

ARCADIA VALLEY & BLACK RIVER RECREATION AREA



MISSOURI VACATION!

VISIT THE PEACEFUL SIDE
OF THE OZARKS



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The Ozark Region

Explore hundreds of miles of splendid trails. Hike the Ozark Trail, or take on riveting routes throughout the region on a mountain bike. Experience the unspoiled beauty of Mark Twain National Forest and numerous conservation and wilderness areas, or enjoy a relaxing float trip on the crystal clear Black River from spring through fall. Challenge and reward yourself with abundant bird watching, fishing, hunting, golfing or horseback riding!

Historic towns, villages and landmarks, such as Fort Davidson State Historic Site (scene of the pivotal Battle of Pilot Knob), provide a glimpse into the rich heritage of our region. Thrilling reenactments of Civil War battles attract thousands of visitors from around the globe.

Photographers flock here, awed and inspired by the nostalgic architecture, scenic vistas and natural geologic wonders found nowhere else on earth. Antique shops, turn of the century mercantile buildings, fine restaurants, festivals and live entertainment add to the enjoyment of the area. Don't miss the Arcadia Valley Mountain Music Festival, held every May and October, featuring the finest in Bluegrass and Americana music.

Take a drive through our spectacular fall foliage, with vibrant, striking colors and deep hues that rival any found elsewhere across the Nation. Fall festivals and the annual Christmas in the Valley Festival celebrate the seasons with an air of magical delight!

The Arcadia Valley Region and Black River Recreation Area are conveniently located in the heart of the picturesque St. Francois Mountain range of the Ozark Plateau—boasting Taum Sauk Mountain, the highest peak in the State. Come discover the “outdoor recreation capital of Missouri!” A mere 80 miles from the hustle and bustle of St. Louis, let our beautiful country roads take you home to a place you belong for your best Missouri Getaway Vacation ever!

Abundant Recreation

Floating on the Black River is a tranquil treasure not to be missed. Plan a relaxing trip through the shimmering waters of Missouri's clearest stream. Seasoned and first-time floaters alike can choose from canoes, rafts, tubes or kayaks.

The Arcadia Valley and Black River recreation areas present visitors with numerous camping alternatives. Plan a stay along the river or choose a peaceful forest glade. Spend a restful night beneath nature's starry canopy. Many campgrounds are pet and horse friendly.

Take part in annual week-long trail rides, or spend a fun-filled weekend with the whole family! Saddle-up for wagon trains and pack trips or a cross-country ride. Boarding facilities and stalls are available to reserve for your faithful companions.

Mystic mountain vistas and breathtaking scenery attract avid mountain bikers, backpackers and cross-country hikers to the many trails in our region. Uncover the tempting trails and rewarding hiking experiences of **The Ozark Trail**.

Become a part of Missouri's growing passion for bird watching. Over 400 of the 800 species found in North America have been identified in Missouri. You may even be fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of the magnificent American Bald Eagle.

The St. Francis and Black River region is home to Missouri's other favorite pastime—fishing. Both rivers are heaven for spin-cast anglers and fly fishermen; a natural habitat for game fish like bass, crappie or walleye, as well as sunfish, drum and gar. The Black River harbors deep pools of clear water and limestone bluffs that form beds for the crème-de-la sport fish—the smallmouth bass.

Exciting firearm and bow hunting opportunities abound in the wooded areas and thickets hiding whitetail deer, wild turkey and wild boar. Small game hunters delight in sudden discoveries of grey and fox squirrels, cottontail rabbits, woodcock, grouse, dove or quail coveys.



Diverse Missouri Attractions

Civil War in our Region

In 1821, the Missouri Territory officially became the 24th state in the Union. During the Civil War, Missouri was divided. Men and supplies were sent to Confederate and Union forces alike. The State held a star on both flags, integrating dual state governments as well. Due to Missouri's split allegiance, more Civil War battles and engagements were fought here than in any other state besides Virginia and Tennessee. During 1861, the first year of the war, 45 percent of all battles and all casualties were in Missouri. Incidentally, there are more Civil War generals buried at St. Louis than either Arlington or West Point. Since Missouri never actually seceded from the Union, it wasn't forced to suffer the worst aspects of post-war reconstruction.

Entertainment & Festivals

Places to Shop

Antique stores, located in quaint historical homes with stories of their own, hold extraordinary treasures! Charming curiosity shops full of unique gifts, collectables and vintage home accessories add a special bit of nostalgia to any décor. One-of-a-kind boutiques provide therapeutic massages and soothing spa selections, while specialty shops offer exquisite sun catchers, vases, stained glass windows and intriguing metal artwork. Avid outdoorsmen will be impressed by a wide assortment of professional sporting equipment and an unrivaled selection of guns, ammunition, fishing poles and bait, as well as various camouflage gear.

Places to Stay

Black River Recreation area and Arcadia Valley hold hundreds of opportunities for relaxation, spontaneous romance and outdoor adventure in their diverse selection of accommodations. From private vacation rentals and cottage hideaways, to secluded mountain cabins and lake or riverside havens, there is something for everyone.

Places to Dine

Lively pubs and family friendly restaurants serve up a variety of burgers, pizzas, fried chicken, shrimp and more. Award winning BBQ, authentic Mexican and Chinese are just a few of the highlights of the area cuisine.

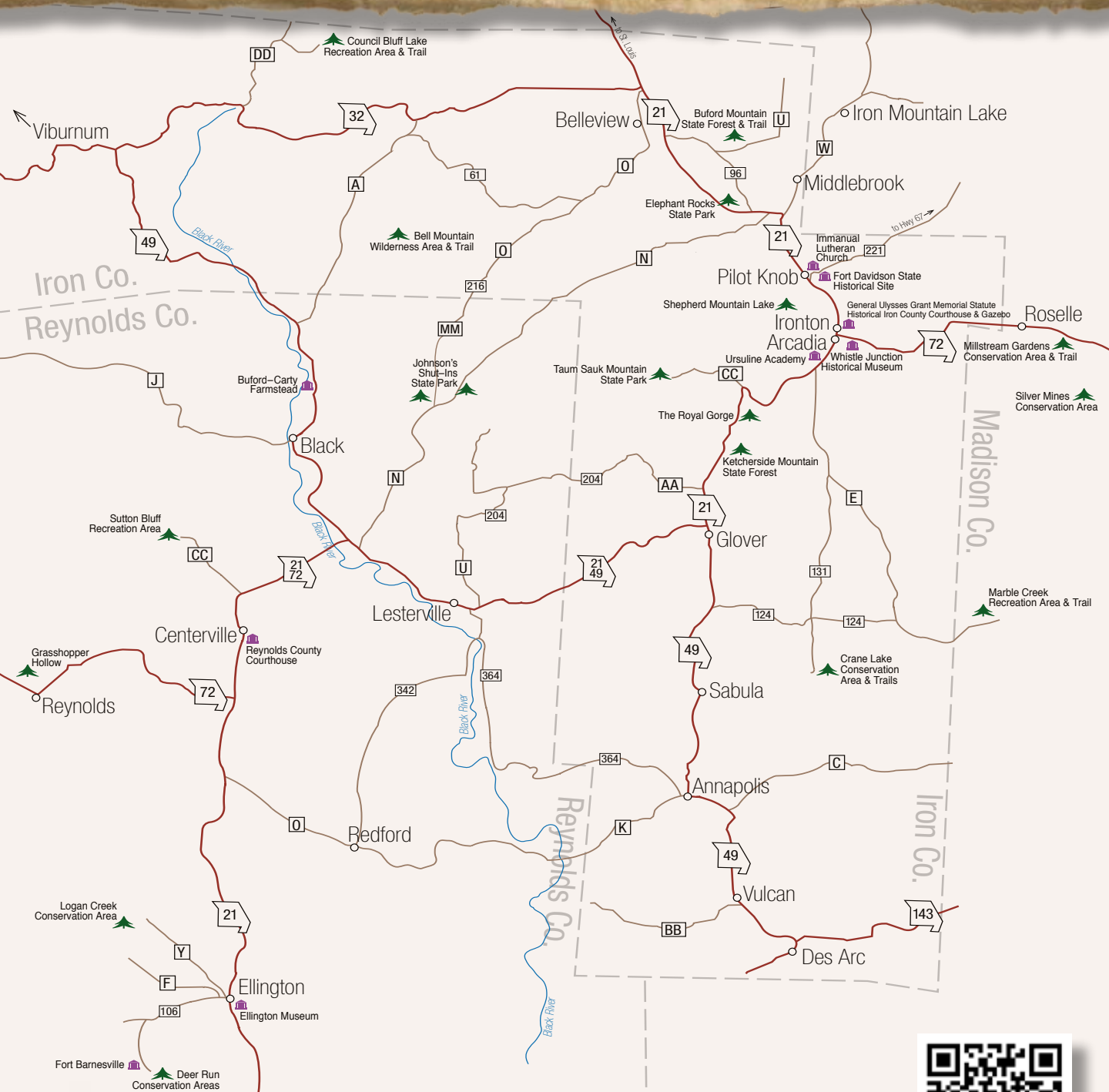
Accommodations, Shopping & Restaurants

Tap your feet to the rhythmic beat of the **Arcadia Valley Mountain Music Festival**. Enjoy "Pickin' on the Square" every Friday night from the third Friday of May through the third Friday of October. Throughout the summer we've got area rodeos and other family events, including special dinner shows, high-spirited 'ole Opry style stage shows and fantastic annual fireworks displays to celebrate the independence of America.

Magnificent autumn Fall Festivals feature a collection of talented artisans and crafters, food vendors with tasty selections and live entertainment outdoors. Don't miss **Old Miner's Day** in Viburnum, which highlights the area's rich history in lead mining. The festival features a parade, Miss Viburnum contest, games, food, auto show and mine tours.

Everybody loves a parade! **The Arcadia Valley Fall Festival Parade** is the longest running of its kind in the state. . .80 plus years and counting! Unique, original floats are built by parents and students driven by heated competition.

Stay and welcome winter's enchanting wonderland with the **Christmas in the Valley Annual Festival**, where a traditional, old-fashioned holiday comes alive!



For lodging, camping, floating, trail rides, dining,
and shopping see missouri-vacations.com





Let Our Country Roads Take You Home!

The Arcadia Valley Region and the Black River Recreation Area is located just 80 miles southwest of St. Louis on Highway 21.

Please note: Highways W and V no longer exist. They are now Missouri Highway 221.

From St. Louis

Take I-55 south out of St. Louis to US Hwy 67, just south of the Festus (Route A) exit. Turn right (Exit 174) onto southbound US Hwy 67 and drive past Bonne Terre, Park Hills, Leadington. On the south side of Farmington is the Hwy 221 overpass. Exit onto Hwy 221 to the right towards Doe Run. Travel on Hwy 221 for nine miles where Hwy 221 turns to the left. Stay on Hwy 221 for nine more miles to Pilot Knob/Ironton/Arcadia. If continuing to Lesterville, Centerville, and Ellington continue on Hwy 21 south and stay on Hwy 21 (to the right) at junction of Hwy 21 & 49. For Annapolis continue on 49 at the junction.

From Jefferson City

Take US Hwy 50 east out of Jefferson City to US Hwy 63. Turn right onto US Hwy 63 and travel to Vichy. At the junction of US Hwy 63 and Hwy 68, turn left onto Hwy 68. Stay on Hwy 68 through St. James. South of St. James at the junction of Hwy 68 and Hwy 8, stay to the left. You will be on Hwy 8. Travel on Hwy 8 to Potosi. As you leave Potosi, turn right onto Hwy 21. Stay on Hwy 21, passing Elephant Rocks State Park. Continue on Hwy 21 into Pilot Knob / Ironton / Arcadia. If continuing to Lesterville, Centerville, and Ellington continue on Hwy 21 south and stay on Hwy 21 (to the right) at junction of Hwy 21 & 49. For Annapolis continue on 49 at the junction.

From Springfield/Joplin

Take I-44 out of Springfield to Hwy 60 E. Follow Hwy 60 E to Hwy. 21 N through Ellington, Centerville, Lesterville, Arcadia, Ironton and Pilot Knob.