

## Taum Sauk Mountain State Park

### MINA SAUK FALLS TRAIL

Mina Sauk Falls Trail provides access to two of Missouri's most important geologic wonders - its highest point and its tallest waterfall. From the parking area, a short walk along a wheelchair-accessible trail leads to the top of Taum Sauk Mountain and the highest point in the state at 1,772 feet above sea level. Beyond this point, the trail becomes rocky and rugged and is not considered accessible to wheelchairs. The trail passes through oak-hickory woodlands that give way to rocky, open glades with expansive and impressive views of the St. Francois Mountains. The trail passes along the top of Mina Sauk Falls, the tallest waterfall in Missouri. Cascading 132 feet over a series of ledges into Taum Sauk Creek, this wet-weather waterfall flows best after a rain. A hike back up the mountain ends at the trailhead. This is a strenuous and challenging trail so be prepared for the rugged, rocky climb and carry plenty of water. Hikers may encounter water crossings in wet weather.




The Taum Sauk Section of the Ozark Trail can be accessed from Mina Sauk Falls Trail trailhead. These two trails run together for approximately one mile. At the top of the falls, Ozark Trail continues down the valley while Mina Sauk Falls Trail loops back up the mountain.

**Distance:** 2.9 Miles

**Uses:**

Hiking 

Accessible 

**Blazes:**

Red 

**Class:** Loop

**Surface Type:** Natural, Paved/Concrete

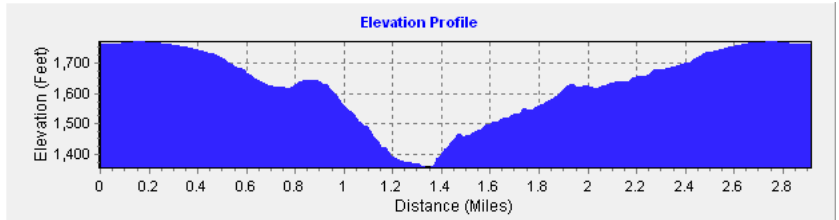
**Trail Rating:** Rugged

**Estimated Hiking Time:** 2 Hours, 54 Minutes

**Trailhead & GPS Location:**

37.57280, -90.72827

#### Mina Sauk Falls Trail



**You may experience:**

- 2) Natural Surface-dirt/mud/gravel, shifting rock, slippery surface, etc.
- 3) Rocks, roots and/or downed vegetation on trail
- 5) Physically challenging obstacles
- 7) Steep grades and inclines more than 10%
- 8) Bluffs or drop-offs next to trail
- 10) Water/stream crossings without bridges

**This trail or a portion of this trail travels through:** St. Francois Mountains Natural Area

- RED
- ORANGE
- YELLOW
- GREEN
- BLUE
- BROWN
- WHITE CONNECTOR
- SHARED TREAD

- NATURAL
- GRAVEL
- PAVED
- WATER
- BOARDWALK

## TRAIL BLAZE COLORS & SURFACE TYPES

The maps on this website indicate the blaze colors for each trail. If more than one trail shares tread, that portion of the trail is identified by more than one color. The surface type of a trail is indicated on the maps generated by this website by a pattern overlapping the blaze color of the trail.

## TRAIL TYPE – Loop, Multi-loop, One Way, System or Multi-section

A **loop** trail is one that will return you to the trailhead. **Multi-loop** trails offer two or more separate loops, ex. a trail having a north and south loop. A **one-way** trail takes you from the trailhead to the farthest point on the trail and you will have to retrace your steps to return to the trailhead. If you plan to return to your starting point on a one-way trail, you will have to double the distance to calculate your estimated mileage and/or hiking time.

A **trail system** is a series of interconnected trails that allow you to choose your own route.

A **Multi-section** trail offers two or more separate sections, ex. Katy Trail State Park, and distances are shown both for the entire trail and the sections.

- 1 Slippery conditions and/or downed vegetation
- 2 Natural surface: dirt, mud, gravel, shifting rocks, slippery surface, etc.
- 3 Rocks, roots and/or downed vegetation on trail
- 4 Low-hanging vegetation
- 5 Physically challenging obstacles
- 6 Wood or stone steps
- 7 Steep grades and inclines over 10%
- 8 Bluffs or drop-offs next to trail
- 9 Bridges and/or structural crossings
- 10 Water/stream crossings without bridges
- 11 Occasional water over trail
- 12 Road/Highway crossing
- 13 Emergency response signs
- 14 Narrow passages
- 15 Raised or protruding obstacles
- 16 Electric fence crossings
- 17 Bison/elk
- 18 Rapidly changing weather conditions
- 19 Motorized boat traffic
- 20 Unexpected waves
- 21 Changing water levels
- 22 Surface or submerged objects

## YOU MAY EXPERIENCE

These conditions are all things you may encounter while on a Missouri state parks trail. Trailhead signs at the start of each trail also indicate which conditions exist on that trail.

## ESTIMATED HIKING TIME

The estimated hiking time was determined by considering the average user's speed and the conditions that might be experienced on a specific trail. Your speed may be slower or faster than the time listed.

## GPS COORDINATES

There are several methods of communicating GPS coordinates. Most GPS units will convert from one coordinate system to another. If you require a different coordinate system for your unit, visit [dnr.mo.gov/gisutils/](http://dnr.mo.gov/gisutils/) to convert the coordinates shown on this map to another version.

## NATURAL AREAS / WILD AREAS

**Natural areas** are identified in pink. Natural areas are recognized as the best remaining examples known of Missouri's original natural environments. These natural areas are managed and protected for their scientific, educational and historical values. Missouri state parks have 38 designated natural areas, encompassing almost 22,000 acres.

**Wild areas** are identified in brown. The Missouri Wild Area System is made up of large tracts of land set aside as wilderness, which make the perfect setting for hiking and backpacking. A wild area must be 1,000 or more acres in size, show little impact from humans, and possess outstanding opportunities for solitude. They are strictly protected for their wilderness benefits as well as for their use for environmental education and scientific study.



## TRAIL USE

-  Hiking Trail
-  Backpacking Trail
-  Mountain Biking Trail
-  Equestrian Trail
-  Accessible
-  Hardened-Surface Bicycling Trail
-  Paddling Trail
-  Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Trail
-  Motorized Boating Trail
-  Wagon Suitable Trail
-  Interpretive Trail
-  Fitness Trail
-  Interpretive Water Trail
-  Wildlife Viewing Trail

## POINTS OF INTEREST

-  Main Park Entrance / Park Entrance
-  Trailhead
-  Parking
-  Trail Access
-  Overlook
-  Restroom
-  Camping
-  Special-Use Camping Area
-  Check Station / Park Office / Ranger Office
-  Visitor Center / Orientation Center
-  Emergency Response / First Aid
-  Picnicking
-  Playground
-  Technical Feature
-  Natural Feature
-  Cultural Feature
-  Amphitheater
-  Backpack Camping Shelter
-  Backpack Campsite
-  Boat Ramp
-  Dining
-  Equestrian Parking
-  Interpretive Panel
-  Interpretive Shelter
-  Intersection
-  Lodging / Cabin / Camper Cabin
-  Marina / Boat Dock
-  Nature Center
-  Organized Group Camp
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Recreation Feature
-  Skills Course
-  Stables
-  Store
-  Swimming
-  Telephone
-  Water Fountain
-  Water Access