**Day 1**

**St. Louis Lambert International Airport (STL) to Gateway Arch:** 20 Mins, 17 miles

STL = 10701 Lambert International Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63145

Merge on to I-70 East, go 12.6 miles

Use the left lane to continue on I-44 W for 2.1 miles, you will drive pass the Gateway Arch to the left (east)

You are going to flip around to get on 44 E, so take exit 290 C for 7th St, south. (signs for Broadway/Downtown/Historic Soulard).

Then right on Marion St, and RIGHT on to I-44 E, go 1.2 miles to the Gateway Arch Park

**Gateway Arch to Save A Lot Grocery Store (1631 S Jefferson Ave, St. Louis, MO 63104)**

**This is a National Park as of 2018**

Head north on I-44 0.1 mi

Take exit 292 for Lumiere Place Blvd toward Washington Ave/Eads Bridge 0.1 m

Turn left onto Washington Ave 115 ft

Turn left onto Memorial Dr 0.1 mi

Use the left lane to take the I-44 W ramp to I-55 S/Tulsa/Memphis

Keep right at the fork to stay on I-44 0.8 mi

Take exit 289 for Jefferson Ave 0.2 mi

Keep right at the fork and merge onto Jefferson Ave

Turn left onto Lafayette Ave 495 ft

Turn right 341 ft

Turn right Destination will be on the left

**A Lot Grocery Store (1631 S Jefferson Ave, St. Louis, MO 63104) to Taum Sauk:** 1.75 hours 96 miles

From Lafayette Ave turn right onto the I-55 S ramp

## Follow I-55 S for 32.9 miles

## Take exit 174B to merge onto US-67 S toward Bonne Terre/Farmington for 33.9 miles

## Take the MO-221 W exit

## Merge onto MO-221/Hwy 221 7.1 mi

## Turn left onto Hwy 221/Missouri W 8.7 mi

## Turn left onto Old Hwy 21 Pass by Subway (on the right in 0.2 mi) 0.3 mi

## Turn left onto MO-21 S 6.6 mi

## Turn right onto State Hwy CC

## Head south on State Route 21 from Arcadia, Missouri for about 4 and a half miles. Turn right onto Highway CC which is signed for Taum Sauk Mountain State Park.

## Along Highway CC you will see an Adopt-A-Highway sign listing the highpointers club and its founder Jack Longacre who apparently lived in this area.

## After a few miles the pavement will end near a fork in the road. To the left is a lookout tower with wonderful views, to the right is Taum Sauk Mountain State Park.

## Once in the park there will be a viewing platform on the right side of the road that includes a panoramic photo labeling the peaks and valleys before you. At the end of the road is parking for many vehicles.

## 

## Taum Sauk Mountain (1772 ft) is a walk-up summit that is ADA accessible.

## Taum Sauk Mountain in the Saint Francois Mountains is the highest natural point in the U.S. state of Missouri at 1,772 feet (540 m). The topography of Taum Sauk is that of an elongated ridge with a NNW-SSE orientation rather than a peak. While relatively low in terms of elevation at 1,772 feet (540 m) compared to other peaks, Taum Sauk and the St. Francois range are true mountains, being the result of a volcanic orogeny. Whereas vertical relief in the rest of the Ozarks region is the result of erosion of sedimentary strata.

## The park is also home to the highest water fall in Missouri, Mina Sauk Falls, which drops a total of 132 feet in three distinct drops. These falls normally have water cascading over them only during times of wet weather. At other times they are reduced to a trickle or less.

## The trailhead sign lists the Mina Sauk Falls as a three mile loop, see map below.

## A Shut-In in Missouri is where a creek passes through two mountains and is shut-in by rock and forms a rocky cascade that tends to make a great swimming hole in the summer.

## Camping is allowed in Taum Sauk Mountain State Park for a fee at the park campground and is allowed in Mark Twain National Forest - below and beyond Mina Sauk Falls - for free.

## State park In 1991 Missouri created Taum Sauk Mountain State Park, a 7,448-acre (30.14 km2) state park on the mountain: it has a rustic campground, a paved trail to the highpoint marked by a polished granite plaque, and a lookout tower from which a good view can be had; the dense forest on the mountain obscures the view from most other vantage points. Taum Sauk State Park is in a common jurisdiction with nearby Johnson's Shut-ins State Park, and together they comprise the second largest state park in Missouri with a total area of 15,961.5 acres (64.594 km2). These parks and the adjacent Bell Mountain Wilderness Area make up part of a large wilderness area that is very popular with hikers and backpackers. The 33-mile (53 km) Taum Sauk section of the Ozark Trail is considered by the Ozark Trail Association to be one of the finest trails in Missouri.[8]