



A LEGACY OF ADVENTURE REIMAGINED

Petit Jean State Park—Arkansas’ first state park—has long balanced conservation, recreation, and the enjoyment of generations. Known for its iconic trails, sweeping views, unique sandstone formations, and rich cultural history, Petit Jean has set the standard for outdoor adventure in Arkansas. Its central location makes it easily accessible from major metro areas, serving as a regional hub for recreation and drawing visitors from across the state and beyond. Now, the park is expanding opportunities for the next 100 years—welcoming climbers, hikers, bikers, and families alike—while carrying forward its tradition of protecting natural beauty, honoring history, and inspiring adventure.

CLIMBING: A HISTORIC DESTINATION

Decades of Exploration: Climbers have scaled and scrambled Petit Jean’s sandstone since the 1980s and 1990s, long before climbing was officially permitted.

World-Class Rock: Hartshorne Sandstone features dramatic iron banding and striking formations, offering a unique experience in Arkansas.

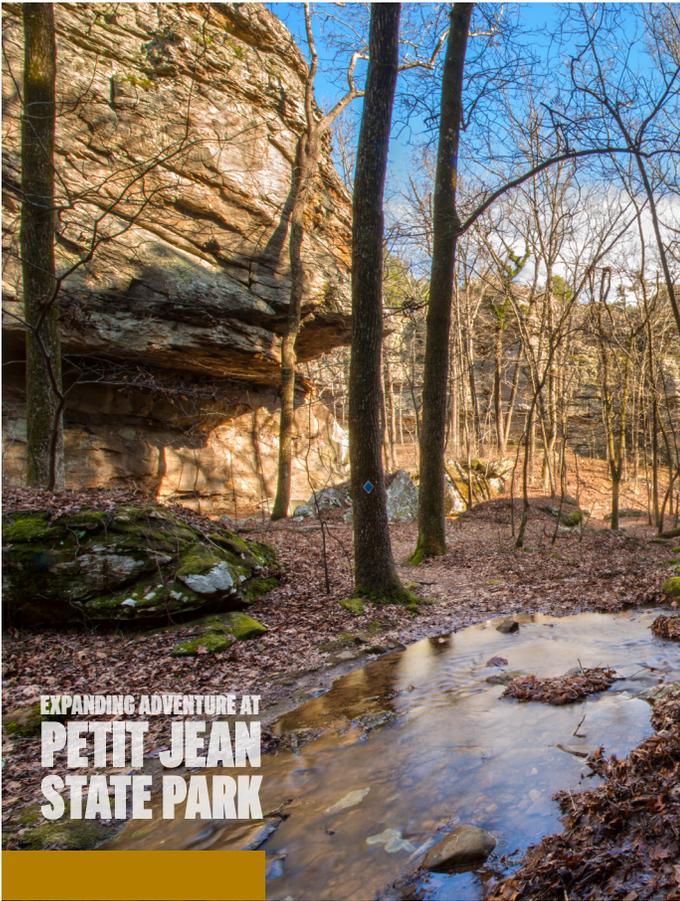
Opening Opportunities: 32 initial bolted sport routes (35–65 feet) and 150+ historic boulder problems will be available, ranging from beginner climbs to advanced 5.12 challenges.

Responsible Development: A climbers’ committee with park staff and the Arkansas Archaeological Survey have and will continue to review proposals for new routes and climbing opportunities to ensure safety and protect cultural resources.

Family-Friendly Adventure: The addition of a via ferrata climbing route will create exciting, safe experiences for seasoned climbers and those wanting to try rock climbing for the first time.

Leading in Outdoor Recreation: Adding new climbing areas is uncommon across the country, making Arkansas’ expansion at Petit Jean a standout example of how partnerships can expand recreation access on public land.





FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

The Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage & Tourism ensures that every new adventure—climbing, trails, or lodge experiences—respects the park’s fragile ecosystems, rare species, and cultural resources.

This work reflects the mission of Arkansas State Parks: to protect and preserve our state’s natural, cultural, and historic resources, while providing quality recreation and educational opportunities for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

As Arkansas’ first state park, Petit Jean State Park continues to embody that mission—balancing conservation with recreation and ensuring that its landscapes, history, and spirit of adventure endure for the next century.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, HERITAGE & TOURISM

Expanding access, adventure, and appreciation for Arkansas’ first state park and its treasured natural and cultural assets.

MULTI-USE TRAIL EXPANSION: CONNECTING MORE WAYS TO MOVE

Trails for Every Skill Level: A growing network of paved and soft-surface trails will link Mather Lodge, Palisades, Red Bluff, and beyond, with routes for beginners, families, and experienced hikers and bikers alike.

Enhanced Visitor Access: Barrier-free trail sections, expanded wayfinding, and expanded parking facilities will improve navigation and access throughout the park.

MATHER LODGE RENOVATIONS: A WELCOMING HUB

Historic Legacy: Standing as the heart of Petit Jean, Mather Lodge is one of Arkansas State Parks’ most beloved facilities. Its rustic stone-and-timber design embodies the park’s spirit of craftsmanship and connection to the landscape.

Comfort Meets History: Guest rooms are being updated and expanded with new fixtures, furnishings, and finishes designed to add comfort while preserving the lodge’s historic charm and authenticity. Recent improvements also include refreshed dining areas and a new full-service bar.

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