

## OMH Trail Data / History

### Black Fork Mountain Trail

Ouachita National Forest/ Black Fork Mountain Wilderness (AR)

Blackfork Mountain is the ridge just north of Rich Mountain, across hwy 270 from Queen Wilhelmina State Park. The trail uses a mile of Ouachita Trail to get started, then turns west and climbs into the Black Fork Mountain Wilderness. It is a steep climb, but with stunning panoramic views. It passes a large rock glacier and up to a hilltop with ancient scrub oaks. The trail passes some historic sites, including an old homestead dating to the late 1800's pioneer days.

**Planning notes:** This is an 'out and back' route, almost twelve miles total. Use OT trailhead on hwy 270 at foot of Rich Mountain. This is almost a two hour drive from Hot Springs. Makes a long day -- or can be used in conjunction with an overnight. Plan to have lunch on top

**Access Notes:** Park at the Ouachita Trail trailhead on US270 West, across from Rich Mountain. Depart trailhead on "OT" eastbound for about a mile (miles 57.8 - 56.7); then take left fork at signed intersection to Black Fork Mt.

**For additional info:** USFS Trail Map TR-08. Available at Ouachita National Forest web site (see link on trails index page) and at most ranger stations.  
Tim Ernst: "Arkansas Hiking Trails" (p. 137).

### Recent Hikes:

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**Sept 29, 2005**      **Leader:** Glen McClain      **14 Hikers**      **OMH Thursday**

**Route:** Hwy 270 (OT trailhead) east on OT to Black Fork Mt Trail; up to trail end and back

**12.0 miles**      **Difficulty Rating 4**      **Scenic Rating 4**

*Beautiful clear day; first cool day of season (72 high today; 92 yesterday).*

*Found the old stone chimney of pioneer site; but not cemetery.*

*Last couple miles near top in very bad shape. Badly overgrown and thick with briars. OT section was best maintained portion of hike !!*

**sss:** Rock Glacier  
Vistas of Rich Mt from on top

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**Jan 22, 2004**      **Leader:** Billy McMillen      **13 Hikers**      **OMH Overnight**

**Route:** Hwy 270 TH. followed OT eastbound for a mile; turned west and climbed to Black Fork Mountain; Returned by same route.

**11.6 miles**      **Difficulty Rating 4**      **Scenic Rating 4**

*Steep climbs; awesome vistas; rock glacier; old homestead (stone chimney); scrub oaks that look a million years old (at 4 feet tall)*

**sss:** Rock Glacier  
Views of Rich Mountain and surrounding area

**Overnight notes:** Last minute reschedule of trip due to high water in Little Missouri. Swapped Jan and Feb trips. Qu Wilhelmina SP Lodge / Rich Mountain Campground  
Kenny's campfire; Charline's stew idea (Andre stirring); Maria's cobbler.  
Second day went to "Shin Bone Trail".