



Check out these fun Missouri Facts:

The Ozark National Scenic Riverways, in southeast Missouri, was the nation's first federally designated scenic riverways system. It preserves sections of the Current River and the Jacks Fork River.

Missouri is home to more than 6,100 known caves. In fact, Missouri is known as “the cave state.” Tours are offered at 23 of our caves.

Prior to Prohibition (1920), Missouri was the nation's second-largest wine producer. Today, the wine industry is enjoying new growth, with more than 110 wineries.

In the 1870s, Missouri's Norton grape vines virtually saved the French wine industry. French vineyards suffered an infestation of phylloxera insects, pushing the industry to the brink of ruin. Millions of cuttings of Missouri's Norton rootstock (immune to the insect) were shipped to France and grafted onto French vines, saving the French wine industry from disaster. A monument in Montpellier, France, commemorates this rescue.

Kansas City's Country Club Plaza, built in the 1920s, was America's first suburban shopping center. The area now boasts nearly 250 shops, stores and restaurants.

Ste. Genevieve, founded in the 1730s by French traders, was the first European settlement west of the Mississippi River; it was the first permanent community in Missouri (St. Louis was the second). Ste. Genevieve holds the largest concentration of French Colonial buildings in the United States.

The Gateway Arch, in St. Louis, is America's tallest man-made national monument. It is 630 feet wide at its base and stands 630 feet tall. Visitors ride a tram to the observation room at the top.

The Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, southwest of Springfield, is the site of Missouri's best-known Civil War battle. At least 64 men who saw action during that battle later became generals.

St. Joseph was the starting point of the famed Pony Express.

Two national wildlife refuges in Missouri - Loess Bluffs and Swan Lake - are resting places for more than a million ducks and geese during spring and fall migrations.

The Lake of the Ozarks has more miles of shoreline (1,150) than the coast of California.

The Gasconade River is the longest river completely within the boundary of Missouri; it has been called one of the most crooked in the world. It has a total length of 300 miles from its source to its confluence with the Missouri River; however, as the crow flies, the distance from start to finish is only 120 miles.

Adam Puchta Winery, established in 1855, is the oldest continually owned and operated family farm winery in Missouri.

The highest point in Missouri, at 1,772 feet, is Taum Sauk Mountain (a state park) in the southeast part of the state. It includes Mina Sauk Falls (flows in wet weather only), the highest waterfall in Missouri.

The J. Huston Tavern (opened in 1834) in Arrow Rock, is the oldest continually operating tavern west of the Mississippi River.

Big Spring, located in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways system, is the nation's largest single-outlet spring; one of the largest in the world. On average, it gushes 278 million gallons a day; with a maximum daily flow of 846 million gallons.

Kansas City has more fountains than any city except Rome, Italy.

Saint Louis University, chartered in 1832, is the oldest University west of the Mississippi River.

The most powerful earthquake to strike the United States occurred in 1811, centered in New Madrid. It shook more than 1 million square miles and was felt 1,000 miles away.

The Anheuser-Busch brewery in St. Louis is the largest beer producing plant in the nation.