

GATEWAY GTO CLUB OZARK MOUNTAIN CRUISE MAY 21-22

This will be a relatively long cruise through some of the most scenic vistas in Missouri, the mining areas of the Ozark Mountains. We will meet at the Dierberg's on Tesson Ferry (Hwy 21) at Kennerly between 8:30 and 9:00 am. We will leave promptly at 9:00 am and cruise down scenic Hwy 21 through the towns of Hillsboro, Desoto, Potosi and Caladonia before arriving at Elephant Rocks State Park at 10:30 am.

Elephant Rocks State Park is 131 acres of solid granite boulders standing end to end looking like a line of circus elephants, thus the name, Elephant Rocks. There is a one mile trail through the Rocks that is very easy walking that takes you through the boulders, to the top of the outcropping and past an old granite quarry that was opened in 1869 and supplied granite to the Eads Bridge in St. Louis. We will spend an hour here so feel free to explore and investigate. It is well worth the time.

At 11:30 am, we will continue south on Hwy 21 through Pilot Knob to Ironton where we will stop for lunch at Baylee Jo's Bar-B-Que. They have a variety of lunch fair from burgers to you guessed it, Bar-B-Que.

At 12:30 pm, we will head south and west along Hwy 21 around Taum Sauk Mountain, the highest mountain in Missouri and turn Northeast on Hwy N to Johnson Shut-Ins State Park. We should arrive at the Visitors Center at about 1:15 PM and will remain here for about one hour and 15 minutes. The Visitors Center contains information about the area, how it was formed and the types of vegetation present. There is also information about the catastrophic flood that happened in 2005. Ameren UE (formerly Union Electric) maintains a huge "lake" on top of Taum Sauk Mountain where during the night, huge pumps fill the lake when electricity is cheap.

During the hot summer days, UE lets the water flow down the mountain to make electricity during peak usage times. This “lake” on top of the mountain broke and 1.5 billion of gallons of water came crashing down the mountain and through the Johnson Shut-Ins Park washing away the Park Ranger, his family and their house. They were all saved but the park was destroyed. After years of clean up by UE, the park is back to its original state except for the scour mark on the mountain side that you can see from the Visitor Center. Next, we will drive to the very back of the Park and take a short walk down a trail to the actual Shut-Ins. These are very closely spaced granite boulders in the middle of the Black River forming chutes and waterfalls in a canyon like setting. You really must see this.

At 2:30 pm, we will head back on Hwy N to Hwy 21 and then quickly take Hwy 49 north to Viburnum then to Hwy 19 to Steelville then on into Cuba to check in at the historic Wagon Wheel Motel at about 4:30 pm. This is a recently restored Route 66 landmark that is very typical of the types of motels one would see on Route 66 back in the 30s, 40s and 50s. Connie Echols has done a superb job of restoring this landmark to its original look outside yet with modern amenities such as flat screen TVs, modern HVAC and bathrooms. The reservation number is attached along with prices. Get your reservations in ASAP as 10 of the 19 rooms are already booked by another car club. The remainder of rooms are tentatively held for us so mention the Gateway GTO Club when you make your reservations.

After a short rest from the long day of “Cruising the Ozarks” we will travel to the Frisco Restaurant in Cuba for dinner. Their specialty is steaks and pasta. After dinner we will head over to the Cuba Drive In for a movie the old fashion way, sitting in your GTO. Bring an FM radio as they do not have the old window speakers anymore; you must use an FM radio to listen to the movie. After the movie and a few trips to check out the back seat, we will return to the Wagon Wheel for a well deserved night’s sleep. In the morning, we will travel to Salem for breakfast where we might see some of the original Earl Lewis Clan and then return to St. Louis along old Route 66 arriving back about 12 noon.

This is a very long trip requiring an overnight stay. For those who do not want to spend the night or who do not have the time to do the entire trip, you can join anywhere or leave anywhere along the route. Some may follow us to Elephant Rocks, eat lunch and return home. Some may follow to Elephant Rocks, lunch and Johnson Shut-Ins and then return home. Others may join us in Cuba to spend the night at the Wagon Wheel and do the drive-in. It is totally up to you. Pick any or all of the parts of the Ozark Mountain Cruise that works for you. The only preparation you will need to do is make reservations ASAP at the Wagon Wheel if you are planning to spend the night. There are 9 rooms semi reserved for the Gateway GTO Club so be sure you make your reservations quickly and mention the Gateway GTO Club when you do.

See the attached info on the Wagon Wheel Motel.

Wagon Wheel Motel
901 E. Washington St. (Old Route 66)
Cuba, Mo. 65453
573-885-3411
<http://wagonwheel66cuba.com>

OZARK MOUNTAIN CRUISE MAY 21-22

- **8:30 – 9:00AM** **MEET AT DIERBERGS-KENNERLY & TESSON FERRY (HWY 21)**
- **9:00 – 10:30AM** **TRAVEL SCENIC HWY 21 TO ELEPHANT ROCKS STATE PARK**
- **10:30 – 11:30AM** **VIEW GIGANTIC GRANITE ROCKS STANDING END TO END LIKE A TRAIN OF CIRCUS ELEPHANTS. ALSO VIEW AN OLD GRANITE QUARRY.**
- **11:30 – 12:30PM** **LUNCH AT BAYLE JO'S BAR-B-QUE IN IRONTON**
- **12:30 – 1:15PM** **TRAVEL SCENIC OZARK HIGHWAYS TO JOHNSON'S SHUT-INS STATE PARK**
- **1:15 – 2:30PM** **VISIT VISITOR'S CENTER, VIEW THE SHUT-INS AND SEE THE SCOUR CHANNEL GOUGED OUT WHEN THE AMEREN TAUM SAUK RESERVOIR FAILED.**
- **2:30 – 4:30PM** **TRAVEL MORE SCENIC OZARK HIGHWAYS TO THE WAGON WHEEL MOTEL ON ROUTE 66 IN CUBA, MO. GET YOUR RESERVATIONS IN ASAP!!!!**
- **4:30 – 6:00PM** **CHECK IN AND RELAX IN THESE HISTORIC ROUTE 66 CABINS**
- **6:00PM – 8:00PM** **DINNER AT FRISCO'S IN CUBA - GREAT STEAKS & SEAFOOD.**
- **8:00PM – 11:00PM** **MOVIE AT THE CUBA DRIVE-IN**

MAIN MENU

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RESERVATIONS

The Historic Wagon Wheel Motel

901 E. Washington street Cuba, Mo. 65453
 573-885-3411 ~ Email: wwheel@centurytel.net

All Rooms are non-smoking - pet policy & Fees Apply

New Rooms Now Available

Visit Connie's Shoppe in the Front Building

A sitting room/ microwave and fridge/ 2 queen beds	\$ 100.00
"The original Office" - Up to 4 people	
Each additional person	\$ 10.00

Jacuzzi Room with 1 Queen bed - 2 people	\$ 110.00
Each additional person	\$ 10.00

We also have 8 more rooms available in these sizes.

1 Queen bed/ 2 People	\$ 66.00
Full / Extra Long & Twin / Extra Long - 3 People	\$ 78.00
Each additional person	\$ 10.00
1 Queen bed/ 2 People	\$ 66.00
1 Full Extra Long Bed / 2 people	\$ 60.00

Taxes not included in prices.



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