“ROADTRIP!”

Imagine you are stuck at home for weeks at a time. You are eager for an adventure and the opportunity to relax. You live in Little Rock and would like to visit Bath-house row in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

How would you get there today? What vehicle would you use? What route would you take? How long would you travel? According to Google, the fastest route today is by car or automobile.

- Driving on I-30 W, to US-70 W
- Travelling roughly 54 miles
- Taking approximately 52 minutes

So how would you have made the same journey in 1836? Provided below is a map of Arkansas roadways. In 1836, there was a direct route from Little Rock to Hot Springs. Using the map’s key, it appears the route was approximately 45 miles long. Below would have been your travel options in the 1830s.
Only two methods of travel are feasible - walking or by horse and carriage.

**Using the information provided, answer the following questions:** How long would your journey take? What would you carry with you and could that slow you down? Recalculate your travel time based on your slower speed. Could you travel that distance in 1 day? If not, where do you think you might sleep?
Walking:

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Horse & Carriage:

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Historic Arkansas Museum is a historic site museum, interpreting the territorial and early statehood periods of Arkansas. For other educational materials, including videos, online tours, and more, visit our website or our Facebook page.