



RIVERS, THE ARCH & THE HISTORY BETWEEN

St. Louis, Saint Charles, Hannibal, Marceline, St. Joseph, Kansas City

Day One - St. Louis

Arrive in **St. Louis** (www.explorestlouis.com) to begin your tour. Experience the Tram Ride to the Top at the **Gateway Arch National Park**. You will be whisked back in time to the day in 1965 when the Gateway Arch was finished before taking a journey to the top for a breathtaking view of St. Louis. The Arch trip also includes a visit to the underground **Museum at the Gateway Arch** – showcasing six story galleries highlighting perspectives from cultures involved in westward expansion. The museum has preserved the days of the past so they'll live in your mind forever. www.gatewayarch.com

What better way to get a feel for Ol' Man River, than with a relaxing **Gateway Arch Riverboat Cruise**. Two vessels, the Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher, offer one-hour narrated cruises daily Memorial Day through Labor Day (cruises offered on Saturday & Sunday during slow season). www.gatewayarch.com

Next stop is the World's Largest Brewery, **Anheuser-Busch**, with a look at the spectacular stables of the famed Clydesdales. The tour is complimentary as are the samples offered in the hospitality room! www.budweisertours.com

Tour the majestic **Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis**. The Cathedral is of Romanesque and Byzantine design and contains the most extensive collection of mosaic art in the world. www.cathedralstl.org

Check into your hotel.

Dinner options include an evening on **The Hill** - St. Louis' famous Italian neighborhood known for its nationally acclaimed restaurants, specialty groceries and bakeries, tiny "shotgun" houses and fire hydrants proudly painted red, white and green, the colors of the Italian flag.

This evening, enjoy a show at the **Fabulous Fox Theatre**. This 1929 movie palace, one of the first theatres built for "talkies" by movie mogul William Fox, was designed in a style described as Siamese-Byzantine. www.fabulousfox.com

Overnight: St. Louis

Day Two - St. Louis, Saint Charles, Hannibal

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before departing for **Saint Charles**. www.discoverstcharles.com

The historic town of **Saint Charles** was Missouri's first capital city between 1821 and 1826. The South Main Street Historic District features 125 unique shops and is also home to a number of quaint restaurants. Take time to stop at the **Lewis & Clark Boat House and Nature Center** which houses several full-scale replicas of the boats used by Lewis & Clark. The museum above the boats includes a diorama illustrating the highlights of the expedition along with Native American displays.

Following lunch take a trolley tour of the area followed by some free time to explore the unique shops.

By mid-afternoon depart for **Hannibal**. www.visithannibal.com.

Live the adventure Mark Twain wrote, *"By and by somebody shouted, 'Who's ready for the cave?' Everybody was!"* Today you will have the same exciting experience - exploring the remarkable **Mark Twain Cave** - as Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher did many years ago. www.marktwaincave.com

Board the **Mark Twain Riverboat** for a sumptuous dinner cruise. Mississippi River cruises on this nostalgic riverboat start from the landing at the foot of Center Street. See this famous river town from the boat that bears the name of its most famous citizen, Mark Twain. www.marktwainriverboat.com

Overnight: Hannibal

Day Three - Hannibal, Marceline, St. Joseph

Discover how a young boy growing up in the small village of Hannibal became one of the world's most famous authors. A self guided tour of the **Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum Properties** gives you the chance to explore the Hannibal of Samuel Clemens' childhood and experience the beloved stories he created through the power of his imagination. www.marktwainmuseum.org

Depart Hannibal for **Marceline**. www.downtownmarceline.org *"To tell the truth, more things of importance happened to me in Marceline than have ever happened since, or are likely to in the future."* - Walt Disney

Find out for yourself when you tour this quaint area. In fact, Disneyland's Main Street USA was designed after the **Main Street** in **Marceline**. After you've seen the **Walt Disney Hometown Museum**, you'll want to visit Walt's Barn, spend some time in Ripley Park, go antiquing down Main Street USA or just sit and watch the trains go by just outside the museum (we guarantee you won't have to wait long with more than 70 trains passing through Marceline each day). www.waltdisneymuseum.org

Depart Marceline for **St. Joseph**. www.stjomo.com

Enjoy dinner and overnight in St. Joseph

Day Four - St. Joseph, Kansas City

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

St. Joseph, a town rich in history, is famous for being the place where the Pony Express began and Jesse James met his demise. The **Patee House** was the center of the nation's westward expansion from the start of the **Pony Express**. It was opened by John Patee as a luxury hotel in 1858 to serve travelers as the railroad pushed west to St. Joseph. The hotel cost \$180,000 and had 140 guest rooms. It featured winding stairs to the fourth floor covered with red Brussels carpet. It is a National Historical Landmark for its role as headquarters for the Pony Express where Russell, Majors and Waddell had their office starting April 3, 1860.

www.ponyexpressjessejames.com

Of course, no visit to St. Joseph is complete without a visit to the **Jesse James Home**, which contains a number of items owned by the James family. It was in this house that Jesse James was gunned down by Bob Ford.

After lunch depart for **Kansas City**. www.visitkc.com

The **Arabia Steamboat Museum** tells the story of a group of men that uncovered the Arabia which had been lost over a century earlier when it sank in the Missouri River just north of Kansas City. As the river changed courses the steamboat was buried under a cornfield. The men were amazed when they found that the 200-tons of cargo had been preserved in remarkable condition. Fine china, clothing, tools, canned food, buttons, cloth, and perfume were among the cargo that the Arabia had on board. The assortment is said to be the largest collection of pre-Civil War artifacts in the world. www.1856.com

Boasting art from nearly every continent, the **Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art** offers guided tours of their extensive collections. Explore cultures through the power of art. www.nelson-atkins.org

This evening take in a live performance at one of Kansas City's many venues. Options include the **Crown Center** theaters, **Kauffman Center of the Performing Arts, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Starlight Theatre**, and (group size allowing) the city's many jazz clubs - like **The Blue Room** at the American Jazz Museum and **Green Lady Lounge**.

Overnight: Kansas City