

# Crystal Vista

## Ouachita National Forest



Crystal  
Collection Area



Hiking

### Trail Highlights

Crystal Vista is nestled among the trees high atop Gardner Mountain. The trail starts at the base of the mountain at an elevation of 900 feet and continues about a mile to a final elevation over 1,200 feet. The hike is steep and takes about 25 minutes.

Once on top of the mountain, you will come upon a 4-acre opening which was a commercial crystal mine. Quartz crystals can be easily collected from the ground surface. Continue to walk north a short distance to the top of the ridge and enjoy a spectacular view of Lake Ouachita and the surrounding landscape. To the south, the view opens up onto hardwood/pine forests characteristic of north facing slopes on the Ouachita National Forest.

### For More Information:

Womble Ranger District  
P.O. Box 255  
1523 Highway 270 E.  
Mount Ida, AR 71957  
(870) 867-2101

### Remember:

- Crystals are for personal use only and not for resale.
- Camping or fires are not allowed.
- Only hand tools such as trowels and rockhammers are permitted.
- Steep slopes are unstable. For your safety please avoid these areas.
- All motorized vehicles must be left at the parking area at the base of the trail.

Crystal Vista is a primitive site without developed facilities such as drinking water or restrooms. There is no garbage pickup so come prepared to pack out whatever you pack in. For an enjoyable experience you will want to carry water, a bag for the crystals and wear a hat, sun screen, and insect repellent.

**Location:** From Mt. Ida, travel south on Highway 27 for 3.8 miles and turn left (east) on county road 2237 (Owley Rd.). Continue on 2237 for 4.1 miles to Crystal Vista trailhead.

**Fees:** None.

**Facilities:** None.

**Open:** Year round.



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