



If you enjoy beautiful scenery, rustic barns, picturesque churches, and charming antique stores, you'll love the River and Mountain Country tour. The tour is approximately 50 miles round trip and takes a minimum of 4 hours driving time with brief stops at the points of interest. Remember to take your time, enjoy the Ozark scenery, and drive safely!

1. **Camdenton Area Chamber of Commerce:** located at 739 West US Hwy 54 next to Casey's gas station. A place where you will learn about attractions, lodging, restaurants, and activities here at the Lake.



2. **Bridal Cave:** turn left [east] from the Chamber onto Hwy 54, at the light turn left [north] onto Business 5, turn left onto Thunder Mountain Road (Lake Road 5-88), and follow the signs to Bridal Cave. Want to know why many couples choose to tie the

knot at Bridal Cave? Take a guided tour and find out for yourself!

3. **Niangua River Bridge Area:** turn right [south] from Thunder Mountain Road back onto Business 5, at the light in



Camdenton turn left onto Hwy 54, and then take the exit for Sunrise Beach on the Hwy 5 Expressway. Enjoy a pleasant view of the Lake of the Ozarks with its restaurants, shops, and marinas situated on either side of the bridge.

4. **Greenview Community:** keeping driving on Hwy 5 and you will arrive in the town of Greenview. This small community is loaded with banks (for ATM needs), antique and specialty shops, restaurants, and a full service supermarket. Take some time to wander through the shops and maybe even pick up some picnic supplies because there are some fabulous picnicking spots a head of you!

5. **Views of the Little Niangua River Valley:** continue on Hwy 7 until you hit J Road, turn left onto J Road. Displaying mountain and valley



scenery, this area is exceptionally lovely during the spring and fall. Unfortunately, there are no

designated parking places, so if you decide to stop, be careful where you park.

6. **Little Niangua River and Bridge:** Another chance to view the

enchancing old farm houses, magnificent bluffs, calming meadows, and lush forests. Be sure to notice the unusual design of the floor on the suspension bridge.



7. **Lower Prairie Hollow Missionary Baptist Church:** just past the bridge.

This tiny church has been preaching the gospel since the mid-1800s.



As you drive: Keep an eye out for deer, turkeys, quails, hawks, squirrels, and armadillos.

8. **Parrack Grove Missionary Baptist Church:** turn right onto the gravel road J-100, go six-tenths of a mile to the church. Founded in 1871, the church and cemetery are still in use. A peek inside the window reveals what appears to be a movie set complete with vintage benches, fans, hymn books, and a pulpit. Outside, make sure you notice the traditional water pump and storage shed.



9. **Edith Community and Pleasant Grover Missionary Baptist Church:** continue on J Road until you come to Hwy 54, go straight across Hwy 54 to U Road, then turn right onto U Road. Once a thriving community, Edith is

now just a sleepy little wide spot in the road.

As you drive: Once you leave Edith veer right onto the county maintained gravel road which is passable in all weather except ice and snow. During the next six miles, you will witness some of the most bewitching scenery in the Ozarks. Notice how the topography and vegetation change dramatically as you drive from hill country to river bottom.



10. **Big Niangua River and Bridge:** turn left and cross the bridge. An exquisite place to



linger for a picnic, catch some fish, cool off with a swim, snap some pictures, or work on a tan.

11. **Lake Niangua and Tunnel Dam:** continue on the gravel road ahead. Another splendid place for a picnic,



the top of the mountain enables you to gaze at the stunning view in every direction. Watch for ducks, geese, gulls, and other water fowl on the lake below as well as the dam. Did you know that water from the lake flows through a tunnel underneath the mountain to generate electricity?

12. **Pleasant Hills**

Missionary Baptist Church: continue on your way.

Erected in 1895, the church continues to hold regular services.



As you drive: You'll pass through a rather remote, rural area that was once home to the Osage Indians. The first Indian chief to visit the "great white father" in Washington D.C. after the Lewis and Clark expedition was from this area.

13. **Ha Ha Tonka State Park:** at the intersection turn left onto a paved road (D Road). If you only have time to visit one or two sites on this tour, be sure to take in



this one. The park covers 2,697 alluring acres and features crystal spring waters, wooded hills, interesting sinkholes, mysterious caverns, and abundant wildlife. In 1830, a man named Garland built the first permanent residence, dammed the lower end of the spring, and constructed a grist mill. Garland was also in a band of counterfeiters who used several of the caves as workshops for their trade.

In 1905, Robert Snyder, a prominent Kansas City businessman, decided to build his dream—a magnificent 60

room European-style mansion. One year after construction began; Snyder was killed in an automobile accident, leaving completion of the mansion to his son. In 1942, sparks from a chimney ignited a fire that gutted the structure, leaving only the exterior walls. The Department of Natural Resources purchased the property for a state park in 1978.



Some attractions you'll want to visit include: Ha Ha Tonka

Spring (turn left on D-147), the old Post office on D Road, the Natural Bridge, the Coliseum, the Castle, and the Visitor's Center.

14. **Downtown Camdenton:** turn right onto Hwy 54, the first stop light is located in the Camdenton Square and Downtown area. Be sure to visit the fine shops, restaurants, and interesting antique and gift stores in Camdenton.

We hope you enjoyed yourself on our self-guided tour. Tell you friends and family about the scenic splendor of the Ozarks. And to quote Granny, "Ya'll come back now ya hear!"



For More Information Contact:

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www.camdentonchamber.com

Photographs by Andrea Pleima

Go for a drive...

On the...

**River & Mountain
 Country
 Car Tour**