

missouri

parks for kids



- Missouri's state animal is the mule and the state bird is the bluebird.

- At the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904, the ice cream cone was invented. An ice-cream vendor ran out of cups and asked a waffle vendor to help by rolling up waffles to hold ice cream.

- In 1865 Missouri became the first slave state to free its enslaved people.

- Construction of the St. Louis Gateway Arch began in 1963 and was completed on October 28, 1965. The Arch has foundations 60 feet into the ground, and is built to withstand earthquakes and high winds. It sways up to one inch in a 20 mph wind and is built to sway up to 18 inches.

- The first successful parachute jump to be made from a moving airplane was made by Captain Berry at St. Louis, in 1912.



1. Ozark National Scenic Waterway

Become a Junior Ranger, have fun with a River Exploration Kit (free to rent at the Visitor Center), rent a canoe, camp overnight, ride a horse, ride your bike, bird watch, stargaze, go fishing and hike the Slough Trail.

2. Prairie State Park

Learn about prairie ecosystems at the Visitor Center, hike the Drover's Trail, look for the bison herd (in the spring look for the calves), camp overnight, bird watch and look for wildflowers.

3. Ha Ha Tonka State Park

Visit the burnt down skeleton of a castle, find the Natural Bridge, hike the Dell Rim Trail, Explore River Cave or check out the natural spring and Whispering Dell Sinkhole.

4. Montauk State Park

Go fishing, paddle a canoe, bird watch, camp overnight, see the headwaters of the current river and hike one of the two trails.

5. Meramec State Park

Camp overnight, take a tour of Fisher Cave, go swimming in the Meramec River, float in an inner tube on a natural lazy river, canoe, hike one of the park trails and look for wildflowers and learn about cave geology at the Visitor Center.



6. St. Joe State Park

Camp overnight, ride your bicycle, horseback ride, go swimming or fishing, pack a picnic or visit a playground and hike the Lake View Trail.

7. Onondaga State Park

Take a cave tour, camp overnight, go fishing, participate in a nature program, go for a picnic, ride your bike, go swimming or hike the Deer Run Trail.

8. St. Francois State Park

Camp overnight, ride a horse, backpack, participate in a nature program, go fishing, go swimming, take a picnic lunch, have fun on a playground or hike the Mooner's Hollow Trail.