

Outdoors in Missouri

Missouri's wide range of natural features makes it an exciting destination to visit for those seeking unique outdoor experiences.

Whether it is the prairies in the west, the karst landscapes in the south, the glacial plains in the north, or the lowlands near the "Big Muddy," Missouri has something to offer everyone.

In fact, Missouri's abundance of natural features means you can find national parks, forests and lakes; state parks; state conservation areas; and county/city parks all in the Show-Me State.

Visiting Missouri's natural wonders requires some preparation. Like any other trip you have to figure out where you are going, how to get there, where you might stay, and what you need to pack. Imagine you are heading out to visit one of Missouri's many natural features, and find the answers to key questions.

To help make your trip a success, follow these steps:

- 1.** Decide where you would like to visit. Get a Missouri map or go online and locate a natural feature, national park, state park or conservation area you would like to visit. What makes your destination unique?

What physical features might you expect to find there? How does the location of your destination impact its features? Will there be guides available to assist you at your destination?

- 2.** Plan your transportation. How are you going to get there – car, airplane, boat, bus, train? What direction do you need to travel? What roads might you take? How many miles will you end up traveling both to and from your destination?

- 3.** Plan your accommodations. Where will you stay once you arrive at your destination? Will you need reservations or a permit? Where will you get your food, or will you take it with you?

- 4.** What activities might you do once you reach your destination? Would you be spending time on land, on water, or both? Would you need any special equipment to do your activity (i.e. tent, backpack, boat)? Who else might be there enjoying the same activities?

As you can see, planning a trip in the Missouri outdoors involves a lot of details. Whether you head out for a day or a week, knowing key information about where you are going and how you will take care of your needs will make your trip enjoyable and fun.



To find more information about outdoor adventures in Missouri, you can visit the following websites:

www.nps.gov
www.fs.fed.us
www.mostateparks.com
www.mdc.mo.gov

And to learn more about our amazing world you can visit:
www.mywonderfulworld.org

Show-Me Standards:

Social Studies: 5, 7, Math: 1, Science: 5, 8
GLEs:
4, 5, 7



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