



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 - Central Arkansas Region

These red shaded routes are the roads I **have enjoyed over the years**. Most any of the roads, even the ones not shaded, are sure to be great roads and you'll love them. But the ones indicated are the ones that have I have found; **exciting to ride... scenic to be on... and the most fun to experience**. Above all, **have fun!!!!**

I just hope my local riding buddies don't gang up on me for giving away these gems.

Arkansas Highway 21 **FRI**

This great highway, unfortunately eclipsed by the popular Arkansas 23, and holds its own against any road in the Ozarks in the category of riding fun.

It begins just north of I-40 near Clarksville. Like 23, it starts on the level ground of the Arkansas River Valley but soon begins winding up the mountain sides. The serpentine route is similar to that of 23, following rugged ridges and hillsides. It runs to the Missouri border, but the best part is the 82 miles from Clarksville to Berryville.

A beautiful stretch of Arkansas 21 is where it dips into the Boxley Valley, paralleling the headwaters of the Buffalo River. At the junction of 21 and 74 at Boxley, it's worth leaving 21 to make the five mile ride to the Buffalo River at Ponca. Stop at the Buffalo Outdoor Center for a break, hike along the river, and enjoy the area. From Ponca, there are three routes you can take to other parts of the area (see description later on this page).

From Boxley, Arkansas 21 climbs out of the valley and will take you to Kingston. From there, your ride to Berryville winds through scenic farm land. From Berryville, Eureka Springs is just 12 miles west, on U.S. 62.

Take the "215 to Oark" and 103 -- not the "Last Train to **FRI Clarksville"** Click here to see "Featured Ride"

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Eastern Ark. Ozarks

Many riders pass the junction of the Pig Trail (Ark 23) and Ark. 215, "wowed" by what they have just experienced on the legendary Arkansas riding icon. But little do they realize what they are passing up by riding by the innocent appearing Ark. 215 taking off to the east.

Ark. 215 winds along beside a popular white water float stream, the Mulberry River. This tricky, mid-category river has claimed many a canoe and kayak, even when piloted by experienced paddlers. The highway provides glimpses of the river through the heavily forested Ozark National Forest. And the trees often totally enclosed the road making a tunnel of foliage.

About half of the highway has been nicely improved. Right now, there is a two-mile stretch where the chip-and-seal pavement is being taken up in preparation for the improved road. Take it slow. The photos at left show the river through the trees and one of the pull-offs along the way. The road is pretty narrow, but the improvements have made it very nice regardless. In fact, it being narrow gives it a real "boon-docks" feel. Ark. 215 is a real serpentine cruising road.

Once in Oark, a 16-mile ride, you realize that you are really in the middle of nowhere - except "nowhere" is in the middle of some of the best riding in the Ozarks. But Oark is home to a very interesting business.. the Oark General Store and Cafe. The store was established in 1890 and is thought to be the oldest continually operated general store in the country.

But the riding fun is just beginning when you finish your lunch or break at the Ozark General Store. If you backtrack from Oark about a mile, you will come to Ark. 103. When you do, TAKE IT!!!! Waiting for you on the 19-mile ride will be a real roller coaster ride through heavy forest. The highway travels up and over the mountains as it makes its head-long dash for the Arkansas River Valley at Clarksville. If Ark 215 were a white water river, it would be a Category 3. Ark 103 would be a Category 4, with a Category 5 or 6 designation where the twin 180 hairpins make their tight, knee-dragging presence known. Even when Ark. 103 flattens out as it descends to the foothills, the thick forest continues to make the ride very scenic. Like a Category 5 River, Ark. 103 will reach out and bite the inexperienced or unwary. Technically challenging.

Arkansas Highway 16 - Sweet 16 and Never Been Ridden... 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 Highway 16 and