



Rivers, Icons & Wine: St. Louis Hub & Spoke

Cities: St. Louis, Hannibal, St. Charles, Hermann

Day 1 – St. Louis

A stay in St. Louis is not complete without visiting the **Gateway Arch National Park**. The grounds of the Gateway Arch features an enhanced riverfront region, new spaces designed for events and new park acreage spanning over the highway, connecting the Arch to the historic Old Courthouse. The underground **Museum at the Gateway Arch** includes interactive technology, helping tell the story of westward expansion through the perspectives of various cultures. www.gatewayarch.com

For an overview of St. Louis' past, visit the **Missouri History Museum** in Forest Park where Lindbergh, Lewis & Clark, and the Louisiana Purchase come to life. You'll see artifacts from Colonial St. Louis, the Lewis & Clark expedition, Civil War and the beginning of the American West. Galleries featuring cultural icons like Katherine Dunham, Miles Davis, Tennessee Williams and others who lived and worked in St. Louis reflect the modern influences on St. Louis and world culture. www.mohistory.org

A driving tour of **Forest Park**, where the famous 1904 World's Fair of 'Meet Me in St. Louis' took place, offers such sights as the Saint Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis Zoo, Jewel Box, World's Fair Pavilion, The Muny outdoor amphitheater and the St. Louis Science Center. www.forestparkforever.org

Visit the **Anheuser-Busch Brewery**, the single largest brewing complex in the world. Tours include a visit with the famous Clydesdales and a taste of the variety of brews. www.budweisertours.com

Overnight in St. Louis.

Day 2 – Hannibal

Arrive in Hannibal, Mo. Tour the town with **Hannibal Trolley Company Sightseeing Tours** on an old-fashioned trolley ride. Step back in time and relive the adventures of Mark Twain's days in Hannibal. www.visithannibal.com

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. Generally will take 90 minutes to 2 hours. www.marktwainmuseum.org

Enjoy a one-hour sightseeing cruise on the **Mark Twain Riverboat**. See this famous river town and the mighty Mississippi River from the boat that bears the name of its most famous citizen, Mark Twain. <https://marktwainriverboat.com>.

Explore downtown Hannibal, which boasts many unique specialty shops, art galleries and boutiques. You can also take time to visit the free **Hannibal History Museum** and discover the rich history of Hannibal's remarkable past, including other famous Hannibal residents like Ukulele Ike (the voice of Jiminy Cricket) and Titanic's own 'Unsinkable' Molly Brown. www.hannibalhistorymuseum.com

Return to St. Louis for dinner and overnight.

Hannibal to St. Louis, 115 miles

Day 3 – St. Charles

After breakfast, depart for St. Charles. www.discoverstcharles.com

The first stop is the **First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site**, the first seat of the state's government. Its roughhewn timbers and dark wood floors whisper the tales of the state's first legislature. Interpretive programs help visitors understand how the state's government was formed and what life was like in the early 1800's. <https://mostateparks.com/park/first-missouri-state-capitol-state-historic-site>

The **Lewis & Clark Boat House and Museum** is the Discovery Expedition's permanent home. Situated beside the Missouri River at Bishop's Landing, the educational facility features exhibits dedicated to the Lewis & Clark Expedition, Missouri River ecosystem/habitats and St. Charles history. Full-sized replicas of the keelboat and pirogues used by Lewis and Clark are also on display. www.lewisandclarkcenter.org

Enjoy lunch at one of the many eateries and wineries on **Historic Main Street** followed by shopping at the blocks and blocks of unique shops.

Return to St. Louis to overnight.

Day 4 – St. Louis

This ain't your grandma's museum. Step into the anything-but-ordinary world of **City Museum**, an attraction made entirely from recycled pieces. The museum building itself is repurposed, having started life as a shoe manufacturing factory and warehouse. Items that would have become landfill now fill the floors of the quirky and innovative warehouse of artistic fun. Remnants of old buildings were transformed into the museum's gift shop, retired heating coils from area breweries provide access to ceiling-high habit trails for kids and adults. An in-house circus troupe performs beneath a Big Top festooned with old neckties and CD disks. The rooftop – complete with access to a 10-story slide through the building – adds sky-high elements of fun including a Ferris wheel and gravity-defying school bus that appears to teeter over the roof's edge. City Museum proves that everything old can be new again. www.citymuseum.org

The **National Blues Museum** is dedicated exclusively to preserving and honoring the history and legacy of Blues music and its impact on American and world culture. A “must-see” attraction, the museum features artifact-driven exhibits, live performances and interactive galleries to perpetuate blues culture for future generations of artists, fans and historians. www.nationalbluesmuseum.org

In addition to the National Blues Museum, music lovers will definitely want to hear some authentic St. Louis blues. Blues bands abound with most of the region's blues clubs featuring local bands on weekends as well as occasional touring artists. For guaranteed live blues seven days a week, check out BB's Jazz, Blues & Soups; The Beale on Broadway, and Broadway Oyster Bar.

Travel to the one of St. Louis' many unique neighborhoods and see firsthand what is considered by many to be the greatest example of Byzantine architecture in the world at the **St. Louis Cathedral Basilica**. <http://cathedralstl.org/>

Time for a beauty stop at the amazing **Missouri Botanical Garden**. Founded in 1859 by English immigrant Henry Shaw, this is the oldest public garden in the United States and is considered one of the top three public gardens in the world. Renowned for its beauty and worldwide research aimed at plant conservation, highlights of the 79-acre Eden include: a tropical rainforest inside the Climatron geodesic dome that features endangered plant species; Seiwa-En, the largest authentic Japanese garden in North America; a Victorian garden; Boxwood garden; Chinese garden; two rose gardens; reflecting pools; garden architecture, sculptures and an elaborate Missouri Adventure-themed Children's Garden. www.mobot.org

Dinner and overnight in St. Louis.

Day 5 – Hermann

Depart St. Louis for **Hermann**. <http://visithermann.com>

Nestled among the rolling hillsides of the Missouri River, in a countryside reminiscent of Germany's Rhine Valley, is the little town of Hermann. Specialty tours can include shopping tours, village tour with music or a visit to **Hermann Wurst Haus**, located in the historic downtown area of Hermann. www.hermannwursthaus.com

The arts and crafts of yesteryear are well preserved at **Historic Hermann Museum** at the German School. Built in 1871, the building served as Hermann's elementary school until 1955. The town clock has been operating since 1890. www.historichermann.com

Hermann Living History Farm and Museum shares over 160 years of farming experience, exhibits of early trades and history on its nearly 200-acre living history farm. Guests will experience first-hand what early settlers did when they first reached mid-Missouri. Tours include the restored Hussmann home and outbuildings, trading post, distillery log house and office, sweet springs, tinsmith shop and gardens. Also included are demonstrations by the Shire draft horses and Missouri mules. Tram rides are available to see more of the farm and its place in history. www.hermannfarm.com

While in Hermann, enjoy dinner and wine tasting at **Stone Hill Winery**. The winery offers tours of the largest series of underground cellars in North America. Their **Vintage Restaurant** is situated on the winery grounds in a beautifully restored carriage house and horse barn. Here you can enjoy a hearty menu of German cuisine, along with steaks and other American dishes. <https://stonehillwinery.com>

Return to St. Louis to overnight.

Hermann to St. Louis, 82 miles

Day 6 – Depart for Home