

Map to Trailheads

Hiking Trail numbers indicate the location of trailhead on map.

Boxley Valley

- 1 Lost Valley

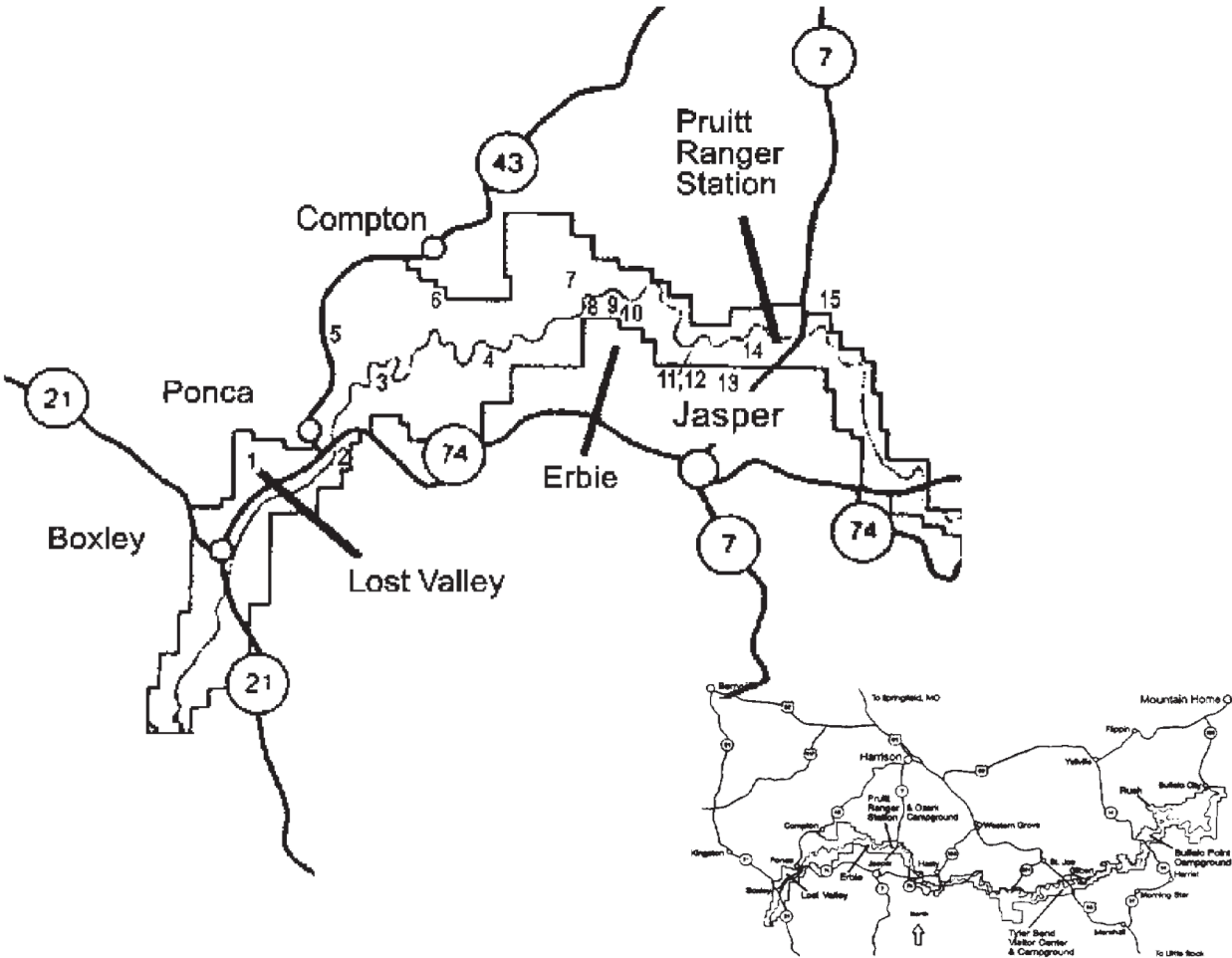
Ponca

- 2 Ponca-Steel Creek^{BRT}
- 3 Steel Creek-Kyles^{BRT}
- 4 Kyles-Erbie^{BRT}
- 5 Center Point-Hemmed in Hollow
- 6 Compton-Hemmed in Hollow

Erbie

- 7 Cecil Cove Loop
- 8 Cherry Grove Loop

- 9 South Erbie Loop
- 10 Erbie-Cedar Grove^{BRT}
- 11 Cedar Grove-Ozark^{BRT}
- 12 Ponds Trail
- 13 Koen Interpretive Trail
- Pruitt/Ozark**
- 14 Ozark-Pruitt^{BRT}
- 15 Mill Creek



For Your Protection

Each year, hundreds of hikers walk the scenic and rugged trails of Buffalo National River. Most make it back unassisted – a few, however, require a stretcher for the return trip. Use caution and common sense to stay with the majority. Consider the following when planning your trip:

- Let someone else know of your trip plans – where you are going and when you will return.
- Cliffs, unfenced overlooks, and uneven terrain exist throughout the park. Watch for loose gravel, and keep an eye on children.
- Take extra water – one gallon per person per day is recommended. Water from streams is unsafe unless treated.
- Ticks can carry diseases that are preventable. Check yourself after hiking.
- Poisonous snakes and spiders are common but rarely a problem.
- Proper gear can save a life, maybe your own. Take a map, first-aid kit, matches, compass, flashlight, and extra food.
- Topographical maps, available at park visitor centers and retail stores, are recommended for extended day hikes. Old roads that cross hiking trails can be confusing.

Pruitt Visitor Center: 870-446-5373
Emergency Dispatch: 888-692-1162
<http://www.nps.gov/buff>



Hiking Trails Upper District

BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER



About This Brochure

This handout includes a sampling of day hikes in the upper district of Buffalo National River. The list is not all-inclusive; other trails exist that require greater time commitments or have trailheads accessible only by canoe. Many of the hikes listed below can be combined for overnight trips. Topographical maps contain more detailed information and are recommended for use on all trails in the park. Maps are sold in park contact stations and local retail stores.

Trail Information and Regulations

The Buffalo River Trail parallels the national river, following bluff line, meandering up side canyons, and dropping into hollows. Views of the river accent the way. Other hikes lead to scenic vistas, homesteads, and historic cemeteries. Trail difficulty varies, ranging from wheelchair accessible terrain to steep climbs over rocky slope. Please assist us in protecting the park by adhering to the following:

- Hiking Trails are posted with white markers – horse/hiking trails with yellow markers. Hikers may travel on horse/hiker trails, but horses are not allowed on hiking trails.
- Pets are not allowed on trails.
- Mountain biking is prohibited on all hiking and horseback trails.
- All-terrain vehicles are prohibited in the park.
- Stay on the trail – shortcuts create erosion.
- If you must travel cross-country, avoid stepping on lichens and fragile plants. Leave no permanent mark of your travel.
- Trash begets trash – please pack out your own and as much as you can carry of others.
- Leave things as you find them. All plants, animals, rocks, historic features, and archeological sites are protected by law.

Trail Descriptions

Area	Trailhead	Distance	Hiking Time	Features
Boxley Valley				
1. Lost Valley	Lost Valley Campground	2.3 mi 3.7 km (rt)*	2 1/2 hours	Easy-moderate; waterfall, small cave, bluff shelter, beech tree stand
Ponca Area				
2. Ponca-Steel Creek	Ponca Lowwater Bridge	2.3 mi 3.7 km (o)	1 1/2 hours	Easy-moderate; spectacular views of the river from atop bluffs; moderate terrain
3. Steel Creek-Kyles ^{BRT}	Steel Creek Trailhead	7.9 mi 12.7 km (o)	4-5 hours	Moderate-strenuous; long uphill stretches; panoramic views of river
4. Kyles-Erbie ^{BRT}	Kyles Landing Camp-ground	7.4 mi 11.9 km (o)	4-5 hours	Moderate-strenuous; many views of river and meanders up side can-yons; historic cemetery and homestead
5. Center Point-Hemmed in Hollow	Hwy. 43, N of Ponca	10.8 mi 17.3 km (rt)	6-7 hours	Very strenuous; longer, but more level access to same waterfall; follow Center Point and Sneeds Creek-Hemmed in Hollow trails
6. Compton-Hemmed in Hollow	Cnty. Rd. 19, S of Compton Post Office	5 mi 8 km (rt)	5-6 hours	Very strenuous; 1,100 foot elevation change; leads to highest waterfall between Rockies and Appalachians
Erbie Area				
7. Cecil Cove Loop	North Erbie Road	6.8 mi 10.9 km (rt)	5-6 hours	Moderate; cemetary, cave, homestead sites; at trail/road intersection, fol-low roadway downhill1.4 miles to trailhead at Erbie Church
8. Cherry Grove Loop	Parker-Hickman Farm	2 mi 3.2 km (rt)	1-2 hours	Easy; take BRT to Cherry Grove Cemetery; return via old road; extreme-ly tick infested in summer
9. South Erbie Loop	Erbie Campground	1.8 mi 2.9 km (rt)	1-2 hours	Easy; take trail to Parker-Hickman Farmstead; take BRT east back to campground; follow roadway back to trailhead; tick-infested in summer
10. Erbie-Cedar Grove ^{BRT}	Erbie Campground	4.3 mi 6.9 km (o)	3-4 hours	Moderate; historic cemetery; picnic table and fire grate at Cedar Grove; day use only; Cedar Grove area wheelchair accessible
11. Cedar Grove-Ozark ^{BRT}	South Erbie Road	1.7 mi 2.7 km (o)	1-2 hours	Moderate; furthest from roadway of all trails in the Erbie area
12. **Ponds Trail	Cedar Grove on Erbie Road	.4 mi .6 km (rt)	1/2-1 hour	Easy; wheelchair accessible to South Pond; viewing deck on South Pond; trail to North Pond accessible only by hiking
13. **Koen Interpretive Trail ^{USFS}	South Erbie Road	.4 mi .6 km (rt)	1/2-1 hour	Easy; wheelchair accessible; experimental forest with trees indentified
Ozark/Pruitt Area				
14. Ozark-Pruitt ^{BRT}	Ozark Campground	2.6 mi 4.2 km (o)	1-2 hours	Moderate; scenic overlook; historic site; picnic tables and fire grates at Pruitt; day use only
15. Mill Creek Trail	Lower Pruitt launch area	2.2 mi 3.5 km (rt)	1-2 hours	Easy; log cabin cemetery; easy hiking; extremely tick infested in summer
*(rt) = roundtrip; (o) = one way		BRT = Buffalo River Trail; USFS = US Forest Service		**Wheelchair Accessible for portion of trail