

Beavers Bend State Park :: Oklahoma

Travel Guide

If you want to get out in nature for a few days, Beavers Bend in Southeastern Oklahoma is only a three hour drive from Dallas and a great option for a girls' weekend away or family escape! Below you'll find an easy printable guide to help you navigate your time in Beavers Bend no matter whom you choose to spend it with.

Escape to Beavers Bend *with the Family*

Activities In and Around the State Park

Forest Heritage Center - Located inside the state park, it's a nice place to spend an hour or so. The Center has a free museum that includes wood art that our kids loved (think lots of large, wooden animal sculptures). There is also a gift shop in the Center that is worth a visit. For more information, you can call (580) 494-6497.

Hiking - Just outside the Forest Heritage Center is a 1-mile looped "Tree Trail." The trail cannot accommodate strollers and has a short but fairly steep climb at the beginning/end of the loop, but otherwise it's a good option for younger kids as well as less experienced hikers. Approximately half of the trail follows along Beaver Creek, where kids will have a blast walking on the rocks in the creek and watching for minnows, tadpoles, and water striders.



The trail also takes you through lots and lots of trees (it is the "Tree Trail," after all!). Try to spot animal caves among the trees along the path!

If you have older kids or are otherwise interested in longer hikes, there are plenty of other hiking trails as well. *You can get more information on hiking trails [here](http://www.forestry.ok.gov/hiking-trails-in-beavers-bend-state-park). (http://www.forestry.ok.gov/hiking-trails-in-beavers-bend-state-park)*

Beavers Bend Depot - Also located inside the park, it's another great place to go with young kids. Its big attraction is a 15-minute train ride through part of the state park.

Be advised to watch for white-tailed deer on the ride. Near the end of the ride is "Wahoo Hill"—not exactly a roller coaster, but kids might hold on as if it were.

The train runs twice per hour and costs \$5.75 for adults and \$5.00 for children 12 and under. While waiting for the train, enjoy ice cream cones at the Depot or a yummy funnel cake!

Beavers Bend Depot also **has guided trail rides that last 45 minutes to an hour.** The ride is slow and easy, and it would be a good option for kids and inexperienced riders. *The cost is \$29.50 per person, although children age 4 and younger may ride double with an adult for \$14.75. Reservations are recommended, (580) 494-6613.*



The Depot is closed Mondays. For other information including hours, you can call the same number, (580) 494-6613.

Finally, kids might like the playground, located just across the road from the Depot.

Swim Beach – Located inside the park, the water is a bit cool even in July, but kids will enjoy getting their feet wet and throwing rocks into the water. It’s a good idea to bring shoes to wear in the water.

We didn’t try the nearby Paddle Boats or Miniature Golf, but I hope to on our next visit. *For more information about these activities, you can call (580) 494-6512.*

Escape to Beavers Bend with the Girls

Girls Gone Wine - A wine-themed gift shop and tasting room near the state park. The wine tasting is free (although tips are accepted). You can choose to taste either the “dry” wines or the “sweet” wines. *(My favorite was “Spicy Sheilas,” a Shiraz-style red wine.)* If you find a wine you like, you can purchase a glass to enjoy on the patio (and you get to keep the souvenir glass).

Even if you don’t care for the wine, I think the gift shop is neat and worth a visit. *The hours are noon to 6 or 8 p.m., depending on the day and time of year, closed Sundays. For more information, you can call (580) 306-9463 or visit the Girls Gone Wine [website](#).*

River Float Trip - An 8-mile float down the lower Mountain Fork River. The first 3 miles of our float trip had rapids (described as having a Class 2+ rating, dependent upon the water level) and the “Presbyterian Falls,” which is a 3-foot waterfall that spans the river.

“Is this an activity for you? I found the last 5 miles of the float trip, which can be done as its own trip, to be more enjoyable. It was quite beautiful and at times relaxing. In some places the river was almost still, but in other places the water would move fast enough that we struggled to keep our canoe going in the right direction, and we nearly collided with a couple of low-hanging tree branches. If I do another float trip down the Mountain Fork River, I’ll stick with the 5-mile version of the trip, or investigate other trips on parts of the river that might be easier. But know that if you are looking for an adventure, you can find it on the 8-mile float down the lower Mountain Fork River.”



For our float trip, we used [Wild Goose Canoe & Kayak Rentals](#), (580) 584-2277. If you go, be sure to wear water shoes and take plenty of sunscreen, bug repellent, water, snacks, and something to secure all of your belongings. And don't take anything you don't want to get wet. Very, very wet.

Massages - Massage therapists can come to your cabin, Stephanie Mullins, (580) 212-8060 and Josh Roberts, (580) 236-3881. The massages were a splurge (\$100 for a 1-hour massage), but excellent.

Another option is the nearby [Body Harmony Day Spa](#), (580) 584-6339.

Other Activities

For golf, there is the Cedar Creek Golf Course, (580) 494-6456.

In addition, Beavers Bend is known for its trout fishing in the river and streams, and for its bass fishing in the lake. (Adults need an Oklahoma fishing license.) Boats and jet skis can be rented at [Beavers Bend Marina](#) on Broken Bow Lake.

Where to Eat for Any Occasion

Some of our best meals in Beavers Bend were ones that we cooked at our own cabin! I brought a few cooking supplies from home, but we found everything else we needed at [Broken Bow's single grocery store](#), Pruett's Food, 201 S. Park Drive, which is a 15-minute drive from the state park.

[Grateful Head Pizza](#) is my favorite restaurant in the area for adults and kids alike. The pizza is great, and they have take-out available. 10251 N. Hwy 259, (580) 494-6030.

[Abendigo's Grill & Patio](#) (closed Sundays and Mondays) is the most upscale restaurant in the area. *I went there twice and had very slow service both times. The waiting made it difficult with the kids (and the kids' menu is a bit pricey—\$7.99 for mac & cheese). But it was fun with the girls.* If you go, try the Sicilian Nachos. And if you want to drink wine, you have to bring it yourself (and pay \$5 for a membership). 259 Stevens Gap Rd, (580) 494-7222.

[The Blue Rooster](#) has awesome fried yellow squash like my mom and grandma used to make when I was a kid. The fried catfish is good, too. But be warned that almost everything on the menu is fried. If you're with a group and can order family style, you can get a lot of food for your money. US Hwy 259 (next to Grateful Head Pizza), (580) 494-6361.

Steven's Gap Restaurant is known for having excellent fried catfish, but I haven't been there yet. 9955 N. US Hwy 259, (580) 494-6350.

Beaver's Bend Restaurant is the restaurant located within the state park. It's supposed to be a great place for breakfast (opens at 8 a.m.) and has a nice view of the Mountain Fork River. (580) 494-6551.

Where to Stay

Beavers Bend has many beautiful cabins in wooded areas close to the state park that can be rented through various management companies. If you're traveling with a group, you can rent a large cabin or two or more smaller cabins that are near each other.

Our best cabin-rental experience this summer was with [Beavers Bend Getaways](#), (580) 494-6116. I've also heard good things about [Beavers Bend Creative Escapes](#), (580) 306-2265—although I haven't had any personal experience with that company yet.

And of course, there are also smaller cabins available within the park, along with RV and tent camping, as well as Lakeview Lodge.

Finally, if you care about staying connected while you're in Beavers Bend, I highly recommend finding a cabin with wireless Internet. Your ability to make cell phone calls may be spotty, and your ability to receive emails and text messages may be even worse. And you can forget about connecting to the Internet while you're there without Wi-Fi.

To see more photos and read more about Amy's experience at Beavers Bend, visit her posts:

[Beavers Bend State Park :: Escape with Your Family](#)

[Beavers Bend State Park :: Escape with the Girls](#)