

## 1. Buffalo National River

**Distance:** 1.5 hrs to Harrison, AR

**Description:** Home of the Ozark's highest river bluffs, some reaching 440 feet among the Boston Mountains There is a total of 120 miles of floatable River along the Buffalo National River.

### *Upper River*

Boxley Bridge to Ponca	6.1 mi
Ponca to Steel Creek	2.6 mi
Steel Creek to Kyles Landing	8 mi
Kyles Landing to Erbie	5.7 mi
Erbie to Ozark	5.4 mi
Ozark to Pruitt Landing	2.1 mi
Pruitt Landing to Hasty	7 mi
Hasty to Carver	4 mi

Buffalo Outdoor Center (1-800-221-5514)

[www.buffaloriver.com](http://www.buffaloriver.com)

### *Middle River*

Carver to Mt. Hersey	6.8 mi
Mt. Hersey to Woolum	8.5 mi
Woolum to Tyler Bend	15.3 mi
Tyler Bend to Grinders Ferry	1.4 mi
Grinders Ferry to Gilbert	4 mi
Gilbert to Maumee	11.8 mi

Buffalo River Outfitters (870-439-2244)

[www.buffalooriver.com](http://www.buffalooriver.com)

### *Lower River*

Maumee to Dillard's Ferry	9.4 mi
Dillard's Ferry to Buffalo Point	1.5 mi
Buffalo Point to Rush Landing	7.5 mi
Rush Landing to Buffalo City	24.4 mi

Wild Bills Outfitter (1-800-554-8657)

<http://www.ozark-float.com>

**Directions:** From Springfield, take Hwy 65 South to Harrison, Arkansas. Check with outfitter for further directions.

## Leave No Trace

- Plan And Prepare
  - ? Know regulations & restrictions on paddlers and prepare for extreme weather.
- Travel/Camp on Durable Surfaces
  - ? Use established trails and campsites. Camp 200 feet from the river.
- Dispose of Waste Properly
  - ? Pack In, Pack Out (includes TP, hygiene products).
- Leave What You Find
  - ? Avoid transplanting or introducing non-native species. Leave fossils and artifacts.
- Minimize Campfire Impact
  - ? Use established fire rings.
  - ? Lightweight cooking stove and candle lantern cause little impact.
- Respect Wildlife
  - ? Never feed animals and control pets at all times.
- Be considerate of Others
  - ? Watch for and respect those fishing along the river, livestock and wildlife.

### Other Considerations for Paddlers:

- Choose durable break areas, such as sand bars or rocky beaches.
- Dispose of human waste 200 feet away from water sources in a cathole.

# Paddling in the Ozarks



**OUTDOOR**  
**ADVENTURES**  
SMSU

Southwest Missouri State University  
Plaster Student Union 135  
(417) 836-5904

[www.smsu.edu/recreation](http://www.smsu.edu/recreation)

## 2. Current River

**Distance:** 2.5 hours from Springfield

**Description:** The Current River is one of the two rivers in Southeast Missouri that make up the Ozark's National Scenic Riverways. The Current begins near Licking and flows southeast for 133 miles. The Current possesses more springs than any other Ozarks river.

### Upper Current

(Salem area to Eminence area)

52.5 miles of floatable river

	Hrs.	Mi.
Baptist to Cedergrove:	3	6.9
Cedargrove to Akers:	3	7.7
Akers to Pulltite:	3	10.3
Pulltite to Round Spring	3	8.2
Round Spring to Jerktail	5	8.3
Round Spring to Two Rivers	7	17.3

### Lower Current

(Eminence area to Van Buren area)

86.5 miles of floatable river

	Hrs.	Mi.
Two Rivers to Owls Bend:	3	7.2
Owls Bend to Van Buren:	10	26.2
Van Buren to Big Spring:	2	4.3
Big Spring to Gooseneck:	6	15
Big Spring to Cataract:	4	8.8

Akers Ferry Canoe Rental

1-800-333-5628 (Serves Upper & Lower)

website: [www.currentrivercanoe.com](http://www.currentrivercanoe.com)

Eminence Canoe Rental

1-800-224-2090 (Serves Upper & Lower)

website: [www.missouri2000.net/eccc](http://www.missouri2000.net/eccc)

**Directions:** From Springfield, take I-44 East to Hwy 72 near Rolla. Take 72 East to Salem. In Salem take Hwy 19 South for approx. 19 miles to KK. Turn Right on KK to Akers.

## 3. Jack's Fork River

**Distance:** 2.5 hours from Springfield

**Description:** Jack's Fork is one of the two rivers in Southeast Missouri that make up the Ozark's National. The Jack's Fork is the major tributary of the Current and consists of 44 miles of floatable river.

### Jack's Fork

(Mountain View to Eminence)

44 miles of floatable river

	Hrs.	Mi.
Hwy 17 to Alley Spring:	16	24.2
Bay Creek to Alley Spring:	3	5.8
Alley Spring to Eminence:	3	6.3
Alley Spring to Two Rivers	8	13.6

(Up stream from Alley the water level may be low)

Harvey's Alley Spring Canoe Rental

573-226-3386 or 888-963-5628

website: [www.missouri2000.net/alley.spring](http://www.missouri2000.net/alley.spring)

**Directions:** From Springfield, take 60 East. Approx 17 miles past Mountain View turn left on Hwy E. Make a left on Hwy 106. Canoe Rental is on the right just past Alley Spring.

## 4. Meramec River

**Distance:** 2.5 hours from Springfield

**Description:** The Meramec River is fed by Meramec Springs. The Huzzah and Courtois Creek converge to join the Meramec. Because it is spring-fed, it is floatable most of the year. It is most popular to float the section between Maramec Spring and Meramec State Park. There are 60.1 miles of floatable river between the spring and the state park.

Bass' River Resort

800-392-3700 or 573-786-8517

website: [www.bassresort.com](http://www.bassresort.com)

**Directions:** From Springfield, take I-44 East to Cuba. Take Hwy 19 South through Steelville, go straight through the 3-way stop. Head east on Hwy 8 for about 10.5 miles. Turn at the big yellow sign.

## 5. Jack's Fork River

**Distance:** 1 hour from Springfield

**Description:** The Niangua is noted for its exceptional fishing and flows through Bennett Spring State Park. There are a total of 79 miles of floatable river along the Niangua.

NRO Niangua River Oasis

800-748-7249 or 417-532-6333

website: [www.nrocanoe.com](http://www.nrocanoe.com)

**Directions:** From Springfield, take I-44 East to Lebanon. Take Hwy 64 west to Clyde's General Store, turn north on Corkery Road. Follow signs 2 1/2 miles.

## 6. North Fork of the White River

**Distance:** 2.5 hours from Springfield

**Description:** The "North Fork" is another Ozark gem that starts south of Cabool and runs south. The upper section is floatable in the spring, and lower stretches are a year round option.

Twin Bridges Canoe and Campground

(417) 256-7507

Website: <http://www.twinbridgescanoe.com>

**Directions:** From Springfield, take Hwy 60 east to Cabool. Take Hwy 181 south to Twin Bridges. Note that Hwy 181 intersects Hwy 76 for a short stretch. Go left (east) on Hwy 76, then right (south) on Hwy 181. Hwy 181 intersects Hwy 14 in front of our store.