



PEA RIDGE NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

Battlefield Hiking Trail

GARFIELD, ARKANSAS

Hiking Time: 2-3 hours

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On March 7, 1862, snow still covered the frozen ground when the Union Army of the Southwest, 10,500 troops under Brigadier General Samuel R. Curtis, clashed with 16,000 Confederates commanded by Major General Earl Van Dorn. The battle raged at two separate sites: Leetown and Elkhorn Tavern.

The Union, most of whom were immigrant German farmers who spoke no English, prevailed at Leetown while the outcome at Elkhorn Tavern was less decisive, although Southerners left the field under heavy Union artillery bombardment. When the Battle of Pea Ridge ended the next day, the State of Missouri was secure for the Union.

Dogs are welcome throughout Pea Ridge, the first battlefield west of the Mississippi River to be declared a national military park. It is also the largest. The seven-mile hiking loop travels through fields and woodlands - a splendid natural canine romp with an overlay of pivotal American history.

The trail visits skirmish sites and rock outcroppings with small caves; building foundations and quiet stream beds; cannons and small sandstone canyons; zigzag split-rail fences and flowering dogwoods. **There is enough challenge to the Pea Ridge battlefield to set Seaman to panting and long stretches where he can bask with sunlight on his neck.** There may even be enough water in the seasonal streams to enjoy a refreshing splash.



PETIT JEAN STATE PARK

Seven Hollows Trail

MORRILTON, ARKANSAS

Hiking Time: 2-3 hours

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"If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then give him only two of them." – Phil Pastoret

The Seven Hollows Trail actually only visits four hollows (the other three are on private land) but this 4.5-mile loop packs so much scenic wonder your dog is likely to lose count. Petit Jean (forget your high school French, it is "petty jean") was an obvious choice to be Arkansas' first state park, a slice of land between the Ozark and Ouachita mountain ranges considered so beautiful it was under consideration to be a national park before being deemed too small.

There are many scenic spots in the eroded bluffs and forested canyons lubricated by Cedar Creek, including 94-foot Cedar Falls where Seaman can enjoy a refreshing swim in the plunge pool. The *Seven Hollows Trail* is on the opposite side of the park.

The route takes Seaman from lush hardwood forests to desert-like terrain where the sandstone is known as the Turtle Rocks for their mottled appearance. Each hollow on this sporty canine hike has its own delights, from a hefty natural rock bridge to a secluded grotto in a box canyon beneath a rock overhang. Seaman may even find a waterfall and seasonal swimming hole here, conveniently located about half-way through his hike. Be sure to stop at Stout's Point to learn the story of Petit Jean at her gravesite and soak in the impressive views of the Arkansas River.