

Mount Nebo Bench Trail

Region

Ouachita Mountains (Ouachita National Forest)

Trail Manager

Mount Nebo State Park, Route 3, Box 374, Dardanelle, AR 72834 (501) 229-3655

Location

To reach the park, from I-40, take Highway 7 south through Russellville to Dardanelle; turn right onto Highway 22 west, then left on Highway 155 south up the mountain.

TOTAL LENGTH OF TRAIL

4 miles; 3-4 hours

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Easy

DESCRIPTION

The approach to the summit of Mount Nebo is as breath-taking as the park itself. State Hwy. 155 (paved) zigzags up the eastern side of the mountain. From base to top there are a series of tight hairpin turns. We recommend no trailers or RVs over 24 feet long attempt the climb. Be sure your vehicle is in good condition, use low gear and turn off the A/C to avoid overheating. At the Bench Overlook you can stop to enjoy the panoramic view and rest your vehicle.

A huge, round slab of sandstone perhaps 15–20 feet thick lies approximately 300 feet below the summit of Mount Nebo. It extends completely through the mountain, like a gigantic solid pancake. Most of the bench is buried in the moun-

tain itself. On this shelf, encircling the mountain is the Bench Road Trail. Known in the 1890s as Bench Boulevard, the bench, as well as the mountaintop, had a hotel, homes and stores.

The scenic and historic trail offers easy access. Mountain bikes and horseback riders are welcome. Motorized vehicles are prohibited.

SITE AMENITIES

Parking at the trailhead; restrooms, small store and picnicking in park.

CAMPING

Horse camping is not allowed in the park or on the trail.

LODGING

Lodging facilities are available in the park and in Dardanelle.

SPECIAL NOTE

- Remember to bring drinking water—it is not furnished at the trailhead.
- Stay on the trail. Rocks along the edges of cliffs may be loose.
- Stay off the trail when lightening is flashing. Mt. Nebo is the highest point for many miles.
- Please pack up and bring out all of your litter.
- Leave all plants and animals undisturbed. It is unlawful to deface, destroy, or remove natural features of the park.



MOUNT NEBO BENCH TRAIL

