

# ARKANSAS

## Winter smallmouth fishing

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Fish in February & early March in the deep pools, for crappie, spotted bass, walleye, rock bass & sunfish. Late winter is the time to go. Here are some top waters.

### Upper Saline River

The scenic Ouachita Mountain upper divisions of the Saline River above Benton — Alum Fork Saline River & North Fork Saline River meet at 34.60053 -92.61955. The 1.5 miles down to Lyle Park has bank cover & hard to fish.

**1 Benton's Lyle Park** (off AR 5 just north of town)

**34.58710 -92.60485**

**2 Lowhead dam**, pool 1.5 miles downstream from put-in, still north of Benton.

**34.56907 -92.61018**

**3 I-30 Bridge in Benton**, another 1.1 miles down

**34.55591 -92.62080**

**Cherry Gingles Access** (off the eastbound I-30 exit 116)

**4 Hwy 291 Bridge**, road south along River for 1 mile

**34.44140 -92.59974**

**5 Fitzhugh Acc CR 354**

**34.36611 -92.61404**

**6 Hwy 270E Prattsville Bridge**, road north along River for 0.6 mile

**34.31954 -92.58849**

### Upper Ouachita River

The Ouachita River above Lake Ouachita is clear, cool & fast-flowing, & there's a good mix of long, deep pools & rapids. Fish beside boulders & rock ledges. One popular float-fishing stretch is the 10-mile run from Oden to the Rocky Branch Campground. Basically, go east out of Mena & take any road south of **Hwy 88** to find the River & fish. Try these on your way to

**1 Polk Rd 74 Bridge**, east & north of Mena, about 1.5 miles east of Hwy 59

**34.60673 -94.16815**

**2 Little Hope Rd Bridge**

**34.57911 -93.88196**

**3 AR 379 Oden bridge**

**34.60872 -93.77903**

**4 Rocky Branch Campground** at U.S. 270 crossing, Mt Ida. There's a south loop here, if you dare.

**34.61126 -93.70136**

### Caddo River

Check at [caddoriver.com](http://caddoriver.com) for all info. The best float-fishing starts on a six-mile stretch from.

**1 Caddo Gap**

**34.38646 -93.60749**

**2 US 70 bridge Glenwood**, Caddo Camping & Canoe

**34.32103 -93.55399**

**3 City Park** in Glenwood

**34.32051 -93.54206**

An eight-mile float.

**4 US 70 bridge** Glenwood

**5 Amity AR 182 bridge**

**34.29227 -93.45749**

### **Richland Creek**

Richland Creek, a tributary of the Buffalo River, winds 30 miles through Ozark Mountains downstream from Pelsor in Newton & Searcy counties. It is seldom floatable because of its steep drops, big rocks & narrow chutes, but if you're willing to hike to some of its backcountry stretches, you can enjoy wade fishing for smallmouth. The deep pools, followed by noisy rapids, are a brownie fisherman's delight. Try working the rocky stream bed in pools with a jig-and-pig or small crawfish-imitation crankbaits. Locals also use live crayfish, minnows & other natural baits.

**1 Sand Gap/Pulsar**, Pope County, AR at the junction of Hwy 7 & 16.

**35.72096 -93.09573**

**3 Richland Creek** Campground

**35.79727 -92.93496**

**3 Searcy 12 Hwy** ford

**35.90034 -92.89595**

**4 Searcy 14 Hwy** ford

**35.92748 -92.89347**

**5 Woolum Ford**, CR 14, enters Buffalo River

**35.96999 -92.88725**