

GATEWAY ARCH

A Symbol of Westward Expansion for More Than 55 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 Gateway Arch National Park.

A \$380-million renovation to enhance the Gateway Arch visitor experience was completed in 2018, resulting in a new museum and visitor center, 11 new acres of parkland and over five miles of paved 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 Interstate 44, leading to the Gateway Arch's new west-facing entrance connecting the Arch directly to downtown St. Louis for the first time.

Visitors to the Arch can experience the Museum at Gateway Arch National Park, which features six exhibit galleries: Colonial St. Louis, Jefferson's Vision, The Riverfront Era, Manifest Destiny, New Frontiers and Building the Arch; take a Tram Ride to the Top; watch the award-winning documentary *Monument to the Dream*, which details the Arch's construction; explore stories of the 1850s St. Louis riverfront in Virtual Reality; take part in National Park Service interactive educational programs; shop for memorabilia, gifts and even homemade fudge at The Arch Store; and dine at the Arch Café. Private event space at the Gateway Arch is also available. Those interested in hosting an event at the Arch should contact the Gateway Arch Park Foundation at 314-881-2015.

Gateway Arch Facts

- Construction on the Arch began on February 12, 1963; 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 \$130 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 145 million people have visited the park since construction on the Arch started in 1963, according to the National Park Service.

Hours of Operation

9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Summer hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. beginning the Saturday before Memorial Day - Labor Day. 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. While there is no on-site parking available, preferred parking is offered at a discounted rate at the Stadium East Garage. More information is available at gatewayarch.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 museum exhibits and the Documentary Movie.

Tickets

Guests can purchase Tram Ride to the Top, Documentary Movie, and Virtual Reality tickets online at gatewayarch.com/buytickets, by calling 877-982-1410, or at the ticket counter in the Arch Visitor Center.

Tram rides sell out early and often, so it is strongly encouraged that guests purchase tickets before their visit. More information is available at gatewayarch.com.

Media Contact

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THE OLD COURTHOUSE

A St. Louis Landmark that Changed the Course of History
Currently Closed for Renovation – Anticipated Reopening in
Spring or Summer 2025.

Part of Gateway Arch National Park, 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).

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

The Old Courthouse is currently closed for renovation.

Location and Parking

Gateway Arch National Park 11 North Fourth Street, St. Louis, MO 63102. While there is no on-site parking available, preferred parking is offered at a discounted rate at the Stadium East Garage. More information is available at gatewayarch.com/parking. Metered street parking is available on several streets near the Old Courthouse.

Accessibility

Ramps at the East and West entrances provide access to the building for those with limited mobility. Most of the first floor is wheelchair accessible and the new elevator provides accessibility to the second floor. Additional ramps off the rotunda provide access to some of the second floor.

Contact Information

For more information about the Old Courthouse, call 877-982-1410 or visit gatewayarch.com.

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RIVERBOATS
AT THE GATEWAY ARCH

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Cruising the Mighty Mississippi for Six Decades

The Riverboats at the Gateway Arch — *Tom Sawyer* a replica 19th-century paddlewheel riverboat — transports 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 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, the *Tom Sawyer* continues 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, one-hour St. Louis Riverfront Cruises; evening Skyline Dinner Cruises; specialty cruises such as Fireworks, Halloween, PJs and Pancakes with Santa Claus Cruises, and many more; and private event charters. National Park Service rangers from Gateway Arch National Park narrate select St. Louis Riverfront Cruises throughout the season (times vary). The first Wednesday of the month, the narration highlights freight transportation, passengers learn about the key assets and opportunities that position the St. Louis region as the Ag Coast of America. Then, on select Thursdays, the MO History Riverfront Takeover Cruise, led by the Missouri History Museum, uncovers the history of the bustling riverfront and the engineering marvel of the Eads bridge. Millions of passengers have discovered the city’s rich heritage aboard the riverboats.

April through October, visitors can get a bite to eat at the Paddlewheel Café—located on the riverboats’ dock—where they can enjoy amazing views of the Arch while dining on burgers, BBQ pork nachos, grilled chicken Caesar salads, and more.

The St. Louis Riverfront underwent a renovation led by Great Rivers Greenway, as part of a \$380-million project to enhance the visitor experience at the Gateway Arch. This project included the elevation of the riverfront to decrease incidents of flooding, as well as new walking and biking paths. The riverfront 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 a chef-inspired menu, live music and incredible views of downtown St. Louis and the Gateway Arch.
- Captivate riders on unique cruises such as: Skyline Dinner Cruises, Fireworks Cruises, PJs and Pancakes with Santa Claus Cruises, a New Year's Eve Cruise and 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 December (*closed Thanksgiving Day*). Skyline Dinner Cruises are available select, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. Specialty cruise dates vary. A complete cruise schedule for the year can be found at www.gatewayarch.com/riverboats.

Location and Parking

The riverboats are located on the downtown 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 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 gatewayarch.com/buytickets.

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