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10 Places to Visit within
5 Minutes of Jasper



WELCOME TO NEWTON COUNTY & BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER COUNTRY

Designated as The Elk Capitol of Arkansas in 1998, Newton County Arkansas is home to the headwaters of the Buffalo National River and hosts more miles and diverse water than any other. Its natural beauty and resources rival those anywhere else in the country. If you are looking to get back to nature you can do it in Newton County. Whether you enjoy canoeing or kayaking our streams, hiking, climbing, biking, horseback riding, ATV's, scenic routes, wildlife, relaxing while rocking on the front porch and so much more, Newton County has an experience for you. If you choose Newton County for a vacation, or a home, the businesses and services listed here are committed to making your time with us all it can be. We believe Newton County is a very special place and we are happy to share it with you, enjoy.

*Vixen James, President
Newton County Chamber of Commerce*

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Our Ozark Heritage

Records indicate the first people to live in the county came in the Paleo period between 20,000 and 9,000 BC, followed by Indians of the Archaic Period and then those who came to be known as the Rock Shelter people. Remnants of their occupation can be found in south facing bluff shelters.

When pioneers began pushing west, the area was the territory of the plains tribes and documentation shows that the Cherokee, Choctaw, Fox, Kickapoo, Sack, and Osage tribes were in the county. The 1808 and 1818 treaties split the Cherokee Nation, and those in Newton County were part of the Western Cherokee who wanted to preserve their heritage by avoiding contact with whites. The Cherokee Sequoia is believed to have lived near Deer, using the name George Guess. The Choctaw, however, were the last legal landowners before the wave of settlers, but by 1838, they had all assimilated into white settlements.

Jasper was an established town by 1840 and Newton County was created from a part of Carroll County in 1842. John M. Ross, a Choctaw, was the first postmaster and county clerk serving from 1842 to 1846. His salary for 1845 was \$7.09. Although Ross kept county records in Jasper, the actual first county seat was at the home of John Bellah near Parthenon. Jasper became the county seat in 1843. By 1850, the population of the county was 1711. The average price of 40 acres of land was \$50. By 1856 there were 10 established post offices. During the Civil War several skirmishes occurred in the area and many families handed down stories of “bushwhackers”, partisan outlaw gangs. The Confederacy had a saltpeter works at Boxley which was captured and destroyed by a detachment of the First Iowa Cavalry on January 12, 1863. They took 17 prisoners, two steam engines, three boilers and seven iron kettles and destroyed three covered wagons, two carts, and half a ton of saltpeter. Union soldiers, hunting for Confederate guerrilla leader John Cecil burned Jasper to the ground. By the turn of the century, cotton was the principal crop, but the boll weevil wiped it out. Most industry was timber-related and large logging camps harvesting oak for stave created a boom town at Ponca. In 1937, rural electric came to the county and in 1951 Hwy 7 was paved from Harrison to Jasper, which brought enormous changes to the area including the birth of tourism.

Returning Elk to Newton County

Over-hunting, natural mortality and shrinkage of suitable grazing land brought elk in Arkansas to extinction in the 1800s. In 1981, the Game and Fish Commission, in cooperation with private citizens, spearheaded by Hilary Jones, initiated an elk restoration project for the Ozark Mountains. Between 1981 and 1985, 112 elk from Colorado and Nebraska were released at five sites on or adjacent to the Buffalo National River where grassy meadows provide an ideal habitat. Since then, the herd has grown to about 450 and are found all along the river at Boxley Valley, Steel Creek, Kyles Landing, Erbie, Ozark, Pruitt, and on private lands. The best time to see the elk is the morning or evening. It is because of this successful restoration of elk to our area that Newton County is the “Elk Capital of Arkansas”. For more details on where to view the elk, pick up the “See the Elk” brochure at the Chamber of Commerce Information Center, or refer to our website at TheOzarkMountains.com.

Learn About Our Magnificent Elk

Want to find out more about Arkansas elk? Well, outdoor enthusiasts need look no further because Newton County boasts two elk information centers that offer an abundance of information about our magnificent elk herds and other wildlife that are native to this area. They are free — visit both! The Hilary Jones Wildlife Museum and Elk Information Center is located on Scenic 7 just north of Jasper. Call 870-446-6180 or visit their website at ArkansasElkCenter.com.

The Ponca Elk Education Center is located on Hwy 43 in Ponca just north of Boxley Valley. For additional information call 870-861-2432 or visit their website at PoncaEEC.com.

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Annual Buffalo River Elk Festival

We celebrate the elk in Newton County at the award winning Buffalo River Elk Festival. This festival salutes the vision that coupled these majestic animals with the magnificent beauty of the Buffalo River country. The festival attracts artists and craft vendors, wildlife exhibits, musical entertainment, contests, activities for kids of all ages and great food. Activities include a Kids Fishing Derby, Dutch Oven Cookoff, Miss Buffalo River Elk Festival Pageant (held in June), Elk Calling Contest, and the Elk Permit Drawings. Make plans to join us in Jasper. More info at Buffalo-RiverElkFestival.com

The Buffalo National River

The Buffalo River wanders through the Arkansas Ozarks, falling from the heights of the Boston Mountains, over a 150 mile course to join the White River. The gradient is steep and the water is faster along the upper river, leveling and slowing as the river runs its course. Canoeing the Buffalo can give you a feeling of the wilderness that once dominated the Ozarks.

Bluffs along the Buffalo River are the Ozarks' highest. The parks geology, with its numerous caves, sinkholes, waterfalls, springs and interesting rock formations, typifies the Arkansas Ozarks.

Through the efforts of concerned citizens and the United States Congress, the Buffalo was given National River status on March 1, 1972. This protection will allow the Buffalo to remain a wild, free flowing stream, providing its visitors with recreation, relaxation, and reflection.

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Scenic Driving Tours

BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER LOOP

There's lots of beautiful scenery in Newton County, and miles and miles of roads to travel. If you would like to purchase a detailed map of the following driving tours and other points of interest, stop in the Chamber of Commerce Information Center at 204 N. Spring Street, on the Courthouse Square in Jasper.

COUNTRY FARMS & COUNTRY TOWNS (Approx. 53 miles) Beautiful farmland, country homes and unique antique and craft shops along the way.

LITTLE BUFFALO RIVER TOUR (Approx. 35 miles) This tour includes the fabulous views of the Arkansas Grand Canyon and Buffalo River Valley.

RIDGE TOP, FOREST AND VALLEY TOUR (Approx. 53 miles) View vista after vista as you ride the ridge above the Arkansas Grand Canyon and panoramic views of the Buffalo River Valley.

SCENIC 7 & HEART OF NEWTON COUNTY TOUR (Approx. 42 miles) Arkansas' first Scenic Byway runs north and south through the middle of Newton County and was named "One of the Top 10 Driving Experiences in the Country" by Car & Driver Magazine. (See Map on pages 18-19 for additional information.)

Hiking Trails

Newton County has some of the most splendid hiking trails you have ever been on. Hiking is a year round event here and in each season you will find many different things to see.

Spring offers an abundance of wildflowers, redbuds, sarvice, and dogwoods. The leaves are just popping out and with the spring rains, you have the advantage of viewing some spectacular waterfalls.

Summer is the least popular time to hike because of the heat and pesky critters but is also a beautiful time of year. The foliage is thick, wildflowers are everywhere, and there is always a good spot to jump in the cool water of the Buffalo and go swimming.

Now, fall? Fall is just wonderful. Cool days, clean air, the changing of the colors in the leaves. There is no way to describe it, you have to experience it.

Believe it or not, our relatively mild winters are great times for hiking. Without leaves on the trees, you can see so much more — rock bluffs, deer, elk, squirrels. You can see for miles from the tops of mountains and explore under rock ledges and in the hollows. Hiking is four seasons of fun for all ages. A few of the many hiking trails in the area are listed below; for additional info, a detailed map may be purchased at the Chamber of Commerce Information Center at 204 N. Spring St. on the square in Jasper.

Alum Cove

This 1.1 mile trail leads to an impressive natural rock bridge, 130 feet long and 12 feet thick. You can walk around, over and under the bridge, explore some small caves, wade in a cool creek, and in the wet season, enjoy the splendor of waterfalls behind the bridge.

The Glory Hole

This 1.9 mile round trip hike to the Glory Hole begins as a jeep road that heads downhill into the woods and to the left. About a 1/3 of a mile down the road, the road forks, so stay to the right and it will eventually cross the creek that makes the Glory Hole. Stay on the road as it heads downstream and as the roadbed gets full of pine saplings and starts downhill the trail will abruptly end and you know you are close.

From this point head downhill to the left, through a small bluff area, and you will enter a wet glade area. Be very careful because the "Hole" is off to the left. Don't fall in! To get down under the bluff, go to the right until you see a place near some large rocks where you can get down. This is a great spot with a beautiful waterfall, lots of big boulders and bluffs!

Hawksbill Crag/Whitaker Point

The 3 mile round trip hike will lead you to Hawksbill Crag which is one of the most recognized spots in Arkansas because photos of it have been used in many publications about the state and the Ozark Mountains. It is an amazing rock outcrop that sticks out from a tall bluff located in the Upper Buffalo Wilderness Area. From the parking lot, the trail begins across Hawksbill Crag the road, goes into the woods and drops down the hill to a small stream. After it crosses the stream again, you will notice that the trail runs along private property which is marked with blue and red blazes — do not cross over. There are many scenic spots along the way but the most spectacular is Hawksbill Crag itself.

Hemmed In Hollow (Three Different Trails)

Centerpoint Trailhead – 5.4 miles one way to the Falls. This trailhead actually follows an old road all the way to the Buffalo River. The 1300 foot drop to the River begins as a leisurely stroll down hill and gets steeper after the first mile. Along the way, you will pass other trails that lead to great spots like Chimney Rock and Granny Henderson's Cabin. You will also pass the Goat Bluff Trail to Big Bluff but unless you are a very experienced hiker it is not recommended because it is extremely dangerous out on the Bluff and warning signs are posted. After passing this intersection, you are approximately 2.5 miles from another intersection which will take you to the mouth of Hemmed In Hollow and a view of the tallest waterfall between the Rockies and Appalachians.

Compton Trailhead – 5 mi round trip

Two trails begin here but the one on the left is the quickest and also the steepest way to get to the falls. It's a quick trip downhill but the hike out will be a real test for the greatest of hikers. The other trail is longer and will take you past several special scenic spots along the way.

From the River

While floating the Buffalo, watch for the traditional spot that canoers stop at to access the falls. It's just a short hike and to view the tallest waterfall in mid America is truly a memorable experience.

Hideout Hollow Trail

Once you reach the primitive parking lot you are ready to begin your 2 mile round trip hike. This is a great little trail that takes you into a large bluff and waterfall area. You will see some fantastic sights. There is private property about 60 feet upstream so please respect their rights. To get back to the trail head just hike back the same way you came.



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Kings Bluff Loop

This 1.9 mile loop twists and turns and midway comes to a creek, then swings to the left and comes out on the top of Kings Bluff. This is a wonderful spot and the view is remarkable. Also, the creek spills over the edge of the bluff, nearly 100 feet, creating one of the tallest waterfalls in this part of the Ozarks. This is a great spot for a picnic lunch and to stop to relax but please be careful and stay behind the hand rails. As you continue your hike, the trail goes along the bluff line and the views just keep getting better. Be sure to bring your camera!

Koen Interpretive Trail

On this short walk, there are 34 different kinds of trees and other plants identified along the trail. The trail is wheelchair accessible and has benches scattered along the way so you can sit down, take a break, and enjoy the peaceful beauty of the forest. There are trail guides at the trailhead that explain all of the plants you will be seeing, so be sure to pick one up.

Lost Valley

You'll love this 3.5 mile hike. It begins at Lost Valley Campground. You'll discover the "Siamese Beeches", two trees that have grown together over the years, the "Jigsaw Blocks", a natural bridge; then Cobb Cave which is a giant overhang that you can walk back into. It was named thus because of the corn cobs discovered there that were left by Indians many years ago. After that take a walk up to Eden Falls, which are absolutely beautiful. Then turn around and come back to the intersection, take a right and go to the cave. Be sure to take a good light with you. You'll have to crawl a short way, but then it opens up into a large room with a 35 foot waterfall.

Mill Creek Trail

This is a 1.3 mile historical hike. Follow this trail through the forest land and you'll walk by remains of former homesteads, and a gristmill operated on Mill Creek prior to the Civil War. Follow this trail along the creek until you come to a road, turn right, cross a low water bridge, turn right again. You'll then come to Shaddox Cabin pioneer home site. The present house was constructed from logs salvaged from a pre-Civil War cabin. Follow the trail on down to Mill Creek and ford the creek on stepping stones unless there's high water. If so, backtrack and cross the creek at the low water bridge.

Pedestal Rocks

This 1.3 mile trail to Pedestal Rocks runs around a small hill and down to a road intersection at the end of the Kings Bluff Loop. There you will take a left and go into the woods. At the next road turn right and head across the hill-side. There are several waterfalls along the way and spectacular rock formations like "arch rock" which is big enough to drive a truck under. As you hike along the bluff line, there are beautiful views and a lot of neat things to see. The trail continues on past several pedestals and winds up at the main pedestal which is an awesome site to see.

Round Top Mountain

Come enjoy some of Newton County's most spectacular vistas on this newest trail as it circles a well known landmark. About three miles of trail passes towering bluffs, huge trees, including the largest stands of pawpaws in the area, and a very lush, diverse plant community. Enjoy spring's brilliant carpet of wildflowers or fall's fiery beauty. Round Top was the tragic site of a 1948 crash of a military plane and the former bluff shelter home of the earliest native people, which adds some historical interest on this trail. A signboard with a map will help you plan your hike.

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Great Wilderness Areas

In the early 1800's, settlers arrived in this area. Today when you are hiking through, you may find the remains of isolated farmsteads, old homes, stone fences, multi floral roses, antiquated farm equipment and cemeteries. On January 3, 1975, 10,950 acres of this rugged Buffalo River area became a part of the National Wilderness preservation system and named, by an Act of Congress, the Upper Buffalo Wilderness. Three other wilderness areas, Hurricane Creek Wilderness, Richland Creek Wilderness and Ponca Wilderness Area also offer varied wildlife, rugged terrain, rock bluffs, mountain streams, waterfalls and spectacular beauty.

Motorcycling in The Ozarks

Arkansas' Scenic 7 Byway has a national reputation for being a first-class motorcycling road and what better way to take in the beauty of the Ozarks than from atop your "Iron Horse". Motorcycling is the fastest growing hobby in America today with more people participating in two-wheeled fun than golf. Newton County and the Northwest Arkansas Region are hosts to some of the finest motorcycling in the nation, if not the world.

Horseback Riding On The Buffalo

One of the many wonderful ways to enjoy the Buffalo River is by horse. There are designated trails for riding. Also, the Steel Creek Access and Erbie Campground may be used by campers with horses.

Wildflowers

Newton County is a habitat for hundreds of wildflowers and shrubs. As you are driving down the road or walking through the forest, you'll find all the colors of the rainbow in many different varieties of flowers. You'll be amazed at the flora of Newton County.

Watchable Wildlife & Birding

In Newton County you'll find over 60 species of mammals that roam the mountains, valleys, caves and stream sides. There are elk, deer, beaver, fox and just about anything from bats to black bear. There have also been over 200 different types of birds reported in the area. Newton County is the perfect spot for amateurs, professionals and photography clubs to take nature photos.

Fishing & Hunting

Of more than 50 species of fish in the Buffalo National River, small mouth bass, catfish and sunfish are the most popular game fish. The waters are too warm in the summer for trout so they travel down to the White River, just a short trip from Newton County. Fishing licenses are reasonably priced and available at locations around the area. For hunters, there are seasons for deer, bear, turkey, squirrel and other animals but DON'T shoot the elk, "even by mistake." Rules and Regulations are available at the Hilary Jones Wildlife Museum in Jasper.

Canoeing the Buffalo

The Buffalo National River is one of the best floating rivers in the country, boasting impressive colorful bluffs, unpolluted scenery and the chance to feel completely cut off from the modern world for a while. Even the inexperienced can enjoy floating, and many of the businesses that rent canoes will come and pick you up at the end of your trip, and take you back to your vehicle.

Caving

Throughout the Ozark Mountains, there are many caves that can be explored. However, if you are inexperienced, it is advisable to have a guide to show you the way. With a guide, you will learn about the habitat, history, archaeology and exploring techniques of caving. Wild caving requires climbing and crawling, can be very strenuous and may be very dangerous. For your safety, please stay out of caves unless you have the skills and equipment to safely negotiate them. A helmet and three sources of light are the minimum required equipment for each person in any cave.

Commercial caves around the area offer guided tours on an hourly basis. These caves are absolutely breathtaking and you will be in awe of their natural beauty. You'll find Newton County's own Mystic Caverns and Crystal Dome a once in a lifetime caving experience.

Arkansas' Ozark Mountains

For more information on
Arkansas' Ozark Mountains
visit our website:
OzarkMountainRegion.com



Brochure paid for with
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Region funds.

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Waterfalls

Buffalo National River Country is renowned for its many beautiful waterfalls of all shapes and varieties. Hike along any stream in Newton County – particularly after rainfall – and you are very likely to find waterfalls and peaceful serenity. For maps and specific directions to many of the area waterfalls, stop in the Chamber of Commerce Info Center office in Jasper.

Broadwater Falls is on the Cecil Cove Loop Trail, along with a little known place called Hideout Hollow.

Eden Falls is located on the Lost Valley Hiking Trail. There is an underground waterfall in the cave at the end of the trail - 2 falls for 1 hike!

Falling Water Falls is great for viewing without having to paddle or hike. You can get to the falls on Forest Service Road 1205 near Richland Creek.

Hemmed In Hollow is a 225 ft. waterfall on the Buffalo National River which is only accessible on foot.

Marble Falls is a beautiful year round waterfall easily seen from Scenic 7 Byway, just south of the Marble Falls community.

Twin Falls is a really rugged 2.5 mile hike from Richland Creek Campground. Be careful and enjoy the breathtaking beauty of these twins of nature.

Arts & Crafts

Newton County and the Ozark Mountains are blessed with gifted artists and crafters. There are many wonderful and one of a kind places to shop for local handmade crafted items in Jasper and the surrounding areas.

Nearby Ozark Mountain Attractions

Newton County is centrally located in the “Heart of the Ozark Mountains.” You can go “day tripping” and then return to your Newton County hideaway to relax in tranquil beauty. The Victorian charm of Eureka Springs, with its Great Passion Play is less than 2 hours northwest. The Ozark Heritage Folk Center at Mountain View is 2 1/2 hours to the southeast. Branson, Missouri, with all the music shows, is little more than an hour north.

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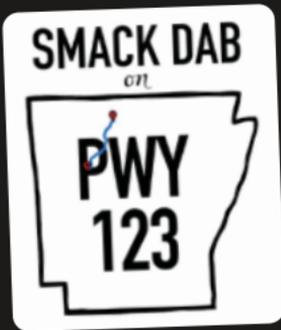
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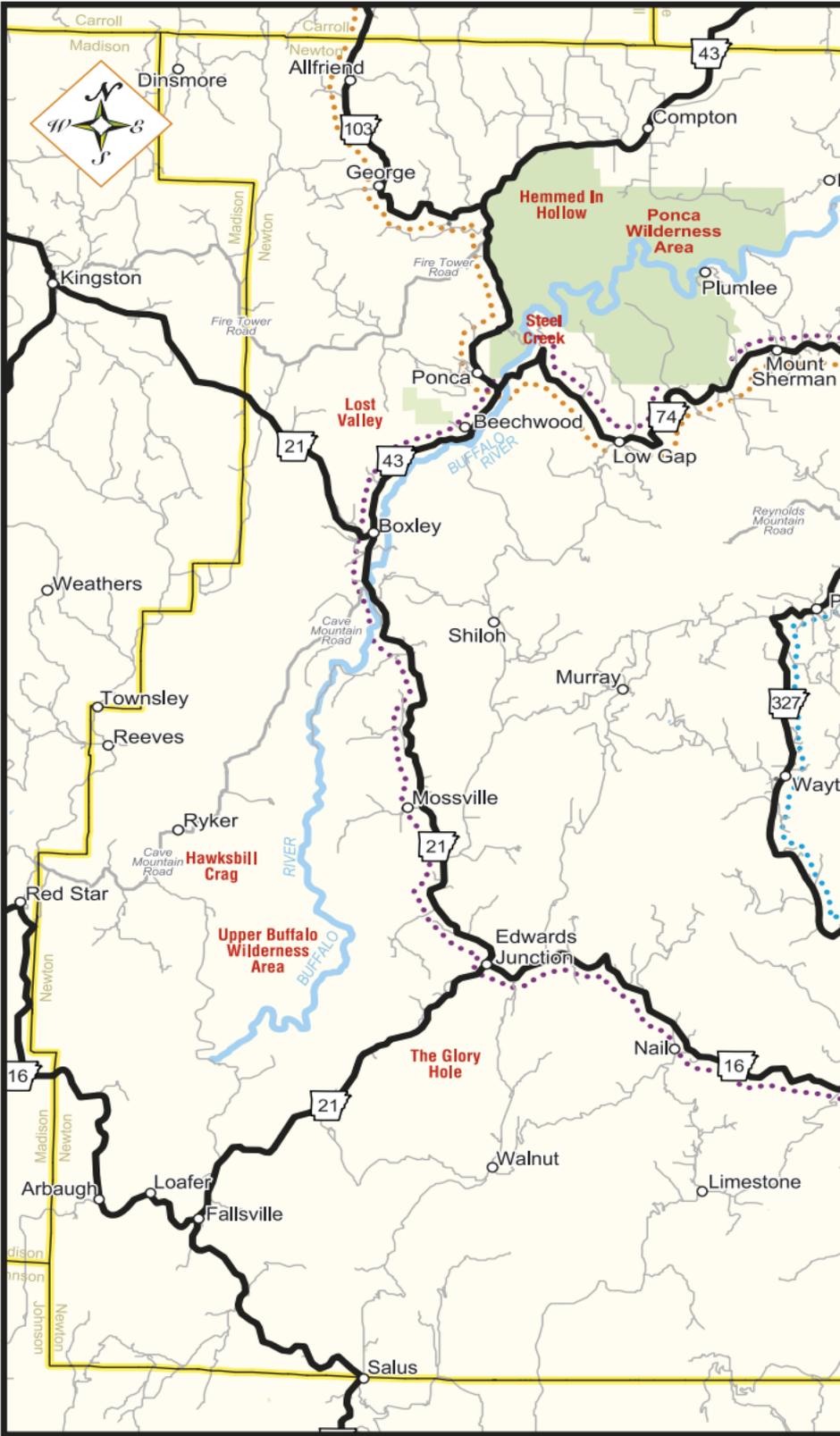
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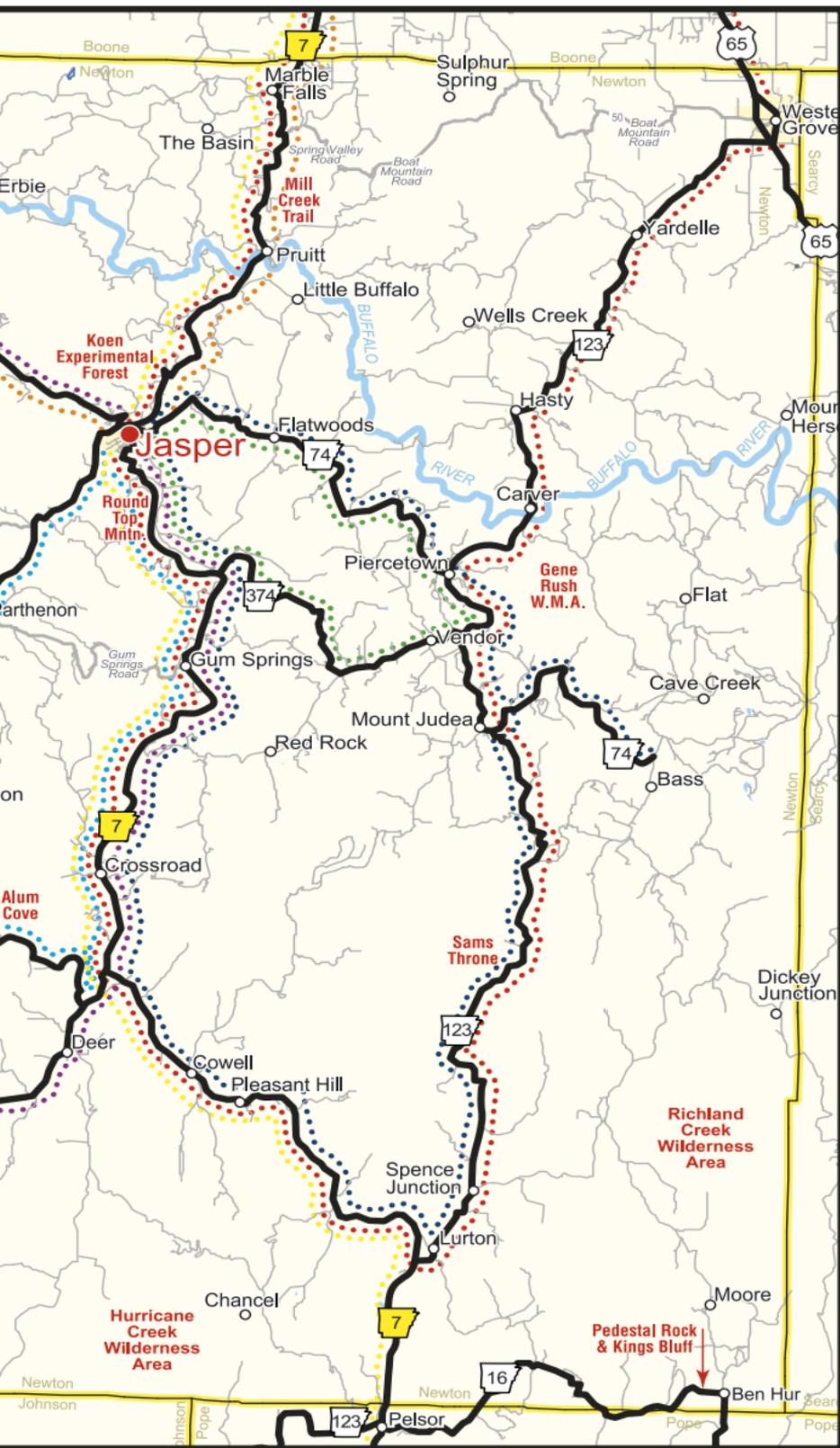


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- **SCENIC 7 BYWAY TOUR**
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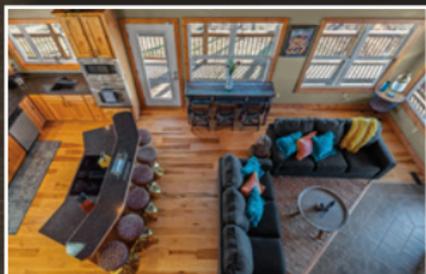
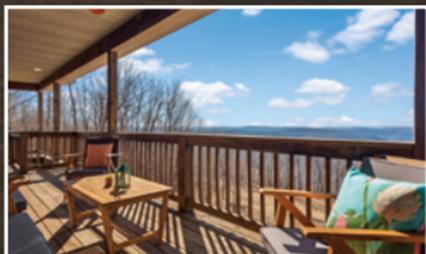
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Elk & Area Information Centers

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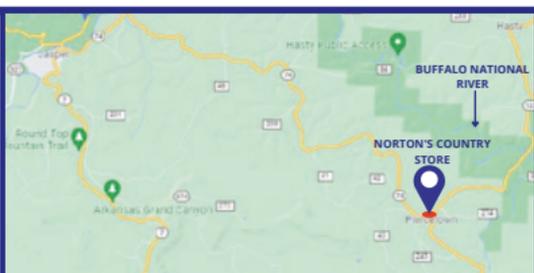
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870-391-1025 Cell

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Owner



501-246-7100

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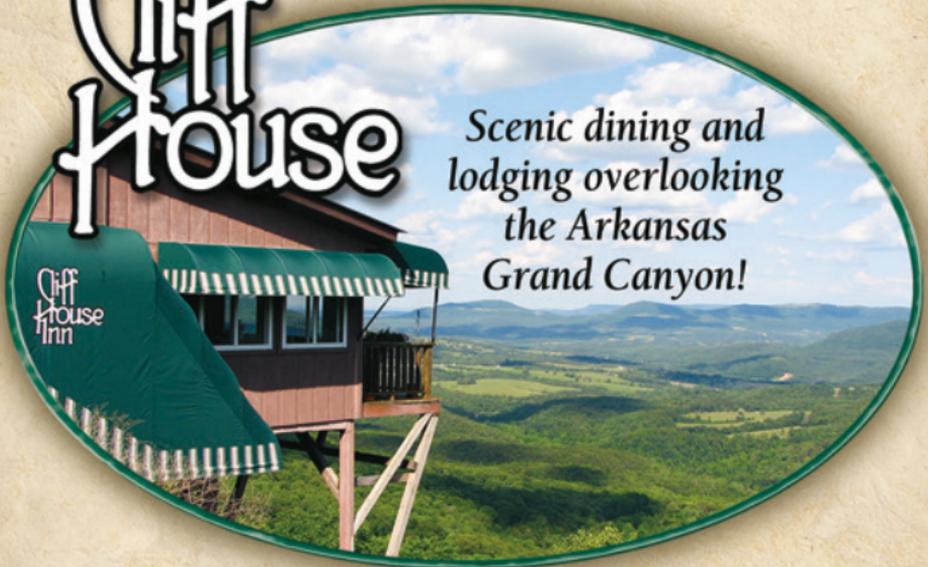
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WHERE'S JASPER?

Jasper, in a bend of the Little Buffalo River, is on Scenic 7 Byway, 18 miles South of Harrison.

To:

WHERE'S NEWTON COUNTY?

THE NEWTON COUNTY BORDERS ARE:

- 45 miles S of Branson
- 45 miles N of I-40
- 75 miles W of Mountain View
- 75 miles E of Fayetteville
- 5 hours from Memphis
- 5 hours from Kansas City
- 5 hours from Oklahoma City
- 6-7 hours from Dallas

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