

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Pine Mountain State Resort Park and Surrounding Area

1. How large is the park? — The park stretches out in linear fashion along the crest and south-facing slope of Pine Mountain and covers over 1,500 acres. Over half the park's acreage is also dedicated State Nature Preserve (868 acres).
2. How far can we see from the dining room? — On a clear day the most distant mountains observable is about 12 miles away and located in Tennessee. When looking out the windows, the mountain continuing on the right is Pine Mountain and the mountain you see on the left is part of the Log Mountains.
3. What are the evergreen trees observed from the dining room? — Eastern Hemlock. The park is home to remnant patches of old growth forest with hemlocks that are 3-4 feet in diameter- and over 300 years old. These trees are currently threatened by the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, an exotic pest species.
4. What is the name of the forest expanse viewed from the dining room? — It is the Kentucky Ridge State Forest, and it adjoins state park property. At 15,251 acres, it ranks as Kentucky's largest state forest, and provides an exceptional wildlife corridor.
5. When was the lodge built? —The original structure (the upper lobby adjacent to the dining room) was constructed in the 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps and is most notably composed of American chestnut logs. The 30 lodge rooms were added in 1963, and the C.V. Whitney Convention Center was constructed in 1991.
6. Are private cottages available at the park? — Yes. The park's compliment of accommodations includes 11 two-bedroom cottages and 9 rustic, log cabins. Some of these accommodations are pet friendly, just inquire at the front desk.
7. Does the park have a campground? — Currently, the park does not have a campground. The closest campground is located in Virginia and is part of the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park.
8. What is the rustic church-like structure with stained-glass windows on the way into the park? — It is the classroom building of the Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. The school was founded in 1926 and provides theological preparation for adults planning to go into ministry service.
9. What are the large black birds observed from the dining room? — These great soaring birds are Turkey Vultures (not to be confused with the wild turkey) and Black Vultures. A communal roost exists seasonally (spring and fall) in the head of the hollow just below.
10. What kinds of animals are resident to the park? — White tailed deer, black bear, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, red fox, striped skunk, opossum, gray squirrel, southern flying squirrel, groundhog, raccoon, mink, muskrat, cottontail rabbit, red-tailed hawk, red-shouldered hawk, great horned owl, barred owl, screech owl, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, eastern box turtles, assorted salamander species, assorted snake species, assorted bats, mice, shrews, voles, moles, and rats among others. Timber rattlesnakes and Copperheads are two venomous snake residents in the park. These snakes should be left alone and avoided!

11. Is the park a good place for birding? – Yes, particularly around the first week of May during the peak of warbler migration through Kentucky. As the year comes full circle, over 120 species of birds have been documented as resident, migrant, or transient.
12. Where is the best location for wildlife viewing? — Park visitors are most likely to encounter random wildlife going about their daily routines when driving-along the Mountain Crest Road through the wilderness sections of the park.
13. Where can we see elk? — There are no elk on the park. The areas frequented by elk in the region are out of the way locales not readily accessed by visitors that are unfamiliar with the landscape. It is best to make reservations with Jenny Wiley State Resort Park or Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park in north-eastern Kentucky for seasonal, guided elk tours or to contact the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife for more information.
14. Whereas the Interpretive Center? — The Pine Mountain Interpretive Center or Nature Center is located adjacent to the lodge just beyond the C.V. Whitney Convention Center. When in front of the lodge, follow the sidewalk and look for directional signs.
15. How do I place a phone call from my accommodation? — To dial room to, room, add a "2" in front of the room number. That is, to call room 227 you would dial, "2227." To dial off the park, dial "9," then the phone number.
16. What is the easiest, trail on the park? -- Of our 14 park trails, the Clear Creek, Hollow Trail is the easiest (flat, level walking); followed by Living Stairway Trail and the Azalea Trail (both moderate). All others are moderately strenuous to very strenuous.
17. Are pets allowed on the park trails? — Yes, but they must be on a leash, and it is important to pick up after them! When visiting parks, it is important to practice the Leave No Trace principles! Pets are NOT allowed on the trails within state nature preserve property. This includes the Hemlock Garden, Timber Ridge, Laurel Cove, and Rock Hotel.
18. What recreational opportunities are offered at the park? — Recreational and interpretive activities are offered from Memorial Day through Labor Day (typically Thursday through Saturday). Additionally, guests can enjoy hiking, nature study, golf, miniature golf, swimming, photography, picnicking, birding, and area touring. A series of special events is also offered annually. See the front desk for more details.
19. When is the peak of fall colors? — It is usually around the 2nd to 3rd week of October, though it may vary depending upon seasonal weather conditions.
20. When is the best time to see the Mountain Laurel in bloom? — The 3rd and 4th weeks Of May generally encompass the peak blooming of Mountain Laurel.
21. When is the peak blooming of wildflowers? — The mountains of southeastern Kentucky actually have three wildflower peaks annually. The 1st peak is usually the 2nd to 3rd week of April and includes many lesser and weedier varieties of spring wildflowers. The second peak is typically the 2nd to 3rd week of May and features the showier variety of celebrated wildflowers. The 3rd peak finally occurs around the 1st to 2nd week of September when summer wildflowers are at the height of their display.
22. Are there venomous snakes in the park? — Yes. Both Northern copperheads and Timber Rattlesnakes are indigenous to the region. Visitors should pay close attention to where they place their hands and feet while

recreating in the wild regions of the park, particularly in the early evening hours. It's recommended that you restrict outdoor activity to well-lit areas after dark in the summer months.

23. How much snow does the park receive annually? — The mountainous region of southeastern Kentucky usually receives 8-15 inches of snow annually. Winters are frequently quite cold and icing conditions are not uncommon.
24. Is the park open year-round? — Yes, with the singular exception of our annual closing for the week of Christmas.
25. What is the elevation of the lodge? — The Herndon J. Evans Lodge is situated at 1,620 feet above sea level. While it seems you're at the top of the mountain from the dining room, the elevation at the mountain's crest is 2,200 feet above sea level.
26. How far is it to Cumberland Falls? — 60 miles. The driving time to the "Niagara of the South" at Cumberland Falls State Resort Park is 1 hour and 10 minutes.
27. Are there other attractions in the vicinity of the park? — Yes. Cumberland Gap National Historical Park lies just 12 miles south featuring Cumberland Gap Pass, Cumberland Gap Tunnel, and the lofty Pinnacle Overlook. Also in the area are the Lincoln Museum in Harrogate, Tennessee (15 miles) and Wilderness Road State Park near Ewing, Virginia (25 miles).
28. Who is Ray Harm? — He's best known for his paintings of wildlife, primarily birds. He's also well known for art marketing and generally credited as the co-founder of the limited-edition art print industry. Harm lived in the vicinity of the park in the late 1960's through the 1970's. The lodge, dining room, and conference rooms today serve as a gallery to showcase most of the prints in the original collection.
29. Are there any fishing opportunities in the vicinity of the park? — Yes. Nearby Clear Creek (along Clear Creek Hollow Trail) is annually stocked with rainbow trout. All trout caught between October 1st - March 31st must be immediately released and only artificial baits may be used during this period. Chenoa Lake (37 surface acres) is located just 9 miles west of the park on Highway 190 and offers fishing for sunfish, largemouth bass, crappie, and catfish. A valid fishing license is required for all anglers 16 years old and up. If you intend to keep trout, a trout stamp is also required.
30. Who can swim in the lodge pool? — The lodge pool is private and open to the park's overnight lodge and cottage guests only.
31. What is the elevation at Chained Rock? — 1,918 feet above sea level. The panoramic overlook at the Chained Rock site is situated 903 feet above the historic city of Pineville, Kentucky. Pineville is 1,015 feet above sea level.