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THE GREAT OUTDOORS

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also:

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

JUNE 2016
\$2.50 VALUE

HORSESHOE CANYON RANCH

AN OZARK MOUNTAIN DUDE RANCH EXPERIENCE



Imagine horseback rides through rolling meadows, singing cowboy songs around a campfire, and watching the stars twinkle on a clear, dark night. Picture then waking up to the smell of fresh brewed coffee, taking a morning horseback ride to a cowboy breakfast, and then spending your day watching elk, rock climbing and canoeing. While this might sound like something that can only be experienced out West, you might be surprised to learn that this idealized western vacation is one that's available right in our own backyard.

Located in the pristine Buffalo River Wilderness area near Jasper, Horseshoe Canyon Ranch is a 350-acre, authentic dude ranch that offers an all-inclusive Wild West vacation experience a bit closer to home.

Opened in 1997, HCR was founded by Arkansas native Barry Johnson and his wife Amy Johnson, after they met and fell in love not just with each other, but with the ranching lifestyle they came to know during their time working on a guest ranch near Jackson, Wyo. Now, together with their four kids, the Johnsons bring a love of ranching, the outdoors and 20 years of experience in the dude ranch vacation industry to Northwest Arkansas.

Providing visitors with both relaxation and adventure, HCR offers comfortable log cabins, hearty meals and a plethora of entertainment options suitable for all ages. Though their main activity is horseback riding, they also offer a variety of other events perfect for the whole family. From hiking and canoe trips, cave explorations, elk viewings, skeet shooting, archery, disc golf, swimming and more, HCR truly is an outdoor adventure oasis.

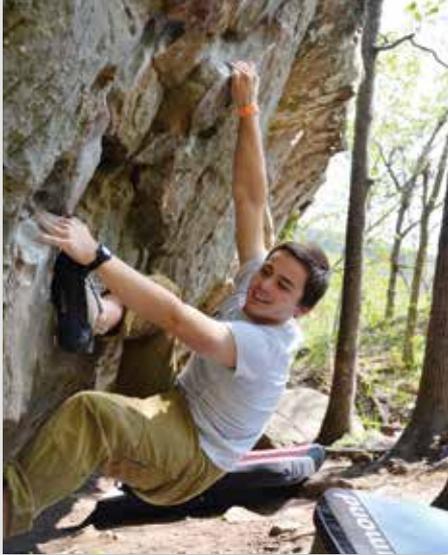


"Horseshoe Canyon is unique in the amount of different activities you can do while you are here," says Barry. "This is an outdoor paradise. The bluffs, the Buffalo River and the beauty of the ranch are all spectacular."

For those looking for more thrilling adventures, HCR is also well known for its zip-lining options and for some of the best rock climbing this side of the Rockies.

The Iron Horse zip-line at HCR is said to be the highest, fastest and longest zip-line in Arkansas, offering those brave enough to ride a nearly half-mile-long vertical drop of 277 feet at speeds exceeding 50 mph. Providing an exciting, yet smooth and comfortable ride, the Iron Horse is certainly a property highlight that's not to be missed. Additionally, adrenaline junkies should consider a spin on The Screamer, a one-of-a-kind swinging experience that sends you soaring over the ranch in a pendulum fashion, providing a thrilling ride you won't soon forget.

Those interested in rock climbing will find that HCR offers hundreds of routes suitable for beginners and advanced climbers alike.



Attracting visitors from all around the country, the quality and quantity of HCR's sandstone routes have put Arkansas climbing on the world map, and even attracts some of the biggest names in the industry to the ranch each year for an annual endurance-style rock climbing competition.

If horseback riding, canoeing, hiking, zip-lining, rock climbing and all of HCR's other outdoor activities sound like too much excitement for you, don't worry; they also offer plenty of leisurely perks like a hot tub, board games and movies to keep the relaxing vacation vibe going. No matter the activities you choose, the experience at HCR is all about bringing you together with family and friends for a vacation you're sure to always remember.

"The relationship with our staff, family and guests are the most important things at HCR," says Barry. "People love the food, the views, the cabins...but the relationships, and the way the ranch makes them feel, are what keeps them coming back year after year." ■

While HCR's dude ranch experience is all-inclusive, cabin rentals and campsites are also available for those interested in accommodations only, and day passes for zip-lining, rock climbing, disc golf and hiking are available for a nominal fee. For more information about HCR and its rates and services, visit www.horseshoecanyonderanch.com and www.horseshoecanyonadventures.com.

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