

A Geological and Mountain Bike Tour of the OZ Trails in Northwest Arkansas

Trip Leaders Joel Donohue, Ryan Dupree and Shane Matson

AAPG Midcontinent 2021

Friday October 1st through Sunday October 3rd

Limit 30, \$350 Double Occupancy*

Logistics: Participants will meet Friday afternoon in Bentonville, AR at Hotel 21C. Transportation to and from Tulsa is not provided but can be arranged. Flights into XNA, Northwest Arkansas National Airport, are reasonably priced and convenient for those travelling from out of state.

Course Description: This field trip will take advantage of the magnificent Ozark Outcrop Belt of the Springfield Plateau. In recent years, the region has seen massive investment in mountain biking infrastructure in Northwest Arkansas. New access to outcrops have been developed throughout the region allowing for a fresh look into Paleozoic depositional systems, from the Pennsylvanian into the Ordovician.

Participants meet in Bentonville, Arkansas on Friday October 1 for a happy hour sponsored by Bentonville-based Lawco Energy, at the historic Fred's Hickory Inn. Following happy hour we will adjourn to the Town Square for dinner-on-your-own and to take in an evening of festivities and local bluegrass music.

Saturday morning riders will meet at 7:00 a.m. for a light breakfast and depart from the Hotel 21C on bikes for a guided morning ride on the All American Trail System. We will make our way towards a picnic lunch provided by Airship Coffee at the incredible Coler Mountain Mountain Bike Preserve. The day will finish on two-wheels at 21C for a happy hour. We will once again adjourn for a dinner-on-your-own and more town festivities. Sunday morning we will depart in shuttle vans to Hobbs State Park-Conservation Area on Beaver Lake to ride the eight mile Karst Loop, part of the Epic Trail System of Arkansas. We will return to the hotel by 1 p.m. so participants can travel to Tulsa in time for the Opening Session for the 2021 AAPG Mid-Continent Meeting.

As the trip coincides with both the Downtown Bentonville First Friday block party as well as the nationally recognized Fresh Grass Festival (separate tickets online) the experience is sure to be as epic off the bike as it will be on two wheels and at the outcrop. This trip provides a unique opportunity to witness the emerging cultural center of the midcontinent alongside the geologic beauty of the natural state.

Participants are welcome to bring their own equipment. For those needing mountain bikes or wanting to try the latest and greatest, we have partnered with The Gear Head Experience Center and reserved full-suspension Specialized Mountain bikes. A selection of electric mountain bikes is available.

*Pricing is for Double Occupancy. Single occupancy is available. Please contact Joel Donohue (joel.donohue@gmail.com) or Shane Matson (shanematson@gmail.com) for more information. For questions please email Joel Donohue at Joel.Donohue@joel.donohue@gmail.com