

reflection of the town's name. From Boxley to Ponca, the road runs through part of the Buffalo River valley and magnificent is not descriptive enough. From Ponca, the mile and a half climb of Ark. 74 out of the valley is as exciting as any in the U.S. And the rest of the ride to Jasper is second to none in the scenery category.

Race Track Road SAT

A favorite back roads route from Berryville to Eureka Springs is Arkansas 221 south to County Road 302, known locally as Rock House Road. 221 is a high energy ride through the hills, down to a swimming hole on the Kings River, called Trigger Gap. Just past the bridge over the river, County Road 302 heads back to Eureka Springs. It's a very narrow, winding road running through lush, forested land. The entire trip from Berryville to Eureka Springs will take less than 30 minutes. This may well be the best short ride in the Ozarks. It's scenic, twisty and tons of fun. Locals call it "Race Track Road".

Ark. 27 - from Marshall to Russellville

OK, I admit it. Until recently, I had only ridden the portion of Ark. 27 from Marshall to Tilly, on Ark. 16. That stretch is VERY nice, but the technically challenging section from Tilly on down to Dover pushes this route way into my Top List of Ozark Roads. Switchbacks, hairpins, and just plain sharp curves makes this one of my "gotta do" roads. It, like 21, 23, and 7, runs up and over the high ridge of the Ozarks and is forced in some stretches to make those severe turns. And it, like several of my favorite roads, doesn't rate "scenic dots" from the Arkansas Highway Department.

Mount Magazine & Mount Nebo

These two mountain tops, Magazine and Nebo, are not usually associated with the Ozarks because the Arkansas River slices off the bottom sliver of the Ozarks and they, along with Petit Jean Mountain, stand isolated, between the Petit Jean River Valley and the state's name-sake river. But they do belong to the Ozarks. The approaches to all three, but especially Magazine and Nebo, are spectacular in not only the view from the top but the technical difficulty of the roads up. Ark. 309 runs from Havana to Paris - bet you didn't know you could get there by highway, did you? (LOL in text message lingo). **MOUNT MAGAZINE** The approach from Paris, to the north, is excellent, but the approach from Havana, 10 miles to the south of the peak, Magazine, makes me want to say "What Dragon?" It's 10 mile hairpin run up is not only every bit as technically difficult as that eastern wonder of nature - the Dragon - but ascends over 2400 feet elevation. This road is not for the faint of heart or the brand new rider (without taking extreme care). **MOUNT NEBO** San Francisco has it's Lombard Street... the Smokies has the Dragon. But Ark. 155 to Mount Nebo packs as much or more into its 2 1/2 mile run up to the state park as either of the other two. And like the other southern Ozarks peaks, has a drop-dead gorgeous view. Remember; as many cars are usually coming

Much

This is perhaps the best little known highway in the Ozarks. Except for short sections which run concurrent with Highways 23, 21 & 7, this road is familiar mostly only to local riders. This is really too bad because the 110 miles of Arkansas 16 between Fayetteville and Clinton is a fun, twisty and scenic ride.

The reason Highway 16 overlooked is that it really doesn't take you any place. It basically runs along the backbone of the Ozarks. It follows a route full of curves and wonderful scenery. If you start out on the eastern end, in Fayetteville, have breakfast at the Rolling Pin Cafe (at the intersection of Highways 16 and 265). Head west, hang on and enjoy the ride. Most of the time traffic will be light and you'll have a great time discovering this fantastic road. Many visiting riders will not know to make this wonderful ride. That's their loss.

Ark. 12/Ark. 127

Heading east out of Rogers is Ark. 12. It is very winding, passing both private land and Hobbs Wildlife Management area. It snakes through thick forested land if lots of fun, despite the sometimes heavy traffic. Twelve miles east is the Ark. 12 junction with Ark. 127. Take 127 east. It's not as twisty, but runs through beautiful mixed forest and farm land. Its winding path is very nice and this is my favorite route from Eureka Springs to Rogers.

A Short Ride Out of Fayetteville

A sweet, short ride out of Fayetteville is Ark. Highways 74 (and 265/170 even though they aren't shaded). The 265 part of this route winds through scenic farm land on the way to the Arkansas Devil's Den State Park. The Ark. 74 portion is especially nice as you head south into Devil's Den. Campgrounds and cabins are available, but during busy weekends or holidays, check ahead for availability. Highway 74 NW out of the park is a fantastic section of highway. For a couple of miles, it reminds me of riding the Tail of the Dragon (U.S. 129) in Tennessee. The trip into Devil's Den is well worth the time.

A Short Ride Out of Eureka Springs **SAT**

Ar favorite ride with locals is a circle from Eureka Spring and back again. Take Ark. 23 three miles north to Arkansas 187, which goes to the community of Beaver. Beaver town is where the White River below Beaver Lake turns into the upper end of Table Rock Lake. Spanning the river at Beaver is a unique, beautiful landmark – a one-lane suspension bridge, known as the Little Golden Gate. For those who like to camp, Beaver operates a comfortable campground on the water's edge. The only business in Beaver is a natural stopping place for riders, the Beaver Town Inn and General Store

Highways 123 & 7

Rider's Gallery



Things to do in the Ozarks

Attractions, activities, entertainment, museums, State Parks and more! There are plenty of things to see and do in the Ozarks.

> Things to Do

Road Descriptions - Southern Missouri

Here are a few of the highlights of the highways in the southern Missouri Ozarks and what makes them worthy of your attention. Try them out and you'll discover why they top my list.

Maps open in new browser windows

Missouri 112 **SAT**

Missouri 112 from Seligman, Mo. to Roaring River State Park is a fantastic short ride, especially in the Autumn when the overhanging foliage creates a striking, firey-colored tunnel through which the rider winds on a wraithlike stretch of pavement. Roaring River is home to a huge spring welling up in the back of a gaping caven. It is one of several state Trout hatcheries, furnishing fish for a thriving sporting industry. **Map coming soon.**

Missouri 76

Missouri 76 through Branson is sometimes a motorcyclists nightmare. But if you take the highway from Cassville west to Reeds Spring, you may encounter one of the top Missouri Ozarks rides. The portion from Shell Knob to Reeds Spring has a lot in common with a wellknown Tennessee highway named for mythical serpent. Compound twists and curves through beautiful woodlands and farms. **Map coming soon.**

U.S. 160 to Historic Ozark Water Mills & Peel Ferry Crossing over Table Rock into Arkansas

» [View Map](#)

U.S. 160 east from Forsyth (near Branson) is a relaxing ride to the watermill area around Gainsville. Several mills are still used, either as working mills or bed&breakfasts. This is a nice ride. For an equally nice return ride, back track to the junction of U.S. 160 and Missouri 125. A ride down 125 south will be pleasantly rewarded with not only a scenic ride down into Arkansas but also a great "ride" across Bull Shoals Lake only remaining ferry crossing the lake. The ferry plys the waters of the lake during daylight hours 265 days a year. The crossing is well worth the detour. Continue on south on Ark. 125 to Ark. 14. Then head west on 14 back to US 65 where you can turn north to Branson or south deeper into Arkansas.

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