



MISSOURI LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI

Hannibal, St. Charles, St. Louis, Ste. Genevieve, Cape Girardeau

Day 1 - Arrive in Hannibal

Arrive in Hannibal, Mo. Tour the town with **Hannibal Trolley Company Sightseeing Tours**. Step back in time and relive the adventures of Mark Twain's days in Hannibal.

Check into hotel. Dinner at one of Hannibal's group-friendly restaurants.

Overnight in Hannibal. www.visithannibal.com

Day 2 - Hannibal

Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum. The Stories Started Here... 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. Generally will take 90 minutes to 2 hours.

www.marktwainmuseum.org

The Mark Twain Cave Complex. Mark Twain wrote, "By and by somebody shouted, 'Who's ready for the cave?' Everybody was. Bundles of candles were procured and straight away there was a general scamper up the hill." An experienced guide will escort you on a one-hour tour featuring points of interest mentioned in Mark Twain's writings. Walkways are level and smooth and there are no steps. Bring a light wrap as the cave is 52 degrees year round. Wear sensible walking shoes and be sure to bring your camera. www.marktwaincave.com

"Unsinkable" Molly Brown Birthplace and Museum. Visit the home of Hannibal's famous survivor of the Titanic. Learn more about the lady herself and her Titanic experience. Generally takes 30-45 minutes. www.visitmollybrown.com

This evening, enjoy dinner on the **Mark Twain Riverboat**. Cruises on this nostalgic riverboat start from the landing at the foot of Center Street and depart at 6:30 p.m. See this famous Mississippi River town from the boat that bears the name of its most famous citizen...Mark Twain. Enjoy excellent food, live music, dancing, and beverages aboard the heated/air conditioned Mark Twain Riverboat during this two-hour cruise. www.marktwainriverboat.com

Overnight in Hannibal.

Day 3 - St. Charles, St. Louis

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 rough hewn 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>

Lewis & Clark Boathouse & Nature Center. The Lewis & Clark Boat House and Nature Center is the Discovery Expedition's permanent home. Situated beside the Missouri River at Bishop's Landing, the educational facility features exhibits relating to the Lewis and Clark expedition as well as the Missouri River ecosystem. The facility houses a museum dedicated to the Lewis & Clark Expedition, Missouri River habitats, and St. Charles history. Full-size replica boats constructed by the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, and used during the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial, are on display. www.lewisandclarkcenter.org

Depart St. Charles for **St. Louis**. www.explorestlouis.com

View the world's largest collection of mosaic art at the spectacular **Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis**. Pope Paul VI called the Romanesque/Byzantine-style church "the outstanding cathedral of the Americas." More than 41 million pieces of tesserae in 8,000 colors fill more than 83,000 square feet. The west chapels are the work of Tiffany and Company and the main altar and another chapel features the work of Gorham. Guided tours are available outside of daily Mass, reservations required. Those interested in a self-guided tour should call the church prior to arrival to ensure the church is available. Tour availability is pending other scheduled events. www.cathedralstl.org

Missouri History Museum. This neoclassical building was built with proceeds from the World's Fair to honor President Thomas Jefferson's role in the Louisiana Purchase. It was built on the site of the main entrance to the 1904 World's Fair and was designed by Isaac S. Taylor, who was also the chief architect of the Fair. In 1913, the Jefferson Memorial Building was the only monument of national stature honoring Thomas Jefferson, preceding the more famous domed structure in Washington, D.C., by 25 years. Permanent exhibits include the 1904 World's Fair and Seeking St. Louis. www.mohistory.org

Next, take a driving tour of **Forest Park**, where the famous World's Fair of 'Meet Me in St. Louis' took place in 1904. Sights include the Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis Zoo, Jewel Box, World's Fair Pavilion, The Muny outdoor amphitheater, and the St. Louis Science Center.

Check into your hotel and enjoy dinner at one of many group friendly restaurants.

Overnight in St. Louis.

Day 4 - St. Louis

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before departing for the **Gateway Arch National Park**.

Explore the **Museum at the Gateway Arch**, which tells the story of westward expansion from the perspective of a variety of cultures, before riding the tram to the top of the arch for a magnificent view of St. Louis. www.gatewayarch.com

The **Old Court House** overlooks the Arch grounds. See where the Dred Scott case took place and learn about its impact during a self-guided tour amongst artifacts and memorabilia. www.nps.gov/jeff/planyourvisit/och.htm

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Enjoy **Historic Laclede's Landing**, located just north of the Gateway Arch grounds, for lunch. This 9 ½ block historic district is frequented by locals for lunch, dinner and nightlife. The district takes its name from Pierre Laclede, St. Louis' French founder.

www.lacledeslanding.com

Missouri Botanical Garden awaits. Board the garden's tram for a narrated tour through the beautiful gardens. Founded in 1859, Missouri Botanical Garden contains 79 acres of scenic landscaping and sculptures. Highlights include: the Climatron® tropical rain forest, Linnean House, Japanese Garden, and the Grigg Nanjing Friendship Chinese Garden.

www.mobot.org

The City Museum has taken the term "recycling" to dizzying new heights. Housed in the 600,000 square-foot building that was once home to the International Shoe Company, the museum is the brainchild of local artists who created the museum from all sorts of "found stuff." They didn't have to go far to find materials for the facility. The curious curators reclaimed a variety of building materials such as old chimneys, salvaged bridges, construction cranes, miles of tile, and even a couple of abandoned airplanes. There are 4,000 square-feet of man-made caves and tunnels, an enchanted forest with sky tunnels, a Ferris wheel, daily circus performances and much more. www.citymuseum.org

This evening, let your mind wander back to the days of Lewis and Clark, fur traders, and riverboat gamblers, as you enjoy dinner and a riverboat cruise down the mighty Mississippi aboard **Gateway Arch Riverboats** - the oldest passenger vessel company operating on the Mississippi. www.gatewayarch.com/experience/riverboat-cruises

Overnight in St. Louis.

Day 5 - Great River Road, Ste. Genevieve, Cape Girardeau

Depart St. Louis and travel the **Great River Road** towards Ste. Genevieve. Directions, stops and additional information can be found at www.experiencemississippiriver.com.

The region along the Mississippi River south of St. Louis is known as French Colonial Country, having been claimed by France after an expedition led by Louis Joliet and Jacques Marquette. Although English is the common language spoken in the region today, the French heritage is not forgotten.

Explore **Ste. Genevieve**, Missouri's oldest town, with a stroll in and out of inviting little shops filled with antiques, crafts, gifts, sweets and wine, before enjoying lunch at one of Ste. Genevieve's unique restaurants including the Old Brick House, the Anvil Restaurant & Saloon, Hotel Audubon Grill & Bar or Sirro's. www.visitstegen.com/dining

Ste. Genevieve has more than 150 pre-1825 structures and the region has the largest concentration of French Colonial architecture in North America. Tours of historic sites such as the **Felix Valle House State Historic Site** can be arranged. The house is a one and one-half story, side gable, limestone dwelling with a merchant store and family quarters. This facility gave Jacob Philipson an opportunity to establish a business in the town, trading manufactured goods for fur pelts and lead ore obtained in the Missouri territory. Philipson sold the house in 1824 to Jean Baptiste Valle, the son of Francois Valle. Felix Valle, the fourth son of Jean Baptiste, became the owner in 1835. The house, located at the corner of Merchant and Second Street, is open to the public all year and is operated by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. <https://mostateparks.com/park/felix-vallé-house-state-historic-site>

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Additional historic homes form the **Sainte Genevieve National Historical Park**.

www.nps.gov/stge

Depart Ste. Genevieve and continue your Great River Road journey to Cape Girardeau.

Cape Girardeau - "Where the River Turns a Thousand Tales" - is one of Missouri's earliest settled areas. The Mississippi River has played a significant part in the city's history, especially in the early commerce of steamboats. Riverboats can still be seen docked along the riverfront. The historic downtown, nestled alongside the Mississippi River, is a designated Missouri Main Street program city.

Downtown highlights include eclectic shops, restaurants, pubs, art galleries and the **Mississippi River Tales Mural** – comprised of twenty-four outdoor mural panels. The expansive "Missouri Wall of Fame" honors famous Missourians.

www.visitcape.com/discover/murals

In the downtown area you will also find several National Historic Register Sites, including the completely restored **Glenn House** and **St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church**, built in 1853.

Revered as a local landmark, the **Cape River Heritage Museum** is located in an old police and fire station dating back to 1908. The museum features changing exhibits about the people and events of southeast Missouri. Audio/video, dioramas, personal presentations and hands-on exhibits will enhance your experience. Browse through the museum store and find unique gift items made in Missouri, books written by local authors and more.

www.visitcape.com/discover/cape-river-heritage-museum

Overnight in Cape Girardeau.