

MISSOURI GETAWAYS Made For Two

One couple,
10 rules of the
road, countless
adventures
ahead

by Lynn Pickercel

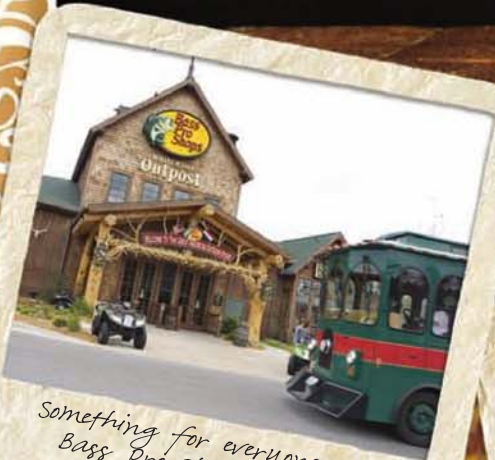
After years spent ushering our kids toward that obscure phase of life known as adulthood, hubby and I now have more time to venture out and explore new places...and act like kids ourselves. Sometimes we plan our little getaways. Other times we just pack up the car, hop in and see where the wind blows us.

Now, his interests include history, sports, cycling and baking. Mine, art and contemporary crafts, gardens, kayaking and cooking. The great thing about our Missouri road trips is wherever we end up, we are sure to stumble upon something to satisfy both of us. And more often than not, we each end up enjoying places we never expected to.

No doubt, you will, too.

So grab your sweetie and a Missouri road map — and give it a try. Not quite sure where to go? Below are a few ideas to ignite your imagination before turning over your car's ignition. For more planning tools and ideas, go to www.VisitMO.com.

You're going to love Missouri... and your time together.



Something for everyone at
Bass Pro Shops on the
Landing in Branson



Fresh-baked goods and sandwiches
at On the Rise Bakery & Bistro,
Lake Ozark



Jazz at the Blue Room, Kansas City

CITY ADVENTURE: ST. LOUIS

SPRING: Take a weekend class at the **Craft Alliance**. Admire the architecture of **Cathedral Basilica**, **Union Station** and **Lafayette Square**. Have dinner on “**The Hill**,” St. Louis’ legendary Italian neighborhood. Splurge on luxury accommodations.

SUMMER: Start the day at **Soulard Market**, a 200-year-old open-air market. Spend the afternoon at the lovely and legendary **Missouri Botanical Garden**. Sneak over to a casino for late-night glitz and glamour...and a little gambling.

AUTUMN: Bicycle along the Mississippi River, beginning at the **Gateway Arch Riverfront**. Visit the **Contemporary Art Museum**. Enjoy a happy hour unlike any other at the zany **City Museum**.

WINTER: Warm up at the **Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House**. Watch the **St. Louis Blues** carve up the ice. Check into a hotel with a hot tub. Stock up on ample supplies of famous **Bissinger Chocolate**.

CITY ADVENTURE: KANSAS CITY

HISTORIC: Hang out at **Union Station**. Tour the **National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial**. Stay up for some late-night jazz at historic **18th and Vine**.

FRESH FOOD AND FRESH AIR: Spend the morning at **City Market**, a century-old open-air market, and the afternoon picnicking on your purchases. Come evening, dine at **Blue Bird Bistro**, featuring local natural foods.

EURO-STYLE LUXURY: Experience **Country Club Plaza**’s gorgeous European flair. Shop for everything from upscale housewares to artisan cheeses to bakery-fresh doggie treats.

ART IMMERSION: View the phenomenal collections at the **Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art** and **Kemper Art Museum**. Take a class at the **Arts Alliance**. Shop the galleries in the art crossroads district. Stock up on artfully crafted **Christopher Elbow Chocolates**. Attend a **Kansas City Repertory Theatre** performance.

CASUAL: Cheer on the **Kansas City Royals**. Eat barbecue. Visit the **Negro Leagues Baseball Museum**. Tour **Boulevard Brewery**. Swing into quirky **Westport** for shopping and live music.



Fishing on the Mississippi River in St. Louis



GREAT RIVER ROAD ADVENTURES

HANNIBAL: Take a paddleboat ride on the Mississippi River. Get a peek inside **Mark Twain’s birthplace** and **boyhood home**. Shop the antique stores.

LOUISIANA: Venture out on a guided kayak trip on the Mississippi River. Unwind at **Eagle’s Nest Winery**’s open-air wine garden, bistro and bakery.

CLARKSVILLE: Explore riverfront artisan studios. Create a willow chair at **The Bent Tree studio**.

Enjoy a glass of Missouri wine at the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia.



ADVENTURES ALONG KATY TRAIL STATE PARK

SEDALIA: Explore the renowned **Daum Museum of Contemporary Art**, then tour **Bothwell Lodge State Historic Site**, an extravagant circa 1900 castle.

ROCHEPORT: Canoe the Missouri River. Savor wine, cheese and a gorgeous sunset from the deck of Les Bourgeois Winery. Stick around for a cooking class and comfortable stay at **Yates House Bed & Breakfast**.

COLUMBIA: Have a ball at the eclectic mix of downtown shops, galleries and restaurants. See **University of Missouri** museums, gardens and sporting events. Take in a show at the regally renovated Missouri Theatre.

HERMANN: Scenic views, galleries, down-home foods, a wine trail and loads of bed and breakfast inns make this German-settled town a great getaway.

ST. CHARLES: Shop the historic district. Tour the **Foundry Art Centre** and the **Lewis and Clark Boat House and Nature Center**. Pick up something yummy at **Rosciglione Bakery**, established in 1900.

STILL MORE ADVENTURES...

PURE OUTDOORS: Go fly-fishing (get lessons) at **Bennett Spring State Park**. Go trapshooting at **Andy Dalton Shooting Range** in Bois D'Arc. Take binoculars and drive along the **Great River Road Birding Trail**. Paddle the **Ozarks National Scenic Riverways**. Bundle up on a winter day and watch for nesting bald eagles along rivers and lakes.

ALL OZARKS: Gear up for the aforementioned outdoor adventures at **Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World** in Springfield. Tour **Wilson's Creek National Battlefield**. Hike the magnificent **Mark Twain Forest** then cozy up next to a fire at the well-appointed **Roaring River State Park** lodge. In Branson, enjoy a hot air balloon ride over scenic hills, a dinner cruise on the **Branson Landing Princess Yacht** and a night at the exquisite **Chateau on the Lake Resort**.

WILD WEST: Begin in St. Joseph, home of Jesse James, the Pony Express and Stetson hats. Go horseback riding (wearing said Stetson hat). Ramble the streets of historic Weston; stop for a beer at **O'Malley's 1842 Irish Pub**.

FRENCH TWIST: Stroll the streets of the French-settled village of Ste. Genevieve. Roll down the windows and drive through vineyards and wineries. Cool down with a glass of crisp, fruity Vignoles.

150-SOME SHOPPING DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS: Head to Lake of the Ozarks! Prep with a mimosa brunch at the **On the Rise Bakery & Woodfired Bistro**. Spend hours shopping at the 110 stores at **Osage Beach Premium Outlets**. Relax at a nice resort. Next day, rent a pontoon boat, play golf and enjoy a lavish lake-side dinner.



Picnicking along the riverfront, Louisiana

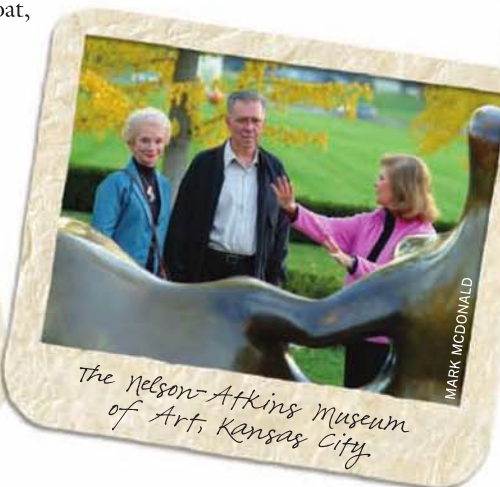


10 Rules of the Road

1. Car must be fueled up and packed for just about anything (jackets, umbrellas, picnic blanket, sunscreen, caffeine, aspirin, corkscrew, gas can and/or good walking shoes, cooler, camera, etc.).
2. Must stop at at least one place neither has ever been.
3. Eat and drink the most local/most distinctive cuisine available.
4. Buy something unique to take home.
5. Buy at least one postcard (actually mailing it, optional).
6. Take at least one photo.
7. Turn the cell phones off.
8. Turn the radio up and sing.
9. Turn off the radio and talk.
10. Leave cares behind... and have fun!



Downtown Jamesport



The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City