

MISSOURI

 TRAVEL USA

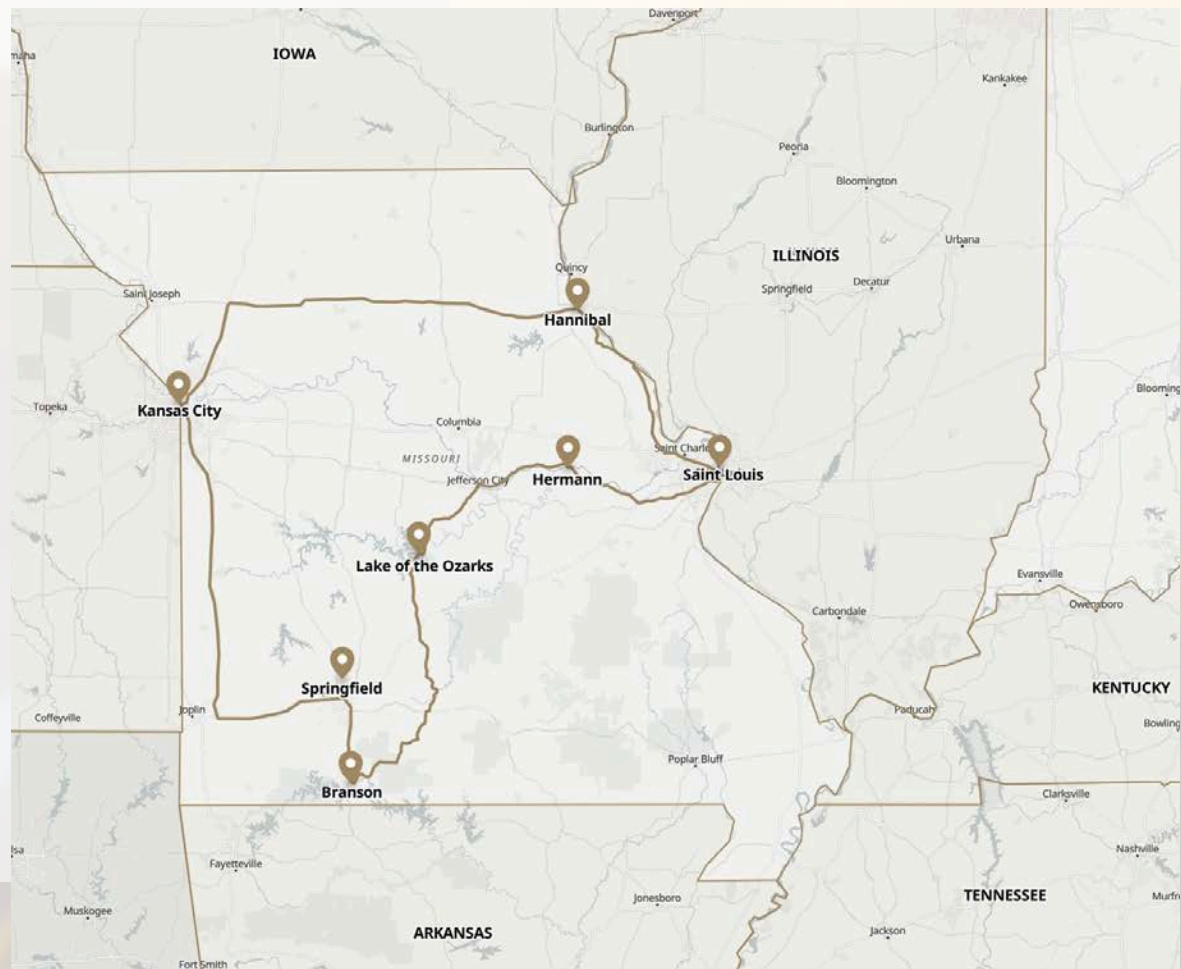


Explore Missouri

15 days / 14 nights from NZ \$5,199

Explore Missouri

Discover a side of America that many travellers overlook on this fascinating 15-day self-drive journey through Missouri, a state rich in history, music, culture and classic American road-trip experiences. Begin in St. Louis, where the mighty Mississippi River and iconic Gateway Arch tell the story of America's westward expansion, before following the river north to Hannibal, the childhood home of Mark Twain. Continue to Kansas City for legendary barbecue, jazz and remarkable museums, then head south to Springfield, the birthplace of Route 66, where the spirit of America's Mother Road lives on. Experience the entertainment and Ozarks heritage of Branson before slowing the pace amongst the wooded hills and sparkling waters of the Lake of the Ozarks. Along the way, discover historic small towns, scenic highways, Missouri's State Capitol in Jefferson City and the charming German heritage and wineries of Hermann. With time to explore rather than simply pass through, this journey brings together Missouri's famous attractions and lesser-known discoveries, revealing the stories, landscapes and communities that make the heart of America so rewarding to explore.



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St. Louis Gateway Arch / Mississippi River / Mark Twain's Hannibal / Kansas City Barbecue / National WWI Museum and Memorial / Historic 18th & Vine Jazz District / Springfield – Birthplace of Route 66 / Silver Dollar City / Branson Live Entertainment / Ozark Mountains / Table Rock Lake / Lake of the Ozarks / Ha Ha Tonka State Park / Missouri State Capitol / Historic Hermann & Missouri Wine Country



St. Louis

Day 1: Welcome to St. Louis

Welcome to Missouri and the beginning of your road trip through the heart of America. Arrive at St. Louis Lambert International Airport and make your own way by taxi or Uber to your downtown hotel, where you'll spend the next three nights. There is deliberately nothing planned for the remainder of today, giving you time to settle in, recover from your journey and ease into your first evening in Missouri. Depending on your arrival time, take a gentle walk along the **Mississippi Riverfront** or enjoy dinner at one of the city's many restaurants. St. Louis has played an extraordinary role in American history, from the early days of riverboat commerce to the westward journeys of explorers, settlers and pioneers. Over the next two days, you'll discover why this fascinating city makes such a fitting starting point for your Missouri adventure.

Overnight: St. Louis - Drury Plaza Hotel St. Louis at the Arch or similar

Day 2: Discover St. Louis & the Gateway Arch

Begin your exploration of St. Louis with your included 90-minute narrated trolley tour, a wonderful introduction to the city's history, neighbourhoods and famous landmarks. Afterwards, head to the magnificent Gateway Arch, where your included Ultimate Explorer Pass provides access to several memorable experiences. Take the tram ride to the observation area at the top for spectacular views across the Mississippi River and surrounding city, discover the story of America's westward expansion through the museum and documentary film, and enjoy a narrated riverfront cruise aboard a traditional-style riverboat. Allow time to explore the historic riverfront and nearby Old Courthouse, an important landmark in American history. With so much to discover, take your time rather than rushing between attractions. Tonight, perhaps enjoy dinner in historic Soulard or sample some traditional St. Louis barbecue. There's still another full day to explore this fascinating city tomorrow.

Overnight: St. Louis - Drury Plaza Hotel St. Louis at the Arch or similar

Key Highlights:

Narrated Trolley Tour / Gateway Arch Tram Ride / Mississippi River Cruise / Old Courthouse



Gateway Arch Park



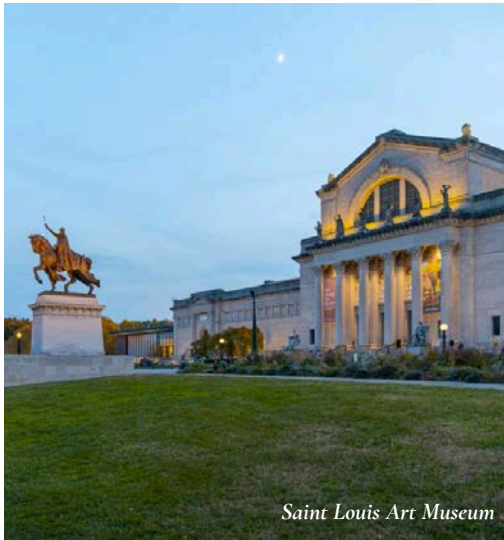
Old Courthouse



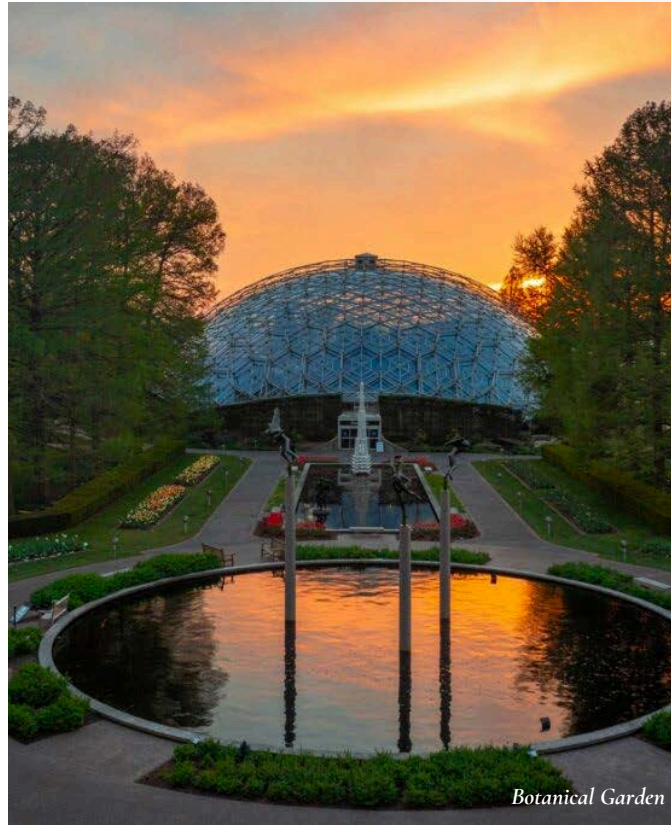
Mississippi River Cruise



Gateway Arch & City



Saint Louis Art Museum



Botanical Garden



Forest Park

Day 3: St. Louis Food, History & Culture

Today discover another side of St. Louis through your included **Eat Like a Lou-Natic! Food & History Walking Tour**, combining local flavours with fascinating stories about the city's neighbourhoods, culinary traditions and cultural heritage. Along the way, sample a selection of local specialities while learning more about the people and influences that have shaped St. Louis. The remainder of the day is yours to explore at leisure. Consider visiting beautiful **Forest Park**, home to several outstanding attractions including the **Missouri History Museum**, **Saint Louis Art Museum** and **Saint Louis Zoo**. Alternatively, explore the **Missouri Botanical Garden** or spend time discovering the shops, cafés and restaurants of the **Central West End**. With three nights in St. Louis, there's no need to fit everything into one day. Enjoy another evening in the city before collecting your rental car tomorrow and setting off on your Missouri road trip.

Overnight: *St. Louis - Drury Plaza Hotel St. Louis at the Arch or similar*

Key Highlights:

Eat Like a Lou-Natic! Food & History Walking Tour / Forest Park / Missouri History Museum / Saint Louis Art Museum / Missouri Botanical Garden / Central West End



Missouri History Museum

Day 4 Along the Mississippi to Mark Twain's Hannibal (approx. 190 km)

Collect your Alamo rental car this morning and begin your Missouri road trip, travelling north towards **Hannibal**, a charming Mississippi River town forever associated with one of America's greatest writers, Mark Twain. Born Samuel Clemens, Twain spent his childhood here, drawing inspiration from the river, local characters and adventures that later found their way into *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. This afternoon begin at the **Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum**, where historic buildings and exhibits bring his early life and literary legacy to life. Wander through Hannibal's historic downtown, with its independent shops, galleries and welcoming small-town atmosphere. Depending on time and availability, consider exploring **Mark Twain Cave** or enjoying a riverboat cruise for another perspective on the mighty Mississippi. Staying overnight allows you to experience Hannibal after the day visitors have departed, enjoying dinner downtown before a peaceful evening beside the river that inspired so many unforgettable American stories.

Overnight: Hannibal - Best Western On The River or similar

Key Highlights:

Mississippi River / Hannibal / Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum / Historic Downtown / Mark Twain Cave / Optional Riverboat Cruise



Mark Twain Cave



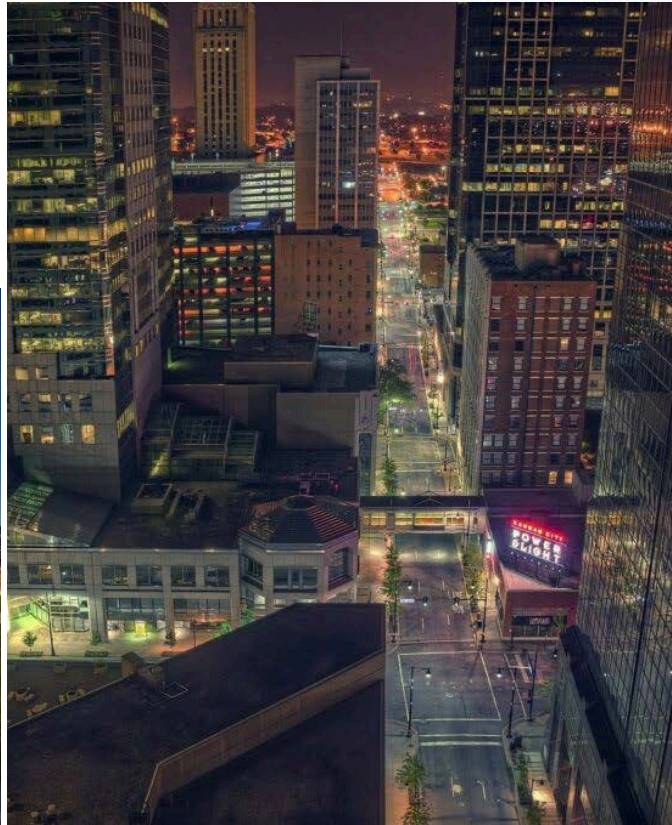
Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum



Inside Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum



Kansas City Downtown



Power & Light District

Day 5: Across Missouri to Kansas City (approx. 340 km)

Today, journey west across Missouri towards Kansas City, where jazz, barbecue and a remarkable cultural heritage await. The drive takes you through the state's agricultural heartland, with small communities and open countryside providing a glimpse of everyday life beyond America's major cities. If you're interested in Walt Disney's early years, consider a detour through Marceline, the small Missouri town where he spent part of his childhood and which later influenced his vision of Main Street, U.S.A. Continue towards Kansas City and settle into your hotel for three nights. The remainder of the day is yours to explore at leisure. Perhaps take a stroll through the lively Power & Light District, discover the city's impressive architecture or enjoy dinner at one of its many restaurants. There's no need to rush, with two full days ahead to experience Kansas City's outstanding museums, legendary barbecue, music and distinctive Midwestern character.

Overnight: Hotel Indigo Kansas City Downtown or similar

Key Highlights:

Missouri Countryside / Optional Marceline Detour / Kansas City / Power & Light District



Kansas City & Union Station



Walt Disney in Marceline

Day 6: Kansas City - Jazz, History & Heritage

Spend today discovering the extraordinary stories that have shaped Kansas City, making the most of your included three-day KC Attractions Pass. Begin at the outstanding **National WWI Museum and Memorial**, where powerful exhibits explore the First World War and its lasting impact. Enjoy sweeping city views from the Liberty Memorial grounds before continuing to the historic 18th & Vine Jazz District. Here, the **American Jazz Museum** celebrates the musicians, clubs and distinctive Kansas City sound that helped shape American music. Nearby, the **Negro Leagues Baseball Museum** honours the players and teams who made an extraordinary contribution to American sporting and social history. Admission to all three museums forms part of your Attractions Pass, allowing you to explore at your own pace. Tonight, seek out a live jazz performance or enjoy dinner at one of the city's celebrated restaurants. It's a fascinating day of music, history and unforgettable American stories.

Overnight: Hotel Indigo Kansas City Downtown or similar

Key Highlights:

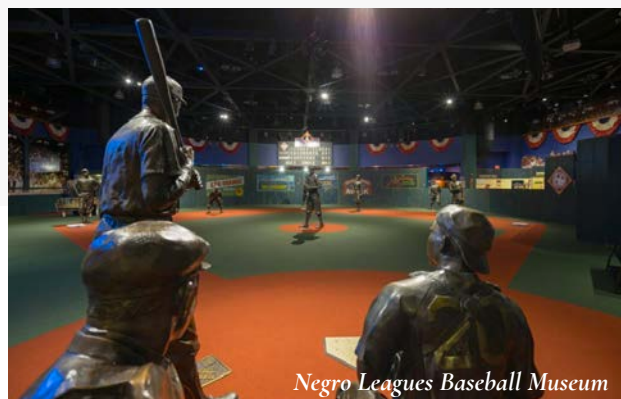
*National WWI Museum and Memorial / American Jazz Museum /
18th & Vine Jazz District / Negro Leagues Baseball Museum*



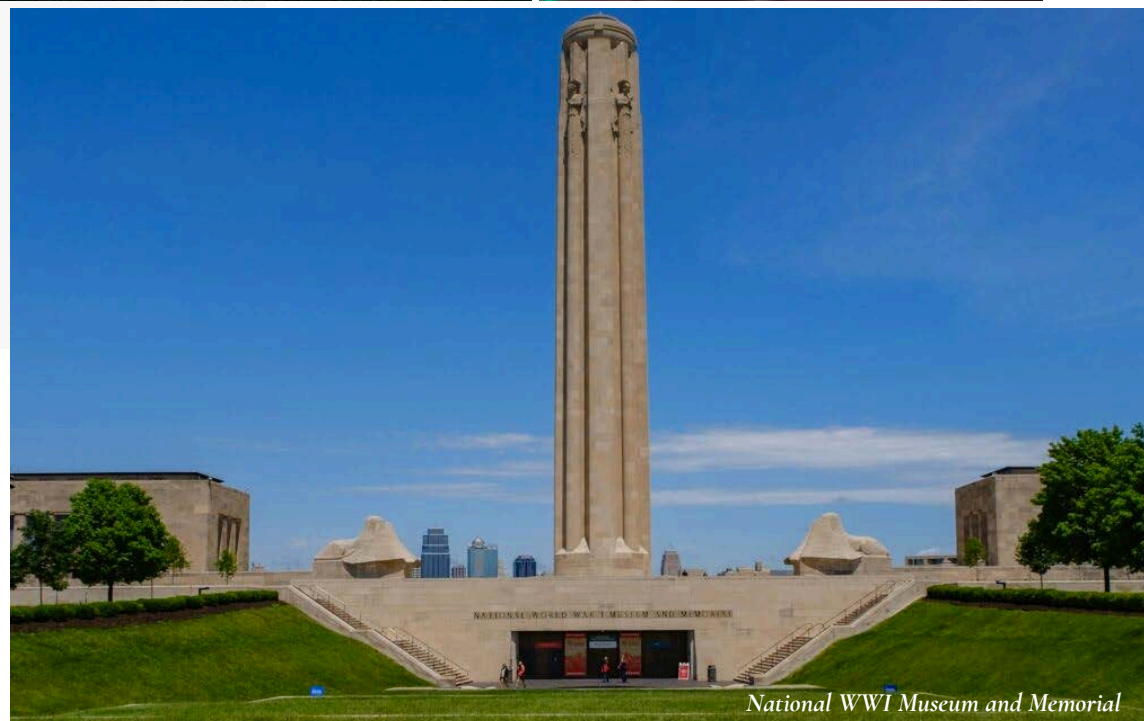
National WWI Museum and Memorial



American Jazz Museum



Negro Leagues Baseball Museum



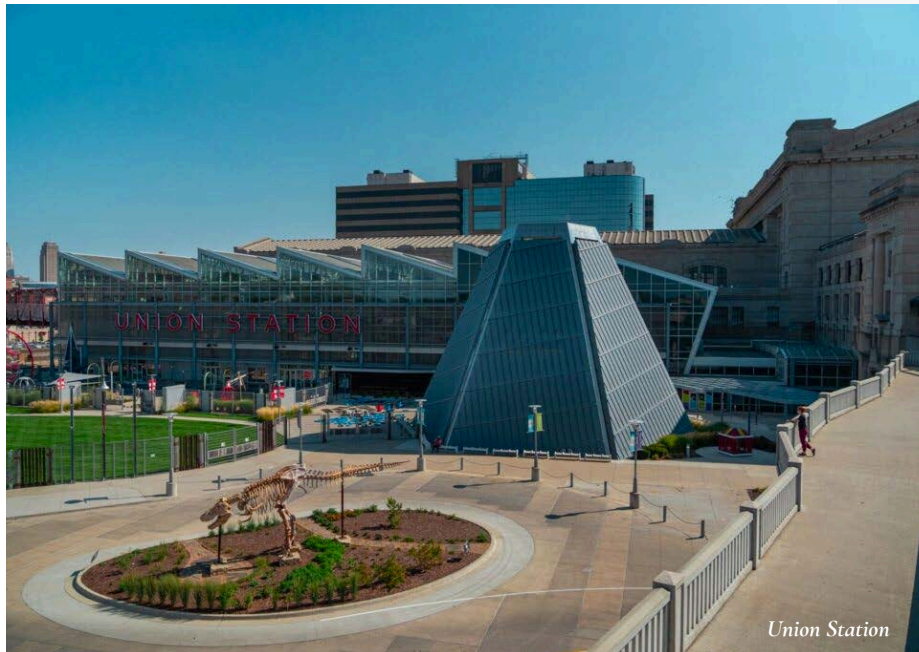
National WWI Museum and Memorial



Jesse James Birthplace Museum



Stagecoach Stop & Farm
Historic Site



Union Station

Day 7: Union Station, More Kansas City & Barbecue

Begin today at Kansas City's historic Union Station, one of America's great railway terminals, with its soaring ceilings, impressive architecture and beautifully restored Great Hall. Take a ride on the free KC Streetcar, a fun and convenient way to explore downtown and some of the city's interesting neighbourhoods, restaurants, shops and attractions. Your included KC Attractions Pass offers several additional choices, including the National Museum of Toys and Miniatures, Jesse James Birthplace Museum, Vaile Mansion, Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm Historic Site and Museum of BBQ. Choose the attractions that interest you most rather than trying to fit everything in, leaving plenty of time to explore at your leisure. Later this afternoon, join your included Kansas City BBQ Tour, visiting local barbecue establishments, sampling regional specialties and discovering the traditions behind the city's famous slow-smoked meats. It's a delicious way to round off your Kansas City stay before continuing south to Springfield tomorrow.

Overnight: Hotel Indigo Kansas City Downtown or similar

Key Highlights:

Union Station / KC Streetcar / Optional Museums & Historic Attractions / Kansas City BBQ Tour



KC Streetcar

Day 8: Drive South to Springfield - Birthplace of Route 66 (approx. 265 km)

Leave Kansas City behind this morning and travel south towards Springfield, a city with a special place in American motoring history. It was here in 1926 that the name Route 66 was proposed for the highway that would become one of the world's most celebrated roads. Begin your exploration downtown at the History Museum on the Square, where exhibits tell the stories of Springfield and its connection to America's Mother Road. Afterwards, wander through the historic streets, looking for reminders of the city's roadside heritage, from vintage signs to buildings recalling the golden age of American motoring. Take time to browse local shops, enjoy a coffee or discover Springfield's colourful Route 66 murals. Tonight, check into the historic Best Western Route 66 Rail Haven, a classic motor court dating back to 1938, where Elvis Presley once stayed. Enjoy dinner downtown before settling in for a memorable night on Route 66.

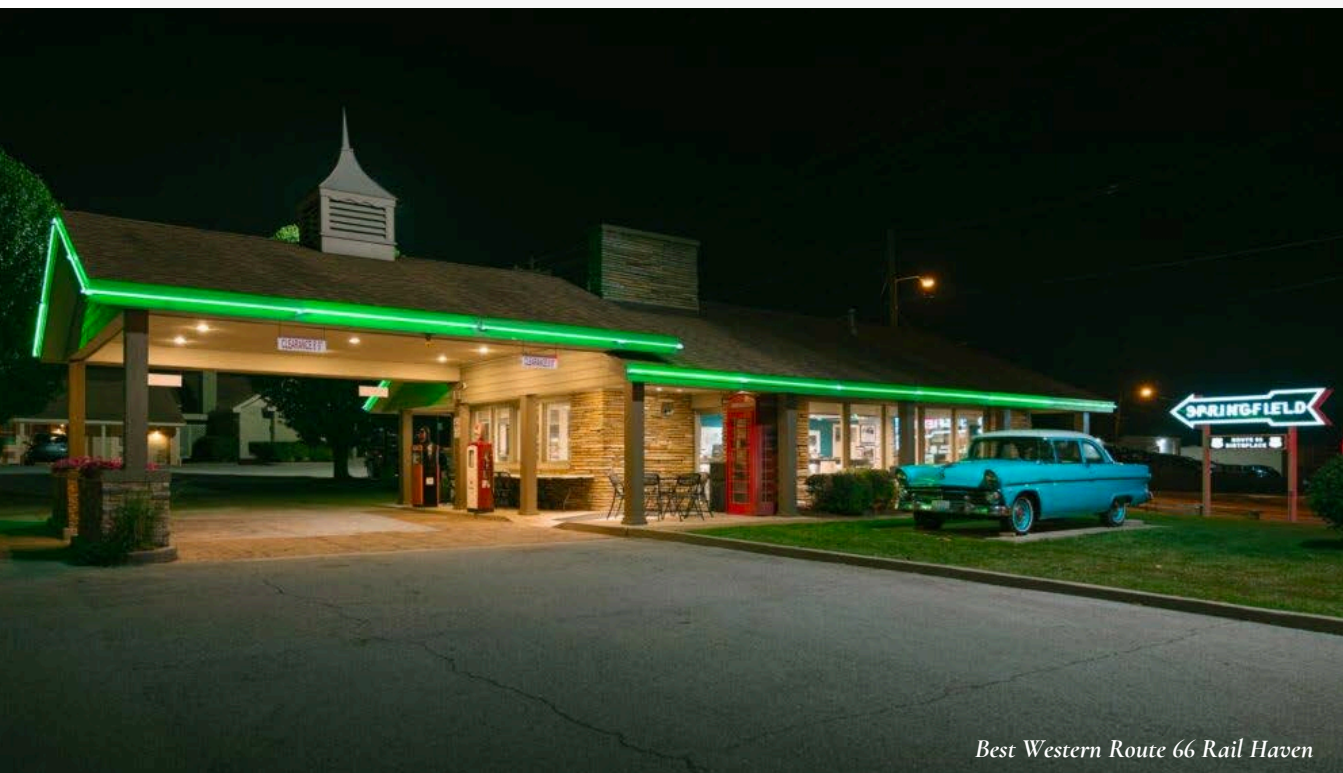
Overnight: Springfield - Best Western Route 66 Rail Haven



History Museum on the Square

Key Highlights:

Springfield / Birthplace of Route 66 / History Museum on the Square / Historic Downtown / Best Western Route 66 Rail Haven / Elvis Presley Connection



Best Western Route 66 Rail Haven



Elvis's Room at 66 Rail Haven



Fantastic Caverns

Key Highlights:

Route 66 Car Museum / Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium / Fantastic Caverns / Ozarks Countryside



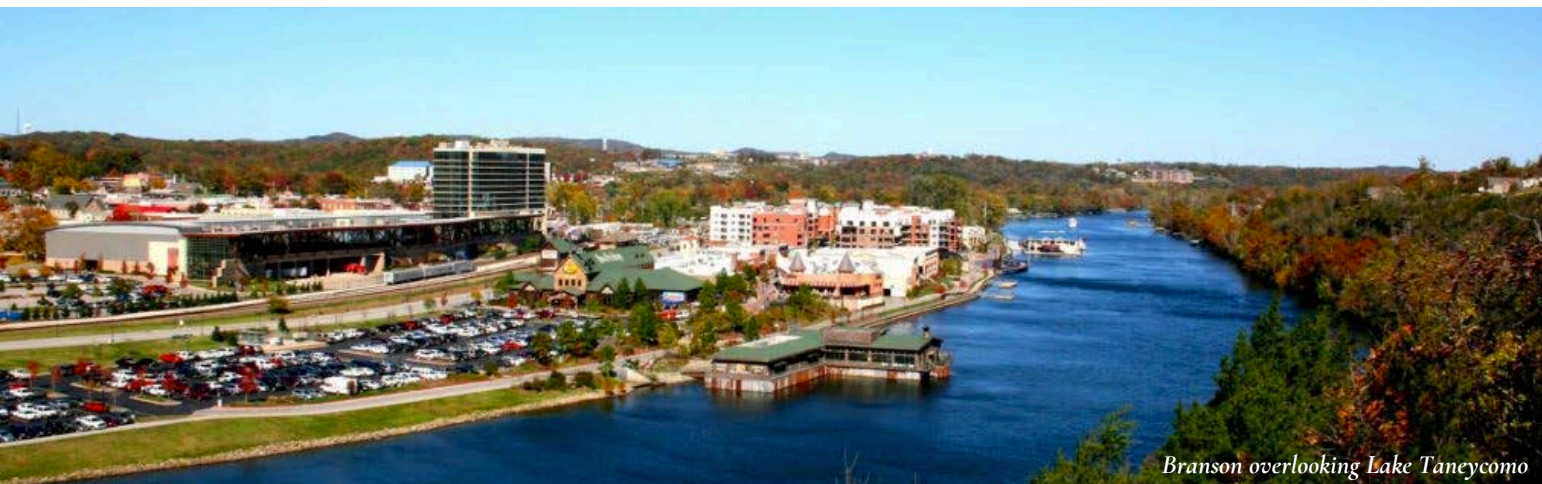
Route 66 Car Museum

Day 9: Springfield, Caves & Ozarks Heritage

Today explore more of Springfield and the attractions that make this corner of Missouri so rewarding. Car enthusiasts may enjoy the **Route 66 Car Museum**, home to an interesting collection of classic and historic vehicles. Another option is the **Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium**, an extraordinary complex dedicated to wildlife, conservation and the natural world, featuring immersive exhibits and impressive aquatic displays. Allow several hours if you choose to visit. Alternatively, head just north of Springfield to **Fantastic Caverns**, where a guided ride-through tour reveals remarkable underground formations without the extensive walking required at many other caves. With so many possibilities, choose the experiences that appeal most rather than trying to fit everything into one day. You might also venture into the surrounding countryside for a first taste of the beautiful Ozarks scenery. Enjoy another relaxed evening in Springfield before continuing south to Branson tomorrow.



Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium



Branson overlooking Lake Taneycomo

Day 10: Into the Ozarks & Entertainment Capital Branson (approx. 70 km)

Leave Springfield this morning and travel south into the Ozark Mountains towards **Branson**, one of America's leading live entertainment destinations. Upon arrival, check in and start exploring at your own pace. Wander through **Historic Downtown Branson** or visit Branson Landing, where waterfront restaurants, shops and fountain displays overlook Lake Taneycomo. Tonight, enjoy our included Choose Your Show experience, with admission to one of nine selected performances, including The Haygoods (Branson's most popular show), Dean Z - The Ultimate Elvis, Legends in Concert, Anthems of Rock and Motown Downtown, among others, subject to performance schedules and availability. With more than 100 live shows staged each season, Branson offers everything from country music and rock 'n' roll classics to spectacular musical productions, comedy and nostalgic tributes. Expect talented musicians, impressive vocals and the warm, welcoming atmosphere that has made Branson a favourite entertainment destination. It's a wonderful introduction to the Ozarks.

Overnight: Branson - Lodge of the Ozarks or similar

Key Highlights:

Ozark Mountains / Branson / Historic Downtown / Branson Landing / Lake Taneycomo / Choose Your Show Option



Historic Downtown & Landing Branson

Day 11: Silver Dollar City & Ozarks Entertainment

Step back into the 1880s today with your included admission to Silver Dollar City, Branson's celebrated theme park showcasing the traditions, craftsmanship and culture of the Ozarks. Wander through recreated streets where skilled artisans demonstrate traditional crafts, including glassblowing, blacksmithing and woodcarving. Enjoy lively musical performances, entertaining shows, unique shops and the tempting aromas of Southern cooking. For those seeking excitement, the park also offers an impressive collection of rides and roller coasters. Alternatively, explore the extraordinary underground formations of Marvel Cave on a guided tour involving considerable walking and stairs. With so much to discover, take your time and enjoy the atmosphere of one of America's most distinctive theme parks. Return to Branson later this afternoon, with the evening free to relax or explore at leisure. Perhaps enjoy dinner overlooking the lake or take in another live show before continuing your Missouri road trip tomorrow.

Overnight: Branson - Lodge of the Ozarks or similar

Key Highlights:

Silver Dollar City / Traditional Ozarks Crafts / Marvel Cave



Silver Dollar City



Marvel Cave

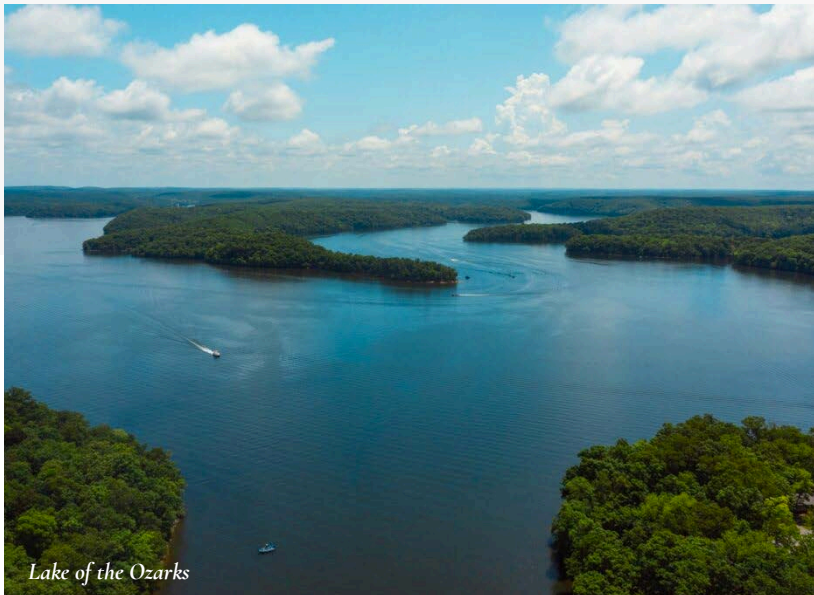
Day 12: Scenic Ozarks to the Lake of the Ozarks (approx. 215 km)

Leave Branson behind and travel north through the beautiful Ozarks towards the **Lake of the Ozarks**, one of Missouri's most popular recreation and holiday regions. Today's journey takes you through wooded hills, rural communities and scenic countryside, offering plenty of opportunities to stop along the way. Arriving in the lake region, you'll discover an extraordinary landscape of winding waterways, forested shorelines and peaceful coves. Spend the afternoon exploring **Lake of the Ozarks State Park**, where scenic drives, walking trails and lakeside viewpoints introduce the area's natural beauty. Depending on the season and your interests, consider a boat cruise or simply find a relaxing spot overlooking the water. After several days exploring Missouri's cities and attractions, today offers a welcome change of pace. Tonight, enjoy dinner at a lakeside restaurant and make the most of your overnight stay in one of the state's favourite holiday destinations.

Overnight: Springfield Lake of the Ozarks - Margaritaville Lake Resort or similar



Lake of the Ozarks State Park



Lake of the Ozarks

Key Highlights:

Ozark Mountains / Lake of the Ozarks / Lake of the Ozarks State Park /
Lakeside Dining / Optional Boat Cruise



Hermann



Missouri State Capitol

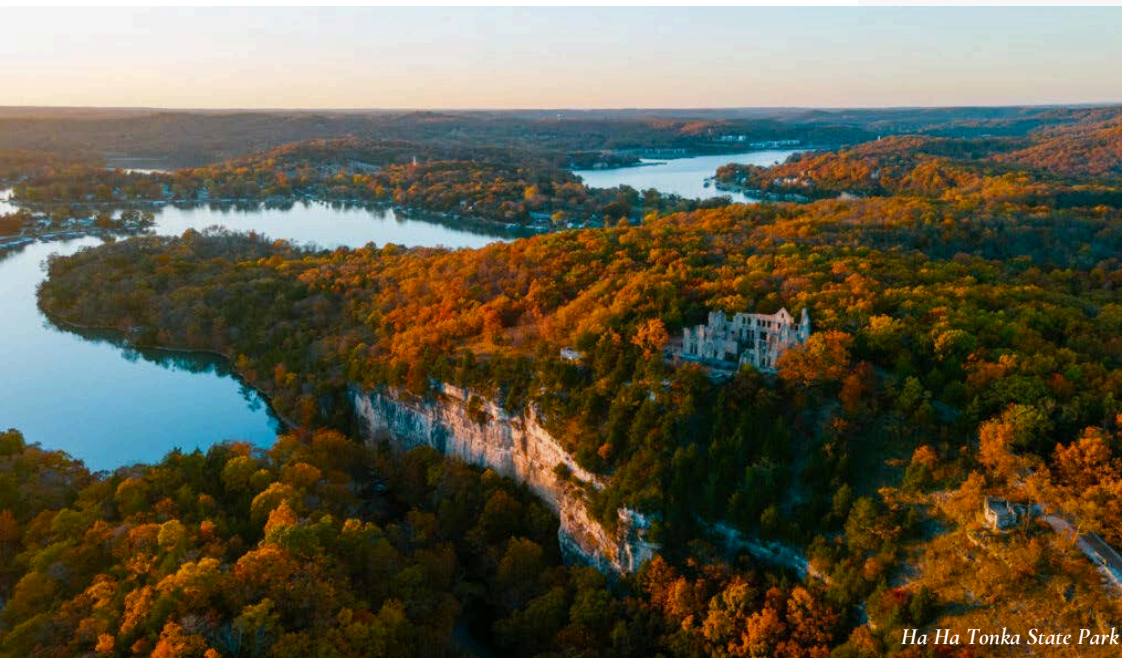
Day 13: Ha Ha Tonka, Jefferson City & Historic Hermann (approx. 175 km)

Begin today at remarkable Ha Ha Tonka State Park, where the stone ruins of an early 20th-century mansion stand above a landscape of wooded hills, natural bridges and limestone formations. Take time to enjoy the viewpoints before continuing towards Jefferson City, Missouri's state capital. Here, the impressive Missouri State Capitol overlooks the Missouri River, offering an opportunity to discover more about the state's history and heritage. Depending on timing, explore the Capitol grounds or tour the building before continuing east through the picturesque Missouri River Valley towards Hermann. Founded by German immigrants in the 19th century, Hermann is known for its historic architecture, welcoming atmosphere and long-established winemaking traditions. Arrive with time to wander the streets, browse local shops and visit a local winery for a tasting. Tonight, enjoy dinner in one of Hermann's welcoming restaurants, soaking up the character of this charming Missouri river town.

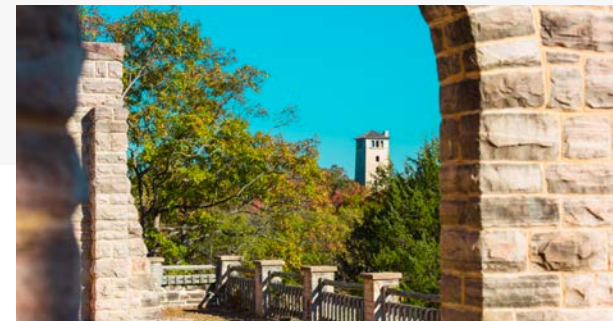
Overnight: Hermann Crown Suites or similar

Key Highlights:

Ha Ha Tonka State Park / Historic Castle Ruins / Jefferson City / Missouri State Capitol / Historic Hermann / Missouri Wine Country



Ha Ha Tonka State Park



Ha Ha Tonka State Park

Day 14: Missouri Wine Country & Return to St. Louis (approx. 130 km)

Enjoy a leisurely morning discovering more of Hermann and its German heritage before returning to St. Louis for your final night. Perhaps begin with breakfast at a local café, followed by a stroll through the historic downtown streets, where beautifully preserved buildings reflect the town's 19th-century origins. Wine enthusiasts may wish to visit one of the area's established wineries, although tastings are best planned with driving arrangements in mind. Leaving Hermann, follow the Missouri River Valley east, passing through attractive countryside and small communities that offer one last glimpse of rural Missouri. Arrive back in St. Louis this afternoon, with time to revisit a favourite attraction, enjoy some last-minute shopping, or if your timing is right catch a baseball game at Busch Stadium. Tonight, celebrate the end of your Missouri adventure with dinner at one of the city's restaurants, reflecting on the remarkable variety of places, people and experiences you've discovered along the way.

Overnight: St. Louis - Drury Plaza Hotel St. Louis at the Arch or similar

Key Highlights:

Historic Hermann / German Heritage / Missouri Wine Country / Missouri River Valley / St. Louis



Gateway Arch Park



Busch Stadium



Hermann

Day 15: Farewell Missouri

Your Explore Missouri adventure comes to an end today. Depending on your onward travel plans, enjoy a leisurely breakfast and perhaps a final walk around St. Louis before making your way to St. Louis Lambert International Airport to return your rental car. From here, continue your journey or head home, taking memories with you of a state that offers far more than many travellers might expect. From the Mississippi River and Mark Twain's Hannibal to Kansas City's jazz and barbecue, Springfield's Route 66 heritage, Branson's live entertainment and the beautiful Ozarks, you've discovered some of the many stories that make Missouri such a fascinating destination. It's a road trip combining famous landmarks with smaller discoveries, historic cities with peaceful countryside and America's great traditions with the everyday character of its heartland. And perhaps like us, you'll leave wondering why more people haven't discovered Missouri sooner.





Your Journey, Your Way

This itinerary is a suggested journey through Missouri, combining iconic American landmarks, legendary music, Route 66 nostalgia, fascinating history and the natural beauty of the Ozarks. It is fully customisable to suit your travel style, interests and pace – whether spending longer exploring St. Louis and Kansas City, enjoying more time in Branson or extending your road trip along Historic Route 66 into neighbouring states. With Travel USA, every journey can be tailored from scratch, with flexibility around accommodation, sightseeing, length of stay and travel arrangements to suit individual preferences, budgets and travel goals.

Best Time to Travel

Explore Missouri is particularly well suited to travel from April to October, when warmer weather, longer daylight hours and a wide range of attractions and entertainment make it an ideal time to explore. Spring brings colourful landscapes and comfortable sightseeing temperatures, while June through August offers the full summer atmosphere, particularly around Branson and the Lake of the Ozarks. September and October are also excellent months, with generally pleasant temperatures and beautiful autumn colours throughout the Ozarks. Missouri can be visited year-round, although some attractions and outdoor activities operate seasonally. Travel USA can advise on the best timing to suit your interests and preferred experiences.

Accommodation

Travel USA has carefully selected quality, well-located accommodation throughout your Missouri road trip. Your journey begins at the Drury Plaza Hotel St. Louis at the Arch, ideally positioned for exploring the city's major attractions, before continuing to the Best Western on the River in historic Hannibal and Hotel Indigo Kansas City Downtown. In Springfield, the historic Best Western Route 66 Rail Haven adds a touch of Route 66 nostalgia, while Lodge of the Ozarks provides a comfortable base for Branson's entertainment and attractions. Your final stops include Margaritaville Lake Resort at the Lake of the Ozarks and Hermann Crown Suites, in the heart of Missouri's charming wine country. As with every Travel USA itinerary, accommodation can be customised to suit individual preferences.

What's Included?

- 12-day Alamo SUV rental
- 3 nights' accommodation in St. Louis
- 90-minute St. Louis Narrated Trolley Tour
- Gateway Arch Ultimate Explorer Pass
- Eat Like a Lou-Natic! Food & History Walking Tour
- 1 night's accommodation in Hannibal
- 3 nights' accommodation in Kansas City
- 3-day KC Attractions Pass, incl. admission to 7+ attractions & Kansas City BBQ Tour
- 2 nights' accommodation in Springfield
- 2 nights' accommodation in Branson
- **Choose Your Show** - Admission to one performance from our selection of nine shows
- Silver Dollar City admission in Branson
- 1 night's accommodation at the Lake of the Ozarks
- 1 night's accommodation in Hermann
- 1 final night's accommodation in St. Louis
- Travel USA Planning Assistance

Pricing:

All of our pricing is based on dynamic rates meaning we will provide you with the best of the day at the time of booking. Our suggested itinerary has been created using fully refundable rates. Final pricing will depend on factors like month of travel, how early you book, availability and whether you choose non-refundable or fully refundable rates.

NZ\$ pricing for our 5 day / 4 night package

- From \$5,199 - \$5,685 per person, share twin, depending on the month of travel

N.B: This package has been designed and priced for travel from April to October. If you are interested in travelling outside of these months, please contact Travel USA and we can advise on seasonal conditions, road access and the best itinerary options for your preferred travel dates.

Terms & Conditions apply - [CLICK HERE](#) for more details or go to www.travelusa.co.nz for more details

This is a suggested itinerary based on our recommendations. There are no fixed departure dates or schedules so you can customise the itinerary to suit your personal preferences and needs. Contact us with your proposed dates and we will create a personalised travel package just for you.



Table Rock Lake Branson