

A Guide to Hiking Trails in Southwest Missouri

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Hiking in Camden County

Camden County contains two large state parks, Lake of the Ozarks State Park and Ha Ha Tonka State Park. Each park has many hiking trails that vary in length, surface area, and difficulty. You can also participate in a wide range of other outdoor activities in both parks, such as horseback riding, fishing, boating, camping, and seasonal hunting.

Lake of the Ozarks State Park

Lake of the Ozarks State Park is the largest state park in Missouri, and has been designated as a [Missouri State Park](#) since 1946. The 17,626-acre park surrounds the Lake of the Ozarks, one of the largest man-made lakes in the United States. The area is popular with tourists and water sport enthusiasts year-round. To learn more about events and attractions in the area, visit the Lake of the Ozarks's [official website](#)



Trails

Lake of the Ozarks State Park has ten different hiking trails. The trails are accessible from three areas: Main Park North, Grand Glaize Beach West, and Coakley Hollow. I have divided my discussion of each trail into these three areas. You can also find a map of the park on the [Missouri State Parks and Historical Sites](#) Web site.

To reach **Main Park North** from Camdenton, travel north on [US Hwy. 54](#), then turn right (east) on State Hwy. 42 and travel for 5 miles. You will see the entrance to Main Park North near the intersection of State Hwy. 42 and State Hwy. 134.

- **Woodland Trail** is a 6-mile loop that begins at the trail center. The trail is moderately easy to navigate.
- **Lazy Hollow Trail** is a short, wheelchair accessible, half-mile stroll that begins across from the trail center.
- Though **Trail of the Four Winds** is a horse trail, hikers and bicyclists can also use it. The 6-mile, moderately easy loop starts south of the park office entrance.
- **Squaw's Revenge Trail** is also a horse trail that you can hike. The trailhead begins at the horse stables, where you can also rent a horse. It is a well-marked, 2-mile loop with a rough surface.
- **Fawn Ridge Trail** is a 2.5-mile loop that begins at the campground registration booth.
- The **Lake View Bend** trailhead also begins at the campground registration booth. Though this trail is only 1 mile long, the rough terrain makes it a difficult hike.

To reach **Grand Glaize Beach West** from Camdenton, travel north on US Hwy. 54. In Osage Beach, the access road is 1 mile west of the Grand Glaize bridge. From US Hwy. 54, turn right (south) onto the road.

- **Rocky Top Trail** is a 3-mile loop that begins in the picnic area. Though it is generally flat terrain, it does feature a large bluff.
- **Shady Ridge Trail** is an wheelchair accessible, half-mile loop that follows the shore of the lake.

To reach **Coakley Hollow South** from Osage Beach, travel south on US Hwy. 54, then turn left (west) on Hwy. A. Travel 8 miles to A-33 and turn left (north). At Coakley Hollow, you can access Ozark Caverns and the Visitors Nature Center. Since Lake of the Ozarks State Park's official map does not mark Coakley Hollow, you may want to view the Web site's "[Directions to Ozark Caverns](#)" section for more detailed directions.

- **Coakley Hollow Trail** begins in the Ozark Caverns parking lot. The trail teaches hikers about a variety of southwest Missouri habitats. Tours of the cave run from April 15th until October 15th of each year and range in price from \$4 for children to \$6 for adults. For more information about tour schedules, visit the [Lake of the Ozarks State Park](#) Web site.
- The **Grand Glaize Trail** is a 2.5-mile loop. The trail surface is rough, since it follows a ridge to Honey Run Hollow.

Fees

Fees vary for camping, cave tours, and cabin, boat, and horse rentals. See the [Lake of the Ozarks State Park](#) Web site or call (573) 348-2694 for more information.

Activities

Hiking, backpacking, picnicking, boating, horseback riding, camping, cave tours, biking, canoeing, renting cabins

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Ha Ha Tonka State Park

Ha Ha Tonka State Park became a [Missouri State Park](#) in 1978. The 3,709-acre park features a natural bridge, a 250-foot bluff, the ruins of a turn-of-the-century castle, a natural spring, and various sinkholes and caves. It is a rewarding experience to explore Ha Ha Tonka's rugged trails, where you can see some of the most beautiful terrain in southwest Missouri.



To reach Ha Ha Tonka State Park from Camdenton, travel west on [US Hwy. 54](#), then turn left (south) onto Hwy. D. The park is off of Hwy. D. Ha Ha Tonka is open for day hiking only and locks its gates after sunset.

Trails

- **Quarry Trail** begins at the castle parking lot near the park's north entrance. This paved trail circles the castle and ruins of the quarry that was used to build the castle. Quarry Trail is 1.5 miles long, well-marked, and wheelchair accessible.
- The **Dell Rim Trail** also starts off of the castle parking area. You can take this half-mile boardwalk to the old water tower. It is a well- marked, strenuous trail with many flights of stairs.
- **Spring Trail** is a 1.5-mile, strenuous loop that you can access from the spring parking area near the historic post office.
- **Island Trail** is a three-quarter mile loop accessed from Spring Trail. The rugged terrain includes a waterfall and a balanced rock.
- The **Boulder Ridge Trail** begins at the end of Spring Trail, and it is 1.5 miles long.
- The **Colosseum Trail** is a half-mile long, moderate terrain loop. It leads over the natural bridge and through the Colosseum sinkhole. The trailhead begins at the natural bridge parking area south of the castle parking area.
- **Turkey Pen Hollow Trail** begins at the parking lot east of [Hwy. D](#), between the castle parking area and the spring parking area. This seven-mile rugged trail moves you through the Ha Ha Tonka Savanna Natural Area.
- **Devil's Kitchen Trail** begins at the parking lot east of Hwy. D. The 1-mile rugged trail includes Devil's Kitchen, a cave with a "chimney," and other unique geological formations.

Fees

None

Activities

Hiking, picnicking, fishing, boating

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