

# Tour Scout

## The Show-Me State's Group Tour Newsletter

An eventful year concludes with seasonal festivals and holiday cheer. Enjoy the lights that decorate attractions like Country Club Plaza in Kansas City, Silver Dollar City in Branson and Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. The weather may carry a chill but warmth is never far away in the form of award-winning restaurants, wineries and breweries. So pull up a chair and savor the flavor of Missouri.

### Itinerary

Discover the stomping grounds of author Mark Twain in his hometown of [Hannibal](#). Learn how living along the banks of the Mississippi River inspired works like *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.



Hannibal CVB

### New & Noteworthy

- Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium, Springfield** – Showcasing more than 35,000 live fish, mammals, reptiles and birds, Wonders of Wildlife has been called one of the largest immersive conservation attractions in the world. Future additions will include the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and the International Game Association Hall of Fame.
- Titanic First Class Dinner Experience, Branson** – Promoted by Hiltons of Branson, package your hotel stay with a Titanic experience. Be regaled by a Titanic cast member as you enjoy a 4-course plated meal (buffet available upon request). When you've had your fill, it's a brief drive to Titanic Museum Attraction where you tour the artifacts that remain from that fateful night. Available for groups of 35 or more.
- Time Traveler Ride at Silver Dollar City, Branson** – Opening Spring 2018, Time Traveler will be the world's fastest, steepest and tallest spinning roller coaster. So strap in, hold tight, and be prepared to scream your head off.
- Samson at Sight & Sound Theatre, Branson** – Journey with this unlikely hero as he battles the Philistines - and his own calling. Experience this Bible story in jaw-dropping scale, brought to life by a world-class cast, spectacular special effects and live animals.
- Fun Mountain at Big Cedar Lodge, Ridgedale** – Student groups will have a blast at this all-new 50,000 square-foot adventure complex. Bowling, ropes courses, laser tag, and 360-degree rotating bumper cars are only a few of the activities to partake in.
- Anheuser-Busch Brewery Tours, St. Louis** – New tour options include the Day Fresh Tour which follows the beer-making process from "seed to sip." See new sites like the historic Brewhouse, Bevo Packaging Facility and more. For a more in-depth experience, try the Beermaster Tour which delves into the art of brewing and finishes with a sample fresh from the finishing tank.
- Apollo Moon Landing exhibit *Destination Moon: Apollo 11 Mission* at St. Louis Science Center** – On loan from the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, the exhibit will be available to tour April 14 - September 3, 2018.
- The Mighty Mississippi at Missouri History Museum, St. Louis** – Reconnect with America's greatest river and its many important tributaries in this special exhibit exploring the past, present, and future of the Middle Mississippi River watershed.
- Muny Memories at Missouri History Museum, St. Louis** – Celebrating 100 seasons of performances, this exhibit looks back on the history of the nation's largest and oldest continually operation outdoor theatre. Your visit can be paired with an exclusive backstage tour and discounted tickets to an evening performance. Opens June 9, 2018.
- Soldier's Memorial Military Museum, St. Louis** – A state-of-the-art museum facility honoring military service, veterans, and their families, Soldier's Memorial is undergoing renovations and is on track to open November 3, 2018.
- Gateway Arch, St. Louis** – Scheduled to celebrate their grand opening during Fair St. Louis, a Fourth of July celebration, the Arch renovation project is nearing completion. Features will include increased accessibility, an expanded parks and trail system, modified riverfront, new entrance, expanded museum and convenient bus drop-off and parking.



Wonders of Wildlife



Sight & Sound Theatres

### Industry Q&A

Q. How do you approach working with new clients?

A. "When working with potential clients, I start with a simple principal every time. I listen. The success of the tour operator depends on my ability to grasp their wants and needs. When people feel listened to, they become more receptive to the message. By listening, you become more informed about what they really need — not what you think they need — which fuels relationships and allows for the creation of the perfect customized itinerary in Pulaski County."

- Karen Hood, Pulaski County Tourism Bureau

### Spotlight: Joplin



Joplin CVB

An eclectic mix of attractions makes Joplin the perfect destination for your next group tour. Start your day at [City Hall](#) where the artistic processes of artist Thomas Hart Benton is chronicled through a collection of sketches. From there, it's a quick walk across the street to snag a photo in front of a mock 1964 red Corvette, part of the [Route 66 Mural Park](#).

Shopping abounds in downtown Joplin, so take time to browse the selection of shops and art galleries for your next treasure. As [hunger strikes](#), you're sure to be pleased with a stop at [Red Onion Cafe](#). But save room for dessert! Tours of [Candy House Chocolate Factory](#) are offered near by.

A driving tour offers a look at the Historic Murphysburg District (of which some homes offer tours), Grand Falls (Missouri's largest continually flowing natural waterfall), and the Bonnie & Clyde Hide Out Apartment. End your drive at Cunningham Park where you can stretch your legs among the sculptures dedicated to those effected by the EF5 tornado that struck in 2011.

A stop at the [Joplin Museum Complex](#) provides a look at a rather interesting assembly of historical and mineral items. The Everett J. Ritchie Tri-State Mineral Museum teaches guests about geology and geochemistry, with many lead and zinc ores on display. You know, the pretty rocks that sparkle? The attached Dorothea B. Hoover Historical Museum adds to this attraction, showcasing Bonnie and Clyde artifacts, a 1927 American LeFrance fire engine, doll collections, and - you'd never guess - a cookie cutter collection.

End your day by finding the perfect wine pairing at [Keltoi Winery](#). Sip your favorite vignole from the patio or enjoy a tasting while listening to live music, which can be arranged upon request.

Find sample itineraries, escort notes and more on [VisitMO.com](#)

