

CitiScapes

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

PEOPLE • PLACES • EVENTS • FOOD • FUN

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Piltdown Outdoor Company
Hogshead Tours
Buffalo Outdoor Center
Horseshoe Canyon Ranch

also:

PROFILE: Paxton Roberts, Bicycle Coalition of the Ozarks
OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING: Thrill of the Grill
STYLE FILE: Summer's Hottest Looks

JUNE 2016
\$2.50 VALUE

BUFFALO OUTDOOR CENTER

STAY AND PLAY IN ONE OF ARKANSAS' MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACES



Established as America's first national river in 1972, the Buffalo River has been attracting visitors to Arkansas for over 40 years. With more than 100 miles of floatable water and hiking trails, the Buffalo River area is a majestic outdoor destination perfect for your next family vacation or weekend getaway.

Whether looking for a canoe rental or for comfortable woodland accommodations, the Buffalo Outdoor Center, located in Ponca, has been helping people discover the Buffalo River area since 1976. After putting himself through graduate school by renting out canoes from his duplex, Arkansas native Mike Mills opened BOC as a canoe rental operation back when the river's national recognition was not well known and only attracted a couple hundred people to the area each year. Though establishing a successful business in this area during that time was tough, Mike was committed to his dream of making a living doing what he loved most, and turned BOC into the premier getaway destination that it is today.

"The first years were very lean," says Mike. "Canoe season was only four months, so the rest of the year I did odd jobs...just whatever it took to make ends meet. I then became the director of tourism for Arkansas in 1982, which gave me a great education about the bigger picture of tourism in this state. After four years I realized what a gold mine BOC could be, and left the state job to grow BOC into a year-round resort."



Mike Mills

Now, 40 years after opening its doors, BOC provides visitors to the Buffalo River with area information, canoe and kayak rentals, zip-line canopy tours and relaxing lodging options, helping people to make the most of their Buffalo River area vacation.

Drop in to learn about the prime elk viewing available just down the road, or for more information about the hundreds of available hikes surrounding the river. BOC staffers will happily tell you about some of their favorite trails, such as the scenic journey to the tallest waterfall between the Rockies and Appalachians on the Hemmed-In Hollow trail, or about Arkansas' most iconic and photographed crag on the Whitaker Point (Hawksbill Crag) trail.

"The hiking trails are the best in the mid United States," says Mike. "There is a hike for almost anyone with a great reward along the way; (and) don't underestimate the value of just sitting beside the river – particularly with small children who will entertain themselves for hours."

If you're looking to spend a day on the water, BOC is the perfect place to learn more about the river and the best stretch to float any given time of the year.





BOC can easily help you enjoy swift running and placid stretches of water, diverse shorelines, and up-close and personal views of the Buffalo's towering limestone bluffs with single or multi-day canoe and kayak rentals and affordable shuttle options.

For those looking for a bit more adventure and thrill, BOC's zip-line canopy tour is not to be missed. Soaring from treetop to treetop, this exciting zip-line experience provides visitors with a unique new perspective of the Buffalo River area that can't be achieved in a boat or on the ground.

Once nature has worn you out, relax in comfort and style in one of BOC's rustic and modern cabin accommodations. From romantic cabins for two, mountaintop cabins, hot tub cabins and even a 36-person lodge, the lodging options at BOC provide guests with an excellent way to unwind after a fun-filled day. Settle in for the night with s'mores by the fire or a nightcap on the porch under the stars. Then enjoy a morning of peace and solitude, before setting out to enjoy the river and Ozark Mountains for another adventurous day. ■



By Tim Landis

For lodging, kayak or canoe reservations, or to learn more about the Buffalo River area, call (870) 861-5514 or visit www.buffaloriver.com.

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EXPERIENCE ARKANSAS' ONLY TRUE WILDERNESS ZIP LINE ADVENTURE

at Buffalo Outdoor Center in Ponca. Our fun, friendly, highly trained guides will help you have an absolute blast, and afterward, you can relax in your beautiful BOC cabin, many with hot tubs and big views. Arkansas' premier adventure resort is geared up for your complete enjoyment.

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BOC

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