



# EUREKA SPRINGS

## ARKANSAS

Eureka Springs was a favorite of Robert Ripley of Ripley's Believe it or not. The town has been featured many times in the cartoon, including:

- none of the streets cross at right angles and there are no stoplights in town.
- Every floor of the seven-story Basin Park Hotel is ground level.
- At St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, you enter through the bell tower.
- Pivot Rock

Thorncrowne Chapel in Eureka Springs ranks as the fourth most significant American architectural structure behind the Sears Tower, the Empire State Building, and the Chrysler Building.

The famous neon sign hanging over Palace Bath House entrance was the first neon sign installed west of the Mississippi River; (purportedly built by the French inventor of neon, Mr. Georges and shipped from France to America, then by rail to E.S. and then by truck to the Palace Hotel.)

According to local folklore, Jesse James and his gang hid in the caves around Eureka Springs.

Eureka Springs has more than 60 natural springs, the reason visitors first came in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. More than a dozen of these springs have been restored and can be visited today.

The ninth governor of Arkansas, Powell Clayton, made his home in Eureka Springs. Entrepreneur, poet, statesman . . . and one of the most famous political "villains" of his era. The original Clayton residence is the present-day home of Crescent Cottage Inn.

The original Main Street is now one level underground. Built in a low level gulch, alongside a small spring-fed creek, it suffered from frequent runoff problems and quickly earned the nickname "Mud" Street. When road improvements were made, it was necessary to raise the overall level of the two streets and required that a number of businesses along Main Street create new entrances on the second floor, thereby making basements out of the once street level facades. These original entrance levels were walled off and now lie hidden within a string of disconnected subterranean limestone tunnels.

The only city in America whose entire historic downtown is listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Lake Leatherwood City Park is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest city park in the country.

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