- **BOILING SPRING CAMPGROUND – Dixon**
  Offers RV and tent-camping sites, plus canoe rentals and service on the Big Piney and Gasconade rivers. Anglers take note: Boiling Spring rents johnboats for fishing trips.

- **ONE EYED WILLY’S CANOE RENTAL AND CAMPGROUND – Lebanon**
  Pitch your tent, bring your RV, stay in one of the cabins or utilize one of their larger lodging options, such as Ray’s Roost, which sleeps six. Float trips from one to eight miles are on the Niangua River.

- **MERAMEC CAVERNS CAMPGROUNDS – Stanton**
  Primitive camping and RV sites are available, there’s a motel on-site and you can rent canoes and rafts for float trips of six or 11 miles on the Meramec River. Add to your trip by visiting the Meramec Caverns and taking a ride on the Caveman Zipline.

- **WASHINGTON STATE PARK CAMPGROUND – DeSoto**
  Along with RV and tent-camping sites, this state park has an outdoor pool and playground for visitors to use. When it’s time for your float trip, choose from a three-mile or seven-mile outing on the Big River (arranged through Thunderbird Lodge). Kayaks, canoes, tubes and rafts are available.

- **HUZZAH VALLEY RESORT CAMPGROUNDS – Steelville**
  Offers a variety of lodging choices, from tent camping to whole-house rentals, along with a playground and equestrian facilities. Float trips are on the Huzzah, Courtois and Meramec rivers.

- **AKERS FERRY CAMPGROUND – Salem**
  Along with RV and tent-camping sites, this state park has an outdoor pool and playground for visitors to use. When it’s time for your float trip, choose from a three-mile or seven-mile outing on the Big River (arranged through Thunderbird Lodge). Kayaks, canoes, tubes and rafts are available.

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- **BEAVER CREEK CAMPGROUND AND CANOE RENTAL – Ava**

  This secluded campground has rustic campsites and a limited number of RV sites, along with three cabins for visitors. Float trips on Beaver Creek range from five to 22 miles. Note this campground is located about 20 miles west of Ava.

- **SHADY BEACH CAMPGROUND AND FLOATS – Pineville**

  Ideal for groups, Shady Beach offers house rentals (along with traditional camping options) including the Elk River House, which sleeps 22 people. If you are with a group, float options include renting rafts that accommodate four to 12 people. The campground has about a quarter mile of Elk River frontage, and there’s an on-site zipline ride for guests.

- **CROWS CREEK PARK – Smithville**

  With more than 400 campsites (both tent and RV) available, this is one of northwest Missouri’s larger campgrounds. And while it doesn’t provide access to a river or stream for floating, it is on Smithville Lake, which is a popular destination for water recreation.

- **LEWIS AND CLARK STATE PARK CAMPGROUND – Rushville**

  Basic camping sites and sites with electric hookups are available. The park boasts large sites that make it easier to maneuver RVs and fifth wheels. Guests may fish on Lewis and Clark Lake.

“With dozens of crystal-clear rivers and streams ideal for float trips (whether that’s a canoe, kayak, raft or tube) and abundant campsites near those bodies of water, pairing the two is a great way to enjoy a Missouri adventure.”

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These are just a few of the places to find great campgrounds in close proximity to rivers and streams - and outfitters who can make sure you have the proper equipment for a fun and successful float trip.

Learn more about Missouri’s canoe outfitters at the Missouri Canoe and Floaters Association website, and the state’s privately owned campgrounds at the Missouri Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds website. Details on camping in Missouri State Parks are found at MoStateParks.com.

For more information and a map of locations, visit visitmo.com/missouri-travel/camping-canoeing-go-hand-in-hand-in-missouri
Trip ideas

Explore historic homes, river trips and cave adventures all in the name of Mark Twain

Hannibal is home to historic homes, river trips and cave adventures all in the name of Mark Twain. Go on cave adventures in the very place Mark Twain wrote about in five books. Tour one of Hannibal’s most historic homes (where Twain grew up). Shop the streets he roamed as a youth, go on river trips down the Mississippi, which he loved, and spend time on the lake named in his honor. You can do all that and stop by the cabin where he was born in this region of Missouri.

COURTESY OF THE MISSOURI DIVISION OF TOURISM
TRIP ITINERARY: IN THE MORNING

MARK TWAIN CAVE – 300 Cave Hollow Road, Hannibal MO 63401

A national natural landmark, perfect for cave adventures, this labyrinth cave forms criss-cross style patterns. The cave is 52 degrees year-round; no steps but good walking shoes suggested; tour lasts one hour.

MARK TWAIN BOYHOOD HOME AND MUSEUM – 120 N. Main St., Hannibal MO 63401

Designated as a National Historic Landmark, it is one of Hannibal’s most historic homes. The property where Mark Twain grew up features six historically significant properties and two interactive museums.

The Hermann Wine Trail hugs the Missouri River for 20 scenic miles between Hermann and New Haven. Along the way, seven charming family-owned wineries are open for tasting and tours.

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TRIP ITINERARY: THE AFTERNOON

RUSTIC OAK RIVERVIEW DINING AT SAWYER'S CREEK – 11011 Route 79 South, Hannibal MO

The perfect place before or after river trips in Hannibal, there is a panoramic view of the Mississippi River from every seat in the house, including outside on the patio. Rustic Oak offers a variety of options, from steak burgers and seafood to pasta and barbecue. They also serve cakes and cobblers and feature a full bar. The restaurant is part of the Sawyers Creek family fun park, winery, and gift shop complex, located across from Mark Twain Cave, so stop by after your cave adventures.

SAWYER’S CREEK FAMILY FUN PARK – 11011 Route 79 South, Hannibal MO

This activity center features an 18-hole mini golf course, bumper boats, a bounce house, water wars and small train for kids.
TRIP ITINERARY: IN THE EVENING

BECKY'S OLD FASHIONED ICE CREAM PARLOR AND EMPORIUM – 318 N. Main St., Hannibal MO 63401

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MARK TWAIN RIVERBOAT – 100 Center St., Hannibal MO 63401

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FIND ADVENTURE in Missouri

Elephant Rocks State Park in Graniteville. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MISSOURI DIVISION OF TOURISM

Elephant Rocks State Park in Graniteville. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MISSOURI DIVISION OF TOURISM
Ian and Kristina love a good adventure. And for them, enjoying adventure together is a great way to vacation.

So naturally, it worked out well when these outdoor adventurers made their way to the Show-Me State, where outdoor fun is offered in abundance. Read more about their outdoor activities and the sights they saw below and follow their adventure at www.VisitMo.com.

**Sikeston and Cape Girardeau**

On the ride up to Missouri from Memphis, Ian and Kristina took time to stop at one of the Show-Me State’s most-famous eateries, Lambert’s Café in Sikeston. The aptly named “throwed rolls” come flying in from all corners and generous portions of comfort food are served up to hungry customers.

From Sikeston, it’s a short drive to Trail of Tears State Park, found along the route Cherokee Indians took when they were forced to relocate in 1830 (learn more about this chapter in history at the park’s visitor center). At this park, near Cape Girardeau, you can enjoy stunning views of the Mississippi River and surrounding area; hiking, fishing, camping and swimming are popular activities.

**The Arcadia Valley**

There’s perhaps no better place to begin an outdoor adventure in this region of Missouri than Elephant Rocks State Park, where visitors climb on and around billion-year-old boulders the size of elephants. Great views — and tests of coordination and jumping skills — are part of the fun.

A little ways down the road, on the Black River, is Johnson’s Shut-Ins State Park. Noted for its natural swimming holes, carved from rocks courtesy of the river’s flow, JSI (as locals call it) is the perfect place for summertime swimming, hiking, biking, camping and more. A boardwalk along the river offers great views of some of the most popular swimming spots. Several canoe outfitters and resorts are found along the Black River.

For those who’d rather ride horseback than paddle a canoe, visit the Arcadia Valley Stables along Stouts Creek. Take in the native wildlife as you trot on this country adventure during a trail ride.
Wine County

After a good night’s sleep, make the drive north toward Missouri’s wine country. But before sampling and savoring, get your adrenaline pumping at Eco Zipline Tours in New Florence. You’ll reach speeds of 40 mph on this zip adventure and have three different courses from which to choose. Eco offers more than a mile of ziplines!

Okay, now it’s on to wine country and one of Missouri’s most well-known and oft-awarded wineries, Stone Hill in Hermann. Overlooking the German settlement of Hermann, Stone Hill Winery gives you great views while offering great wines. Tour the underground cellars before sampling a Missouri red or white.

Round out your time in Hermann by visiting Katy Trail state park, the country’s longest rails-to-trails conversion (it stretches about 240 miles across Missouri)

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Round out your time in Hermann by visiting Katy Trail State Park, the country’s longest
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river valley and numerous bluffs as it winds across the state.

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