



## Motorcycle the Ozarks

### Big Spring Sidewinder

- Route Distance: 134 miles with over 200 curves
- Gasoline Locations: Eminence, Ellington, Van Buren and Winona
- Time Frame: 2-4 hours
- Attractions along the route: Jack's Fork and Current Rivers, Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Blue Spring (optional – 3 miles, one-way, of gravel road with a steep hill – an awesome sight), and Big Spring

The Big Spring Sidewinder will take you on some very scenic and twisty backroads where you can explore several beautiful, gushing springs that purge from majestic limestone bluffs in awesome settings. Even in the dry years these azure-colored “rivers from the earth” run generously providing an average of over 350 million gallons per day of cool, 58-degree, fresh and clear water. Don't forget to bring your camera on this one!

*Big Spring* is sometimes called America's biggest spring. At an average daily flow of 286 million gallons of water, Big Spring is an awesome sight and a geologic wonder. Underground passages carry water from as far as 45 miles away to emerge at the spring.

Called "Spring of the Summer Sky" by Native Americans, *Blue Spring* is on the Current River and is one of the most beautiful places you'll ever find, anywhere. The spring itself is over 310 feet deep, one of the deepest in the United States. This gives it a vivid blue color that one must see to believe. If you were to place the Statue of Liberty in Blue Spring, her torch would be five feet below the surface of the water! The spring is reached by a short trail which abounds with wildflowers in spring and fall colors in autumn.

### Elephant Rocks and Roll

- Route Distance: 138 miles with over 350 curves
- Gasoline Locations: Eminence, Ellington, Graniteville, Bixby, Bunker
- Time Frame: 3-5 hours
- Attractions along the route: Bixby Country Store, Elephant Rocks, Black River, Johnson's Shut-Ins, Round Spring and Cave

Elephant Rocks and Roll route is an adventure packed ride that takes you to some very different and spectacular places. The journey is loaded with sweepers, has some great places to hike, and samples a few of the unique state parks and geologic wonders of our area.

The *Bixby Country Store* is an interesting stop with good food and fuel.

*Elephant Rocks* encompasses a very unusual outcropping of Precambrian granite in the St. Francis Mountains. It's named for a string of large granite boulders that resemble a string of pink circus elephants. A wide variety of hiking trails take visitors on special treks on and over and through these well-worn rocks. Don't miss the old rock quarry.

*Johnson's Shut-Ins* — A one-fourth mile walkway takes visitors to an observation deck overlooking the shut-ins where the water of the *East Fork of the Black River* become confined or "shut in" to a narrow channel. Water-borne sand and gravel cut deeply even in the erosion-resistant rock, carving potholes, chutes and canyon-like gorges. A great place to swim!

*Round Spring* is actually a cave roof collapse where you can peer down at the azure waters through a circular cavern. Round Spring Cave is shown in the summer by the Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

### **Jesse James Getaway**

- Route Distance: 143 miles with plenty of sweeping curves
- Gasoline Locations: Eminence, Bunker, Summersville
- Time Frame: 3-4 hours
- Attractions along the Route: Current River, Hwy B - Logan Creek Valley, Hwy A - Sinking Creek, Aker's Ferry on the Current River, The Old Mill at Summersville, Alley Spring and Mill with its Storey Creek School House and Old Country Store

The Jesse James Getaway self-guided day tour is named in honor of the famous outlaw, Jesse James, who along with the James Gang robbed a train at Gad's Hill, Missouri in 1874. They got about a 60-mile head start and headed west on some fast horses and got away quickly running along the beautiful creeks, over the hills and through the woods to Maggard's Cabin on the Current River.

Awesome A Highway and its Sinking Creek crossings and Logan Creek Valley are a likely route for this roughshod band to further elude the persistent posse. Caution on A Highway is advised because there are a couple of very sharp and unbanked curves that offer a touch of peril.

History abounds on this backroad adventure with [Aker's Ferry](#) (\$4 fee), the Old Mill at Summersville and Alley Spring and Grist Mill (the state's most picturesque spot) including the footbridge across the beautiful Jack's Fork River, as well as a scenic overlook just before you get there.

### **Ozark Hellbender**

- Route Distance: 112 miles with almost 300 curves
- Gasoline Locations: Eminence, Summersville
- Time Frame: 3-4 hours
- Attractions on the Route: Montauk Springs and State Park, Round Spring, Current River, and Jack's Fork River with 2 scenic overlooks

The Ozark Hellbender is one curvy route to remember. Riders come from all over the world for the scenery and sweepers of Scenic Highway 19. Ozark Hellbender is also the name of a large and spooky-looking salamander that hides under rocks in the deep holes in our clear streams and is an endangered species.

### **Waterfall Wonderland**

- Route Distance: 180 miles with almost 300 curves
- Gasoline Locations: Eminence, Winona, Thayer, Mammoth Spring
- Time Frame: 4-5 hours (Add another hour to hike down to Greer Spring. It's a good hike, very wild and well worth it!)
- Attractions along the Route: Scenic Highway 19 Roller Coaster, Eleven Point River, Greer Spring, Mammoth Spring and Rocky Falls

The Waterfall Wonderland Ride is a very scenic loop that will take you to some of the most beautiful springs and waterfalls in the Midwest. Curvy Ozark backroads are numerous on this bike-worthy adventure.

The second largest spring in Missouri, *Greer Spring* flows into the Eleven Point National Scenic River, and actually doubles the size of the river! Starting at the base of a steep, shaded ravine, Greer Spring averages over 200 million gallons of water per day. The spring actually emerges from two locations a few hundred feet apart. The upper outlet exits a small cave, Greer Spring Cave, while the larger, lower outlet is a huge spring boil in the middle of the spring branch. From here, the waters flow approx. 1.25 miles towards the Eleven Point.

*Mammoth Spring*, Arkansas has a visitors' center as well as a vintage dam with large waterfall and old power station graced by gorgeous water that feeds the Spring River.

*Rocky Falls* is a biker's favorite and a great place to hike, rock climb and swim. About one third mile of good gravel road does not keep most bikers from seeing its beauty.