

**The Visitor Center and the Ozark Natural and Cultural Resource Center, (ONCRC) both provide tourist information that can be of use during your tour. They are located next door to each other at 200 and 202 S. Main St. or Hwy 19 in Salem, a few blocks north of the Jct of Hwy 32/72 and Hwy 19. [www.salemmo.com](http://www.salemmo.com) or [www.oncrc.org](http://www.oncrc.org)**

#### MILEAGE

- 0.0** From the junction of Hwy 32-72 and Hwy 19, drive south on Hwy 19. The **Walnut Motel** is at the junction, and you will see **Holiday Inn Express** on your right as you leave town.
- 4.4** Junction Hwy. 19, Hwy B and Hwy K
- 9.6** **Gladden Creek Bridge**
- 11.1** **Gladden, Mo** – No facilities
- 16.0** **Silver Arrow Canoe Rental**  
On the right is **Persimmon Pond**, a natural sinkhole pond.
- 17.1** Entering Shannon County
- 18.0** Hwy KK-Turn right onto Hwy KK.
- 20.0** Go left on the road to **Devils Well**.  
The 1.5 mile drive to the well is a pretty drive on a gravel road. Keep on the main road until

the end. Park in the circle. Allow 30 minutes. There is a pit-latrine available. You'll notice a depression in the land and a small walkway. That is the well. When you get to the bottom of the steps, push the light switch. You will not see the lights go on, but continue to the bottom and the well below will be lit. It is covered with grating.

**Devils Well** is a sinkhole over 200 feet deep and partly filled with water. The opening drops about 100 feet to the largest known permanent underground lake in the United States. Devils Well actually serves as a reservoir for **Cave Springs**. Water volume is about 22 million gallons/day emerging at Cave Springs about one mile south. The National Park Service protects the Southern Blind cavefish and a blind cavefish in Devils' Well. Nice Exhibits.

- 23.1** Leaving Devils Well road, turn left on KK.
- 26.4** Entering **Ozark National Scenic Riverways**.



**Ozark National Scenic Riverways** was designated in 1964 by the US Congress as a National Park. It includes Current and Jacks Fork Rivers – the first rivers in the US to receive national protection. 134 miles of rivers provide year-round canoeing, john-boating and many other recreational activities. It has over 300 recorded caves within the boundaries. The rivers are considered class one and two streams. Current River – the most spring-fed ozark river can be floated any time of year.

- 25.0** Junction of Hwy KK and Hwy K

#### 25.2 Akers Ferry and Akers Ferry Canoe Rental

There is a general store. Park and walk down to the river to see the ferry. Akers was a logging community over 100 years ago. Akers Ferry currently is one of only two active two-car ferries left in the United States. The trip across **Current River** is actually downstream. The physics of this type of ferry was conceived by Leonardo DaVinci. It became electric in the 50s and operated by a 3 hp motor on the return. **Hwy K K ends. Turn right from Akers onto K.** The top of the hill is called **Devils Backbone**-the ridge between **Current River** on the left and **Gladden Creek** on the right. It is scenic.

- 28.5** Turn left to **Welch Cave**. Go right at the fork. The gravel road is about 0.6 miles to the parking area. Go right at the fork. (Allow about 45 min to 1 hour.) There is ¾ mile walk to the spring and cave.



**Welch Cave and Spring** is beautiful and right on the **Current River**. **Welch Cave** and Spring was settled by Thomas Welch and his family from Tennessee. They built a gristmill and ran a country store beside the blue spring coming from the cave. His son, Current River Welch, and his grandson, Walter Welch of Salem, also lived there. The spring is the 8th largest in Missouri with an average output of 75 million gallons of water per day. In 1916, Dr C. H. Diehl bought the 80 acres thinking that a health resort for asthma sufferers could use the mineral laden air from the cave. A rock

building was constructed at the entrance to the cave with tunnels and pipes leading to the patient rooms. Unfortunately, Dr. Diehl's idea was not successful. In 1967, the property was purchased by Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

- 29.8** Leaving **Welch's Spring** road, turn left onto Hwy K.
- 32.0** You will see **Big Pine Lodging** on your right.
- 36.1** **Jadwin, Mo** Post Office. On the left is **Barton's Lodging**.
- 36.4** Turn left onto Hwy ZZ. You will see **Jadwin Canoe Rental** on the right as you turn.
- 40.0** **Flat Nasty Off Road Park** will be on your right and **Whispering Pines Trail Ride** is just down the road, also on your right before you get to the river.
- 41.0** Returning to **Ozark National Scenic Riverways**.
- 41.4** **Cedar Grove** Continue across the low water bridge. There are pit-latrine facilities on both sides of the river. A great stop to enjoy **Current River**.
- 41.6** Continue following the road. After you cross over the bridge, you can turn left to access a nice swimming area and gravel bar with camping, and picnicking with grills.
- 41.6** Turn right onto Hwy B (if you go straight there is camping on Big Creek)
- 44.1** Entering Texas County
- 45.3** Hwy B and Hwy AY – Turn right onto Hwy. AY. This road will be undeveloped for about the last 2 miles before Montauk.
- 47.0** Turn right onto Ashley Creek Road.
- 47.2** South Ashley Creek

- 47.3** **Bo's Hollow**, an auto museum and village. Call for hours to be open. Model A rides are available. 573-548-2429



Photo compliments of Rural Missouri, B McEowen

- 48.0 North Ashley Creek
- 49.0 Ashley Creek Rd – Go left onto Dent Co Rd 667.
- 49.2 Dent Co Rd 667 and Hwy VV—Turn right.
- 49.6 Hwy VV and Hwy 119 – Turn Right. You will see **Happy Pappy's Cabins & RV Park** on the left, and **Reeds Cabins** on the right.
- 49.8 Entering **Montauk State Park**. Continue on the main Road.

**Montauk State Park** is 1,353 acres at the junction of Pigeon Creek and Montauk Springs, which form the headwaters of the famed **Current River**. The springs flow an average of 53 million gallons each day—the 11th largest output in Missouri. A popular place for anglers known for fine trout fishing—it formerly housed 4 gristmills. One still stands today, and contains its original machinery. Tours are available.

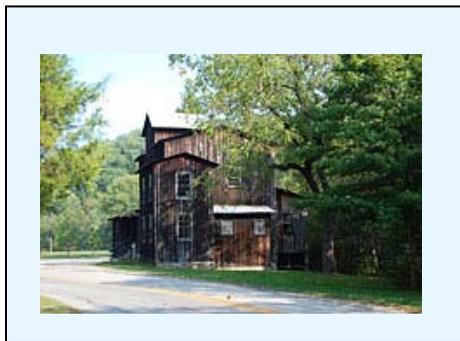
**Montauk State Park** also is host of the **Rose Holland Trout Derby**, a popular event held in October. It has a great restaurant (of course trout is on the menu), and lodging facilities. 800-334-6946 or 573-548-2434

Don't forget to feed the fish! One of the largest fish hatcheries in the state is operated in the park



- 50.0 Crossing the **Current River**
- 50.3 Montauk Mill – open for tours.
- 50.5 Turn left to visit Montauk Springs. It is 0.7 miles from the main road. Park and take the

path to the small group of springs forming the headwaters of the Current River.



- 52.0 Turn right out of the parking lot back to the main road.
- 52.8 Turn left at the main road
- 52.9 **Montauk Lodge** has a store with fishing gear and grocery items, snack bar and restaurant.
- 53.0 Entrance to the main campground in the park. Continue on the main road. As you leave the park, the road becomes gravel. The drive is beautiful and parallels the **Current River**.
- 54.5 Keep left. You will see **Eagles Park Campground** on the left. To the right is Tan-Vat, another river access. The name refers to earlier tanning of animal skins. This is the farthest upstream that canoes are on the river.
- 55.6 The road to Baptist Access. **Pincrest Campground** is on the right



\*\*\* Side trip to Baptist Access. Turn right. It's paved. It is four miles to parking, the platform overlooking the river and picnic facilities. It is a former Baptist Camp.

- 61.9 Hwy YY and Hwy E. Turn right on Hwy E
- 62.5 Hwy E & Hwy K – go straight on Hwy K.
- 67.6 Hwy K and Hwy 19 – turn left on Hwy 19.
- 72.6 Hwy 19 and Hwy 32 –72.

Welcome back to Salem, Missouri



Produced by the  
**Salem Tourism Committee**

**Ozark Natural and Cultural Resource Center (ONCRC)**

Located next door to the Visitor Center at  
201 S Main St., Salem, MO, 573-729-0029,  
[oncrc@salem-mo.com](mailto:oncrc@salem-mo.com) [www.oncrc.org](http://www.oncrc.org)

Send comments or corrections to:  
**Salem Area Chamber of Commerce**  
200 South Main, Salem, Mo 65560  
573-729-6900  
[chamber@salem-mo.com](mailto:chamber@salem-mo.com)  
[www.salem-mo.com](http://www.salem-mo.com)

Photos compliments of Beth Watson



Funded by the Dent County  
Lodging Tax

**Riverways**  
Southwest from Salem, MO

# AUTO TOUR

Half Day to Full Day



**Devils Well**  
**Ozark National Scenic Riverways**  
**Akers Ferry**  
**Current River**  
**Welch Cave-Spring**  
**Cedar Grove**  
**Montauk State Park**