



## Touring Hot Springs National Park with your Class

Reservations for group tours should be scheduled at least three weeks in advance by calling 501-620-6715. We can schedule tours beginning at 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### *What can we do on a tour?*

#### **Audiovisuals**

The park movie shows on the hour and half hour with the the first showing at 9:30 a.m. *Valley of Vapors* is 15 minutes long and gives a brief history of the use of the hot springs. *Taking the Baths*, a 9-minute video, tells what the traditional bath routine is. **You can have** a copy of these to watch with your class before your visit and then return the video when you come. We advise viewing both of these for background information on the park and baths. Just ask the ranger to send a copy to you when you call for a tour reservation.

#### **Guided Tours**

##### Fordyce Bathhouse Tour

The guide will take you through the restored bathhouse rooms. You will hear about why people took the baths and how they took them. You will also hear about what else there was to do at the bathhouse. In the gymnasium, the students will be able to hold a medicine ball.

This tour takes about 30 minutes. It is best if only 25-30 students are in one group. If you are bringing several classes at a time, we will try to have more than one guide available or to have one group watch the movie while the others tour and then switch.

##### The Springs Tour

The guide will take the group to the open springs outside nearby for a talk about how the water gets hot. Students will also be able to taste the hot spring water. This tour takes about 15 minutes.

##### Discovering the Waters Tour

If you are interested in a more in-depth geology talk, ask for the full 35-minute tour that includes part of the Grand Promenade and more about the geology.

#### **Self Guiding Tour**

Any group may tour without a guide. We recommend that an adult accompany all groups and direct their learning by using the Fordyce floor plan.

Groups are welcome to eat their lunches on the grassy Arlington Lawn area by the hot springs cascade. Park maintenance staff ask that all lunch trash be taken back to the school or left in a box next to the trash can. Please do not stuff it in the trash cans. We encourage you to recycle.

**If you must cancel a tour reservation, please notify the park as soon as possible at 501-620-6715.**