

Hiking Trails Outside Buffalo National River

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Easy

Alum Cove 1.1 mile round-trip

Natural Bridge

A very unique natural stone bridge located in the Ozark National Forest. The 1.1 mile easy trail offers access and views of the arch. The arch of the Natural Bridge spans 130 ft. and is approximately 20 ft. wide. After viewing the arch you can either return back or continue along the loop trail. The looped trail will descend below the arch, cross a small stream and follow the bluffs and eventually return back to the Natural Bridge.

Moderate

Whitaker Point 3 miles round-trip

Beautiful scenery; waterfall area; great for umbrella magnolias and wildflowers in the spring; outstanding fall color; the bluff "point" (or "crag") is magnificent and a perfect lunch spot (be sure to pack out what you take in!); one of the Buffalo's most photographed spots.

Glory Hole 2 miles round-trip

A wonderful moderate 2-mile R/T trail featuring a 30 ft. waterfall. Nature has created a hole in the roof of an overhanging bluff and the creek/water now flows through the hole to create a beautiful waterfall.

Sam's Throne 2 miles round-trip

A beautiful scenic trail offering nice views of the Big Creek Valley and bluff lines. The area is known for rock climbers. If you decide to rock climb, please use extra caution.

Smith Creek Preserve 2 miles round-trip

A great trail for nature lovers and photographers. The trail features large boulders, many waterfall cascades, wildlife, and wildflowers in the spring.

Round Top Mountain 3.6 miles round-trip

A very unique trail with history to go with it. There are remains of a WWII bomber that crashed in 1948. The trail features the crash site, overlooks and views of the Little Buffalo River Valley.

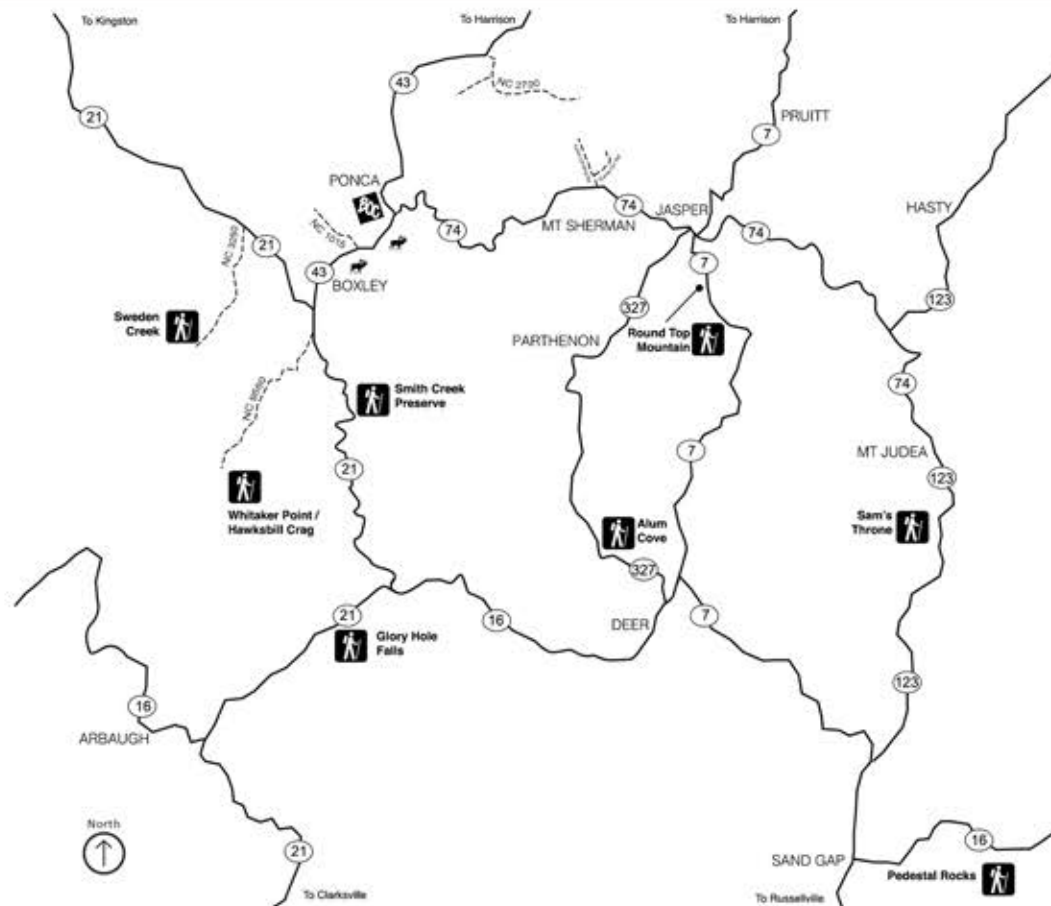
Pedestal Rocks 2.2 miles round-trip

King's Bluff Trail 1.7 miles round-trip

This scenic area consists of two trails. Both trails are considered to be moderate trails. The highlight of the Pedestal Rocks is its showcase of unusual geologic formations made of eroded limestone. The stone towers are located near the end of the trail, a little over a mile in. The Kings Bluff trail features a large flat bluff with a waterfall that flows over the ledge.

Sweden Creek 2 miles round-trip

The Sweden Creek Natural Area is protected by the Natural Heritage Commission and features many waterfalls, scenic bluff lines, and wildflowers.



DISTANCES FROM PONCA

Smith Creek.....8.0 miles
Sweden Creek.....12.0 miles
Whitaker Point.....12.0 miles
Round Top Mountain.....17.0 miles

Glory Hole.....18.0 miles
Alum Cove.....31.0 miles
Sam's Throne.....33.0 miles
Pedestal Rocks.....49.0 miles

Hiking Safety

Practice social distancing.

Plan your trip sensibly, keeping in mind your experience and physical condition. Take note of the hours available in the day and the weather forecast, because you may not be able to travel as far as you expect.

Even on short trips, carry proper gear and food for an unplanned event. Always carry and drink plenty of water, quick-energy food, waterproof matches, proper footwear, a flashlight, bug-spray, and protection from the sun.

Bears and other wildlife can be present on trails at any time of the day or night. Feeding and approaching wildlife is dangerous!

Share your adventures in Buffalo River Country!

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