SCENIC 7 BYWAY

Arkansas State Highway 7 is an existing highway from the Louisiana state line near El Dorado to the Missouri state line at Diamond City. The route goes from the Piedmont area of Arkansas through the Ouachita Mountains, then drops into the Arkansas River Valley through Russellville before once more climbing to the Ozark Highlands. Scenic 7 takes the visitor through two National Forests, a National River, a National Park and by several State Parks. Highway 7 is a State Scenic Highway and is classified as one of the Ten Most Scenic Drives in America.

The Ouachita Mountains and the Boston Mountain Range of the Ozarks provide miles of scenic side-roads branching out into the forest. Highway 7 provides tourists with an opportunity to enjoy leisure travel and to explore an unspoiled scenic landscape of great natural charm. Along and within a few miles of the highway, there are many recreation areas and natural features, unusual rock formations and other features characteristic of the Ozark/Ouachita area. This entire region is noted for its cliffs, bluff lines, waterfalls and wildlife observation as well as hunting, floatable fishing steams and access to three National Recreation Trails-the Ozark Highlands Trail, the Ouachita Trail, and the Alum Cove Trail.

THE BYWAY

This scenic highway, a total of 60.6 miles, passes through both the Ozark National Forest and the Ouachita National Forest. The Ouachita National Forest portion extends from Jessieville to Nimrod Reservoir (Fourche Junction). The Ozark National Forest portion begins approximately 12 miles north of Dover and extends 36.3 miles northward to approximately ten miles south of Jasper. The road is two lanes wide with generally gentle curves and provides many excellent views of forested hills and byways.

Three major population centers along the route provide a wide variety of opportunities. The attractions at Hot Springs, on the south end, include Hot Springs National Park and its bath houses. Lake Ouachita is another attraction worth seeing on the southern portion of the byway. Approximately mid-way along the route is the Arkansas River Valley and Russellville. Here one can enjoy the recreational opportunities available on Lake Dardanelle. On the north end, Scenic Highway 7 will lead past the Buffalo National River and Bull Shoals Lake. These locations can provide food service, overnight accommodations, gasoline and automotive services and a variety of other visitor needs.

THE LAND

Scenic opportunities along this highway are unlimited. Distinctive mountain scenery is continuously revolving around the traveler, offering a unique driving experience. The Ozark and Ouachita Mountains are noted for exquisite autumn colors, which are outstanding along the entire length of the highway.

Landmarks

A variety of landmarks await the visitor. The Ozark National Forest portion includes:

- Alum Cove Natural Bridge and National Recreation Trail, located five miles west of Highway 7 near Deer;
- Richland Creek and Hurricane Creek Wilderness Areas, which lie approximately five miles east and three miles west of Highway 7, respectively, near Pelsor;
- Sam's Throne, located eight miles east of Highway 7 near Mt. Judea;
- Pedestal Rocks, located five miles east of Highway 7 near Pelsor;
- The Ozark Highlands National Recreation Trail, a 160-mile east-west hiking trail through the Boston Mountains;
- Rotary Ann Overlook, a favorite viewing location on the forest;
- Big Piney Creek and Illinois Bayou, both floatable and popular fishing streams.

The Ouachita National Forest portion includes:

- Nimrod Reservoir, Flatside Wilderness approximately ten miles east of Highway 7;
- Ouachita National Recreation Trail, a 175-mile east-west hiking trail through the Ouachita Mountains;
- Numerous stream crossings such as the South Fourche LaFave and Fourche LaFave Rivers.

Contact Information

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Russellville, AR 72801
479-968-2354

Ouachita National Forest
Supervisor's Office
Federal Building
PO Box 1270
Hot Springs, AR 71902
501-321-5202

Pleasant Hill Ranger District
Hwy 21 North
Clarksville, AR 72830
479-754-2864

Boston Mountain Ranger District
Hwy 23 North

Ozark, AR 72949
479-667-2191

Buffalo Ranger District
Hwy 7 North
Jasper, AR 72641
870-446-5122

Bayou Ranger District
12000 SR 27
Hector, AR 72843
479-284-3150

OZARK HIGHLANDS SCENIC BYWAY

The Ozark Highlands Scenic Byway includes 35 miles of Arkansas State Scenic Highway 21 from the Ozark National Forest southern boundary north of Clarksville in Johnson County to the northern boundary near the Upper Buffalo Wilderness and Buffalo National River in Newton County. Arkansas State Highway 16 from Fallsville to Edwards Junction in Newton County joins this route for eight and one half miles. This is truly a "highlands route," traversing ridges between headwaters of the major streams.

It serves as a major travel way for residents, visitors and commercial vehicles traveling north from Clarksville to historically major recreation areas and resorts, centers of commerce and points of local interest. Chief among these are the Arkansas communities of Harrison, Jasper, Berryville, Eureka Springs, The Ozark National Forest, The Ozark Highlands Trail, Buffalo North River and the White River and its tributaries. This is also a major route of travel from the Interstate highway system to Missouri and points north.

THE BYWAY

The outstanding characteristics of this highway are panoramic views, colorful flora, and rugged terrain. Wildlife is abundant and it is not uncommon to see white-tail deer, wild turkey, and black bear, as well as smaller species such as songbirds and squirrels. Occasionally, bald eagles and golden eagles are also seen. Located on the byway is Ozone Recreation Area. Significant landmarks include the escarpment overlook of the Arkansas River Valley, the settlements of Ozone, Salus, Fallsville, Edward's Junction and Mossville.

Very few amenities are available along the scenic byway, except a vault toilet at Ozone Recreation Area and a country store at Fallsville (no restroom facilities are available).

HISTORY

This scenic byway bisects rural Arkansas with glimpses of the old and the new along with spectacular panoramas, rugged landscapes, colorful field and forest, a variety of wildlife, and much more. It is also a thread of commerce connecting the Arkansas River Valley and the Interstate highway system to Missouri and points north. Most of the National Forest lands were acquired by the Ozark National Forest in the 1930's. It had been logged with some entire watersheds almost denuded. The early settler considered fire a necessary tool and the forest burned annually. Rains then washed away the topsoil and silted the creeks and rivers. These practices continued until the land was purchased by the Federal government as part of the Ozark National Forest.

The Ozone Recreation area originally was the site of a CCC camp during the late 1930's and early 1940's.

The CCC, under Forest Service administration, located at Ozone Recreation Area, built many local roads, fought fire, planted trees, built fire towers, and provided the basic management foundation for the National Forest to develop the outstanding scenery along the Scenic Byway.

The Forest

The Pleasant Hill Ranger District and the byway lie in the heart of the Boston mountain sub-division with some of the highest elevations in the Ozarks. Blanketing the byway are large stands of upland hardwoods-primarily Oak-Hickory with scattered stands of native shortleaf pine dotting the scenic area.

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SYLAMORE SCENIC BYWAY

The Sylamore Scenic Byway is made up of a 26.5 mile portion of Arkansas State Highways 5 and 14 and Forest Service Road 1110. The route traverses 16.5 miles of Arkansas State Highway 5 from Calico Rock to Allison, joining Arkansas State Highway 14 for 6.7 miles to its intersection with Forest Service Road 1110, and continuing 3.0 miles to Blanchard Springs Caverns.

This 26.5 mile paved corridor goes through a beautifully scenic portion of the Ozark National Forest which has been carefully managed for many years as a scenic approach to heavily visited Blanchard Springs Caverns. This route is the major link between Mountain View to the south and the mountain community of Calico Rock to the north.

This byway provides visitors with a changing landscape of rugged limestone bluffs and cedar glade outcrops, and offers glimpses of rushing water and calm pools as it follows streams along the route.

Located at the eastern edge of the Ozarks, this scenic byway provides the visitor with a splendid example of the rugged beauty for which the Ozark Mountains are famous. Characteristics of this land include lengthy limestone bluffs, numerous creeks and rivers, waterfalls, and panoramic views of Oak / Hickory forest and short leaf pine stands.

ATTRACTIONS

Included along this scenic byway are a variety of cultural, recreational and educational opportunities which include Sugarloaf Fire Tower and Stone House, of 1930's Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) vintage. National Forest pasture land and wildlife fields are scattered along the Byway. They provide early age soft mast vegetation for small game habitat. Near Allison, the highway hugs the side of the wide-flowing White River, deeply entrenched below high limestone cliffs. From there, the byway rapidly climbs the mountain and becomes a ridge-top highway winding its way to Blanchard Springs Caverns.

Famous world-wide, Blanchard Springs Caverns is managed by the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests and is one of the most beautiful, naturally decorated, show caves in the world. This "living" cave is continually adding to the formations already waiting for you when you visit the caverns.

Nestled under high, rock cliffs nearby are Blanchard Picnic Area, campground, swimming beach, and an amphitheater where summer programs presented each night will highlight the folklore, culture, and resource management of the Ozarks.

Existing support facilities near or adjacent to the scenic byway include Mountain View, located approximately five miles south of Allison; and Calico Rock at the northern end of the byway. The community of Mountain View provides food

services, overnight accommodations, gasoline and automotive services, along with a wide variety of other visitor needs. Other communities along the route provide a variety of limited services.

Recreation

The greatest recreational opportunities in this area include the not-to-be-missed Blanchard Springs Caverns with the accompanying campground and the fabulous wilderness area in the northwestern portion of the district. Camping, waterfalls, caving, and water play make up the recreational opportunities here.

Contact Information

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605 West Main
Russellville, AR 72801
479-968-2354

Sylamore Ranger District
Hwy 14 North
Mtn. View, AR 72560
870-269-3228

Pig Trail Scenic Byway

This route includes 19 miles of Arkansas State Highway 23 from the southern boundary of the Ozark National Forest (10 miles north of Ozark, Arkansas) to its intersection with Arkansas State Highway 16 at Brashears. The byway is located in both Franklin and Madison Counties. This major north/south route through the Forest traverses a broad cross-section of the Boston Mountains.

What's in a Name?

Why is this spectacular scenic route called the Pig Trail Scenic Byway? The name is truly significant and was so named by Arkansans who travel it. The meandering nature of the route reminds one of a trail created by pigs wandering through the woods. Another factor that influenced the name, "Pig Trail," was that this route has been a the major travel way for students, sports fans and other University of Arkansas supporters going to and from Fayetteville, Arkansas, home of the Arkansas Razorbacks. What name could be more appropriate for the highway traveled by a group of rabid Razorback fans, wearing red hog hats and calling "woo-pig-sooee" than Pig Trail Scenic Byway?

The Byway

The Pig Trail Scenic Byway crosses a unique portion of Arkansas with stretches of rural America along with spectacular panoramas, timber covered mountains, rugged landscapes, clear mountain streams, colorful wildflowers and autumn foliage, isolated farms and ranches, a variety of wildlife and much more.

The byway is a major route to the northwest Arkansas cities of Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers and Bentonville. This route provides access to well known locations such as Eureka Springs, Beaver and Table Rock Lakes, and the nationally known craft fair at War Eagle, Arkansas.

Recreationists use the route year-round for various activities including access to the Mulberry River for canoeing and fishing, hunting in the White Rock Management Area, access to trailhead parking at Cherry Bend for the Ozark Highlands Trail, camping along the White River or at Redding, viewing exquisite fall colors and spring wildflowers, and simply driving and enjoying the scenery.

Existing support facilities include the community of Ozark and Fayetteville (approximately 30 miles northwest of the northern end of the byway. These communities provide food services, overnight accommodations, gasoline and automotive services along with a variety of other visitor needs. Located along the scenic byway at the Mulberry River and Highway 23 is Turner Bend Store. This privately owned and operated business provides various supplies along with interpretive information. Here, the byway visitor may purchase a variety of books or filed guides pertaining to the history, fauna and flora of Arkansas. Canoe rentals are also available from several outfitters in the area.

The Land

The rugged Boston Mountains are known for panoramic views, colorful flora, rugged terrain and abundant wildlife. The flora varies from open fields and pastures to rugged cedar breaks and pine stands and large expanses of oak/hickory timber. Numerous rock bluffs are common and are adjacent to this scenic byway. Scenic, seasonal waterfalls may be seen along the route as well as numerous creeks and rivers. Of particular note are the beautiful colors and breathtaking views during the fall color season and in the spring when serviceberry trees, dogwoods and redbuds are in bloom.

History

The byway traverses through several points of historical interest. The community of Cass was one of the major hardwood sawmill communities in Northwest Arkansas in the 1910's and 1920's. These mills were served by a single track railroad from the west which was unique for the steep slopes and long grades which it traversed. The Job Corps Center in the community is located on the site of a 1930's CCC camp. Portions of the Pig Trail are laid on the route of the 1850's Butterfield Stage Route from Memphis, Tennessee to Van Buren, Arkansas. There are numerous historic residences which may be viewed from the route. Abandoned farmsteads and miles of old rock fence stand as a silent reminder of days gone by.

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479-968-2354

Boston Mountain Ranger District
Hwy 23 North
Ozark, AR 72949
479-667-2191

Mt. Magazine Scenic Byway

Located in the north/central portion of the state, State Highway 309 is classified as a State Scenic Highway. The Mt. Magazine Scenic Byway includes a 20.4 mile segment of Arkansas State Highway 309 from the Magazine District forest boundary south of Paris to just north of Havana.

An additional 4.5 miles of Forest developed roads provide paved access both east and west on top of the mountain and loop around the south and north sides of the mountain.

THE BYWAY

This unique scenic byway is situated in the western/central portion of Arkansas on the south side of the Arkansas River Valley. It leads the visitor across the top of Mt. Magazine, the highest mountain in the State of Arkansas.

Fort Smith is the closest major population center and lies 40 miles west of the mountain. To the east, 120 miles away, is the Capitol City of Little Rock. Paris, to the north, is the closest full-service community where the basic necessities for travel are available. To the south 12 miles is the community of Havana, which provides limited services.

The Forest Service operates Cove Lake and Mt. Magazine Recreation Areas which lie along the Byway and serve recreation visitors who are seeking extended recreational experiences. Boating, camping, hiking and horse trails, fishing, swimming and picnic opportunities are available on both Cove Lake and throughout the recreation area.

The State of Arkansas State Parks/Forest Service partnership maintains four existing scenic overlooks along the north slope of the Mt. Magazine. Other recreation facilities include: East End, Greenfield and Brown Springs picnic areas, Cameron Bluff campground, the lodge site and overlook, Mt. Magazine and Signal Hill hiking trails, access to the 10.8 mile hiking trail to Cove Lake, Petit Jean Overlook, Cameron Bluff Overlook area, and numerous vistas of the Arkansas and Petit Jean River Valleys.

The Mt. Magazine Scenic Byway passes many small farms and the traveler will also see various forest types including stands of Short Leaf Pine, Red Oak, White Oak, Hickory, and old fields in early successional growth. The ever changing fauna and flora along this byway provides the traveler with a variety of unique viewing possibilities.

THE LAND

Mt. Magazine Scenic Byway and the adjoining developed Forest Roads provide the visitor with an exquisite winding mountain drive with sharp curves and "hairpin" switchbacks leading the traveler over this flat-topped mountain.

At an elevation of 2,753 feet, Mt. Magazine is the highest point in the state. It provides many vistas along the north and south slopes. Spectacular views of timber covered mountains, rugged rock bluffs, and beautiful lakes await the mountain visitor.

History

The entire length of this byway traverses land that is rich in historical value. The Cove Lake facility, located to the north of the mountain, was built during the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps era. The Corley CCC Camp is located near the Byway at the small community of Corley. This camp was one of 37 camps in the state which was established in 1933 as an emergency relief measure during the Depression. Mt. Magazine itself supports a long history of mountain-top homesteads. Most of the land was acquired by the Federal Government during the Depression under programs such as the Resettlement Administration. Many of the mountain-top picnic areas are actually located on old home sites.

The Magazine District and Magazine Scenic Byway are accessible to Interstate 40, an east- west route which crosses the state just north of the Arkansas River. Paris is a short drive from Fort Smith National Historic Site. This National Park Service site offers an opportunity to "step back in time" and features the remains of two frontier garrisons, the Federal Court for the Western District of Arkansas, "Hangin' Judge" Isaac C. Parker's courtroom, a jail and an 1886 gallows.

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Magazine Ranger District
Hwy 22 E & Kalamazoo
Paris, AR 72855
479-963-3076

St. Francis Scenic Byway

The St. Francis Scenic Byway is located in eastern Arkansas. This scenic byway, an existing State Scenic Highway and popular forest road, is located on the St. Francis National Forest between the cities of Marianna and Helena/West Helena. It follows Arkansas Highway 44 and Forest Service Road 1900. This winding route is located atop Crowley's Ridge for more than 21 miles and is the designated Great River Road.

The Byway

The Scenic Byway passes two lakes. Significant landmarks along this road include views of the Mississippi and St. Francis River valleys, and Bear Creek and Storm Creek Lakes. Both Marianna and Helena/West Helena were centers of commerce in the last century and contain many historical attractions and structures.

Bear Creek Lake, at 625 acres, provides 31 recreational vehicle and tent camping sites, running water, restrooms, 17 picnic tables, a boat launch ramp, hiking, fishing and swimming.

Storm Creek Lake provides 13 recreational vehicle/tent camping sites, water, restrooms, swimming and change house, and a boat ramp.

Existing support facilities adjacent to the proposed scenic byway include Marianna and Helena/West Helena. These cities can provide food service, overnight accommodations, gasoline and automotive services and a variety of other visitor needs.

Helena/West Helena is located on the south end of the scenic byway. It is the site of the Delta Cultural Center, a state tourist attraction centered around the theme of early Mississippi River life. The Center features an historic setting with crafts, music and cultural demonstrations.

The Land

St. Francis National Forest lies in the Delta region of southeastern Arkansas with its land divided between fertile bottom lands along the rivers and Crowley's Ridge. Crowley's Ridge runs north and south for 200 miles from southern Missouri down to the Mississippi River at Helena. It is one of the state's most unusual features with an irregular surface of broad valleys, narrow gullies, steep slopes and hills.

The ridge rises more than 200 feet above the surrounding delta farm lands. Loess, or wind- blown soils, blanket the ridge and are almost 60 feet deep in some areas. Dominating the ridge is a White Oak/Red Oak-Hickory forest type. The understory is comprised of lush growth of Pawpaw, Ironwood, Wild Hydrangea, Spicebush, Dogwood, Redbud, ferns and Carolina Magnolia Vine.

Three rivers, the L'Anguille, the St. Francis and the Mississippi, form the eastern boundary of the forest. The National Forest was established by Presidential proclamation on November 8, 1960, and took its name from the St. Francis River which forms the major portion of its eastern boundary.

History

Legend has it that a tribe of Indians know as the "Mound Builders" lived in the St. Francis area long before the American Indian. Archaeological finds support this belief. The Mound Builders were the ancestors of the Indians found by white men moving into the area. The tribal name came from the custom of burying their dead with the tools considered necessary for existence in another world. Some of the mounds still can be found in the area.

In 1541, Hernando de Soto is believed to have crossed the Mississippi River near the St. Francis in search of gold. He was the first white man to set foot in Arkansas. About 130 years later two Frenchmen, Jacques Marquette, a Jesuit missionary, and Louis Joliet, a fur trader, visited the area.

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St. Francis National Forest
2675 Hwy 44
Marianna, AR 72360
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TALIMENA SCENIC BYWAY

This 54-mile byway spans one of the highest mountain ranges between the Appalachians and the Rockies. One breathtaking panorama follows another as this national forest scenic byway winds along the crests of forested mountains between Mena, AR and Talihina, OK. No matter what your preferred recreational activity is, the Byway and the Winding Stair Mountain National Recreation Area are sure to please every visitor.

ATTRACTIONS

Enjoy a number of historic sites such as Rich Mountain Fire Tower, the highest peak (2,681 feet) on the Ouachita National Forest, Horsethief Spring, Old Military Road, and the Choctaw Nation/State Line Historical Monument.

Visit the Kerr Nature Center and walk one of the self-guided nature trails. Check out one of the two visitor information stations on each end of the drive, which offer a variety of nature study materials for sale as well as free handouts.

The Winding Stair Mountain National Recreation Area and six other congressionally designated areas in Oklahoma offer the public a full range of recreational and educational opportunities.

Visit Queen Wilhelmina State Park, operated by the Arkansas Parks and Tourism Department. Guest accommodations include a restaurant, meeting room and hotel

CONTACT INFORMATION

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