

# MUSIC IN MISSOURI

## KANSAS CITY JAZZ

Kansas City's 18th & Vine Jazz District came alive during the Prohibition era, when music clubs lit up the night and improvisation helped give birth to a new sound. Legends like Charlie Parker, Count Basie and Lester Young turned jam sessions into history, shaping jazz into a uniquely American art form. Today, the beat lives on at the district's American Jazz Museum, showcasing interactive exhibits, films and live performances that honor this cultural legacy. Step into the Blue Room, the Green Lady Lounge or one of many other venues for a listen as musicians keep Kansas City's signature sound swinging late into the night.



AMERICAN JAZZ MUSEUM



18TH & VINE

## ST. LOUIS BLUES

In St. Louis, the blues isn't just music — it's a part of the city's soul. W.C. Handy's famous "St. Louis Blues" was inspired by the hard times he faced in the city. The National Blues Museum celebrates the genre as the foundation of modern American music with interactive exhibits, rare artifacts, memorabilia and immersive experiences. The best way to feel the blues is to hear them live at one of the many music joints around town, including the Broadway Oyster Bar. Then head to the Delmar Loop for the St. Louis Walk of Fame and iconic Duck Room at Blueberry Hill for a showcase of the city's musical legacy, including rock 'n' roll legend Chuck Berry.



NATIONAL BLUES MUSEUM



DELMAR LOOP

## BRANSON

Branson has earned its title as the "Live Entertainment Capital of the World." With more than 100 live performances daily, the city offers everything from country, bluegrass and gospel to rock, pop and Broadway-style productions. Legendary theaters still shine by playing timeless classics and hosting today's biggest acts. Beyond the stage, Branson is also home to Silver Dollar City — voted America's No. 1 Theme Park. With its 1880s-style charm, thrilling rides, live shows and artisan crafts, it's a must for families.



## MODERN MISSOURI MUSIC

Missouri continues to shape the soundtrack of today. St. Louis has produced hip-hop stars like Nelly and Smino, blending Midwest style with global appeal. Meanwhile, rising pop powerhouse Chappell Roan, who grew up near Springfield, is making waves with chart-climbing hits.



### MARQUEE MISSOURIANS

From film to music to literature to fashion, Missouri natives such as Jon Hamm, T.S. Eliot, Eminem, Chuck Berry and Kate Spade have shaped culture around the globe.

# WELCOME TO MISSOURI



## STAY WITH THE STARS

Check out where legends once checked in. From Clark Gable's room at Boots Court to Billy Connolly's visit at the Wagon Wheel Motel and Elvis' stay at Springfield's Route 66 Rail Haven, Missouri motels along Route 66 have hosted countless Hollywood royalty, musicians and famous Americans. Today, the neon still glows and the stories still shine.



**Wagon Wheel Motel**  
Billy Connolly



**Boots Court**  
Clark Gable



**Route 66 Rail Haven**  
Elvis Presley



**Munger Moss Motel**

## DREAMY DINERS

Pull up a stool, order a slice of pie and sample Americana at its tastiest. From Iggy's Diner to Spencer's Grill to the College Street Café, Missouri's Route 66 diners serve classic eats with a side of nostalgic charm all along "America's Main Street."



**Iggy's Diner**  
Carthage



**Spencer's Grill**  
St. Louis



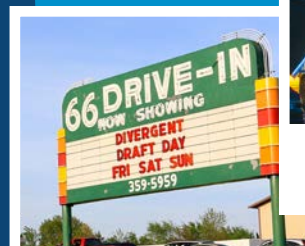
**College Street Café**  
Springfield

## GET YOUR KICKS

There's nothing more American than cruising the open road, and Route 66 is its crown jewel. From retro motels and quirky roadside attractions to charming small towns and diners serving up pie the way grandma made it, Missouri's stretch of the "Mother Road" is a living museum of Americana. Start in St. Louis — the "Gateway to the West" — and wind across the heart of the state. Every mile tells a story, with every stop a step back in time.

## ALL-AMERICAN FUN

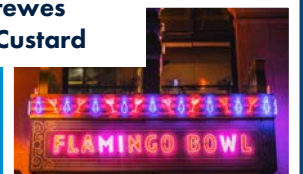
Whether it's catching a double feature under the summer stars at the Carthage Drive-In Theatre, enjoying a famous so-thick-they're-served-upside-down frozen custard "concrete" at Ted Drewes or throwing strikes under the neon lights at Flamingo Bowl, all-American family fun is alive and well on Missouri's Route 66.



**66 Drive-In Theatre**



**Ted Drewes**  
Frozen Custard



**Flamingo Bowl**

## ROUTE 66 NEON PARK



Ready to get glowing down the Mother Road? Then be sure to stop in St. Robert for the Route 66 Neon Park. A bright addition to Route 66's neon-lit past, this outdoor, open-air museum showcases restored vintage neon signs that illuminate the night.

# MISSOURI ICONS

## BBQ IN MISSOURI



In Missouri, BBQ isn't just a meal — it's a way of life. And few places can match the state's BBQ culture. Kansas City style means rich smoke, sweet sauces and world-famous burnt ends. St. Louis style is all about rich and tangy, sauced-up ribs. Add in small-town joints with their own local flavor and family recipes, and Missouri makes any BBQ lover's mouth water. Finish off your meal with a trip to the Museum of BBQ to explore more and see how Missouri's tastes became a fixture in American BBQ.

### BEST THING SINCE SLICED BREAD

The city of Chillicothe proudly holds the title of the "Home of Sliced Bread." The Chillicothe Baking Company introduced the first commercially sliced and wrapped bread loaves in 1928.

## HOME TO HISTORY



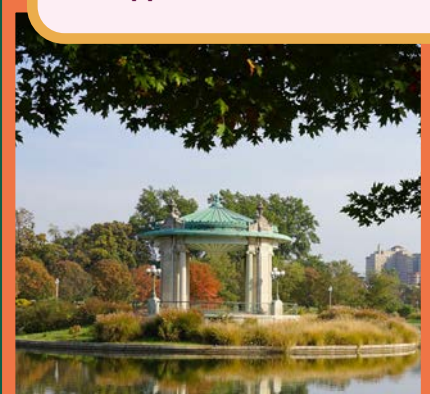
ST. JOSEPH

Known as the place "where the Pony Express began and Jesse James ended," St. Joseph holds a unique spot in American history as the headquarters of the legendary Pony Express and the city where the outlaw Jesse James was gunned down. Today, visitors can explore both legacies at the Pony Express Museum and tour James' historic home.



NATIONAL WWI MUSEUM

At the National WWI Museum and Memorial, stories of the Great War unfold on a global stage. Cross a field of red poppies honoring the fallen, then explore the Encounters gallery — where immersive exhibits and rare artifacts connect visitors to personal soldier and civilian experiences from across the world.



FOREST PARK

The site of the 1904 World's Fair, Forest Park is one of the largest urban parks in the United States. Today, it's known for its family-friendly fun, with free attractions like the Saint Louis Zoo, Missouri History Museum, Saint Louis Art Museum and Saint Louis Science Center — plus endless options to enjoy the natural beauty and outdoor recreation.

## THE OZARKS

Adventure comes naturally in Missouri's Ozarks, whether it's hiking through wooded trails, floating winding rivers, exploring state parks or fishing in sparkling streams and lakes. In Springfield, explore Fantastic Caverns — America's only ride-through cave — for a one-of-a-kind underground experience. Then head to Branson, where Table Rock Lake's days of scenic beauty, boating, swimming and family activities shine all year.



### GO "DOWN UNDER" IN THE CAVE STATE

Known as the "Cave State," Missouri has more than 7,500 documented caves.

## FAMOUS FACES



MARK TWAIN | HANNIBAL

Discover Hannibal, the town that inspired Mark Twain, one of America's literary geniuses, to write the tales of Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn. Tour the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum, explore the Mark Twain Cave Complex and board the Mark Twain Riverboat to cruise the Mississippi River.



HARRY S. TRUMAN | INDEPENDENCE

After nearly eight years as president, Harry S. Truman returned in 1953 to Independence, Missouri, where he and his wife, Bess, had lived since 1919. The Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum highlights the major events of his presidency and shares the couple's personal story through letters, photos and interactive exhibits.



WALT DISNEY | MARCELINE

The town of Marceline probably feels familiar for a reason — its charm, style and spirit inspired Disneyland's "Main Street USA." From the town square to the train station, Marceline is home to pure Disney magic that shaped Walt's imagination.



### GO WEST, YOUNG MAN!

The city of St. Charles was both the first step and the final stop on the legendary Lewis and Clark Expedition.



## GATEWAY ARCH

Rising 630 feet (192 meters) above the Mississippi, the Gateway Arch is the tallest monument in the United States and commemorates where America's westward journey began in the 1800s. Explore the museum below that brings that story to life through immersive exhibits and storytelling, then travel to the top for breathtaking skyline views — up to 30 miles on a clear day!