Taum Sauk Mountain State Park

OZARK TRAIL

The Taum Sauk Section of the Ozark Trail is roughly 36 miles long and runs through the heart of the ancient St. Francois Mountains. Nearly 26 miles of the trail go through Taum Sauk Mountain and Johnson's Shut-Ins State Parks. One of the most popular and scenic portions of the Taum Sauk Section is the 12.75 mile stretch connecting the two parks. This rugged portion of trail through two state parks winds across mountains of oak-hickory woodland dotted with shortleaf pine trees, bluffs and rocky glades.

The hike at Taum Sauk Mountain State Park begins on Mina Sauk Falls Trail with steep rocky climbs on high rock 'steps' that take hikers past the tallest waterfall in Missouri. Soon after passing the falls, Ozark Trail continues down the valley while Mina Sauk Falls Trail loops back up the mountain. One mile below the falls on Ozark Trail lies Devil's Tollgate, an 8-foot-wide passage through 50 feet of volcanic rhyolite standing 30 feet high. The trail continues on to Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park with several creek crossings. After reaching the park, it connects with Scour Trail and Goggins Mountain Equestrian Trail.

Follow the green and white 'OT' trail markers, allowing plenty of time to complete the hike. Watch out for trail intersections with old roads and fire lines. Carry plenty of water since water to treat for drinking may not be available along the trail. Seasonal flooding is possible and rocks are very slippery when wet.

Distance: 10.9 Miles
Uses: Hiking [✓] Backpacking [✓]
Blazes: Class: Linear
Surface Type: Natural
Trail Rating: Rugged
Estimated Hiking Time: 10 Hours, 54 Minutes
Trailhead & GPS Location: 37.57279, -90.72833

Ozark Trail

You may experience:
2) Natural Surface-dirt/mud/gravel, shifting rock, slippery surface, etc.
3) Rocks, roots and/or downed vegetation on trail
4) Low-hanging vegetation
7) Steep grades and inclines more than 10%
8) Bluffs or drop-offs next to trail
10) Water/stream crossings without bridges

This trail or a portion of this trail travels through: St. Francois Mountains Natural Area
TRAIL BLAZE COLORS & SURFACE TYPES

The maps on this website indicate the blaze colors for each trail. If more than one trail shares tread, that portion of the trail is identified by more than one color. The surface type of a trail is indicated on the maps generated by this website by a pattern overlapping the blaze color of the trail.

TRAIL TYPE – Loop, Multi-loop, One Way, System or Multi-section

A loop trail is one that will return you to the trailhead. Multi-loop trails offer two or more separate loops, ex. a trail having a north and south loop. A one-way trail takes you from the trailhead to the farthest point on the trail and you will have to retrace your steps to return to the trailhead. If you plan to return to your starting point on a one-way trail, you will have to double the distance to calculate your estimated mileage and/or hiking time.

A trail system is a series of interconnected trails that allow you to choose your own route. A Multi-section trail offers two or more separate sections, ex. Katy Trail State Park, and distances are shown both for the entire trail and the sections.

YOU MAY EXPERIENCE

These conditions are all things you may encounter while on a Missouri state parks trail. Trailhead signs at the start of each trail also indicate which conditions exist on that trail.

ESTIMATED HIKING TIME

The estimated hiking time was determined by considering the average user’s speed and the conditions that might be experienced on a specific trail. Your speed may be slower or faster than the time listed.

GPS COORDINATES

There are several methods of communicating GPS coordinates. Most GPS units will convert from one coordinate system to another. If you require a different coordinate system for your unit, visit dnr.mo.gov/gisutils/ to convert the coordinates shown on this map to another version.

NATURAL AREAS / WILD AREAS

Natural areas are identified in brown. Natural areas are recognized as the best remaining examples known of Missouri’s original natural environments. These natural areas are managed and protected for their scientific, educational and historical values. Missouri state parks have 38 designated natural areas, encompassing almost 22,000 acres.

Wild areas are identified in brown. The Missouri Wild Area System is made up of large tracts of land set aside as wilderness, which make the perfect setting for hiking and backpacking. A wild area must be 1,000 or more acres in size, show little impact from humans, and possess outstanding opportunities for solitude. They are strictly protected for their wilderness benefits as well as for their use for environmental education and scientific study.