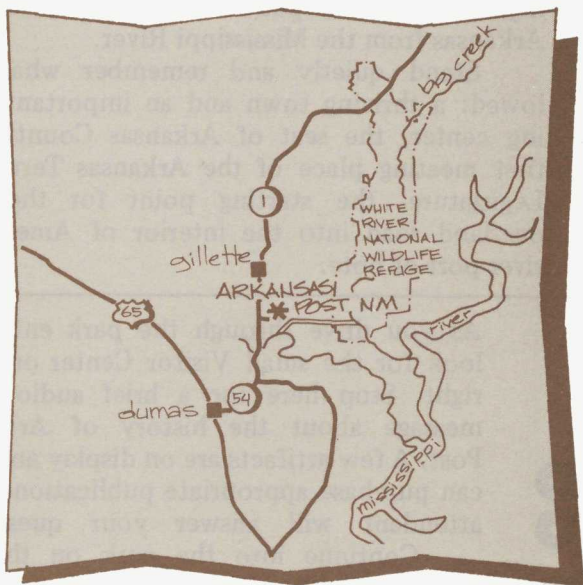


your SUPER 77 visit planner for

ARKANSAS POST National Memorial



have a SUPER visit

**Safely
Use
Preserve
Enjoy
this Resource**

You will find Arkansas Post National Memorial a pleasant, quiet, tree-shaded scenic spot overlooking the waters of the Arkansas River. It was created by an Act of Congress on July 6, 1960, to commemorate the establishment of the first semi-permanent European settlement in the lower Mississippi Valley.

The settlement here came under five flags: Bourbon France in 1680, Spain in 1763, Republican France in 1800, the United States in 1803 and briefly under the Confederacy during our Civil War. The area was established as an Arkansas State Park in 1929 and turned over to the National Park Service in 1964.

Stand at the Great Cross Exhibit and, in your imagination, think back to the time of the French explorers as they discovered the first high land as they paddled their canoes up the Arkansas from the Mississippi River.

Stand quietly and remember what followed: a thriving town and an important trading center, the seat of Arkansas County, the first meeting place of the Arkansas Territorial Legislature, the starting point for the first overland road into the interior of America, a river port of note.

As you drive through the park entrance, look for the small Visitor Center on your right. Stop here for a brief audio-visual message about the history of Arkansas Post. A few artifacts are on display and you can purchase appropriate publications. The attendant will answer your questions.

Continue into the park on the entrance road. The right turn takes you to the 25-site picnic area overlooking Moore Bayou, created by the damming of the Arkansas River. Until 1964, this was farm land. Straight ahead is the looproad into the historic zone. This road skirts a 7-acre artificial pond.

In the historic zone is a half-mile foot trail leading to the archeological site of old Post of Arkansas and the Great Cross Exhibit. The latter is a wooden cross that

overlooks Post Bend, and has an audio-message telling about Henry De Tonty's explorations in 1684 and the settlement he founded several miles downstream.

You'll pass the Arkansas County Museum when you turn off Arkansas 1 onto 169 on your way to the Memorial. Here is a cluster of buildings representing a typical homestead of 1800, including the main house, kitchen, smokehouse, and carriage house. All except the carriage house are open, free of charge, and are furnished. Mothers will especially enjoy visiting the kitchen with its collection of early cooking utensils.

Also on the Arkansas County Museum grounds is the Refeld-Hindman cabin, relocated here from the old Arkansas Post State Park. It has been restored to its original appearance and furnished.

A gallows is also on display, donated by the City of DeWitt

Navigation Pool 2 of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System has several recreation sites in the general proximity of Arkansas Post, at Dam No. 2, Notrebes Bend, Pendleton, Moore Bayou, Merrisach and Big Bayou Meto. Visitors will find picnicking and boat launching facilities at most, camping at some, and marinas at a few. Swimming and water sports are not possible, due to below-health-standard water quality.

No State Parks are nearby; the closest is Lake Chicot, about 70 highway miles south on the Mississippi River. Closer are several State wildlife management areas and the White River National Refuge, with some opportunities for fishing and hunting.

Arkansas Post National Memorial is located in the extreme southern part of Arkansas County, Arkansas, on a prominent peninsula overlooking the Arkansas River. It is reached by automobile over two-lane

blacktop State highways. Arkansas 1, "The Great River Road," is a north-south artery that passes 3 miles west of the Memorial. A spur road, Arkansas 169, leads from Arkansas 1 directly to the Memorial. "The Great River Road," generally parallel to the Mississippi River, intersects with many major east-west highways.

The closest accommodations are in Gillett, 9 miles north on Arkansas 1, and Dumas, 14 miles south at the intersection of State 54 and U.S. 65.

Shoreside campsites are available along Navigation Pool 2, part of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System.

Food not available in the Park. We have the picnic sites but you will have to bring the lunch. The nearest restaurants are in Gillett and Dumas (see Overnight, above.)

The climate is moderate; the average annual temperature is about 62 degrees F. There are short periods of severe cold in winter and high temperatures in summer, often relieved by thunderstorms. (It's a good idea to have rainwear handy.) The average annual rainfall is about 43 inches, but droughts do occur in late summer and fall. Snowfall is light and remains on the ground for only a short time. Tornadoes are known to occur, but should not deter your visit.

Peak travel months are may through August, with most people visiting on Sundays. Most visitors arrive between 1 and 4 in the afternoon; as many as 400 persons have been counted during this period on peak days. In 1974, total visitation was 48,740. About 1/5 of the visitors use the picnic facilities, mostly as family groups.

directions
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try
weather
food
overnight

see % do

read

The Battle of Arkansas Post (1863), A Civil War Times reprint.\$.35
The Colbert Incident, mimeo.FREE
Historical Notes, mimeo.FREE
TO ORDER, send stamps or coin to:
Arkansas Post National Memorial, Information, Gillett, AR, 72055.

Please be careful around the water. The land slopes steeply down to the water's edge around most of the perimeter of the peninsula. The water is below State standards, so water recreation is prohibited. The pond, while small, only 7 acres, is deep, with depths averaging 12 to 20 feet.

Drive carefully, as young visitors enjoying the Memorial may dart in front of your vehicle. Keep an eye on your children so they are not the darters.

There is poison ivy in the woods.

The entire region abounds with mosquitoes. Spray or roll-on repellent is a good idea.

Skunks live in the Memorial. You know what they can do!

Our wildlife includes three poisonous snakes: copperheads, cottonmouths and timber rattlers. To be safe, stay away from all snakes; above all, don't try to kill them if you spot one. They are protected, like all the wildlife in the park.

be safe

You won't have a good time if our Rangers have to remind you about rule infractions. So for your fun, and ours, keep these few rules in mind:

The park is a wildlife sanctuary. That means you cannot molest or disturb any of the wildlife in any way. The presence of firearms is absolutely prohibited.

An *Arkansas license* is required for fishing.

You may bring your pets, but you must *keep them on a leash* or otherwise restrained.

rules

Boat launching and other water sports is *not permitted* from the Memorial grounds.

You can have a fire, as long as you build it in one of the grills provided in the picnic area. *No fires anywhere else!*

PARKS AND FORESTS

When you are enjoying yourself, what difference does it make if you are in a National Park or a National Forest? Both offer outstanding recreational opportunities and special facilities and services to enhance your visit.

Differences are in concept — which determines the way they are managed. National Forests are managed as renewable natural resources — timber, forage, water, wildlife. National Parks are set aside to be preserved, as they are, in perpetuity.

National Forests are managed for your benefit by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. The National Park Service is a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Included in the National Park System are great natural areas, as Parks, Monuments, Seashores, Lakeshores, Rivers and Riverways. The System also includes prehistoric and historic areas, as Monuments, Memorials, Memorial Parks, Historic Sites, Historical Parks, Battlefields and Battlefield Sites. "National" is generally part of their title.

National Park Service ★★★★★
U.S. Department of the Interior

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