



Destination Guide: St. Louis



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AAA Destination Guide: Official AAA maps, travel information and top picks

AAA Destination Guide: St. Louis includes trip-planning information covering AAA recommended attractions and restaurants, exclusive member discounts, maps and more.

Home of the instantly recognizable Gateway Arch, St. Louis epitomizes the American spirit of exploration and expansion in all sorts of ways. Geographically, it was the door to Lewis and Clark's groundbreaking westward journey. Charles Lindbergh's milestone solo flight across the Atlantic in the "Spirit of St. Louis" reflected mechanical achievement. And cultural adventure powered the 1904 World's Fair and Scott Joplin's ragtime music. With its prime location near the Mississippi and Missouri rivers and because it was visited by so many people headed West, St. Louis has welcomed diverse groups of people and cultures—including French-Canadians, New Orleanians, Germans, Irish and Italians—and ultimately has given back a soulful blend of music, sports, industry and ethnic traditions.

Because of the city's vital role in westward expansion, history is cherished. Memorials and museums inform visitors of St. Louis's past, but if you're not a history buff, fear not. Art galleries; gardens; three professional sports teams; an array of theaters; a zoo; the St. Louis Symphony; and many shopping possibilities, including the exquisite Romanesque-inspired Union Station, provide satisfying substitutes. Your visit to St. Louis will remind you the city was a gateway to pioneers headed West with dreams of success, and it will become your gateway to exploring the past of an American city with one of the most vibrant of histories. Along the way, you'll discover it's also your gateway to a mighty good time.

Essentials

Ride the tram to the legendary top of [The Gateway Arch](#) for a panoramic view of St. Louis.

Wander the halls of the [Missouri History Museum](#) to learn about the history of St. Louis through a variety of galleries.

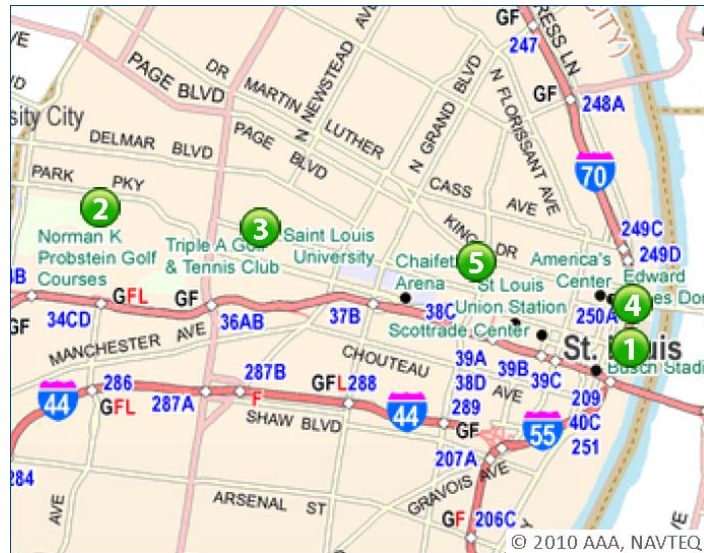
Attend a performance by one of America's oldest symphony orchestras, the St. Louis Symphony. North Grand Boulevard's Powell Symphony Hall, the former 1925 St. Louis Theatre, has been the home of the symphony since 1968. The foyer's design is inspired by the royal chapel at Versailles; red, gold and cream dominate the classical décor's color palette.



Spend some time inside the Catholic [Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis](#) where you'll discover impressive religious imagery that was created with more than 41 million individual pieces of glass, marble and stone.



Go on a shopping spree—small or large—at Union Station. Trains no longer are the main draw, but specialty shops amid the backdrop of Romanesque-inspired architecture, including Tiffany stained glass and a barrel-vaulted ceiling, definitely are.

Essentials Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com

Essentials Details - Get additional information on AAA.com

-  - GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*
-  - Exclusive AAA member discounts available

1. The Gateway Arch

Memorial Dr & Market St
St. Louis, MO 63102
Phone: (314) 655-1700



2. Missouri History Museum

5700 Lindell Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63112
Phone: (314) 746-4599



4. Laclede's Landing

801 N 2nd St
St. Louis, MO 63102
Phone: (314) 241-5875

5. Scott Joplin House State Historic Site

2658A Delmar Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63103
Phone: (314) 340-5790

3. Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis

4431 Lindell Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63108
Phone: (314) 373-8200



Pick up a self-guiding walking tour brochure from the St. Louis Visitor Center and explore [Laclede's Landing](#) to get a feel for old St. Louis. This nine-block historic district marks St. Louis founder Pierre Laclede's original settlement. You'll marvel at the wonderfully preserved mid-19th- to early 20th-century warehouses that now hold bars, nightclubs, restaurants and offices. Cobblestone streets enhance the nostalgic charm.

Take a jaunt along the sidewalks of the University City Loop where the St. Louis Walk of Fame provides an entertaining and educational footing in nearby University City. Brass stars and biographical bronze plaques preserve information about noteworthy individuals with connections to the St. Louis area. Artist Charles Russell, actor Vincent Price, singer Tina Turner and U.S. President Ulysses S. Grant comprise four of the more than 100 stars.

Celebrate St. Louis's legendary musical past on a trip to the [Scott Joplin House State Historic Site](#), be sure to watch the player piano as it belts out tunes from the ragtime era.

With three well-loved professional sports teams in town, you'd be remiss not to get tickets to see baseball's Cardinals, football's Rams or hockey's Blues.

Stroll through Souldard Farmers Market at 7th Street and Lafayette Avenue, open Wednesdays through Saturdays, and participate in a tradition with origins dating back to 1838. This is reputedly the oldest farmers market west of the Mississippi River, and with that little historical tidbit, you'll treasure your purchases even more.

St. Louis in 3 Days

Three days is barely enough time to get to know any major destination. But AAA travel editors suggest these activities to make the most of your time in St. Louis.

Day 1: Morning and Afternoon

Spend your first day in St. Louis at [Jefferson National Expansion Memorial](#), home to the nation's tallest monument—The Gateway Arch. The memorial also includes the Old Courthouse and the Museum of Westward Expansion. Try to arrive at [The Gateway Arch](#) soon after it opens.

Two gripping films related to the memorial and the history of the West are shown throughout the day, and tram rides take awestruck visitors to the top of the arch for a magnificent view of the city. Decide which films you want to watch, and then plan the order of your activities around those and the time you've been issued for your tram ride. While you wait, peruse the [Museum of Westward Expansion](#), where exhibits and artifacts showcase Western history, including pioneer tales, American Indian life and Lewis and Clark's trailblazing adventures.

Note: Summer is the busiest season at the popular Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, but it is also when extended evening hours are offered at The Gateway Arch and Museum of Westward Expansion, so if you'll be in St. Louis between Memorial Day and Labor Day, you will have some added flexibility in scheduling your day's plans. In addition you can purchase your tickets to the memorial and timed tickets for a tram ride to the top of the arch before you arrive in the city, and this is wise especially if you'll be there in summer. By purchasing tickets ahead of time, you may also have more say in choosing the time of your tram ride. Allow at least 30 minutes for the line at the security checkpoint at The Gateway Arch.

A good place for lunch is in nearby historic [Laclede's Landing](#). Try [Hannegan's](#), which offers a casual setting with American fare, including the toasted ravioli appetizer, a St. Louis culinary tradition and an item you'll see on a lot of restaurant menus.

After lunch visit the third component of the memorial, the [Old Courthouse](#). It's quite a sight with its stunning copper dome, designed in an Italian Renaissance style and patterned after the one at Rome's St. Peter's Basilica. The first courthouse on this site was an 1828 brick Federal building that had to be expanded in 1839 due to the increasing population. Further construction in 1851 necessitated the demolition of the original brick portion, and within 11 years, the courthouse you see today was completed. This locale witnessed many important cases, one of which is profiled in "Slavery on Trial: The Dred Scott Decision"—a film chronicling the important mid-19th century case that began here and culminated with an 1857 U.S. Supreme Court decision that fueled opposing Northern and Southern viewpoints regarding slavery. Two courtrooms have been restored; one reflects the mid-19th century and the other reveals an early 20th-century appearance. Brush up on some history with the exhibits chronicling St. Louis since the 1760s.

Afterward stop at the [Old Cathedral](#) for a look at the 1830s structure and the Catholic artifacts housed in its museum.

Evening

Join St. Louis sports fans for a night with the Cardinals at the new Busch Stadium. Let dinner at [Mike Shannon's Steaks & Seafood](#) set the mood before the game, or go later for the post-game action. Either way, you'll be immersed in St. Louis Cardinals culture. Mike is a former third baseman for St. Louis and has been a team broadcaster since 1972. Hundreds of photographs and pieces of memorabilia are displayed throughout the space, and plenty of televisions tuned in to the game assure diners they won't miss any of the action if they don't have tickets or if the team is out of town. The ideal time to visit is after a Friday home game, when Mike does a live sports talk show.



St. Louis in 3 Days – Day 1 Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using [TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com](#)

Day 2: Morning

Begin the day with a trip to Soulard Farmers Market. The historic venue at 7th Street and Lafayette Avenue is said to be the oldest farmers market west of the Mississippi River. Stroll along the vendors' stalls and see what catches your eye for breakfast and for a souvenir or two. The market is open Wednesday through Saturday, but not all of the vendors open up each day. Saturday is the best time to visit because the majority of stalls are open for business.

Day 1 Details - Get additional information on [AAA.com](#);
AAA Diamond Rating information available on [AAA.com/Diamonds](#)



- GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*

1. Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
 Memorial Dr & LK Sullivan Blvd
 St. Louis, MO 63102
 Phone: (314) 655-1700

2. The Gateway Arch
 Memorial Dr & Market St
 St. Louis, MO 63102
 Phone: (314) 655-1700

3. Museum of Westward Expansion
 Memorial Dr & Market St
 St. Louis, MO 63102
 Phone: (314) 655-1700

4. Laclede's Landing
 801 N 2nd St
 St. Louis, MO 63102
 Phone: (314) 241-5875

5. Hannegan's
 719 N 2nd St
 St. Louis, MO 63102
 Phone: (314) 241-8877

6. Old Courthouse
 11 N 4th St
 St. Louis, MO 63102
 Phone: (314) 655-1700

7. Old Cathedral
 209 Walnut St
 St. Louis, MO 63102
 Phone: (314) 231-3250

8. Mike Shannon's Steaks & Seafood
 620 Market St
 St. Louis, MO 63101
 Phone: (314) 421-1540

Morning and Afternoon

Devote the rest of the morning and afternoon to Forest Park, site of the 1904 World's Fair. To better appreciate the vast offerings on the extensive grounds, pick up a self-guiding audio tour player from the Dennis & Judith Jones Visitor and Education Center at 5595 Grand Drive. Along with a variety of recreational opportunities, there are five attractions: Jewel Box, Missouri History Museum, St. Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis Science Center and Saint Louis Zoo. If you are traveling with children, the science center and zoo are good choices. Otherwise, be sure to visit the art and history museums. During the summer, a shuttle bus runs between these five attractions and several other stops.

Have lunch at Boathouse Forest Park amid the scenery of Post-Dispatch Lake or at Imo's Pizza just outside the park, where the slices of St. Louis-style pizza are characteristically cut into squares.

Evening

Broadway-style musicals are performed in Forest Park at the Muny, an outdoor amphitheater, from mid-June to mid-August each summer. If your vacation coincides with those dates, plan on seeing a show for your evening entertainment. Roughly 1,500 free seats at the top of the house are reserved for each performance, so if you're willing to wait in line (first-come, first-served) you might be able to get in for an unbeatable price.

St. Louis in 3 Days – Day 2 Map



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After the show, have a late supper in the Central West End (just northeast of Forest Park). [Dressel's Pub](#) is adorned with pictures of authors and musicians and features live music nightly (guitar Monday through Thursday and piano Friday through Sunday). It often attracts theatergoers and is one possibility among several blocks with dining options.

If the Muny plan doesn't work out, opt for a different kind of evening altogether. Make reservations and don your semi-formal evening wear for a dinner at [Tony's](#) or [An American Place](#), which is in [Renaissance Grand & Suites Hotel St. Louis](#). Both are excellent options for an upscale dining

Day 2 Details - Get additional information on [AAA.com](#);
AAA Diamond Rating information available on [AAA.com/Diamonds](#)



- GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*



- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

1. Forest Park

5600 Clayton Ave
 St. Louis, MO 63110
 Phone: (314) 289-5300



2. Jewel Box

5600 Clayton Ave
 St. Louis, MO 63110
 Phone: (314) 531-0080

3. Missouri History Museum

5700 Lindell Blvd
 St. Louis, MO 63112
 Phone: (314) 746-4599



4. St. Louis Art Museum

1 Fine Arts Dr
 St. Louis, MO 63110
 Phone: (314) 721-4807



5. Saint Louis Science Center

5050 Oakland Ave
 St. Louis, MO 63110
 Phone: (800) 456-7572



6. Saint Louis Zoo

1 Government Dr
 St. Louis, MO 63110
 Phone: (314) 781-0900



7. Boathouse Forest Park

6101 Government Dr
 St. Louis, MO 63110
 Phone: (314) 367-2224

8. Imo's Pizza

1000 Hampton Ave
 St. Louis, MO 63110
 Phone: (314) 644-5480

9. Dressel's Pub

419 N Euclid Ave
 St. Louis, MO 63108
 Phone: (314) 361-1060

10. Tony's

410 Market St
 St. Louis, MO 63102
 Phone: (314) 231-7007

11. An American Place

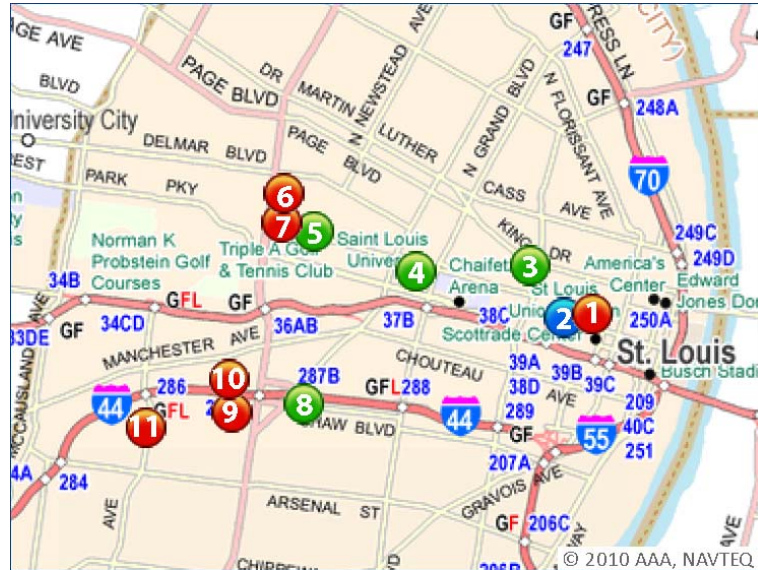
822 Washington Ave
 St. Louis, MO 63101
 Phone: (314) 418-5800

12. Renaissance Grand & Suites Hotel St. Louis

800 Washington Ave
 St. Louis, MO
 Phone: (314) 621-9600

experience. Get tickets if the St. Louis Symphony is performing at Powell Symphony Hall, and if it's not, see what's going on nearby at Sheldon Concert Hall. Fox Theatre and Grandel Theatre are in the neighborhood as well.

St. Louis in 3 Days – Day 3 Map



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Day 3: Morning

Enjoy breakfast at Station Grille at the St. Louis Union Station Marriott, which is housed in the Romanesque-inspired confines of Union Station. This 1894 structure—adorned with mosaics, gold leaf and faux marble ornamentation, and a Tiffany stained glass window above the main entrance in the Grand Hall—was once a bustling rail passenger terminal that is now an entertainment, shopping and dining destination.

Head over to Scott Joplin House State Historic Site, the simple home of the ragtime composer and his wife, Belle, during the very early 1900s. Their former residence is furnished in a turn of the 20th century style, and a museum inside is dedicated to the musician's accomplishments.

Tour the magnificently extravagant Samuel Cupples House at St. Louis University next. This late 19th-century 42-room Romanesque estate looks like a castle, and it features many Arts and Crafts interior elements, including quartersawn oak floors. The house also serves as display space for a collection of European and American paintings and art glass.

Day 3 Details - Get additional information on AAA.com;

AAA Diamond Rating information available on AAA.com/Diamonds

FYI - Provided as an information only service; has not yet been evaluated



- GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*



- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

1. Station Grille
1 St. Louis Union Station
St. Louis, MO 63103
Phone: (314) 802-3460

2. St. Louis Union Station Marriott
1 St. Louis Union Station
St. Louis, MO
Phone: (314) 621-5262

3. Scott Joplin House State Historic Site
2658A Delmar Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63103
Phone: (314) 340-5790

4. Samuel Cupples House at St. Louis University
Lindell Blvd & Spring Ave
St. Louis, MO 63103
Phone: (314) 977-3575

5. Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis
4431 Lindell Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63108
Phone: (314) 373-8200



6. Kopperman's Delicatessen (FYI)
386 N Euclid Ave
St. Louis, MO 63108
Phone: (314) 361-0100

7. Bar Italia Ristorante-Caffe
13 Maryland Plaza
St. Louis, MO 63108
Phone: (314) 361-7010

8. Missouri Botanical Garden
4344 Shaw Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63110
Phone: (314) 577-9400



9. Dominic's
5101 Wilson Ave
St. Louis, MO 63110
Phone: (314) 771-1632

10. Giovanni's on the Hill
5201 Shaw Ave
St. Louis, MO 63110
Phone: (314) 772-5958

11. Bartolino's Osteria
2103 Sulphur Ave
St. Louis, MO 63139
Phone: (314) 644-2266

Afternoon

Either on your way to a lunch spot or after your meal, stop at [Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis](#). You've never seen mosaics like the ones that adorn the inside of this structure. More than 41.5 million individual pieces of glass, marble and stones have been meticulously arranged to create beautiful religious imagery as well as local historical scenes.

Even if you had dinner in the Central West End last evening, there are still plenty of options there for lunch, including [Kopperman's Delicatessen](#) and [Bar Italia Ristorante-Caffe](#). Afterward, explore the fashionable neighborhood and all the shopping possibilities—antique shops, art galleries, bookstores and boutiques—it has to offer along Euclid Avenue, Maryland Plaza and McPherson Street.

To complete your afternoon sightseeing, visit the many themed gardens showcased at the [Missouri Botanical Garden](#). The Climatron, a conservatory housed in a massive geodesic dome, is definitely dressed to impress with its tropical plants, animal inhabitants, pools and waterfalls. Garden founder Henry Shaw's 1849 Victorian house also is open to the public.

Evening

Finish off the day in The Hill, the city's Italian neighborhood and the place where former major leaguers Yogi Berra and Joe Garagiola grew up. You'll find the community between Kingshighway and Hampton Avenue, but the numerous Italian restaurants, specialty markets and tri-colored fire hydrants sporting green, white and red paint are enough to give away the location. A statue outside St. Ambrose Catholic Church, on Wilson Avenue between Marconi Avenue and Hereford Street, depicts Italian immigrants. Tableside preparations are staples at [Dominic's](#) and [Giovanni's on the Hill](#), but if you don't want such a formal experience, scope out the other neighborhood establishments to see what catches your eye for a good place to enjoy Italian fare. [Bartolino's Osteria](#) is well established and offers classic Italian dishes.

Restaurants

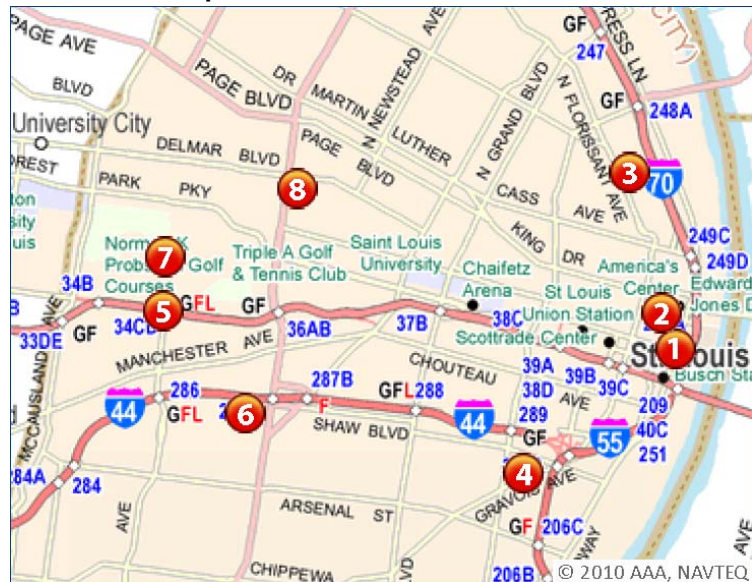
The following downtown restaurants are three of the city's popular dining locales. Ask anyone in St. Louis to name the "best" restaurant, and the likely answer will be [Tony's](#). At the sight of the formally attired valet and doorman, it's clear that a very special occasion is about to begin. Owner Vincent J. Bommarito strives to make his formal, sophisticated and legendary restaurant the best. Filet mignon in a Chianti sauce and linguine with lobster and shrimp are two entrée highlights.



Several blocks north you'll find [An American Place](#), where the cuisine is of exceedingly high quality. The menu frequently changes to offer selections with the freshest ingredients available. This former hotel lobby has been elegantly restored and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Many original elements of the 1917 structure, such as the ornate ceiling, polished marble walls, large columns, elegant draperies and strategically placed potted palms, create a one-of-a kind atmosphere.

Venture beyond downtown's borders to visit the next batch of restaurant selections. [Crown Candy Kitchen](#) lies just north of downtown and often has a line winding out the door and down the sidewalk; it is very popular during the lunch hour and on weekends. The soda fountain has been a tradition since it opened in 1913, making it one of the oldest soda fountains in the country. The establishment makes all its own ice cream and still practices the confectionery art. The lunch menu is simple fare but hits the spot. Sandwiches, soups, hot dogs and chili are among the choices and range from \$4-\$7 for lunch and dinner entrées.

Restaurants Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using [TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com](#)

The southern portion of St. Louis claims [Hodak's Restaurant & Bar](#), considered to have the best fried chicken in the city. Its famous four-piece chicken platter, fries and coleslaw are a great value. Weekday luncheon specials offer very reasonable prices for everything from a quarter-pound hot dog to a rib eye steak. The dinner menu offers a generous selection of steaks, chicken, pork chops, seafood and BBQ ribs. On Fridays catfish, Iceland Cod and Jack Salmon are served with slaw, potato salad and alternating spaghetti or macaroni and cheese. Numerous appetizers are offered, including toasted ravioli, a St. Louis favorite. Road and city development has moved this establishment to its third city corner location since 1962. Apparently it does not matter where Hodak's is located; they've got it cornered!

Also in the southern section of the city is [Imo's Pizza](#), where the original St. Louis-style pizza began. Ed Imo's unique recipe set the standard with square-cut pieces of thin, crispy crust; tomato sauce and provolone cheese. There's nothing fancy here, just good pizza. Their own slogan is, "The square beyond compare."

Restaurants Details - Get additional information on [AAA.com](#);
AAA Diamond Rating information available on [AAA.com/Diamonds](#)

1. Tony's
 410 Market St
 St. Louis, MO 63102
 Phone: (314) 231-7007

2. An American Place
 822 Washington Ave
 St. Louis, MO 63101
 Phone: (314) 418-5800

3. Crown Candy Kitchen
 1401 St. Louis Ave
 St. Louis, MO 63106
 Phone: (314) 621-9650

4. Hodak's Restaurant & Bar
 2100 Gravois Rd
 St. Louis, MO 63104
 Phone: (314) 776-7292

5. Imo's Pizza
 1000 Hampton Ave
 St. Louis, MO 63110
 Phone: (314) 644-5480

6. Dominic's
 5101 Wilson Ave
 St. Louis, MO 63110
 Phone: (314) 771-1632

7. Boathouse Forest Park
 6101 Government Dr
 St. Louis, MO 63110
 Phone: (314) 367-2224

8. Dressel's Pub
 419 N Euclid Ave
 St. Louis, MO 63108
 Phone: (314) 361-1060

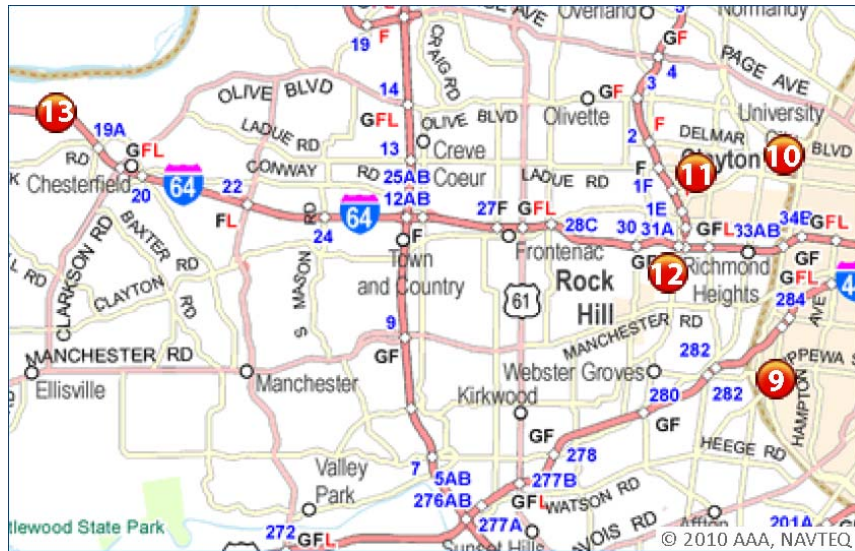
[Ted Drewe's Frozen Custard](#), with its two locations in the city's southern quadrant, has been a local tradition since 1931. St. Louisans stand in line for specialty custard treats no matter what the season. Limited parking and standing room only are just a part of the experience. Prices range from 50 cents for a cone to \$5 for a large specialty item.

Southern St. Louis also is home to The Hill, the city's Italian neighborhood. This is where you'll find [Dominic's](#). Sophisticated service and an extensive wine list help create an elegant dining experience. Old World décor and exquisite cuisine are hallmarks here.

Head north to discover [Boathouse Forest Park](#). In warm weather, enjoy lakeside patio dining, cold drinks, live music and beautiful sunsets. Dogs are always welcome (outside dining only) and are given their own water bowl and treats. In cold weather, relax and enjoy indoor dining by the large stone fireplace. The menu's variety includes hot dogs, chili, angus burgers, hand-tossed pizzas, salads and house-made soups and stews.

Flank steak, rarebit and salmon BLTs are signature dishes. It's wise to make reservations and to be prepared to wait for seating at this very popular spot!


Restaurants Map




Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com


Restaurants Details - Get additional information on AAA.com;
AAA Diamond Rating information available on AAA.com/Diamonds

9. Ted Drewe's Frozen Custard 
 6726 Chippewa St
 St. Louis, MO 63109
 Phone: (314) 481-2652

12. Frank Papa's Ristorante 
 2241 S Brentwood Blvd
 Brentwood, MO 63144
 Phone: (314) 961-3344

10. Blueberry Hill 
 6504 Delmar Blvd
 University City, MO 63130
 Phone: (314) 727-4444

13. Annie Gunn's 
 16806 Chesterfield Airport Rd
 Chesterfield, MO 63005
 Phone: (636) 532-7684

11. Portabella 
 15 N Central Ave
 Clayton, MO 63105
 Phone: (314) 725-6588

Nearby at Dressel's Pub you'll often find after-theater crowds, students and literary minds. The lively pub serves traditional Welsh dishes as well as a variety of sandwiches, soups and salads. The homemade deep-fried potato chips are perfect with some malt vinegar sprinkled on top. A sidewalk café is offered in season.

Just beyond St. Louis city limits lies a fine selection of additional dining opportunities. Often voted "Best Hamburgers," Blueberry Hill in University City is a landmark filled with pop culture memorabilia and draws a lively, fun-loving crowd. Local and national touring bands perform, and Chuck Berry still gives the occasional performance. Hear them in the "Duck Room!"

Located in the heart of Clayton's busy government district, Portabella is one of St. Louis's favorite dining spots. For business or special occasions, the atmosphere is understated sophistication, and the service is warm and attentive. This widely acclaimed restaurant has enhanced its traditional menu with creativity and is known for its extensive wine list.

At the family-operated Frank Papa's Ristorante in Brentwood, candlelight and white tablecloths welcome casual diners as well as those celebrating special occasions. The menu offers dishes showcasing a range of Northern to Southern Italian flavors combined with an American flare. Generous portions at reasonable prices and a casual yet sincere staff make you feel right at home.

Travel farther west to Chesterfield to experience Annie Gunn's. Established in 1937, this restaurant began long before the surrounding area was developed. Tucked in among rapid growth, this upscale pub is a relaxing establishment offering traditional barbecue with gourmet touches. Favorites include smoked pork chops grilled with barbecue glaze and bread pudding for dessert. The atmosphere accommodates casual get-togethers as well as business meals. This popular restaurant is often very busy, and you may have to wait for a table.

Attractions

In a city with dozens of attractions, you may have trouble deciding where to spend your time. Here are the highlights for this destination, as chosen by AAA editors. GEMs are “Great Experiences for Members.”

Nostalgic, history-infused attractions make up a large part of St. Louis’s appeal. The [Jefferson National Expansion Memorial](#), with its three major sites, embodies just such attributes. [The Gateway Arch](#), a AAA GEM attraction, symbolizes the role St. Louis played in the pioneers’ journeys Westward. The arch was completed in 1965, and with installation of the tram system, visitors began riding to the top of architect Eero Saarinen’s masterpiece for gorgeous panoramic views of the area. Exhibits relating to the construction of the arch and the history of St. Louis help pass the time as you wait to catch a tram. Beneath the arch lies the [Museum of Westward Expansion](#). Here you’ll discover a vast array of topics covering the history of the West. American Indians, explorers, Lewis and Clark’s journey, buffalo hunters, miners and transportation are a selection of the stories told through artifacts and exhibits. Also on the grounds is the [Old Courthouse](#), which holds a prominent place in American legal history as the site of the Dred Scott slavery trial and Virginia Minor’s suffrage trial. Exhibits, dioramas and old courtrooms reflect a previous era in St. Louis.

Although the Louisiana Purchase Exposition took place more than 100 years ago, it is still very much on the minds of locals and tourists. Better known as the 1904 World’s Fair, the exposition was held inside [Forest Park](#), a AAA GEM attraction, and welcomed 20 million people in its 7-month run. Today you can enjoy recreational activities as well as several attractions on the park grounds. One of these is the [Jewel Box](#), a 50-foot tall conservatory in an Art Deco style, which radiates excitement with its magnificent floral displays. The exterior glass walls act as natural spotlights, showering the botanical arrangements with sunlight.

If you’re looking for AAA GEM attractions, Forest Park offers four on its expansive grounds. Having served as the fine arts pavilion during the

1904 World’s Fair, the [St. Louis Art Museum](#) remains a tribute to the exposition. The galleries include works by such artists as Edgar Degas, Hans Holbein, Claude Monet, Henry Moore, Jackson Pollock and Titian. The museum also preserves a large collection of pieces from ancient cultures. The [Saint Louis Zoo](#) is home to more than 9,000 animals. The Flight Cage, a walk-through bird cage provided by the Smithsonian Institution as a 1904 fair exhibit, is a popular stop in the Historic Hill section. The [Missouri History Museum](#) houses an extraordinary amount of history items, including a permanent exhibit showcasing St. Louisans since the city’s early days. You’ll also find a replica of Charles Lindbergh’s “Spirit of St. Louis.” The [Saint Louis Science Center](#) lets you explore exciting science topics, including architecture, airplanes and



space travel. Interactive exhibits allow you to participate in practically a laboratory full of science experiments and demonstrations that teach the science concepts shaping our world.

For a musical peek into the past, take a tour of the [Scott Joplin House State Historic Site](#) to learn about one of ragtime music’s legends. Joplin moved into this house in 1900 and composed some of his pieces during his several years here. Exhibits tell his story and that of St. Louis when he was a resident. You may be thinking that you don’t know any of Joplin’s music, but if you remember the theme song to “The Sting,” the 1973 classic starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford, then you’ve heard Joplin’s “The Entertainer.” Listen to the player piano in the house to hear other ragtime tunes.


A trip to [Missouri Botanical Garden](#), a AAA GEM attraction, is sure to impress even non-botanists with its variety of exhibits and buildings. Garden founder Henry Shaw opened his garden, designed with both beauty and educational purposes in mind, in 1859. You can tour Shaw’s Tower Grove House along with a variety of themed gardens. Climatron, a

Attractions Map



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3. Museum of Westward Expansion

Memorial Dr & Market St
St. Louis, MO 63102
Phone: (314) 655-1700

4. Old Courthouse

11 N 4th St
St. Louis, MO 63102
Phone: (314) 655-1700

5. Forest Park

5600 Clayton Ave
St. Louis, MO 63110
Phone: (314) 289-5300

6. Jewel Box

5600 Clayton Ave
St. Louis, MO 63110
Phone: (314) 531-0080

7. St. Louis Art Museum

1 Fine Arts Dr
St. Louis, MO 63110
Phone: (314) 721-4807

8. Saint Louis Zoo

1 Government Dr
St. Louis, MO 63110
Phone: (314) 781-0900

geodesic dome covering more than half an acre of land, introduces you to the plants, animals and landscape of tropical regions.

St. Louis's Old Cathedral represents an even earlier part of the city's history. St. Louis founder Pierre Laclede designated the site of the present cathedral for a Catholic church, which was built in 1770. The original structures were mere log cabins; the current cathedral, built on a much grander scale, was completed in the early 1830s. You can visit the adjoining museum to view remnants from the church's early days.

The interior of Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, another Catholic cathedral, boasts a very impressive interior with its collection of mosaic scenes created from more than 41.5 million pieces of glass, marble and stone. These images, representing biblical stories as well as local history, cover the walls and domed ceilings.

9. Missouri History Museum

5700 Lindell Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63112
Phone: (314) 746-4599



10. Saint Louis Science Center

5050 Oakland Ave
St. Louis, MO 63110
Phone: (800) 456-7572



11. Scott Joplin House State Historic Site

2658A Delmar Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63103
Phone: (314) 340-5790

12. Missouri Botanical Garden

4344 Shaw Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63110
Phone: (314) 577-9400



13. Old Cathedral

209 Walnut St
St. Louis, MO 63102
Phone: (314) 231-3250

14. Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis

4431 Lindell Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63108
Phone: (314) 373-8200



15. Samuel Cupples House at St. Louis University

Lindell Blvd & Spring Ave
St. Louis, MO 63103
Phone: (314) 977-3575

16. Anheuser-Busch Brewery

12th St & Lynch St
St. Louis, MO 63118
Phone: (314) 577-2626

17. Soldiers' Memorial Military Museum

1315 Chestnut St
St. Louis, MO 63103
Phone: (314) 622-4550

Tour [Samuel Cupples House at St. Louis University](#) for a dose of architectural extravagance. The late 19th-century house resembles a castle and boasts 42 rooms and 22 fireplaces. Gargoyles and ornamental stonework adorn the exterior.

[Anheuser-Busch Brewery](#) tours capture a traditional part of St. Louis and brewing history. As you discover the process required to produce Anheuser-Busch products, you'll learn about the founders and their legacy. A highlight is a tour of the Clydesdale stables and paddock.

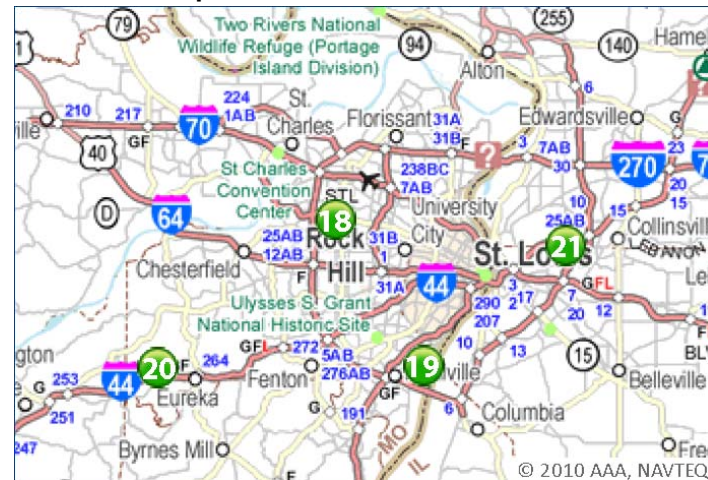
[Holocaust Museum and Learning Center](#) documents European Jewish traditions, Nazism, the horrors of the Holocaust and life for Jews after World War II. Oral histories preserve personal accounts of the survivors who eventually moved to St. Louis.

Experience St. Louis military history by visiting two historical institutions. [Jefferson Barracks Historic Park](#) now covers many of the acres that once made up Jefferson Barracks. Established in 1826, the barracks have served as a supply post, a military training institution and a hospital. Thousands of veterans are buried in the national cemetery. Visit the 1857 powder magazine, now a museum with exhibits depicting the history of the area. To honor St. Louis veterans from past wars, visit the [Soldiers' Memorial Military Museum](#), which is a tribute to fallen soldiers of World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Courage, vision, loyalty and sacrifice—virtues attributed to soldiers—are depicted by statues at the entrance, and artifacts portray the city's military history from 1800 to the present.

After you cross off some of St. Louis's attractions from your list, you may want to see two more AAA GEM attractions in the vicinity. [Six Flags St. Louis](#) in Eureka offers laughs and screams alike with such rides as Daffy Duck Airways; Batman The Ride; and Colossus, an 18-story Ferris Wheel. Another thrilling experience, but of a historical nature, is just across the Illinois border. [Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site](#) in Collinsville consists of 2,200 acres of preserved American Indian tribal mounds built between roughly A.D. 900 and 1500. Though named for the

Cahokia Indians who inhabited the area in the late 1600s, it is the Mississippian culture that was responsible for these massive constructions. Of the more than 120 original mounds, just over half remain.

Attractions Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using [TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com](#)

Attractions Details - [Get additional information on AAA.com](#)



- GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*



- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

18. Holocaust Museum and Learning Center

12 Millstone Campus Dr
St. Louis, MO 63146
Phone: (314) 432-0020

19. Jefferson Barracks Historic Park

533 Grant Rd
St. Louis, MO 63125
Phone: (314) 544-5714

20. Six Flags St. Louis

I-44 & Allenton Rd
Eureka, MO 63025
Phone: (636) 938-4800



21. Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site

30 Ramey St
Collinsville, IL 62234
Phone: (618) 346-5160



Events

In addition to its many cultural and historic landmarks, this destination hosts a number of outstanding festivals and events that may coincide with your visit.



There are no excuses for cabin fever in February, when two nearly monthlong events provide both entertainment and history lessons. St. Louisans celebrate [African-American Heritage Month](#) at the [Old Courthouse](#) with such programs as historical reenactments and lectures. [St. Louis Mardi Gras](#) brings art, parades, concerts, Creole food, festivities and countless parties to St. Louis's Soulard neighborhood. A popular late January event is the Southern Comfort Taste of Soulard, where you can visit a variety of the district's restaurants and bars and taste some of their signature creations as well as some Cajun and Creole dishes.

May welcomes the [St. Louis Storytelling Festival](#) and its celebration of oral traditions. Several venues throughout the area host storytelling events and workshops all the while preserving this art form that doubles as an important means of teaching history.

May also celebrates another art form—a tangible one—at the [Art Fair at Laumeier](#). On Mother's Day nearly 150 artists travel to [Laumeier Sculpture Park](#) to sell their works of art among the outdoor sculptures. You'll find a range of mediums, including clay, paper, wood, jewelry, glass and photography. Music and art demonstrations enhance the festive atmosphere.

The annual [Fair St. Louis](#) kicks off July's special events. Billed as one of America's largest Fourth of July celebrations, this extravaganza held near the Gateway Arch ensures a spectacular backdrop for fireworks. Before the highly anticipated nighttime shows, though, enjoy the air shows, concerts and festive entertainment.

[Festival of Nations](#) at Tower Grove Park is an August favorite. For two days St. Louisans honor and celebrate the city's ethnic diversity by transforming the park into a showcase of traditional music, fashion, dance, crafts and cuisine representing dozens of ethnic backgrounds.

Celebrate Japanese culture in September during the [Japanese Festival](#) at the [Missouri Botanical Garden](#). You'll discover the intricacies of traditions like tea ceremonies, sumo wrestling and wearing kimonos. You also can join a guided walk through the Japanese garden.

Another popular September event is the [Great Forest Park Balloon Race](#). With dozens of hot air balloons, a parachute team exhibition and a St. Louis Symphony Orchestra performance, [Forest Park](#) definitely is the place to be on race day.

Delight in the holiday spirit from late November through New Year's Day with a drive through [Winter Wonderland](#). Thousands of Christmas lights adorn Tilles County Park. If you want to add an extra special touch, make a reservation to take a carriage ride through the park.

Things to Do

Shopping

Our No. 1 tip for a rewarding St. Louis shopping experience: zero in on the neighborhoods. This is a spread-out city of many separate communities, each with its own distinct character. Here's a quick rundown that can help you plan your shopping strategy.

The Central West End, just north and east of Forest Park, was created in the flush of expansion and prosperity that followed the 1904 World's Fair. Today it's one of the city's most pleasant shopping destinations, a neighborhood of stately turn-of-the-20th-century homes, ornate lampposts, streets lined with giant oaks and lots of sidewalk cafés for people watching when the weather's nice.

Euclid Avenue is thick with specialty shops, pubs and restaurants. Browse for home furnishings at Rothschild Antiques (398 N. Euclid) and fashion-forward women's wear at Mezzanine Wearables (389 N. Euclid), then peruse the selection at cozy Left Bank Books (399 N. Euclid). Wander through the once-abandoned auto repair warehouse now occupied by Bowood Farms (4605 Olive St.), a combination garden center, greenhouse and café that's a lush respite from the concrete jungle.

Another trendy district is the Delmar Loop (the name comes from the streetcar turnaround, or loop, that used to run through the area). The six or so blocks of Delmar Boulevard between Kingsland and Hamilton avenues form the heart of the Loop. It's a shopping, dining and nightlife destination with a lively street life courtesy of neighboring Washington University.

Eclectic is the keyword here. Vintage Vinyl (6610 Delmar) has a discriminating collection of CDs, LPs, T-shirts and posters. Next door is Sunshine Daydream, an all-purpose head shop (incense, candles, more T-shirts). Headz n Threadz (6662C Delmar) specializes in headwear, including every sports team cap under the sun. Star Clipper (6392 Delmar) carries domestic, imported and manga comics, graphic novels and pop culture memorabilia. Check out Fifi's (6172 Delmar) for punk and alternative clothing. Browse art galleries like the Componere Gallery of Art and Fashion (6509 Delmar) and Faces in the Loop (6265 Delmar). For handcrafted jewelry, locally made art and Mexican Day of the Dead dolls, go to Phoenix Rising (6331 Delmar).

The Hill, south of Manchester Avenue between Hampton Avenue and Kingshighway, is an old, established residential neighborhood with a gaggle of great Italian restaurants and specialty food markets. The shelves at J. Viviano & Sons (5139 Shaw Ave.) are loaded with jars of

black olive paste, cans of anchovy-stuffed olives, bags of lupine beans, almond confetti candy and blocks of Reggiano parmesan ("the crown jewel of cheeses"). Girasole Gifts & Imports (2103 Marconi Ave.) sells ceramics, jewelry, handbags and gift items; a miniature replica of the Italian Immigrants statue (which stands across the street in front of St. Ambrose Catholic Church) is an appropriate Hill souvenir.

South Grand is one of the city's more ethnically diverse neighborhoods, and that's reflected in the shops and restaurants that line the eight-block stretch of S. Grand Boulevard between Crittenden Street and McDonald Avenue. Poke around for vintage pieces at Grand Habitat Antiques (3206 S. Grand), shop for Indian spices, Japanese eggplants and green tea ice cream at Jay International Food Co. (3172 S. Grand) or contemplate a tattoo or piercing from one of the friendly folks at Cheap TRX (3211 S. Grand).

South of downtown is Cherokee Antique Row, centered along Cherokee Street between Nebraska Avenue and DeMenil Place. In addition to antique stores and art galleries this city neighborhood has some interesting specialty shops. One of the best is Retro 101 (2303 Cherokee St.), a treasure trove of vintage stuff (think "mod" '60s furniture, funky costume jewelry and kitschy bar accessories). There's more nostalgic browsing at HearthBeats Vintage Kitchen Wares (2001 Cherokee St.), which is loaded with the likes of cut glass iced tea pitchers, oval casserole dishes and ceramic cookie jars that are cute as all get-out.

You can't miss Union Station, the hulking, red-roofed, turreted former train terminal that stands downtown on Market Street (between 18th and 20th streets). The last train pulled out on Oct. 31, 1978, but after being spruced up the station reopened as a complex housing shops, restaurants and entertainment venues. Stop by the Hard Rock Cafe for a look at memorabilia like a custom-built Peavey bass played by former Van Halen member Michael Anthony, then scope out their line of T-shirts, pins and gifts.

Baseball fans will want to stop by Cardinals Clubhouse, where the merch runs from jerseys to dugout jackets to caps. You'll find steins, coasters, glassware and Clydesdale collectibles at the Bud Shop, while Fat Sassy's stocks gifts like angels, ornaments and teddy bears.

Laclede's Landing is a complex of eateries, bars and a couple of shops housed in brick buildings that were once warehouses. Pick up a Cardinals pennant or Route 66 memento at St. Louis Souvenirs (707 N. 1st St.). Novelties, masks, red clown noses and magic supplies are what you'll find at the circus-themed Gibbol's Novelties & Costumes (811 N. 2nd St.).

The city has a couple of worthy destination malls. Upscale Plaza Frontenac, just south of I-64/40 at the intersection of Clayton Road and Lindbergh Boulevard, caters to well-to-do St. Louisans with the only Saks Fifth Avenue and Neiman Marcus stores in town, along with trendy retailers like Tiffany & Co. and Louis Vuitton. The atmosphere here is elegant throughout; even the seating areas and restrooms are smartly stylish.

West County Center, at I-270 and Manchester Road in Des Peres, is a major mall anchored by JCPenney, Macy's and Nordstrom. Among the more than 150 other retailers are familiar names like Abercrombie & Fitch, Brooks Brothers and The North Face. Anchors at the Saint Louis Galleria, I-64 and S. Brentwood Boulevard, are Dillard's and Macy's, with Nordstrom due in 2011. Shoppers can choose from some 165 additional stores and boutiques.

Westport Plaza, in a mixed-use office complex just off I-270 and Page Avenue in the western burbs, is more a place to relax after shopping since it has pick-me-ups like Starbucks and the St. Louis Bread Co., a variety of casual and higher-end restaurants, happy hour hangouts and pubs with live music.

Bargain hunters head for St. Louis Mills, SR 370 and St. Louis Mills Boulevard. With more than 175 outlets—everything from American Eagle Outfitters to diamond sellers Zales, plus outlet faves like Dress Barn, Forever 21, Levi Strauss, Tommy Hilfiger and Reebok—there's something for everyone. Refuel with a Haagen-Dazs cone or a Wetzels pretzel, just two of this mall's many eateries.

Missouri farmers supply St. Louis farmers markets, and one of the best reasons to visit is for the cornucopia of locally grown fruits and veggies. The markets are also good places to pick up locally produced cheese,

eggs, honey and baked goods. Shoppers in the know arrive early to snap up seasonal goodies like berries and heirloom tomatoes. And of course it's fun to just wander around soaking up the sights and smells.

The granddaddy of them all is the Soulard Farmers Market (south of downtown at the corner of 7th and Carroll streets), which has been in business in one form or another since 1779. If you're a first timer go on Saturday morning, when this big, bustling market is at its busiest and best. Shaped like a giant "H," it has stall after stall of produce—fat melons, baskets of grapes, just-picked zucchini—as well as butchers, bakers and vendors selling everything from balsamic black bean dip to aromatic soaps. It's open Wed.-Fri. 8-5, Sat. 6-5, year-round. Hint: Street parking is not plentiful and also metered, and regulations are strictly enforced; park in the free lot across 7th Street from the market.

Much smaller but equally appealing is the Kirkwood Farmers Market in downtown Kirkwood (150 E. Argonne Dr. at Taylor Avenue). Fresh, locally grown produce varies by season; in summer look for ripe peaches grown in Missouri's "boot heel," and ask about the recipe for turning them into a scrumptious peach pie. Tropical Moose ("Tro Mo" to its loyal customers) is a popular snow cone stand that sells the icy treats in more than 50 different flavors. The market is open daily from early April to late September, but Saturday mornings offer the best selection. In October it morphs into a pumpkin patch, stays open longer hours (daily 9-8) and has lots of activities for kids.

The Clayton Farmers Market also promotes local growers and emphasizes organic and seasonal fruits and vegetables. Food Network-inspired cooks come here for unusual produce like Asian squash and bell peppers in rainbow colors. It fills the west parking lot of Straub's Market (8282 Forsyth Blvd.) Saturdays 8:30-noon, late May to late October.

And if your sweet tooth demands satisfaction, do as many longtime residents do and head for Lubeley's Bakery (7815 Watson Rd. in South St. Louis). Family-owned Lubeley's has been in business for more than 70 years, turning out St. Louis specialties like the super-sweet gooey butter cake, German treats like stollen and custom-made, multi-tiered wedding cakes. A fresh-out-of-the-oven caramel pecan roll and coffee to go is as good a way as any to start your day.

Smaller-scale shopping with a healthy dollop of historic charm prevails in nearby St. Charles. If you're into antiques, crafts, gifts and collectibles, put St. Charles' Main Street at the top of your day-trip list.

Nightlife

If you hit the neighborhoods during the day to go shopping, you'll hit them again when it comes time to party the night away. St. Louis music clubs and evening entertainment options tend to be concentrated in certain areas, and one of the most happening spots is the Loop.

Begin an evening on the town with drinks at the Rooftop Terrace, eight stories above Delmar Boulevard at the top of the boutique-style Moonrise Hotel. A hip, dressy thirty-something crowd lounges on fancy white couches or mingles at the patio under a revolving gray moon, snacking on marinated olives while nursing a glass of wine or one of the premium beers. A bonus is the view of the downtown skyline and the Arch in the distance, a nice backdrop for a sunset or later when the lights of the Delmar strip twinkle below.

Another place to kick off an evening is Cielo Bar, on the eighth floor of the Four Seasons Hotel St. Louis (adjacent to Lumière Place Casino). The setting is swank—elegant flower arrangements, a roaring fire on freezing winter days, and an outdoor patio with canopy beds and a great view of the Arch that's perfect for people watching on warm summer evenings. The atmosphere helps take the sting out of pricey but tasty drinks like the vodka pear mojito.

Casinos have been instrumental in revitalizing St. Louis' downtown riverfront area, and leading the way is Lumière Place (999 N. 2nd St.). It ain't Vegas, but there's plenty of flash here for a fun night out. The main floor has a variety of game tables, some 2,000 slots showing off the latest video technology and a room for dedicated poker players. Hardcore gamblers will gripe that free drinks aren't provided while you're spending your hard-earned cash. On the plus side, Lumière has the only Peet's Coffee & Tea outlet in St. Louis. Nonsmokers take note: The smell of smoke hangs pretty heavily in the air.

You also can hit Lumière Place for dinner. Burger Bar is crowded, noisy and has a real buzz about it, as pretty people perched on bar stools scarf down custom-built burgers put together from high-end ingredients like Kobe beef, lobster and foie gras. SLeek is a very stylish steakhouse with semi-private dining areas, subdued lighting and slick contemporary design. Prices edge toward the stratospheric, but if you hit it big in the casino a splurge here might be a just reward.

The vibe is similar at Harrah's St. Louis (777 Casino Center Dr. in Maryland Heights). The casino floor has plenty of game tables, slots and video poker machines. iBAR features stand-up blackjack tables, a full-service bar and a showgirl-style dance revue on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Local bands and the occasional name artist play at the VooDoo lounge on weekends. Among the dining options here is Charlie Gitto's From the Hill, a branch of the celebrated Italian restaurant on the Hill.

For live music, the Loop is tops. Rock and blues bands jam it up in the Duck Room at Blueberry Hill (6504 Delmar Blvd.). St. Louis native and rock 'n roll legend Chuck Berry still makes an occasional appearance. Just about everybody, be they pop, rock, indie, acoustic or metal, plays The Pageant (6161 Delmar Blvd.). Patrons can chill out at the venue's Halo Bar before and/or after the main show. The Halo Bar also has live performances and DJ sets most nights, and there's no cover.

Local scenesters congregate at Pin-Up Bowl (6191 Delmar Blvd.), a lounge where the bartenders whip up killer martinis and specialty cocktails in outlandish colors. The kitschy decor includes a display case full of vintage bowling paraphernalia. There are 12 lanes here as well, but if you're serious about the game this is not the place to work on your delivery.

Two downtown watering holes are especially popular for live music. BB's Jazz, Blues & Soups (700 S. Broadway) brings top jazz and blues musicians to town. Memorabilia adorns the walls of this old brick building, which has done time as a boarding house, reception hall, millinery shop, transient hotel and house of ill repute. Within spitting distance of BB's is Beale on Broadway (701 S. Broadway). Down-home blues is the music of choice here, with dashes of R&B, old-school soul and roots rock.

Off Broadway (3509 Lemp Ave. in the Cherokee-Lemp Historic District) is basically a dive bar, but it's also one of the best spots in the city for live music. Acts run to folk, alt country, blues and rock, plus the occasional tribute show (Jerry Garcia, Gram Parsons and the like). This is also a good place to catch up-and-coming local bands. Another plus: The smoking area is outside.

Seeing a movie is still a relatively cheap date, and there are options besides the multiplex. The Moolah Theatre & Lounge (3821 Lindell Blvd. near the St. Louis University campus) is housed in a renovated, Moorish-style brick building that was once the Moolah Temple, a meeting place for the Shriners. The screen is huge, and the theater has a beautiful ceiling dome. If you want to hang out afterward there's a full bar and a pool table. Arrive early to snag one of the comfy leather sofas that make up the front rows.

The Tivoli (6350 Delmar Blvd. in the Loop) dates from the era of grand old movie palaces, and like many others it suffered a long period of decline, even closing briefly in the 1990s before being restored to its former glory and reopened. Display cases are filled with movie memorabilia, vintage posters line the walls and yes, there's an orchestra pit and a plush burgundy curtain. Three screens show a mix of first-run films and arthouse fare. The six screens at the Plaza Frontenac Cinema (in the Plaza Frontenac mall at Clayton Road and Lindbergh Boulevard) feature independent and foreign films, and some locals swear the concession stand has the best popcorn in town.

In the mood to laugh? The Funny Bone (614 Westport Plaza, just off I-270 and Page Avenue) presents national touring comedians and has open-mic nights when local stand-up comics take the stage. The 7:30 p.m. Saturday show is non-smoking. Reservations are recommended; phone (314) 469-6692. Quirky productions and an intimate setting make The Playhouse (635 Westport Plaza Dr.) a good choice for live theater.

And finally, is there a better way to spend a summer evening in St. Louis than attending a Cardinals game at Busch Stadium? The downtown ballpark, a stone's throw from the Arch, is invariably filled with diehard Cards fans cheering on their team. So grab a dog and a couple of bags of peanuts and take a seat under the stars. Evening home games usually

start at 7:15 p.m. Single game tickets can be purchased at the 8th Street ticket windows, located just north of Gate 3, Mon.-Fri. from 9 a.m. until 2 hours after game time; to charge by phone call (314) 345-9000.

Note: RFT (Riverfront Times), a free newsweekly available all over town, has arts and entertainment listings.

Sports and Recreation

The 2010 season marks the 119th year of Major League Baseball's St. Louis Cardinals as a franchise and also their fourth year at Busch Stadium, which opened in 2006. The Cardinals won the World Series—their first title in 24 years—on the home field against the Detroit Tigers during the stadium's inaugural season.

The design of the ballpark offers wide concourses, elevators and escalators between levels and excellent spectator sightlines, as well as dramatic views of downtown and the Gateway Arch. For schedule and ticket information phone (314) 345-9600.

Minor league baseball fun is offered by the Frontier League Western Division's River City Rascals at the Ozzie Smith Sports Complex in O'Fallon, about 35 miles west of downtown St. Louis; phone (636) 240-2287.

The National Football League's St. Louis Rams play at the Edward Jones Dome at America's Center; phone (314) 982-7267. The arena football season runs from March through June for the Show-Me Believers at St. Charles Family Arena; phone (636) 896-4200.

The St. Louis Blues of the National Hockey League take to the ice October through April at the Scottrade Center, 14th and Clark streets; phone (314) 622-2500. The St. Charles Family Arena is the home of the River City Rage, a professional indoor football team; phone (636) 896-4200. The St. Louis Aces, (314) 647-2237, play team tennis in July at Dwight Davis Tennis Center in Forest Park.

Gateway International Raceway in nearby Madison, Ill., offers marquee motorsports events, including NHRA National, Indy Car Championship, stock and sports car events; phone (618) 482-2400.

Fairmont Park in nearby Collinsville, Ill., offers Thoroughbred racing April through September; phone (618) 345-4300.

Note: Policies concerning admittance of children to pari-mutuel betting facilities vary. Phone for information.

There are many golf courses throughout the area, including a public course at Ruth Park, 8211 Groby Rd., and three public courses at Forest Park.

Horseback riding is one of many recreational activities available at A.P. Greensfelder Park, north of I-44 on Allenton Road in nearby Pacific. The Wayne C. Kennedy Recreation Complex, on Wells Road, and Edgar M. Queeny Park, between Mason and Weidmann roads, offer ice-skating and tennis. The complex also offers swimming. Ice-skating and roller skating are popular at the Steinberg Memorial Skating Rink in Forest Park.

Performing Arts

The St. Louis Symphony, founded in 1880 and one of the oldest symphony orchestras in the nation, performs in Powell Symphony Hall, 718 N. Grand Blvd., from mid-September to mid-May and presents several free outdoor concerts during the summer. The symphony also presents Kinder Konzerts, geared to ages 5 through 8, and Young People's Concerts for ages 9 and up; phone (314) 534-1700 for ticket and schedule information. The acoustically renowned Sheldon Concert Hall, 3648 Washington Blvd., presents a variety of concerts; phone (314) 533-9900.

The Muny in Forest Park is a 11,000-seat outdoor amphitheater featuring 7 weeks of Broadway-style musical theater during the summer. About 1,500 free seats at the top of the house are available on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 7 p.m.; phone (314) 534-1111. Broadway hits also are performed at the restored 1929 Fox Theatre, 527 N. Grand Blvd. A twin to the Detroit Fox Theatre, the Fox also presents concerts and headlining entertainers in a lavish setting; phone (314) 534-1678.

The Verizon Wireless Amphitheater is a 20,000-seat venue offering concerts April through September; phone (314) 298-9944.

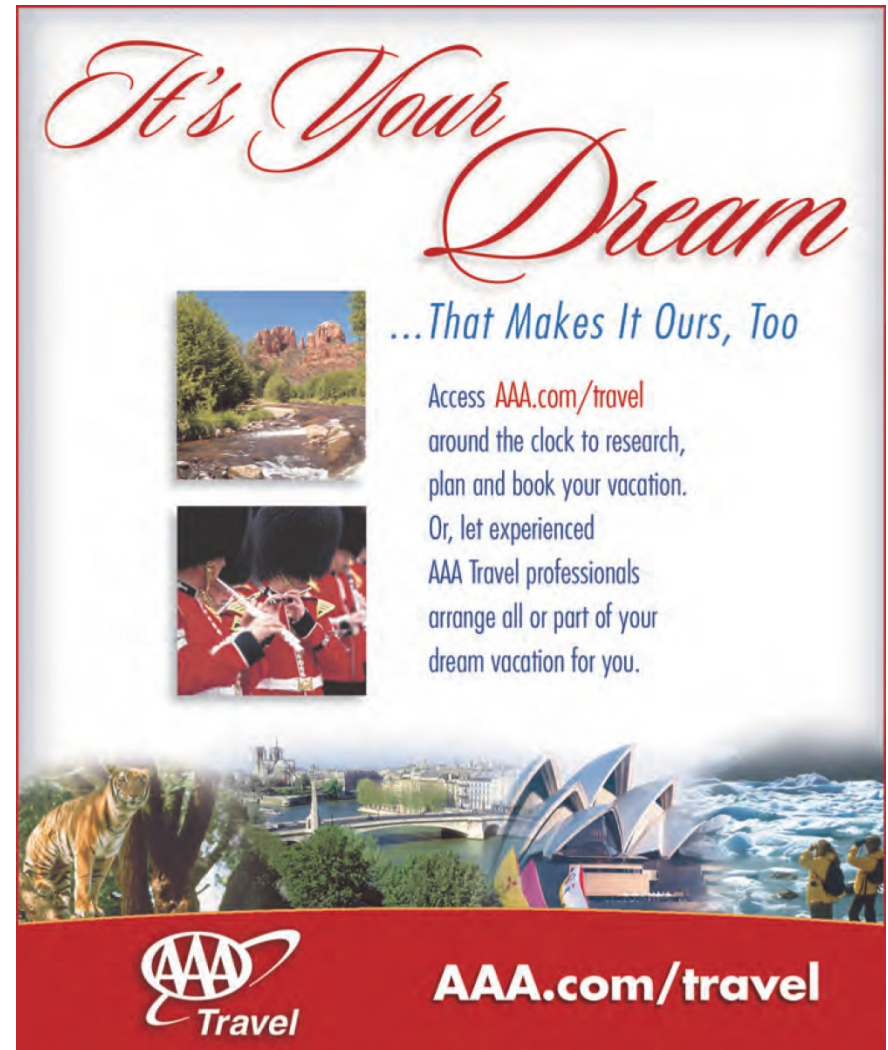
The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, 130 Edgar Rd., is the home of St. Louis' regional equity theater as well as the Opera Theatre of St. Louis and Webster University's Conservatory of Theatre Arts; phone (314) 968-4925.

Dance St. Louis regularly gives performances September through April at the Fox Theatre; phone (314) 534-5000. Dance, music and drama are presented at the Edison Theatre on the campus of Washington University; phone (314) 935-6543. Stages St. Louis offers musical theater productions June through October at the Robert G. Reim Theatre at Kirkwood Civic Center; phone (314) 821-2407. The Touhill Performing Arts Center on the campus of the University of Missouri-St. Louis offers concerts, opera, comedy and dance year round; phone (314) 516-4949. Chaifetz Arena, on the campus of St. Louis University, is a multipurpose arena featuring concerts, family shows and sporting events; phone (314) 977-5000.

The St. Louis Black Repertory Company offers theater and dance presentations January through June in the Grandel Theatre, 3610 Grandel Sq.; phone (314) 534-3807. Also in the Grandel, the Off-Broadway On Grand Cabaret features Broadway cabaret performers September through December; phone (314) 534-1111.

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