

ST. LOUIS

1 MINUTE/1 HOUR/1 DAY GETAWAY

Today's St. Louis stands as high and shining as the Gateway Arch. The city's heritage is somehow as courageous, tenacious, folksy and varied as the American landscape itself, from Charles Lindbergh's "Spirit" to Judy Garland eternally singing "Meet Me in St. Louis."

1 MINUTE

Gateway Arch

11 N. 4th St. • 877-982-1410

Marvel for a minute, or tram ride 630 feet up America's tallest monument. You won't believe it when you can see 30 miles over the city and well into the countryside. Before or after your ride, you can cool off by the outside fountains or stop in the gift shop for a memento.

'Meeting of the Waters' Fountain at Aloe Plaza

1820 Market St.

Voted one of the city's "favorite works of public art," it symbolizes the marriage of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, as one is depicted as a male and the other a female. 17 water spirits, mermaids and fish surround them, representing the smaller waters flowing in.

1 HOUR

University City Loop

6000-6700 blocks of Delmar Blvd. • 314-727-8000

Here, you'll find over 120 boutiques, specialty shops, record stores, art galleries and live entertainment. The food is just as diverse, with restaurants that take you around the globe. The St. Louis Walk of Fame immortalizes famous locals.

Soulard Farmer's Market

730 Carol St., Soulard • 314-622-4180

It's one of the oldest public markets in the U.S. Mingle with the locals in this two-block, open-air stretch offering a unique collection of goods—from freshly made donuts to exotic fruits and vegetables—sold by farmers who've been here for generations.

Missouri Botanical Gardens

4344 Shaw Blvd. • 314-577-5100

A National Historic Landmark and one of the oldest botanical institutions in the country, these gardens provide a serene oasis where you can take a break from the hustle bustle of the city. You'll find 79 acres of plantings and exhibits, including a hedge maze, 14-acre Japanese garden and founder Henry Shaw's 1850 estate home.

1 HOUR (CON'T)

Cuivre River State Park

678 State Route 147, Troy • 636-528-7247

One of Missouri's largest outdoor parks, this treasure offers over 6,000 acres of wilderness with more rugged, Ozarks-like terrain than agricultural landscape that typifies this part of the state. Bring a picnic, go fishing or enjoy a swim or hike. In spring, you'll enjoy wildflowers in bloom; in autumn, you'll find prairie grasses as tall as a grown man.

City Museum

701 N. 15th St. • 314-231-2489

With such a simple name, you wouldn't expect all the unusual things this museum has to offer. A multi-level enchanted forest, hidden caves, a small circus and a 13,500-sq. ft. aquarium are just a few of the highlights. Different areas, like Art City to craft to your heart's content, and the Outside MonstroCity, with oddities like real castle turrets, make it one of the most unique attractions around.

1 DAY

Missouri Wine Country

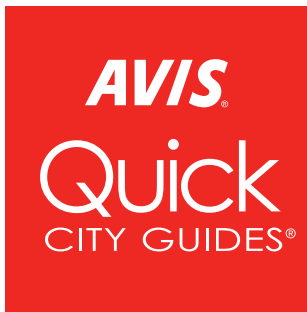
I-64W to Hwy. 94 to Augusta

From Augusta to about 90 miles away, you can explore more than a dozen wineries. There are tours to take of international award winners, including Mount Pleasant Winery, which has six grape varieties sprawling its 85 acres, unique limestone cellars and estate-bottled wines and ports for sale.

St. Charles

I-70W to Fifth St. Exit

You can stroll beautifully preserved Main Street for hours marveling at the French Colonial/German architecture. Plus, the 26 blocks offer lots of antique and gift stores, quaint tearooms, restaurants and cafés. And to cap off your day, there's the Chocolate Café for decadent delights.



ST. LOUIS

GOURMET DINING AND LOCAL FAVORITES

GOURMET DINING

Top of the Riverfront

It physically rotates around the top of the Millennium Hotel. You'll catch glimpses of the Gateway Arch, Busch Stadium and the mighty Mississippi while dining on soft shell crabs, pepper steak and Mississippi blue catfish.

200 S. 4th St. • 314-241-3191

Tony's

This Italian spot has been the pinnacle of sophistication for over 50 years. The décor is soft and neutral, so you can focus on the veal, steaks and signature lobster albanello, which is pasta with lobster in a hearty mushroom sauce.

410 Market St. • 314-231-7007

Lynch Street Bistro

Part historic, part contemporary, locals flock to this south Soulard spot. The dining room is decked in soft creams and golds, while the outside patio features live music on the weekends. The menu boasts steaks, pastas and their signature barbecue-spiced salmon, with the crème brûlée as a dessert specialty.

1031 Lynch St. • 314-772-5777

Harvest

This midwestern gem features Provence-yellow walls, hardwood floors, a fireplace and a seasonal New American menu heralded by *Gourmet*, *Zagat* and the *New York Times*. Recent creations include roast chicken with forest mushroom crepe and braised fennel, and plank roasted Missouri trout with caper-olive mashed potatoes and kumquat vinaigrette. Reservations highly recommended.

1059 S. Big Bend • 314-645-3522

Monarch

Monarch blends French, Asian and Southwestern cuisines in a sleek atmosphere with plenty of big city flair. Divided into 3 distinct seating areas, you'll find a fine dining section featuring haute cuisine and multi-course meals prepared with classic French overtones. For a more casual experience, check out the bistro and wine bar/art gallery. Menus vary by section, but no matter where you sit, you can revel in Monarch's signature braised beef short ribs with whipped Yukon gold potatoes and cabernet reduction.

Forum Building, 7401 Manchester Rd. • 314-644-3995

LOCAL FAVORITES

Charlie Gitto's on the Hill

In the heart of St. Louis' Italian neighborhood, this local favorite serves up homemade pasta so authentic, you won't believe you're not in Italy. Sit in the dining room filled with antiques and get ready for homemade cannelloni and their specialty, as well as regional food staple, toasted ravioli. Save room for a cannoli to cap off the evening.

5226 Shaw Ave. • 314-772-8898

Red Moon

Its small neon sign sits hidden off Charles Street, but inside, this hip, art deco hot spot is bustling, serving up Asian fare with a French twist. The dark rich colors wash over the wide-open space leading up to the open kitchen. Expect adventurous dishes like ahi tuna tartare, teriyaki salmon and sweet-and-sour mango duck.

1500 St. Charles St. • 314-436-9700

Sidney Street Cafe

Glowing candles on exposed brick walls give just enough light to see the menu on the tableside chalkboard. The eclectic menu ranges from steak au poivre to Tuscan sea bass. Just know a dark chocolate turtle brownie is waiting for dessert.

2000 Sidney St. • 314-771-5777

Blueberry Hill

It's filled with kitschy memorabilia from Chuck Berry and the Beatles, plus interesting oddities like toys and lunchboxes. When you get hungry, there are soups, salads, sandwiches and burgers. Breakfast is served all day, too, for favorites like pancakes, biscuits and eggs.

6504 Delmar Blvd. • 314-727-4444

Eleven Eleven Mississippi

Exposed brick, an open kitchen, wood floors and colorful linens make this former factory space a soft and sophisticated setting popular with upscale locals looking for inventive combinations of Tuscan and Northern Californian fare. On the lighter side, you'll find gourmet flatbreads and starters like butternut squash soup or a plate of assorted regional cheeses and cured meats. Entrees include roasted halibut with rosemary jus, artichokes and roma tomatoes, or rib eye steak with gorgonzola butter and Tillamook cheddar-chive gratin.

1111 Mississippi • 314-241-9999