

OMH Trail Data / History

Pinnacle Mountain

Pinnacle Mountain State Park

Pinnacle Mountain is a steep, stand-alone summit with spectacular views overlooking the Arkansas River and Lake Maumelle. It is in a state park about ten miles west of Little Rock. There are several trails in the state park, including a 3-mile base trail around the foot of the mountain, and two that climb to the summit. Either climb route is a short (about 3/4 mile) but very steep climb to the rocky pinnacle about 800 feet above the valley floor. The West Summit Trail is a little easier and can at least be done by walking. The East Summit trail involves hand-over-foot crawling up a steep boulder field. There are actually two summits, about 100 yards apart; make sure you see both of them. A good Visitor's Center is at the base of the mountain on the north side. This Visitor's Center is the western terminus of the Ouachita National Recreation Trail. Two short trails (Kingfisher and Rocky Valley) start near VC. An arboretum is off the road to VC.

Planning notes: For those going to the pinnacle, the West side is considerably easier than East side.

Details (distance per Tim Ernst):

East Summit Trail: 0.7 mi from east TH parking lot to top. VERY steep; includes a half mile of hand over hand 'crawling up rocks'.

West Summit Trail: 0.75 from west TH parking lot to top. Still very steep and rocky, but at least it is walking and doesn't require hands or crawling.

Base Trail (loop around base of mountain connecting the two trail heads) is 3 miles, using 1/2 mile of Ouachita Trail. Several other trails, as well as the terminus of the Ouachita Trail are available in this state park. A good Saturday hike might be to take the loop around the mountain, take in the arboretum and river views from the Visitors Center, and then let only those with extra energy climb the peak.

A good (challenging) route is to start on west side, take base trail to east summit TH, climb the rocks up East Summit Trail, and come down the West Summit Trail back to starting point. Make sure everyone understands what is involved. Not all Saturday hikers want to climb over rocks.

Access Notes: About an hour from HSV East gate. Take Hwy 9 to Kanis Road at ; turn LEFT at Ferndale cutoff (Stop sign); turn RIGHT on hwy 10; turn LEFT on hwy 300 (signed for Pinnacle Mt)

West TH turns off hwy 300 a mile or so before east TH. West side is signed; beside the picnic area. East side is signed for Visitor's Center. Good parking at both.

Rocky Valley and Kingfisher trails start by VC.

For additional info: Arkansas State Parks Trail map available (see link on trail index page)

Tim Ernst: "Arkansas Hiking Trails" (p. 116)

Recent Hikes:

Nov 1, 2008 **Leader:** John Cramm **10 Hikers** **OMH Saturday**
Route: Counter-clockwise loop on base Trail from picnic area at West Summit Trailhead; then up West summit Trail to top and return

5.0 miles

Difficulty Rating 4

Scenic Rating 4

This was first OMH hike on the extended base trail; just completed in spring of 08. It now goes all the way around the mountain. John led the whole group around the new base trail. Then Jim led the five women up West summit trail to top.

sss: Views from summit

Dec 1, 2007 **Leader:** Glen McClain **6 Hikers** **OMH Saturday**
Route: Kingfisher Trail, West Summit Trail; Rocky Valley Trail

4 miles

Difficulty Rating 3

Scenic Rating 4

Great day to be there.

sss: Views from on top

Nov 25, 2006 **Leader:** Cliff & Pamela Harrison **11 Hikers** **OMH Saturday**
Route: Base Trail to East Summit Trail to Summit; down West Summit Trail

2.6 miles

Difficulty Rating 4

Scenic Rating 5

Beautiful day; top enshrouded in fog when we arrived at trailhead; clear before we started climb to summit.

Pamela and Carol went up West Summit Trail; met us on top. Spent a long time on top, just enjoying it.

Met Cecilia and friends coming up, as we were coming down.

Lots people, families, dogs on the mountain today. Lots of LSU fans (LSU beat Arkansas day before).

Lunch at Subway after.

sss: Views from Pinnacle; views looking up the rocks on east summit trail.

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- Nov 5, 2005** Leader: Cliff and Pamela Harrison **16 Hikers** *OMH Saturday*
Route: West Summit Trail (up & back)
1.5 miles **Difficulty Rating 4** **Scenic Rating 5**
*Beautiful day; with great views on top. Spent about half hour on top for snacks.
Two hikers were unable to complete the hike and turned back early.*
sss: Views from top of mountain
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- Nov 13, 2004** Leader: Bob Orr **17 Hikers** *OMH Saturday*
Route: 1. Up the East Summit Trail and down West; or. 2. Up and back on West Summit trail
1.5 miles **Difficulty Rating 4** **Scenic Rating 4**
*Group offered option on route; split up evenly.
Beautiful day with awesome views on top.
Hike scheduled to coincide with completion of OT thru hike by three OMH members. Most stayed and walked in to greet them and party near Visitor's Center after.*
sss: 360 views on top; boulder fields; spine of Pinnacle
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- Apr 26, 2003** Leader: Rex Greer **7 Hikers** *OMH schedule*
Route: Up and back the West Summit Trail; followed by Rocky Valley (loop) trail
2.6 miles **Difficulty Rating 3** **Scenic Rating 5**
*Very steep climb - but short. 800 vertical feet in 3/4 mi.
Went to both peaks; great day - visibility for miles in all directions.
Peak trail crowded; literally hundreds of people, including (at least) three cub scout troops.
Lunch at overlook by Visitor's Center; then did Rocky Vally loop trail (pretty, but not spectacular).*

