

**It’s “finder’s keepers” at the 37 acre plowed Carter of Diamonds State Park in Murfreesboro. This park is the only public diamond mine in the world where you can keep what you find.**

**Source:** [**http://www.arkansas.com**](http://www.arkansas.com)



**Among the state’s greatest assets are its seven national park sites, 2.6 million acres of national forest lands, 13 major lakes, and two mountain ranges.**

**Source:** [**http://www.arkansas.com**](http://www.arkansas.com)



**Hunting and fishing have played a major role in Arkansas tourism. It was tourist-hunters and fishermen who demanded game laws to stop the destruction being carried out by the local residents in the early twentieth century.**

**Source:** [**http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.org**](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.org)

**A recent rise in gas prices encouraged many Arkansans to plan “staycations” and visit the many tourist spots the state has to offer.**

**Source:** [**www.uaex.edu/news/june2012/articles/0622VacationSpending.doc**](http://www.uaex.edu/news/june2012/articles/0622VacationSpending.doc)



**The Arkansas Tourism Development Act provides state sales and use tax credits and income tax credits to businesses initiating approved tourism attraction projects.**

**Source:** [**http://www.arkansasedc.com**](http://www.arkansasedc.com)



**The Arkansas hospitality industry is the second largest industry in the state. It a $5.6 billion industry and employs over 100,000 people. The Arkansas Hospitality Association (AHA) is the official voice of the restaurant and entertainment, hotel and lodging, and travel and tourism industries in Arkansas.**

**Source: <http://www.arhospitatilty.com>**



**Fishing, hunting and wildlife-related recreation generated almost $2.1 billion in expenditures in 2006, comprising a critical sector of the Arkansas economy.**

**Source:** [**http://www.nwf.org**](http://www.nwf.org)

**In the 1920s, the Ozark Playground Association pushed the pristine purity of both nature and inhabitants in Arkansas under the slogan, “The Land of a Million Smiles” to lure tourists into Arkansas and get them to visit, spend money and impact the state’s economy.**

**Source:** [**http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net**](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net)



**There are 52 state parks in Arkansas. Lodging, hiking, fishing, and geocaching are a few of the wonderful recreation activities you can enjoy. In addition, there are 7 national and federal park sites.**

**Source:** [**http://www.arkansasstateparks.com**](http://www.arkansasstateparks.com)

**The Clinton Presidential Center and Park is America’s 12th Presidential Library. Located on the banks of the Arkansas River in Little Rock, the $160 million dollar structure contains 20,000 square feet of library and museum space.** [**http://www.tourarkansas.com**](http://www.tourarkansas.com)



**Crystal Bridges Museum of Modern Art, located in Bentonville, has a permanent collection that spans five centuries of American masterworks ranging from the Colonial era to the current day.**

**Source:** [**http://www.crystalbridges.org**](http://www.crystalbridges.org)



**Tourism in Arkansas provides direct employment to some 58,600 Arkansans.**

**Source:** [**http://www.arkansas.com**](http://www.arkansas.com)



**From the 1870s to about 1920, tourists arrived in Arkansas by train. A new era of tourism began in the state with the arrival of the automobile. In 1913, William Hope “Coin” Harvey helped launch the Ozark Trails Association that eventually marked more than 6,000 miles of roads, thus making that part of the state accessible to tourists.**

**Source:** [**http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net**](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net)

**Festivals, fairs and other special events abound in Arkansas. There’s hardly a weekend in the year when there isn’t a festival in full swing including the Arkansas Folk Festival, Riverfest, Pink Tomato Festival, World’s Championship Duck Calling Contest. Toad Suck Daze, and War Eagle Crafts Fair.**

**Source:** [**http://ww.arkansasmediaroom.com**](http://ww.arkansasmediaroom.com)



**Annual visitation to Arkansas exceeds 23 million travelers.**

**Source:** [**http://www.arkansas.com**](http://www.arkansas.com)

**Travel and tourism expenditures in Arkansas amount to over $5.7 billion each year, contributing to over $400 million in state and local taxes.**

**Source:** [**http://www.arkansas.com**](http://www.arkansas.com)