



## **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 brand-new museum and visitor center, 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 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 the Gateway Arch, 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; 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 \$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 140 million people have visited the park since construction on the Arch started in 1963, according to the National Park Service.

### **Hours of Operation**

Summer hours (Saturday before Memorial Day through Labor Day): 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Winter hours (Tuesday after Labor Day through Friday before Memorial Day): 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. 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. The monument does not have dedicated on-site parking. Preferred parking at a discounted rate (\$9 for first five hours) is available at the Stadium East Garage (200 S Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63102). Purchase pre-paid parking with no validation required at [iparkit.com/TheArch](http://iparkit.com/TheArch). Make sure to select dated and times when you pre-pay to match your visit.

### **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**

Guests can purchase Tram Ride to the Top and Documentary Movie tickets by calling 877-982-1410, online at [gatewayarch.com/buytickets](http://gatewayarch.com/buytickets) 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 their tickets before their visit. More information is available at [gatewayarch.com](http://gatewayarch.com).

### **Media Contact**

Madeline Reichmuth, Common Ground PR  
636-530-1235 ext: 228  
MadelineR@commongroundpr.com

## THE OLD COURTHOUSE

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

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).

In early 2023, the building will undergo renovations that include accessibility enhancements and structural updates, as well as new exhibit galleries highlighting the historical building, Dred and Harriet Scott's fight for freedom, the importance of courts in our society, and African-American life throughout St. Louis history.

### 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 and will undergo renovations as part of the final component of the \$380-million CityArchRiver project, which is the largest public-private partnership in the history of the National Park Service.

### **Location and Parking**

11 North Fourth Street, St. Louis, MO 63102. Gateway Arch National Park does not have dedicated on-site parking. Preferred parking at a discounted rate (\$9 for first five hours) is available at the Stadium East Garage (200 S Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63102). Purchase pre-paid parking with no validation required at [iparkit.com/TheArch](http://iparkit.com/TheArch). 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.

### **Contact Information**

For more information about the Old Courthouse, call 877-982-1410 or visit [gatewayarch.com](http://gatewayarch.com).

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MadelineR@commongroundpr.com



**RIVERBOATS**  
AT THE GATEWAY ARCH

## **RIVERBOATS AT THE GATEWAY ARCH**

*Cruising the Mighty Mississippi for Nearly Six Decades*

The Riverboats at the Gateway Arch—replica 19th-century paddlewheel 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 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 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, one-hour St. Louis Riverfront Cruises; evening Skyline Dinner Cruises; specialty cruises such as Sunday Brunch Cruises, Blues Cruises, Oktoberfest Cruises, PJs and Pancakes with Santa Claus Cruises, and many more; and private event charters. Millions of passengers have discovered the city’s rich heritage aboard the riverboats.

March through October, visitors can get a bite to eat at the Paddlewheel Café—located on the riverboats’ dock. Enjoy a view of the Arch at the dockside bar and a food menu including sandwiches, wraps, salads, desserts, and more.

The St. Louis Riverfront recently 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.

- National Park Service rangers from Gateway Arch National Park narrate select St. Louis Riverfront Cruises throughout the season (times vary).
- 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, Decked Out Divas Cruises, Arch View Lunch Cruises, Fireworks Cruises, Lock-n-Dam Cruises, Oktoberfest Cruises, PJs and Pancakes with Santa Claus 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 on select Friday and Saturday nights throughout the season. 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 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](http://gatewayarch.com/buytickets). A complete cruise schedule for the year can be found at [gatewayarch.com](http://gatewayarch.com).

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