

Black Mesa State Park

HCR 1, Box 8
Kenton, Oklahoma 73946
580/426-2222
TravelOK.com

Black Mesa State Park is located off Hwy 325 approximately 27 miles northwest of Boise City, and approximately 8 miles southeast of Kenton.

The surrounding landscape at Black Mesa State Park tells the story of a prehistoric and diverse culture of people, animals and plants that once inhabited this region. Black Mesa received its name from the thick layer of black rock that was formed from the lava flow of now extinct volcanoes. Beneath this layer of rock is an even older strata of sand, gravel, sandstone and shale. Over 65 million years ago, dinosaurs lived in this once swampy area. Fossilized remains of prehistoric animals and plants are embedded in the rocks underlying the black cap of the formation. Native Americans lived here for thousands of years. From the 1700's until the late 1800's, Plains Indians such as Kiowa, Comanche, Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes hunted buffalo in this region. Spanish explorers, including Coronado, crossed the region in the 1500's. The historic Santa Fe Trail crossed near Black Mesa. The Black Mesa area is where the Rocky Mountains meet the shortgrass prairie. It is unique in that it represents an area where many species of plants and animals are at the easternmost or westernmost portions of their range.

Park Facilities

Camping – Black Mesa State Park has 54 campsites, all of which are first come first serve. There are 29 semi-modern RV sites with water and electric hookups, 5 are pull-through, including a handicapped accessible site. There are 25 tent-sites with grills, tables and fire rings located throughout the park. A comfort station with showers is located adjacent to the main camp areas with a sanitary dump station nearby. A playground area is near the main comfort station.

Day Use – The park has 50 picnic tables available for day use, some with grills. Most of the picnic tables are covered.

A group picnic pavilion is available for family reunions, company picnics and other large gatherings. The pavilion can accommodate up to 24 people and is equipped with water, electrical outlets and a cooking grill. The pavilion can be reserved up to a year in advance. Please call the park office for rate and reservation information.

Group Camp – Black Mesa State Park offers a group camp for large groups, church, family or company gatherings. There are 10 bunkhouses available, with overnight accommodations for 120 people. The group camp includes a fully equipped kitchen and dining hall. A handicapped accessible bathhouse with hot showers is on site. Bunkhouses can be separately rented when the group camp is not occupied. Please call the park office for reservation and rate information.

Recreational Opportunities

Fishing – Lake Carl Etling has fluctuating water levels which could result in limited fishing opportunities when water levels are low. The lake is stocked with trout in winter months.

Hiking Trails – There are two hiking trails located within the park. The Black Mesa Bird Haven Nature Trail is a quarter-mile long easily traveled trail. The Black Mesa Vista Trail is a one-mile, moderately difficult trail.

Mesa Hiking – The Black Mesa hiking trail is in the Black Mesa Nature Preserve, about 15 miles from the state park. The 4.2-mile trail ends at the granite monument, which marks Oklahoma's highest point of elevation. Allow four to six hours for the round-trip hike because the trail has a steep incline. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, a hat, appropriate clothing and bring plenty of drinking water. This trail is not recommended for young children. Motor vehicles, bicycles and horses are prohibited on the trail.

Petrified Log Exhibit – A modern-day link to the ancient forest that was located here millions of years ago.

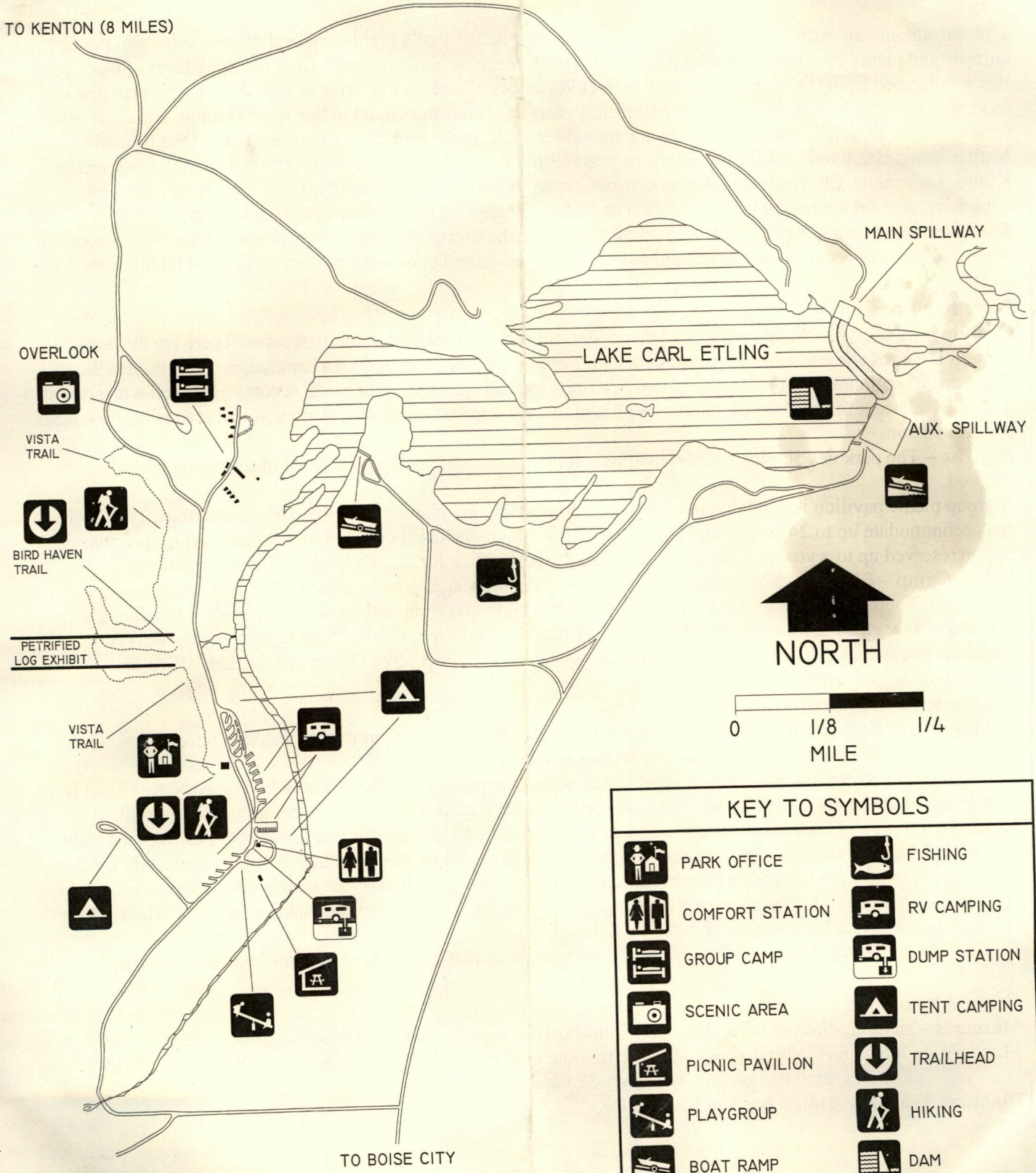
Other Attractions

Museums – Kenton Museum in Kenton, OK, Cimarron Heritage Museum in Boise City, OK

Markers – Oklahoma-Colorado-New Mexico; tri-state marker, 8 miles north of Kenton, OK
Santa Fe Trail markers on west Hwy 325 and north on Hwy 287

Dinosaur Tracks -- 6 miles north of Kenton, OK

BLACK MESA STATE PARK



KEY TO SYMBOLS			
	PARK OFFICE		FISHING
	COMFORT STATION		RV CAMPING
	GROUP CAMP		DUMP STATION
	SCENIC AREA		TENT CAMPING
	PICNIC PAVILION		TRAILHEAD
	PLAYGROUP		HIKING
	BOAT RAMP		DAM