



LEGENDS & LEGACIES

St. Louis, St. Charles, Hermann, Sibley, Independence, Kansas City, Liberty, Kearney, St. Joseph, Weston, Hamilton/Jamesport

Day 1: St. Louis

Arrive and begin your journey at the **Gateway Arch National Park**, a tribute to westward expansion. The **Museum at the Gateway Arch**, which is located beneath the arch, offers insight into the life and history of the various cultures who settled in the region. You'll have time for a tour of the **Old Courthouse**, where the famous Dred Scott case took place.

www.gatewayarch.com | www.nps.gov/jeff/playourvisit/och.htm

After lunch, it's off to the **National Blues Museum** or a tour of **Anheuser-Busch Brewery**.

www.nationalbluesmuseum.org | www.budweisertours.com

If time permits, visit the **Missouri History Museum** in Forest Park which houses superb permanent and temporary exhibits. www.mohistory.org

During the evening, enjoy one of the many live performances at the **Fabulous Fox Theatre**.

www.fabulousfox.com

Overnight in St. Louis. www.explorestlouis.com

Day 2: St. Louis, St. Charles, Hermann & Columbia

After breakfast, take in the majestic gardens of the **Missouri Botanical Garden**. The Garden features 79 acres of landscaped displays that can be seen on foot or via a tram.

www.missouribotanicalgarden.org

Next, head west across the wide Missouri into historic **St. Charles**, circa 1769, and Missouri's first state capital between 1821 and 1826. This quaint river town offers a glimpse into early Americana as you experience the largest historic district in Missouri. Enjoy lunch at one of the many unique restaurants before a guide in period dress will take you on a city tour of this historic town located on the banks of the Missouri River.

It was here in 1804 where Lewis and Clark met to begin their westward expedition. Take time to stop at the **Lewis & Clark Boat House and Museum** 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.

www.lewisandclarkcenter.org

After your tour enjoy some free time shopping for antiques, decorating accents, stained glass, pottery, and framed art, or visit the boutique shops available along St. Charles' 200-year-old **Historic Main Street**. www.discoverstcharles.com

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This afternoon travel to **Hermann**.

The area is reminiscent of Germany's Rhine Valley. Make your way to **Stone Hill Winery**, which sits on a hill offering a view of the town below. A tour guide will take you through the arched cellars and production room where more than 1,250,000 gallons of wine are produced each year. Then enjoy dinner in the **Vintage Restaurant**, a restored carriage house and horse barn, which specializes in German cuisine. www.stonehillwinery.com

Travel to **Columbia** to overnight. www.visitcolumbiamo.com

Day 3: Sibley & Independence

First stop after breakfast is a trek to the town of **Arrow Rock**, a national historical landmark. This pioneer settlement will take you back to the 1800s, as you visit the general store, gunsmith, antique shops and local artisans. www.arrowrock.org

Afterwards, it's back on I-70 toward Kansas City. Along the way, consider visiting **Fort Osage in Sibley**. This reconstructed fort offers insight into 1800s military life. www.makeyourdayhere.com/fortosage

Other options include a stop in **Independence**. www.visitindependence.com

There you'll find the **Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum**, dedicated to preserving the history of our nation's 33rd President. The site is also the resting place of President Truman and his wife, Bess. www.trumanlibrary.gov

Also in Independence, the **National Frontier Trails Museum** tells the story of pioneers and their travels on the California, Oregon and Santa Fe Trails. www.ci.independence.mo.us/nftm

In **Excelsior Springs**, visit the historic **Elms Hotel**. Known for its mineral waters and spa treatments, this hotel was once frequented by President Harry S. Truman and the notorious Al Capone. www.elmshotelandspa.com

Overnight in Kansas City or Independence.

Day 4: Kansas City

It's time for famous museums, fountains, shopping and legends. Kick off the day with a tour of the **Arabia Steamboat Museum**. The sunken vessel was recovered in the late 1980s with an incredible amount of intact artifacts. You'll see everything from canned vegetables and dinnerware to clothing and tools. www.1856.com

Learn more about the legacy of WWI with a visit to the **National World War I Museum and Memorial**. The museum uses its comprehensive, world-class historical collections to inspire its strategic efforts in the areas of exhibition, education, research and interpretation. www.theworldwar.org

Shopping enthusiasts can't miss **Country Club Plaza** - a premier area designed after Seville, Spain. Interesting architecture and fountains abound on every corner.

www.countryclubplaza.com

Spend the rest of the afternoon exploring the Plaza or venture to the **Hallmark Visitors Center**. Kansas City is the world headquarters for the greeting card company and you'll see firsthand the evolution of the popular cards. www.crowncenter.com/listings/hallmark-visitors-center

After an elegant dinner, head to the **18th & Vine District** for the jazz that made Kansas City famous. www.visitkc.com

Overnight in Kansas City.

Day 5: Liberty, Kearney & St. Joseph

It's now time for a few legends. Travel north to **Liberty** to the **Jesse James Bank Museum**, the site of the first daylight bank robbery committed by Jesse James and his gang.

www.visitclaymo.com/business/jesse-james-bank-museum

Continue the James' saga by traveling to **Kearney** - home of the **Jesse James Birthplace**. Traverse the family farm and see artifacts from the notorious outlaw's life.

<https://jessejamesmuseum.org/>

Then head to **St. Joseph** where the Pony Express was born. The legend begins at the **Pony Express National Museum**, the stables where riders departed carrying mail from Missouri to Sacramento. <https://ponyexpress.org/>

Next make your way to the **Patee House Museum**, a former pioneer hotel and headquarters of the Pony Express. The museum is chock full of antiques, art, and even a train and operational carousel. The adjoining **Jesse James Home** is where the outlaw lived with his family, under the alias of "Mr. Howard," when he was shot and killed. In a bid to escape the media following Jesse's assassination, the James' family stayed at the Patee House – then known as the World's Hotel. Though the Jesse James Home has been moved from its original location, the structure remains in remarkable condition and showcases newspaper clippings, photographs, memorabilia and some original furnishings. www.ponyexpressjessejames.com

The **Saint Joseph Museums** complex is your next stop. Here you'll find the **Glore Psychiatric Museum**, displaying archaic equipment that was used in the name of "psychiatric treatment." Patient artwork, creations and contraband offer insight into mental illness. The complex also houses the **Black Archives Museum**, **Doll Museum**, **Eckel Collection**, and **Native American and History Galleries**. www.stjosephmuseum.org

*A short drive leads you to **Weston**, where your exploration will uncover quaint shops and incredible wineries. www.westonmo.com

Overnight in Kansas City.

*Another option is to head east from St. Joseph. Overnight in **Cameron** before proceeding to **Hamilton**, known as Quilt Town, USA. What started as YouTube tutorials evolved into a quilter's paradise: **Missouri Star Quilt Co.**. Visitors can explore 12 themed-quilt shops, downtown shops, a local brewery, J.C. Penney museums (Hamilton is Penney' hometown), and more. www.visitmsqc.com | <https://visithamiltonmo.com>

A drive north takes you to the **Amish Community of Jamesport**, where you'll relive the America of old. Admire fine craftsmanship, browse antique shops and sample homemade breads and jams before your trip back home. www.jamesport-mo.com