

## Hot Springs:

### Healing waters, Bathhouse Row, and Tourism

The unique hot springs, from which the city gained its name, provides the unifying element of the history of Hot Springs. The springs were known as a place of peace to the Caddo Indian inhabitants of the area long before white men set foot in the valley. Hernando Desoto and his men marched through the area in 1541, staying several weeks to enjoy the special waters. The thermal springs were the attraction for the first settlers who arrived in 1807 and by 1832 Ludovicus Belding was renting rooms to visitors attracted to the "healing waters." To preserve the springs, Hot Springs was named the first National Reservation in 1832 and was later named a National Park in 1912.



## National Spa & Recreation Center

After Hot Springs became a National Park, it grew in popularity as a famous national spa and recreation center. During the early 1900's, many people flocked to the area to experience the waters credited with curative powers. Elaborate bathhouses were built to accommodate the visitors who traveled to enjoy the springs as spa treatments. Historic Bathhouse Row, is a collection of eight architecturally significant bathhouses, most of which were built between 1912 and 1923. Only the Buckstaff currently operates as a bathhouse today. The Fordyce, the most elaborate bathhouse, serves as the National Park Service's Visitor Center. The remaining bathhouses are in a development program.

## Abundant Natural Resources

The thermal springs are just one of the many natural resources that have aided in the development of Hot Springs. Abundant timber, clean water, and mineral resources have provided the basis for many thriving industries including the continued attraction of tourists. During the 1950's, initial efforts were made to broaden the employment base in Hot Springs. Today, many businesses choose Hot Springs as their business site for the outstanding quality of life that residents, retirees, and visitors have been enjoying for years. The major economic generators of the community are tourism, retirement, manufacturing, and medical services.

## A Sense of Community

Hot Springs offers many amenities of larger cities with excellent medical facilities, nationally recognized school districts, and a wide range of retail and service outlets, all within a community that is friendly, safe and beautiful.

Everything that you need to relax, recreate, and renew your spirits is here, from enjoying the area's exquisite natural beauty to participating in fun and challenging outdoor activities, as well as a host of historical, cultural, recreational, and family attractions.

In the heart of downtown lies Hot Springs National Park, featuring thermal water displays, architecturally stunning bathhouses, and immaculate hiking trails. The lakes, which surround the city, provide a beautiful setting for home sites and water sports.



**Business is Beautiful:**

Located in the heart of Arkansas, Hot Springs/Garland County is an affordable answer for business and industry. Hot Springs' lower cost of living also means lower operational costs in a great setting.

A local community college, a technical college, and three universities located within 50 miles secure a knowledgeable and available workforce. Workforce training assistance is also available. Within the past year, 1,200 new jobs have been created.

Technology and transportation meet at Fiber Park located adjacent to the Hot Spring Municipal Airport. Railroad and trucking services are available for transportation needs.

**Income\***

Median Household Buying Income:

- 1998: \$25,358
- 2000: \$26,030

Household breakdown:

- \$10,000 - \$19,000: 32.5%
- \$20,000 - \$34,999: 28.4%
- \$35,000 - \$49,999: 18.5%
- \$50,000 & over: 20.6%

**Major Industries**

	Earnings (millions)	Covered Employmt
Manufacturing	\$113.3	3,932
Nonmanufacturing	\$708.6	30,392
Educ. & Health Svc.	\$196.6	6,250
Retail Trade	\$127.3	8,368
Wholesale & Retail	\$99.8	5,442
Local Government	\$73.9	2,718
Leisure & Hospitality	\$67.8	5,651
Construction & Trans	\$52.5	2,259
Business Svc.	\$51.6	1,980
Financial Activities	\$42.3	1,509

\* Source: "2001 Survey of Buying Power"

**Location and Climate:**

Hot Springs is located slightly southwest of the geographic center of the state and rests amid the gently rolling Ouachita Mountains. The central location offers easy access to the entire nation.

Transportation to Hot Springs is convenient with ground service including an Intra-city Transit System, a major bus line, and 10 motor freight carriers.

By rail, Hot Springs has new direct service to Malvern and Little Rock. Amtrak serves four times weekly with service from Chicago to Dallas, San Antonio, and Los Angeles.

Air Transportation includes one commercial airline along with charter and rental services. Hot Springs Municipal Airport features a 6,600 ft runway. Convenient shuttle service is available to the Little Rock International Airport.

Hot Springs' climate is mild with moderate temperatures and well distributed precipitation. Hot Springs averages 54 inches of rainfall and only 4.5 inches of snow fall a year. The average daily maximum temperature is 75 degrees F and the average daily minimum temperature is 52 degrees F.

**Average Temperature:**

	High	Low
January	40	9
February	44	24
March	50	30
April	60	40
May	69	50
June	75	62
July	85	70
August	88	72
September	75	62
October	68	55
November	50	40
December	42	28

**Quick Facts:**

Population

- Garland County: 88,068
- Hot Springs: 35,750
- Service Area: 255,900

Percent Population by Age Group

- 18-24 yrs: 7.4
- 25-44 yrs: 10.7
- 44-64 yrs: 20.6
- 65+ yrs: 40.2

Median age of population: 42.5  
Garland County Households: 38,600

Estimated Effective Buying Income in Garland County

- 1999: \$1,324 million
- 2000: \$1,376
- 2001: \$1,433

**Distances to Hot springs:**

	Miles	Km.
Atlanta	559	899
Chicago	694	1117
Dallas	283	455
Denver	910	1464
Kansas City	413	665
Los Angeles	1657	2666
Memphis	192	309
New York	1292	2079
St. Louis	406	653

