

Review of Turner Falls Park, Oklahoma

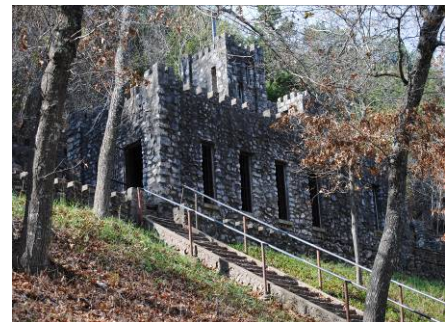
On a recent family trip and quite by accident, my family and I stumbled across a small little known park called Turner Falls.

It's located just off of I-35 at exit 51 in the Arbuckle Mountains. After exiting the highway, turn left and proceed into the hills. After a couple of miles, you will see the well marked park entrance on the right. The park is nestled in a valley along Honey Creek, which has carved beautiful formations all along the path.

Beginning right at the entrance, visitors are treated to natural rock pools of crystal clear water. Walking back along the creek valley, you reach the 77 foot high Turner Falls from which the park gets its name. These are the highest falls in Oklahoma. Water tumbles down the picturesque falls into the swimming area below. Also located in the area are three caves carved back into the mountains. Along the path back towards the falls and up on the hills to the right are several rock "Castles" for the kids to explore as well as several hiking trails.



The park has cabins and camping available, including RV hookups. I mentioned the find to my Aunt and Uncle in Oklahoma City and they said they used to visit there regularly to swim and cool off in the summer. While I think the park would be awesome in the summer, it was very nice in the fall as well since all the trees in and around the park had changed colors.



Also, off the same exit are the Chickasaw National Recreation Area and the Arbuckle Wilderness, which includes a drive-through safari. Don't plan to drive your RV though however; they aren't allowed.

If you're traveling north out of Texas along I-35, I'd recommend planning a detour to visit Turner Falls for a picnic or a refreshing swim! (<http://turnerfallspark.com>)

By Jim Bray

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