



**Gateway Arch Riverfront is St. Louis' One-Stop "Must See"
Destination for Day Trips and Weekend Getaways**
*Budget-conscious St. Louis visitors and locals alike will enjoy
exciting explorations at one of the Midwest's only urban national parks*

ST. LOUIS, April 30, 2009 – From soaring to the top of the iconic Gateway Arch to walking the halls of history at the historic Old Courthouse to cruising the Mississippi like Mark Twain, no trip to the affordable destination of St. Louis is complete without a visit to [Gateway Arch Riverfront](#).

“Perfectly situated in the heart of the Midwest, Gateway Arch Riverfront is an easily reached destination offering affordable entertainment and educational experiences for families and visitors,” said Tara Creamer of Gateway Arch Riverfront. “More than ever before, value is important to travelers, and St. Louis and the Gateway Arch Riverfront offer exciting opportunities for vacationers and weekend visitors to stretch their dollars for the best experience possible.”

Gateway Arch Riverfront offers a perfect mix of activities for budget-conscious St. Louis visitors seeking affordable, one-of-kind experiences at one location. Whether pondering the architectural feat of the nation’s tallest monument for the first – or 100th – visit, Gateway Arch Riverfront offers awe-inspiring adventure and fun for everyone – every time – with a variety of unique attractions.

Set between the mighty Mississippi River and downtown St. Louis, Gateway Arch Riverfront is home to the [Jefferson National Expansion Memorial](#), one of the Midwest’s only urban national parks. The Gateway Arch reflects St. Louis’ role in the westward expansion of the United States during the 19th century. The park is a memorial to Thomas Jefferson’s role in opening the West, to the pioneers who helped shape its history, and to Dred Scott who sued for his freedom in the Old Courthouse.

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Gateway Arch Riverfront Attractions

Gateway Arch

The nation's tallest monument, standing 630 feet tall, has beckoned and bewildered visitors for more than 40 years with its iconic, awe-inspiring shape. A visit to St. Louis isn't complete without standing at its base and playing professional photographer – and, the view from the outside is only half of the experience.

For the true adventurer, the **Journey to the Top** is a ride within either leg of the Arch to the top, affording unparalleled views of St. Louis and standing as a testament to Westward expansion as Lewis and Clark could have only dreamed. Tickets for tram rides to the top are \$10 (\$5 ages 3-15).

After marveling at the Arch's every angle and vantage point, take a peek at its history with the award-winning documentary "**Monument to the Dream**," which chronicles the conception and construction of this magnificent monument. Watch as the amazing Arch is built, right up until the last piece is put into place. Also, see the odyssey of Lewis and Clark in "**Lewis and Clark: Great Journey West**," a documentary narrated by Jeff Bridges that takes viewers through the uncharted lands of the Louisiana Purchase and beyond. Both films are shown daily in the Tucker Theater and The Odyssey Theatre respectively, and tickets are \$7 (\$2.50 ages 3-15) for each film.

Riverboat Cruises

Take a ride on replica 19th-century paddle-wheel boats, Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher, located on the riverfront below the south leg of the Gateway Arch. Passengers will enjoy cruise narration, provided by the National Park Service and the vessel's captain, that offers a historical overview of the area and the role this working river still plays today. There's a cruise for every occasion, including:

- **Daily one-hour cruises** – See the views of the St. Louis skyline and learn about the history of the St. Louis riverfront and the Mississippi River.
- **Dinner cruises** – Enjoy spectacular cuisine and live music while sailing the Mississippi.
- **Sightseeing cruises** – Relax on a cruise offering unparalleled views of the St. Louis skyline or delicious Sunday brunch, or visit another river town that made the Mississippi River famous.
- **Entertainment cruises** – Experience city views while enjoying live music, watching fireworks, or taking part in the excitement of Oktoberfest.

For more information about riverboat cruises, including prices and schedules, visit www.gatewayarchriverfront.com or call 1-877-982-1410 to verify departure times and make reservations.

Museum of Westward Expansion

Experience the Old West with a visit to the Museum of Westward Expansion, and discover the land that Lewis and Clark explored. See how mountain men lived in the 1800s or take a peek inside a covered wagon. Listen as history unfolds through the

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voices of animatronic figures that bring the past to life. View rare Indian Peace Medals, weapons of survival and an actual tepee. Visit the Levee Mercantile for authentic period wares and tasty treats perfectly suited for souvenirs or gifts, or step into the Museum Store to take a memory of the Arch experience home. Audio enhancement is available during tours given by national park rangers. Tours include a variety of educational topics and a question-and-answer period. The Museum of Westward Expansion is free and open to the public.

Historic Old Courthouse

Completed in 1862, the Historic Old Courthouse holds a significant place in U.S. history as the site where Dred and Harriet Scott, both slaves, pleaded with the court for their freedom, and Virginia Minor petitioned for women's right to vote in the 1870s. Visitors can embrace history in a restored courtroom from the 1860s and view exhibits and murals depicting historic St. Louis events.

Special exhibits change on a regular basis, so there's always something new to discover at the Historic Old Courthouse, which is a two-block walk from the Gateway Arch. The Historic Old Courthouse is free and open to the public; audio tours are available.

Bicycle Rentals

For the active adventurer, Gateway Arch Riverfront offers a unique experience with bicycle rentals to capture the sites and sounds of St. Louis. Ride leisurely along the Bike St. Louis trails or the newly restored Riverfront Trail, an 11-mile trail that follows the Mississippi River starting at Biddle Street and heading north. Bicycles and quadcycles are available, the latter of which is a great way for the entire family to ride together as it seats up to four or six people.

Helmets and trail maps are included with every rental, and biking accessories and snacks also are available. Small quadcycles (2-4 people) are \$20 per hour, large quadcycles (4-6 people) are \$25 per hour, and bicycles start at \$15 for 2 hours.

Helicopter Tours

See St. Louis from the sky with a bird's-eye view of the Arch and the beautiful city of St. Louis. A variety of helicopter tours are available starting at \$35 per person. A minimum of two and maximum of three passengers per tour is required. Narration is provided throughout the tour and every voyage is flown by a certified pilot and is FAA-regulated.

2009 Gateway Arch Riverfront Special Events and Activities

March 21 – June 21: The River Inside: Special exhibition of photographer John Guider's large-format platinum prints from his solo canoeing journey on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. Seventy-five prints along with excerpts from his travel journal will be on display at the Historic Old Courthouse.

July 3 – 4: Fair Saint Louis Fourth of July Weekend – Celebrate America's birthday in a spectacular setting on the banks of the Mississippi River beneath the Gateway Arch where

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fun, family-friendly entertainment including live music and fireworks awaits fair goers. For more information about Fair Saint Louis, visit the Celebrate St. Louis Web site www.celebratestlouis.org.

Opening July 11: Baseball's Gateway to the West Exhibit – St. Louis was the launching point for settlers on the American frontier, who not only took their goods and ideas on the journey, but also spread the game of baseball into the west. In honor of the first St. Louis All-Star Game since 1966, a special exhibition about St. Louis' role in making baseball the "national game" will be on display at the Museum of Westward Expansion beneath the Gateway Arch.

September 12 – 13: Parkpalooza – Parkpalooza is a special outdoor event designed to inform the public about the mission, responsibilities, and public services available through the National Park Service and consists of many recreation stations set on the grounds of the Gateway Arch. Themes and activities include: archeology, camping and conservation, canoes and water safety, climbing, hiking and biking, orienteering, history, art and engineering, and wildlife encounters.

October 1 – December 1: Paint the Parks – Traveling exhibit displaying the top 100 best paintings of national parks from a national competition; paintings are on sale through the Jefferson National Parks Association at the Historic Old Courthouse.

Information on additional St. Louis attractions can be found on the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission Web site, www.explorestlouis.com.

Gateway Arch Riverfront

Located on the banks of the Mississippi River in downtown St. Louis, Gateway Arch Riverfront (www.gatewayarch.com) is the Midwest's most recognizable tourist destination, welcoming approximately 2.5 million visitors annually. Gateway Arch Riverfront is home to the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, a national park honoring St. Louis' role in westward expansion, and encompasses a variety of attractions, such as: the Eero Saarinen-designed Gateway Arch, the Historic Old Courthouse, replica paddle-wheel riverboats, the Museum of Westward Expansion, helicopter tours and bicycle rentals. Gateway Arch Riverfront is easily accessible by car, Metrolink, MetroBus, taxi, bike or foot with more than 250 self-parking spots available.

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