

Mountain

STANDARD TIME



QUARTZ MOUNTAIN rejoins the Oklahoma State Parks system with a renovated lodge, updated amenities, and a new lease on life. Pack your hiking shoes, your swimsuit, and your sunscreen, and get ready to get reacquainted with this beloved park.

A **LONG ANY HIGHWAY** in southwestern Oklahoma near Altus, the land ebbs from the road in an expanse of pastures and croplands, a placid ocean of cotton fields, wheat, cattle, and horizon that seems infinite. As you cut farther south, though, rust-colored peaks gradually emerge from the hazy edge of sky. To an unfamiliar traveler, Quartz Mountain, a smaller outcropping of the Wichita Mountain range, must be a surprising development in this pastoral scene. The rugged granite boulders are an abrupt departure from the relative flatness that surrounds them, like they were haphazardly dropped by a giant who shrugged and then went on his way. It's no surprise, then, that these striking hills have been a landmark and gathering place for locals and travelers for generations.



BY MEGAN ROSSMAN

Located near Altus, Quartz Mountain State Park is a recreational oasis within southwestern Oklahoma's sprawling prairies.

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