

## GATEWAY ARCH

*A Symbol of Westward Expansion for More Than 50 Years*

America's tallest man-made monument at 630 feet, the Gateway Arch has beckoned visitors for more than 50 years with its iconic, awe-inspiring shape. The vision of renowned architect Eero Saarinen, the Arch commemorates Thomas Jefferson and St. Louis' role in the westward expansion of the United States. Along with the Old Courthouse, it makes up the 90.96-acre Gateway Arch National Park (formerly Jefferson National Expansion Memorial).

The [CityArchRiver project](#), a \$380-million plan to enhance the Arch visitor experience, is nearly complete. Visitors can now enjoy 11 new acres of parkland and over five miles of bike and walking paths, as well as the North Gateway, an outdoor natural amphitheater for events and performances. The redesigned Luther Ely Smith Square located between the Gateway Arch and Old Courthouse boasts an expanded park that stretches over the highway, leading to the Gateway Arch's new west-facing entrance connecting the Arch directly to downtown St. Louis for the first time. The Museum at the Gateway Arch will celebrate its grand opening on July 3, 2018.

Visitors to the Arch can enjoy the Tram Ride to the Top; watch the award-winning documentary *Monument to the Dream*, which details the Arch's construction; take part in National Park Service interactive educational programs; and shop for memorabilia, gifts and even homemade fudge at The Arch Store, located in the Arch Visitor Center. Private events at the Gateway Arch will be available once again beginning Fall 2018. Those interested in hosting an event at the Arch should contact Victoria Dugan of the National Park Service at 314-355-1611.

### Gateway Arch Facts

- Construction on the Arch began on February 12, 1963; and the last section was put into place on October 28, 1965.
- The Arch weighs 17,246 tons. The 142 stainless-steel sections used to build the Arch required almost 900 tons of stainless steel, more than any other project in history.
- The Arch was built at a cost of \$13 million (about \$100 million in today's dollars).

- The Arch's shape is a catenary curve, the mathematical term for the shape a free-hanging chain takes when held at both ends.
- More than 135 million people have visited the park since construction on the Arch started in 1963, according to the National Park Service.

### **Hours of Operation**

Summer (Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day): 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; winter (day after Labor Day to Memorial Day weekend): 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Last tram leaves approximately one hour before closing.

*Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.*

### **Location and Parking**

The Gateway Arch is located on the downtown St. Louis riverfront. A list of several downtown St. Louis parking locations within walking distance of the Gateway Arch is available at <http://getaroundstl.com/parking>.

### **Accessibility**

Except for the Tram Ride to the Top, all facilities at the Gateway Arch are wheelchair accessible. Assisted listening, captioning and audio description devices are available for the documentary movie.

### **Tickets**

For the remainder of construction, all visitors entering the Gateway Arch facility must have either a timed Tram Ride to the Top or Entry-Only ticket. Timed entry-only tickets will be required through June 30, 2018. Guests can purchase Tram Ride to the Top and Arch Entry-Only tickets by calling 877-982-1410, online at [www.gatewayarch.com/buytickets](http://www.gatewayarch.com/buytickets) or at the Old Courthouse (11 North Fourth Street, St. Louis), which serves as the Gateway Arch Ticketing and Visitor Center through June 30, 2018. Note: Movie admission is included with Tram Ride and Entry-Only tickets through June 30, 2018. Paid movie admission is required beginning July 1, 2018.

It is strongly encouraged that guests purchase their tickets before their visit. More information is available at [www.gatewayarch.com](http://www.gatewayarch.com).

### **Media Contact**

Jenna Todoroff, Common Ground PR: 636-530-1235



**RIVERBOATS**  
AT THE GATEWAY ARCH

## **RIVERBOATS AT THE GATEWAY ARCH**

*Cruising the Mighty Mississippi  
for More Than Five Decades*

The Riverboats at the Gateway Arch—replica 19th-century paddle-wheel riverboats Becky Thatcher and Tom Sawyer—transport riders back in time to when steamboats ruled the mighty Mississippi and fueled the nation’s westward expansion, making St. Louis truly the Gateway to the West.

The Riverboats at the Gateway Arch are a part of the oldest Mississippi excursion boat company that has called St. Louis its home port since 1917. The riverboats were originally brought to St. Louis in 1964 to accommodate the spectators who wanted a closer look at the construction of the Gateway Arch. Today, after more than 50 years, the Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher continue to offer the best views of St. Louis and the Gateway Arch from the Mississippi River.

Located on the historic St. Louis riverfront below the south leg of the Gateway Arch, the Riverboats at the Gateway Arch offer daily St. Louis Riverfront Cruises; evening Skyline Dinner Cruises; specialty cruises such as Sunday Brunch Cruises, Blues Cruises, Fireworks Cruises, Oktoberfest Cruises and more; as well as private event charters. National Park Service rangers from Gateway Arch National Park (formerly Jefferson National Expansion Memorial) narrate select St. Louis Riverfront Cruises throughout the season (times vary). More than five million passengers have discovered the city’s rich heritage aboard the riverboats.

April through October, visitors can enjoy lunch at the Arch View Café—located on the riverboats’ dock—where they can enjoy amazing views of the Arch while dining on burgers, hot dogs, pulled pork sandwiches, ice cream and more.

The Mississippi riverfront recently underwent a renovation led by Great Rivers Greenway, as part of the [CityArchRiver project](#). This construction project included the elevation of the riverfront to decrease incidents of flooding, as well as new walking and biking paths. The new riverfront opened in June 2016 and hosts various outdoor events throughout the year.

## **The Riverboats at the Gateway Arch:**

- Educate visitors with narrated St. Louis Riverfront Cruises, highlighting the history of St. Louis and the role the working river plays today.
- Entertain guests during special events, wedding receptions and private parties with delicious cuisine, live music and incredible views of downtown St. Louis and the Gateway Arch.
- Captivate riders on unique excursions such as: Skyline Dinner Cruises, Sunday Brunch Cruises, Blues Cruises, Fireworks Cruises, Lock-n-Dam Cruises, Oktoberfest Cruises, a New Year's Eve Cruise and many more.
- Can host private parties, corporate meetings, weddings and receptions; and offer a variety of sit-down or buffet selections, bar arrangements, entertainment and décor. One of the captains is even ordained to marry couples!

## **Cruise Season**

St. Louis Riverfront Cruises are offered daily, March through November, rain or shine (*closed Thanksgiving Day*). Skyline Dinner Cruises are available Friday and Saturday nights April through October. Specialty cruise dates vary. A complete cruise schedule for the year can be found at [www.gatewayarch.com](http://www.gatewayarch.com).

## **Location and Parking**

The riverboats are located on the St. Louis Riverfront below the south leg of the Gateway Arch at 50 S. Leonor K. Sullivan Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63102. Convenient parking is available for a cash fee on the cobblestone levee in front of the riverboat dock (*subject to weather and river levels*).

## **Accessibility**

The dock and first floor of the riverboats are handicap accessible. Service animals are welcome.

## **Tickets**

For more information or to purchase cruise tickets, call 877-982-1410 or visit [www.gatewayarch.com/buytickets](http://www.gatewayarch.com/buytickets). A complete cruise schedule for the year can be found at [www.gatewayarch.com](http://www.gatewayarch.com).

## **Media Contact**

Jenna Todoroff, Common Ground PR: 636-530-1235

## THE OLD COURTHOUSE

*A St. Louis Landmark  
That Changed the Course of History*

Part of the 90.96-acre Gateway Arch National Park (formerly Jefferson National Expansion Memorial), the Old Courthouse stands as one of St. Louis' most prominent architectural landmarks. This beautifully restored federal courthouse has served as the backdrop for some of America's pivotal early legal cases: It was the site of Dred Scott's suit for freedom, launched in 1846, and where the case's lower court trials were heard in 1847 and 1850; and Virginia Minor's case for a woman's right to vote in the 1870s.

The first courthouse was completed in 1828 but soon required an expansion. Missouri gained statehood in 1821, and thanks to a booming fur trade, the population of St. Louis tripled in 10 years. The cornerstone for a second courthouse, designed with four wings and a dome in the center of its axis, was laid in 1839. The second structure was used as a court building by 1842. In 1851 a second period of construction began when the original brick courthouse was demolished and replaced with a new east wing. The original dome, built in the classic revival style, was replaced by a wrought- and cast-iron dome with a copper exterior, resembling those of St. Paul's Cathedral in London and St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

By 1930 court functions outgrew the Old Courthouse, and the courts moved up the street to the Civil Courts Building. Some magistrate courts continued to meet in the Old Courthouse while the rest of the building was rented out to public agencies. The Old Courthouse was deeded to the federal government in 1940, after which it was incorporated into what was then Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (now Gateway Arch National Park).

Today, the Old Courthouse features restored courtrooms and free exhibit galleries telling the story of Lewis & Clark, Native Americans, and colonial St. Louis. Guests can shop for memorabilia and gifts at the Old Courthouse Shop. The Old Courthouse is also available for private events year-round. Those interested in hosting an event at the Old Courthouse should contact Victoria Dugan of the National Park Service at 314-655-1611.

## **Old Courthouse Facts**

- Before the first courthouse was completed in 1828, St. Louis did not have a dedicated government building. Official city business was often conducted in a church, tavern or fort.
- The Old Courthouse was the tallest building in St. Louis and the state of Missouri until 1896, when Union Station was built.
- While the Dred Scott case looms large in the history of the Old Courthouse, St. Louis Circuit Court records show that more than 300 other “freedom suits” were filed there by 1860.

## **Hours of Operation**

Through June 30, 2018:

Summer (Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day): 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; winter (day after Labor Day to Memorial Day weekend): 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

July 1, 2018, and beyond:

Daily, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day.*

## **Location and Parking**

11 North Fourth Street, St. Louis, MO 63102. A list of several downtown St. Louis parking locations within walking distance of the Old Courthouse and Gateway Arch is available at <http://getaroundstl.com/parking>. Metered street parking is available on several streets near the Old Courthouse.

## **Accessibility**

Most of the first floor of the Old Courthouse is wheelchair accessible, but the upper floors are reachable only by stairs. On the west side of the building at Broadway, a wheelchair lift provides access from the street to the Old Courthouse.

## **Tickets**

Entrance to the Old Courthouse is free. Exhibit galleries are free and open to the public. For more information, call 877-982-1410 or visit [www.gatewayarch.com](http://www.gatewayarch.com).

## **Media Contact**

Jenna Todoroff, Common Ground PR: 636-530-1235