

EXPLORE ST. LOUIS

The history of St. Louis, Missouri began with the settlement of the St. Louis area by Native American mound builders. Starting in the late 17th century, French explorers arrived. Spain took over in 1763 and a trading company led by Pierre Laclede and Auguste Chouteau established the settlement of St. Louis in February 1764. The city grew in population due to its location as a trading post on the Mississippi River, as the western fur trade was lucrative.

After the war, the city expanded its railroad connections and industrial activity. During the early 1870s, the Eads Bridge was constructed over the Mississippi River, and the city established several large parks, including Forest Park. During the late 19th century, St. Louis became home to two Major League Baseball teams. Ragtime and blues music flourished in the city, with African Americans making major contributions also in jazz.

In 1904 the city hosted the World's Fair and the Summer Olympics, attracting millions of visitors. Part of those infrastructures still stand today in many of the sites you see below.

The Gateway Arch



Standing 630 feet tall, the Gateway Arch, our nation's tallest man-made monument, anchors Gateway Arch National Park (formerly Jefferson National Expansion Memorial) and stands as the iconic monument symbolizing the westward expansion of the United States. Started in 1963 and completed in 1965. A living memorial to Jefferson's vision of greater opportunities for men and women of all races and creeds.

The Gateway Arch experience includes the Tram Ride to the Top of the Gateway Arch, the all new Museum at the Gateway Arch, Monument to the Dream documentary movie, shopping at the Arch Store, the

Arch Café and cruises aboard the Riverboats at the Gateway Arch.



Basilica of Saint Louis, King (The Old Cathedral)

The Old Cathedral is one of the most historic buildings in St. Louis with roots dating back to 1764 when St. Louis founders Pierre Laclede and Auguste Chouteau dedicated a parcel of land to the people of St. Louis for religious purposes that was called the "church block". It is the oldest building in the City of St. Louis and the only building that remains in the hands of its original owner, the Archdiocese of St. Louis. It has always been a place that welcomes and nurtures people of all faiths, including those of the Jewish faith as evidenced by the Latin and Hebrew inscriptions on the facade of the church.

It was in the Old Cathedral on November 20, 1845, that the first official meeting of the U.S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul took place. Present on that evening were some of the city's most prominent Catholic laymen. The newly formed Conference was officially aggregated by the International Council in Paris less than three months later on February 2, 1846. According to Rev. Daniel T. McColgan, "It was fitting that the first American foundation of this Parisian-born society should occur in the city of St. Louis, named after a great saintly son of the capital city of France." In 1957 the Society made its official home base in St. Louis, site of the first U.S. Conference. Until 1992, the Society's office in St. Louis was located on the 2nd floor at 4140 Lindell Boulevard. The Society's Headquarters is now located in Maryland Heights, Missouri with a staff of 20.

Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis

The construction of the [Cathedral](#) began in 1907 with Archbishop John Glennon, to provide an uplifting environment for Catholic worship and an inspiring place for private prayer. Its unique design combines architecture of Romanesque style on the exterior and a wondrous Byzantine style interior.

The Basilica has one of the largest collections of mosaics in the world, created by 20 different artists and covering 83,000 square feet. The installation of these mosaics in over 7000 colors began in 192 and was completed in 1988.

Whether you go to pray or to simply view the beauty, it will nourish your spirit.



Ballpark Village

[Ballpark Village](#) represents a groundbreaking approach to urban development, the first time a professional sports venue was master planned and fully integrated into a broader mixed-use development. Recognized for its quality, scale, creative design and impact on the community, Ballpark Village has played a pivotal role in the revitalization of downtown St. Louis. Filled with dining opportunities and entertainment in downtown St. Louis, and home to the St. Louis Cardinals, the Cardinals Hall of Fame and Museum, and many dining opportunities!





The Old Courthouse

The Old Courthouse was the site of the first two trials of the pivotal Dred Scott case in 1847 & 1850. It was also where Virginia Minor's case for a woman's right to vote came to trial in the 1870's. The Old Courthouse is listed in the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

St. Louis Union Station

The first train pulled into [Union Station](#) on September 1, 1894, today Union Station is a balance of nostalgia and renovation. You can almost hear the trains coming into the platform, loved ones waving goodbye as soldiers head off to war and joyous hellos when they were welcomed home again.

But look up to see modern times—an innovative and breathtaking [3D light show](#), set to music projects across the Grand Hall's entire 65-foot vaulted ceiling, every day at 5pm, for an exciting mix of old-meets-new. Take in the light show from the Grand Hall's fabulous lobby and full lounge bar, where you can enjoy a cocktail or linger over a delicious meal with friends. Or enjoy a spectacular animated [fire and light show](#), synchronized to music dazzling visitors at Union Station's small lake.



[Union Station](#) is now home to a 200 ft-high Observation Wheel, Carousel, Mini Golf, St. Louis Aquarium, Polar Express Train Ride and the Soda Fountain Diner. Just a short drive down Market Street. Next time you're in St. Louis! [Map of Union Station](#).



Forest Park

[Forest Park](#), Once home to the 1904 World's Fair, Forest Park is one of the largest urban parks in the United States. It attracts 12 million visitors a year with world-class attractions and scenic walking and biking trails. Other points of interest include the Jewel Box, a beautiful greenhouse filled with magnificent floral displays, the [Boat House](#), and the region's major cultural institutions—the Zoo, [Art Museum](#), [History Museum](#), Science Center and the Muny Opera.



St. Louis Zoo



The [St. Louis Zoo](#) was built during the 1904 World's Fair. The World's Fair Flight Cage is still used today for many types of birds. The Zoo's immersion exhibit showcases 20 species of North American birds.

Home to over 13,000 animals representing 555 species, the Saint Louis Zoo is recognized worldwide for its innovative approaches to animal care and management, wildlife conservation, research and education. One of the few free zoos in the nation, the Saint Louis Zoo attracts approximately 3 million visitors annually and is the most-visited attraction in the region.

St. Louis Science Center & Planetarium

The [Saint Louis Science Center](#) traces its roots to the Academy of Science of St. Louis, founded in 1856 as the first scientific organization west of the Mississippi River. In 1959, the Academy created the Museum of Science and Natural History in Clayton's Oak Knoll Park. The Science Center is one of the only free nonprofit science museums in the country, and serves more than one million people each year, making it one of the largest science centers in the U.S. and abroad. Our campus features more than 700 interactive experiences in ten galleries, as well as our indoor-outdoor GROW agricultural pavilion and gallery, our famous McDonnell Planetarium, and a four-story OMNIMAX® Theater.



Missouri Botanical Gardens



[Botanical Garden](#) is the oldest botanical institute in the United States. Founded in 1859 by Henry Shaw, the garden is a center for botanical research and science education, as well as 79-acres of lush gardens, architecture, greenhouses and collections of botanical and horticultural plants among beautiful fountains and statuary. The Climatron geodesic dome conservatory with a real rainforest experience featuring magnificent waterfalls, tropical birds and exotic plants like bananas, cacao, coffee trees and

orchids. Other points of interest include the serene 14-acre Japanese garden and the interactive and educational Children's Garden.

St. Louis Anheuser Busch Brewery Tour

Since its founding in 1852, Anheuser-Busch has honored its historic brewing methods, maintaining the tradition of brewing the finest beers, one batch at a time. Nestled in the historic Soulard neighborhood of St. Louis, our largest and oldest brewery site was selected based on its access to the Mississippi River, the large presence of German immigrants in the 1800's, and the natural cave formations that were used to store beer prior to artificial refrigeration.

Regardless of the experience you choose, as you walk through the halls of the historic St. Louis brewery, you are transported in time. You will realize the vision that became one of the largest and oldest breweries in the nation. From the history-rich architecture - including three National Historic Landmarks - to cutting-edge brewing technology, you will witness first-hand the heritage and timeless tradition Anheuser-Busch employs to brew beer. Next time you're in St. Louis, set up a brewery tour: [Anheuser Busch Brewery Tour](#)

