



Thong Tree

This 1800's era GPS System was made of wood



Native American tribes in this region ingeniously pioneered trails by bending trees in the forest so they would point the traveler to water and shelter, as well as to burial sites, hunting spots and more. These trees are called Thong Trees.

In Arkansas, the white oak was often used because the tree is both hard and flexible and will live a long time. To form the shape, young saplings were bent over a forked stick and tied down with leather thongs. This formed the tree into a distinctive 'L' shape.

All genuine Thong Trees will have scars left from the controlling thongs and an area called the 'nose.' Both the nose and the message area contain bumps and marks from wounds that were made in the bends of the tree. These marks gave additional information to those who knew how to read them.

The Indian Thong Tree at Woodland Mead Park has been officially authenticated by the Mountain Stewards of Georgia. There are more Indian Thong Trees in this area. Look for them as you explore our region.



Fairfield Bay Historical Complex

Indian Rock House Cave

- Natural cave served as a tribal meeting place for local Indians.
- Indian Rock House is listed on the National Historical Registry.
- Short walking trail takes you to the cave and nearby bluff.



Historic Log Cabin

- Constructed from local stone and log.
- Shows home life in the mid to late 1800's.
- Children in this period had many chores to do and Sarah Long represents one child of this family.



Log Cabin Museum

- Contains permanent and changing exhibits of treasured times from the past.



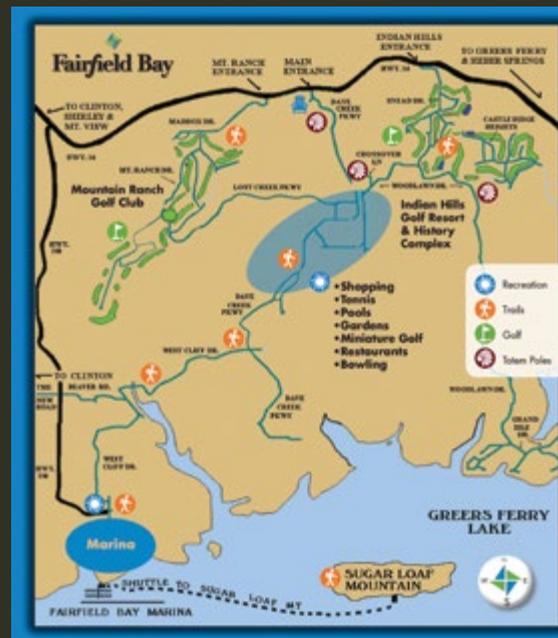
American Totem Pole

- The American Totem Pole is one of the three unique carvings by our local craftsmen, the Woodcarvers Unlimited.

Located at 331 Snead Drive, Fairfield Bay, AR, the Historical Complex shares the parking area at the Indian Hills Golf Resort.

Fun Fact

The Hot Air Balloon Rock next to the Indian Rock Cave is one of many "Living Rocks" throughout the Bay.



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Photo courtesy CJRW



Old Log Cabin and Museum

The Old Log Cabin gives us a taste of home life in the late 1800's

This log cabin, believed to be from around 1850, was moved to its present location atop Indian Rock Cave in the 1950's.

The fireplace was constructed from local stone with a mantle of rosewood walnut and pine. The original "trundle-style" bed, complete with a corn shuck mattress stands against one wall.

A variety of tools and household items can be seen along with clothing and toys, a loom and a weasel or yarn winder.



Contents of the museum range from fashions and jewelry from the past, stuffed local birds and animal specimens, a "rollamatic," a colonial American flag and more.



Also included is a Metaces and Mano (Mortar and Pestle), found on the golf course and documented to be around 4000 years old.



Fun Fact

Greers Ferry Lake and Dam were dedicated in 1963 by President John F. Kennedy in his last public appearance before his fateful trip to Dallas.



Sugar Loaf Mountain

Sugar Loaf Mountain, Arkansas' only island trail, is a favorite destination for hikers, lake enthusiasts and 'geocachers'

Sugar Loaf Mountain is home to one of the first national scenic trails. Built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on an island in the middle of Greers Ferry Lake, the one mile trek to the top rewards visitors with panoramic views of the Ozarks.



Exactly where the mountain first got its name is a bit of a mystery. The Indians called it Tonawanda or Ton-Wan-Dah. And from the top of Ton-Won-Dah with its sparse growth of wind-stunted cedars and gnarled scrub oak they could see for miles in every direction. The Indian name, as tradition has it, was that of a family of renowned arrow makers. An abundance of flint chips and imperfect arrow heads remained on the mountaintop long after the white man arrived to attest to this storied past.

The earliest white settlers who pushed through the dense forest may have called it Sugar Loaf because of the resemblance in shape to the loaves of unrefined sugar in use at the that time. The survey party for the Louisiana Purchase in 1819 took note of the feature "encountered Sugar Lofe (sic), a well-known landmark." Presumably Indians and early day travelers on the nearby Little Red River had used it as a landmark.

Take the Sugar Loaf Shuttle
501.884.6030



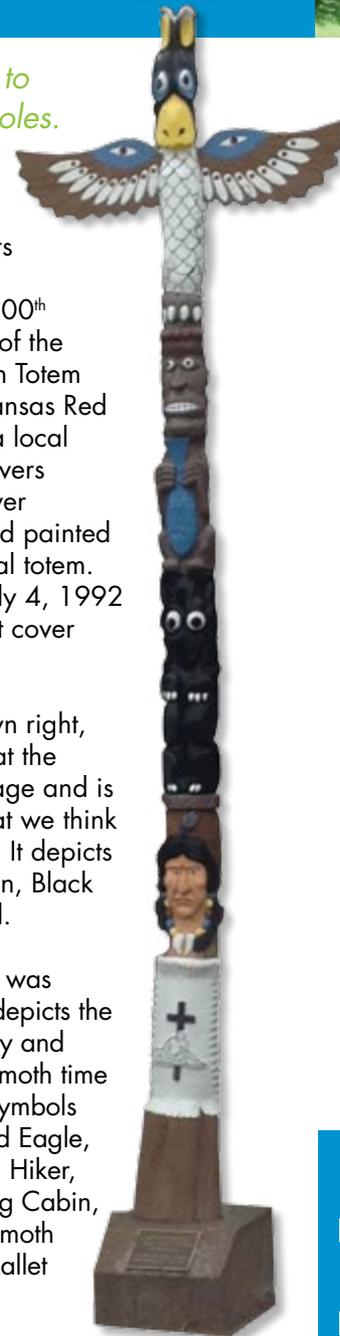
American Totem Poles

Fairfield Bay is home to 3 hand-carved totem poles.

The first Totem Pole was carved by the Woodcarvers Unlimited Club of Fairfield Bay to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Bill of Rights. The American Totem Pole was carved from Arkansas Red Cedar log contributed by a local logging firm. The woodcarvers divided into teams who, over a year's period, carved and painted the symbols on the historical totem. The pole was dedicated July 4, 1992 and is featured on the front cover of this brochure.

A second totem pole, shown right, was carved by Jim White at the request of Indian Rock Village and is more representative of what we think of as an Indian totem pole. It depicts the Good Samaritan, Indian, Black Bear, Fish and Thunderbird.

In 1996, a third totem pole was carved by the club, which depicts the living history of Fairfield Bay and area from the Woolly Mammoth time period to the present. The symbols from top to bottom are: Bald Eagle, Brown Trout, Tennis, Golfer, Hiker, Boars Head (restaurant), Log Cabin, Cave, Indian, Woolly Mammoth and Woodcarvers Logo "Mallet and Chisel."



Indian Rock House Cave

In 1542, de Soto met with the Indians at Indian Rock House Cave seeking the Fountain of Youth.

On the National Historic Registry, this beautiful natural structure sheltered primitive people as far back as 1000 BC and more recently served as a tribal meeting place for the Indian people of this area.



Follow the wooden stairs from the Old Log Cabin to the largest rock house in Arkansas. The cave opening is 100 feet across. The ceiling is 50 feet high, and the cave is 97 feet deep.

Natural springs flow along the rear of the cave and have hollowed out this grotto throughout the centuries. Shifting boulders have created secondary rooms and tunnels running behind the cave giving exit on the other side of the bluff.

Many petroglyphs indicate the presence and activities of large groups encamping there, beginning with the Mound Builders and including the Quapaw, Osage, Cherokee, Shawnee and Delaware nations. In 1776, Indian Rock House was used as a refuge during the 16 days of freezing weather.

Fun Fact

Many of the petroglyphs in Rock House Cave were made during the difficult winter of 1776. The last glyphs appear to be dated 1828.

