



You'll love their quiet, secluded location, casual atmosphere, the friendly and informative owners, and the multiple comfortable sitting areas they've set up inside and outside the winery building. And of course, the wine! They make both red and white wines in dry and sweet versions. They make an excellent full-bodied Norton red. They take charge cards. Their wines are in the range of \$12 to \$15/bottle, and they offer a 10% discount for purchases of a case or more.

The winery tasting room features several easy chairs as well as a few tables where you can enjoy any of several hot sandwiches they offer, as well as warm bread and oil for dipping. The menu also includes, in the fruit season, pitchers of sangria (from your choice of red or white wine). The



wine tasting bar is set up near the front door, where you can stand and taste samples of their wines as winemaker Fred gives a running history on the making of wine in Missouri, and fun anecdotes about life in the area.

State Hwy M, HC1 Box 239, Fairdealing, MO

Phone: (573) 857-2039

www.facebook.com/Grapes-Of-Held-Winery-121135064621969

Email: grapesofheldwinery@windstream.net

McCullough House Winery

McCulloch House is another winery just 45 miles northwest of Pocahontas, just over the state line in southern Missouri. They don't raise their own grapes, but import them from other growers around the world. The wines they make are priced in the \$20 range. McCulloch makes over 10 white and red dry wines, and about 20 sweet wines. Their tasting room is open Thursday through Sunday from noon to 6:30 p.m.

Route 1, Box 1284M

Thayer MO 65791 us

At the intersection of Hwy 63 and Hwy 142, go east 1



mile on 142. Turn left at the sign for McCullough House Winery and follow directions posted on gate.

Phone 1-417-264-2050 <http://www.mhw.wine/>

Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center

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



The Irish Wilderness

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! <http://goo.gl/zHHvw>



Arkansas' Longest, Highest & Fastest Zip Line

A drive of about 35 miles from Poca hontas will take you to Griffin Park and what's said to be Arkansas' longest, highest, and fastest zip line. In fact, they have six different lines, and different fees depending on which lines you ride. They also offer group rates. They're open all year, but you should call for reservations:

1-870-856-4743

www.gogriffinpark.com/



Horseback Riding

Just 35 miles from Poca hontas, the curvy highways aren't the only way to travel through the Ozarks. Lazy Acres Horseback Riding Tours are a superb way to view the natural beauty and bird watching of the area.

Led by a knowledgeable guide, the horses are accustomed to all levels of riding, from beginners to experts. Open August 1 through October, Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. No reservations necessary. For information call 1-870-257-2131.



Mammoth Spring State Park

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/

Grand Gulf State Park

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

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

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.wingsofhonor.org

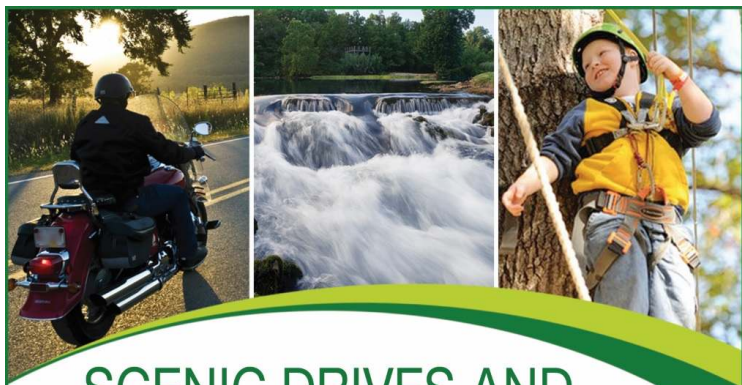


Abbey Road Beatles Tribute in Walnut Ridge

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



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.

1-800-264-0316

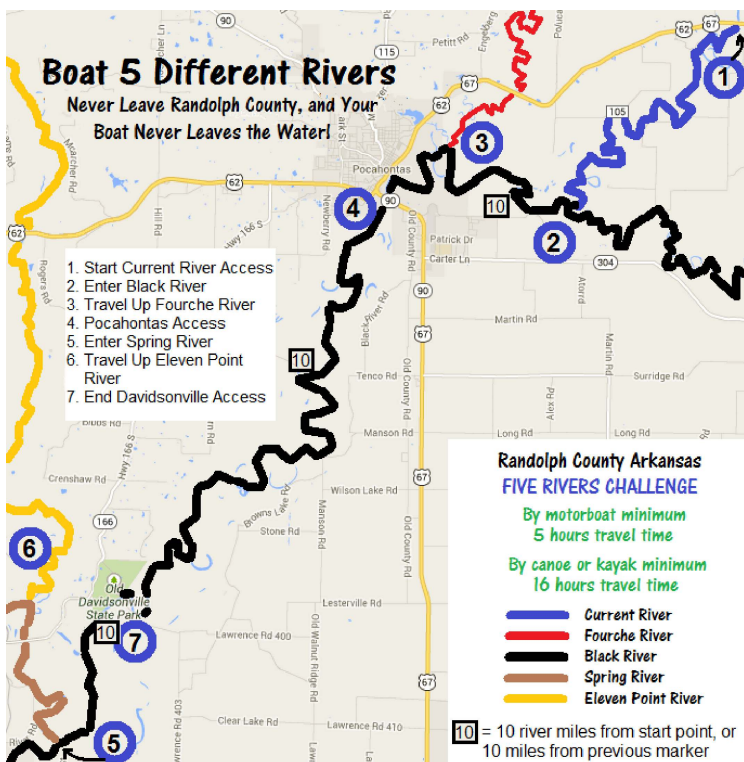
www.ozarkgateway.com



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.

<http://www.agfc.com/hunting/Pages/wmaDetails.aspx?show=170>

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



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

Area Birding

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 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

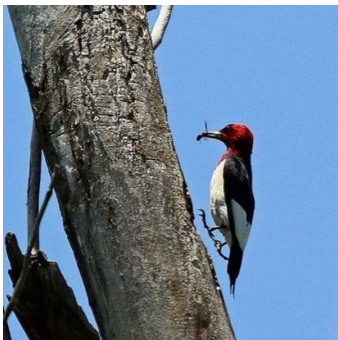
place to view the many species that nest or live year around in the riparian zones along the river and the wetland and forest areas. Access is at Shaver's Eddy, 800 Hite Road, Biggers, AR.

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).

RANDOLPH COUNTY TOURISM ASSOCIATION

SeeRandolphCounty.com • E-mail rctourism@suddenlinkmail.com

Phone 870-248-0069

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



Booklet paid for with a combination of state and Ozark Gateway Regional funds.

<http://www.ozarkgateway.com> 1-800-264-0316

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Shady River



A Peaceful Getaway



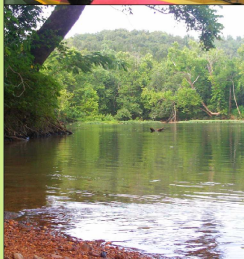
- Secluded cottages and a treehouse in the east Arkansas Ozarks, on the beautiful, clean, spring-fed, free-flowing Eleven Point river.

- We offer 120 acres of peace, quiet and privacy, with as much or as little activity as you want! Canoe, kayak, swim or fish.

- Hike or travel miles of woodland and meadow trails in the electric cart furnished with each cottage.

- Wildflowers, wild birds, wild life and a big sky with no light pollution at night. West of Pochontas, Ark.

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www.ShadyRiverArk.com
 or call 870-248-0859



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