

THINGS TO DO Little Rock, AK

Highlights of Downtown Little Rock; to entice you to visit Little Rock before and/or after the March 2020 Quadrennial UMW Meeting. Many are walkable or only a trolley ride from the Marriott; a couple are a ten minute drive.

Please check the websites provided for more information, hours, admissions, tours and updates. Many are free!

The Clinton Presidential Library ~a three floor Museum with Interactive exhibits, more than one million photos, gifts that the Clinton received as president, and replicas of the Cabinet Room and the Oval Office.

The temporary exhibit, running November 23, 2019-May 25, 2020, "Like It's 1999": American Popular Culture in the 1990s", features fads, movies, television shows, trivia, music and fashion from the 1990s.

<https://www.clintonlibrary.gov>

Don't miss the **Ann Frank Tree** to the right of the entrance; a subtle, yet powerful exhibit promoting social justice leaving a legacy of human rights. A sapling from the tree outside Ann Frank's window. "A symbol of life, unity and hope".

<https://www.clintonfoundation.org/anne-frank-tree>

Heifer Village & Urban Farm ~ if you missed the Heifer Internet Ubuntu, this is a must for UMW, as their mission aligns closely with UMW. This educational center beside the International Head Quarters is a mix of galleries, interactive hands-on exhibits, activities, videos, gardens and a farm that showcases the concept Heifer uses in its efforts to end hunger and poverty. Learn about major global issues and what we can do about them.

Since 1944, Heifer has assisted over 22.6 million families from more than 125 countries to help them improve their quality of life and become self-reliant.

<https://www.heifer.org>

Little Rock Central High School ~On the Civil Rights Trail, LRCH, the site of forced desegregation in 1957, is the only still-functioning school that is a National Historic Site. The visitor center and museum documents the events and offers park ranger-led tours. See the historically preserved **Magnolia Mobil Gas station**, a gathering place during the Civil Right Movement across the street from Central High School. Sit on a **replica of the bench** commemorating a key moment from the crisis where one of the Little Rock Nine sat, taunted, after being barred from the school by national guardsmen.

"**Testaments**", the Civil Rights Memorial sculpture of the Little Rock Nine, African American students that courageously integrated Little Rock Central High School is at the State Capitol.

<https://www.nps.gov/chsc/index.htm>

<https://civilrightstrail.com/attraction/little-rock-central-high-school-national-historic-site/>

Mosaic Templars Cultural Center ~preserves, interprets and celebrates African American history and culture in Arkansas. The museum's exhibits highlight fraternal organizations, African American entrepreneurs as well as integration.

<http://www.mosaictemplarscenter.com>

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The ESSE Purse Museum ~ devoted to purses and their history. “A Century of Women and Handbags 1900-1999”, it explores by decades, the evolution of handbags, the women who carried them, and what they carried in their purses. The only purse museum in the United States, Esse, is one of only three in the world exclusively dedicated to handbags.

<https://essepursemuseum.com>

SoMa District ~ South Main Street; a funky, nifty neighborhood with unique shops and varying restaurants.

<https://www.somalittlerock.com>

Loblolly Scoop Shop ~ Hand crafted, small batch ice cream, fizzy sodas, and other sweet treats made using fresh, seasonal ingredients, without additives; The plethora of ever changing flavors from original recipes are locally inspired.

<http://www.loblollycreamery.com>

The Root Cafe ~ builds community and connectedness through local food and sustainable activities. Supporting local Arkansas farmers and producers, The Root, makes Little Rock a better place to live by helping to create a more just, sustainable, and delicious food system.

<http://www.therootcafe.com>

South Main Creative ~ a creative twist on the traditional antique mall; An eclectic collection of antique, vintage, up-cycled and reclaimed treasures with a variety of art, craft and DIY classes

<http://southmaincreative.com>

Quapaw Quarter~ oldest and most historic neighborhood in Little Rock, featuring restored 19th-century homes around the governor's mansion. Nine square miles of beautiful antebellum and Victorian homes adjoining SoMa. Spectacular with spring blooms!

<https://www.littlerock.com/explore/downtown/quapaw-quarter>

The Old State House Museum ~next door to the Marriot, the oldest oldest state capitol building west of the Mississippi River, displays Arkansas culture and history artifacts, Arkansas art, pottery, African-American quilts, Civil War battle flags, and more.

<http://www.oldstatehouse.com>

On the second floor ~ “**First Ladies of Arkansas: Women of Their Times**” explores the lives and accomplishments of governor’s wives throughout Arkansas’s history and contains the largest exhibition of first ladies’ inaugural ball gowns outside the Smithsonian. The newly-renovated exhibit also includes video interviews with many of Arkansas’s first ladies detailing their accomplishments and efforts during their time as First Lady.

<http://www.oldstatehouse.com/exhibits/Permanent-Exhibits/first-ladies-of-arkansas-women-of-their-times>

Riverfront Park and the Riverwalk ~behind the Marriott and convention center with historic markers, playgrounds, sculptures, and trails, stretches for eleven blocks.

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<https://www.littlerock.gov/for-residents/parks-and-recreation/city-parks-and-maps/details/?park=Riverfront%20Park>

La Petite Roche Plaza ~ commemorates and details the history of the “little rock”, our city was named for by the French.

Trolley ~ Three historic, replica streetcars are a fun, unique way to take in the downtown sights of the “twin cities.” The “green line” covers downtown; the “blue line” crosses the Arkansas River to North Little Rock’s historic Argenta district.

<https://www.littlerock.com/little-rock-destinations/rock-region-metro-streetcar>
https://rrmetro.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Streetcar-Map_NEW.pdf

The Galleries at Library Square ~four art galleries, including a retail gallery, feature the work of Arkansas artists and exhibit art related to the state. The exhibition galleries host rotate including works from the Central Arkansas Library permanent collection.
<https://cals.org/butler-center-galleries/>

The River Market's Ottenheimer Market Hall ~houses fifteen merchants, offering an international bazaar of food, specialty items, coffees, and fresh take-out.

<https://www.rivermarket.info/dine-drink/market-hall-vendors>
<https://www.rivermarket.info>

Museum of Discover ~ Arkansas’s premier science center, ranked 6th in the nation with more than 90 hands on exhibits; featured on NBC’s “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon”! Fun for all ages!!!
<https://museumofdiscovery.org>

Historic Arkansas Museum ~celebrates Arkansas frontier history and heritage. Visit a pre-civil war neighborhood and interact with a living history characters to see first-hand how early residents lived. Explore Arkansas made art and artifacts.

<http://www.historicarkansas.org>

Inland Maritime Museum ~on the north shore of the Arkansas River, is the only place in the world where you can see two floating Naval vessels that bookend World War II.

Surrounding the facility are two memorials dedicated to submarines and a **Peace Garden** for the community to celebrate the ideal of peace in this war-torn world.

<http://aimmuseum.org>

MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History ~explores the military history of the state through artifacts, photographs, documents, uniforms, weapons, and other military items. The birthplace of General Douglas MacArthur and one of the oldest in the region.

<https://www.littlerock.gov/for-residents/parks-and-recreation/macarthur-museum-of-arkansas-military-history/>

The Korean War Memorial ~East of the building in MacArthur Park, honoring Arkansans killed, is one of the most impressive Korean War Memorials in the United States..

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Arkansas State Capital ~ a three-quarters scale replica of the national capitol building in Washington, DC, used in many movies as a stand in, features Arkansas granite, six bronze doors, three Tiffany chandeliers and a 24-karat gold plated cupola. The Vietnam Veterans' Memorial is located on the southeast corner of the grounds.

<https://www.littlerock.com/little-rock-destinations/arkansas-state-capitol>

<https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/state-capitol>

The Old Mill ~ a historic re-creation of an 1880's abandoned water-powered grist mill dedicated to the memory of Arkansas's pioneers. With It's unique concrete sculptures and gardens, the Old Mill is frequently used for photographs, picnics and weddings. Springtime is breathtaking!

http://nlrpr.org/parks/old_mill

The Little Rock Zoo ~ home to nearly 700 animals representing 200+ species, many on the endangered list.

<https://littlerockzoo.com>