



West Mountain Trails



West Mountain Summit Overlook around 1945

Canyon Trail (0.7 mile)

This trailhead is behind the Mountain Valley Water building, starting out as a 150-yard serpentine path. This path was once part of the old carriage road, Canyon Street. At the intersection with the Oak Trail, take the right path. You can see nice views of the Medical Arts Building and Arlington Hotel from this trail. At the intersection with the Oak Trail, take the right path. This leads up the mountain around a novaculite outcropping and crosses West Mountain Drive. The Canyon Trail intersects the West Mountain Trail just below West Mountain Drive.

Oak Trail (1.0 mile)

This trail can be accessed by a short distance above the Canyon Trail's winding switchbacks. Entering the Oak Trail, you will immediately cross a footbridge beside a retaining wall and a culvert. This wall was constructed in 1935. Afterward, the park superintendent wrote, "The masonry facing on the high concrete wall holding the fill behind the Opera House Loop has been completed. This facing presents a very aspect and the result is one of the most picturesque walls in the park area." The name "Opera House Loop" for this portion of the Oak and Canyon trails came from the one-time presence of an opera house below, on Central Avenue.

Whittington Trail (1.2 mi.)

Gravel trails here are popular with joggers and walkers. This area was created in the 1800's as a formal landscaped park. In the 1930's it was the scene of summer concerts, (still an occasional site), and horseback riding. Today it serves as a peaceful getaway from the hustle and bustle of downtown Hot Springs.

Mountain Top Trail
(1.5 mi.)

This trail begins at Whittington Avenue as a steep, smooth-surfaced gravel path. At the intersection with the West Mountain Trail, continue to the right as the path begins to gradually rise. The remainder of the climb is smooth with novaculite rocks littering the trail near the peak. At the intersection on the mountain peak, the Sunset Trail crosses to the right, and if you go right, it is a 13.5-mile round trip. The Mountain Top Trail continues across the Sunset Trail as a curvy, steep descent made difficult by numerous stone and concrete water bars. Watch your step. The trail meets West Mountain Trail again to your left. This area is thick with large pine trees. Pine Warblers can be seen here year-round in shortleaf pines. The Mountain Top Trail continues down the mountain, where it meets Prospect Avenue after another 100 yards.

West Mountain Trail
(1.2 mi.)

This trail is a loop with the Mountain Top Trail from Whittington Avenue, Prospect Avenue, or the Oak Trail. The West Mountain Trail intersects the Mountain Top Trail above Prospect Avenue. Ascend the 14 mortar and stone steps to the left of the West Mountain-Mountain Top trails intersection, and take the path to the right. Approximately 50 yards before the trail crosses West Mountain Drive, a stone footbridge with an iron handrail spans a drainage gully to the left. Watch your step. The trail ultimately merges with the Canyon Trail after another .5 mile past the footbridge. A short distance past that intersection, after crossing West Mountain Drive, the trail becomes steep and uneven, so watch your step. Notice the number of hollow den trees in this area that give shelter to forest animals. A fork in the trail appears just below the second crossing of West Mountain Drive. The Oak Trail leads left to the West Mountain overlook and the only covered shelter on West Mountain. The West Mountain Trail continues along a canyon to your right. Take notice of the damage to many of the trees caused by ice storms. The trail begins a gradual descent and levels out before meeting the Mountain Top Trail. You can return to the starting point by taking the Mountain Top Trail to the right.

Trail Manners

Please remember to *Leave No Trace* on the park trails. Leave rocks, plants, flowers, and artifacts for others to enjoy. Keep pets leashed and pick up the waste. Follow marked trails and ignore “cut-throughs.” Report vandalism or graffiti to a law enforcement ranger by calling 501-620-6780.

Lock your vehicle and keep valuables out of sight.
For an emergency, call 911.

Hot Springs

National Park
Arkansas



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

West Mountain Trails

- ◆ Lock vehicle doors and keep valuables out of sight.
- ◆ Take drinking water and wear appropriate clothing and shoes.
- ◆ Do not remove or disturb any plant, animal or object.
- ◆ Bicycles, ATVs, motorcycles, and other vehicles are prohibited on trails.
- ◆ Keep pets restrained on a leash.
- ◆ Stay on marked trails. Horses are allowed only on unpaved trails.
- ◆ Camp only at Gulpha Gorge campground.
- ◆ Pack out what is packed in.

