



GRAND CENTRAL USA! Sampler

Day 1 – Arrive St Louis MO via air or Motorcoach

Arrive mid afternoon in St Louis, MO and check into one of the many hotels this Gateway City has to offer. Then this evening sit back and relax with an elegant dinner and enjoy the sights and sounds of the Mississippi River as we cruise aboard one of the **Gateway Arch Riverboats**. Overnight St Louis, MO.



Day 2 – St Louis MO

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before departing for the **Gateway Arch** where we will take a trip to the top of the arch for a magnificent view of St. Louis. While at the Arch visit the **Odyssey Theatre** for a larger than life glimpse of Lewis and Clark's Great Journey West and visit the **Museum of Westward**



Expansion which preserves rare artifacts from the days of Lewis and Clark along with exhibits of early day pioneers who helped shape the history of the American West. See one of the largest mosaic collections in the world as we tour the **Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis**. Enjoy lunch at the **Missouri Botanical Garden** before we board the garden's tram for a narrated tour thru the beautiful gardens. Founded in 1859 the Missouri Botanical Garden contains 79 acres of scenic landscaping and sculptures. Highlights include: the Climatron® tropical rain forest; Linnean House,

Japanese Garden, and the Grigg Nanjing Friendship Chinese Garden. Next, tour the World Headquarters of **Anheuser-Busch**. Visit the historic stable home to the Budweiser Clydesdales and see first hand how the world's greatest beer is crafted in the Brew House and packaged in the Bevo Packaging Plant. After the tour sample the different brews and relax in the Hospitality Room or browse the gift shop. Select one of St. Louis great restaurants for dinner before returning to the hotel for the evening. Overnight St. Louis, MO area.

Day 3 – St Louis MO– Kansas City MO

After breakfast at the hotel we depart for **Saint Charles**, Missouri's first state capital between 1821 and 1826. A guide in period dress will take us on a **city tour** of this historic town located on the banks of the Missouri River. It was here in 1804 where Lewis and Clark met to begin their westward expedition. We'll take time to stop at the **Lewis & Clark Boat House and Nature Center** which houses several full-scale replicas of the boats used by Lewis & Clark. The museum above the boats includes a diorama illustrating the highlights of the expedition along with Native American displays. After our tour enjoy some free time shopping for antiques, decorating accents, stained glass, pottery, and framed art, or visit the boutique shops available along St. Charles' 200 year old **Historic Main Street**. Enjoy lunch downtown or at **Ameristar Casino** which offers several dining areas along with the largest selection of gaming options in the region. This afternoon we depart for Kansas City where we check into our hotel before enjoying dinner at one of Kansas City's restaurants. Overnight Kansas City metro area.



Day 4 – Kansas City

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel this morning before we begin our day with a driving tour of Kansas City, also known as the “*City of Fountains*”. The **Arabia Steamboat Museum** tells the story of a group of men that uncovered the Arabia which had been lost over 100 years earlier when it sank in the Missouri River just north of Kansas City. As the river changed courses the steamboat was buried under a cornfield. The men were amazed when they found that the 200-tons of cargo had been preserved in a remarkable



condition. Fine china, clothing, tools, canned food, buttons, cloth, and perfume were among the cargo that the Arabia had on board. Next, we will enjoy free time at **Crown Center** for lunch and shopping. At the **Hallmark Visitors Center** we learn the Hallmark story, from J.C. Hall’s humble beginning in 1910 to the creation of the world’s largest greeting card company. Among the exhibits is the collection of 17 unique Christmas trees created and decorated by Hallmark employees. See a demonstration of hot-foil stamping and the process of die-cutting used in

the manufacturing of Hallmark cards. This afternoon includes a tour of the 358,000-square-foot **Harley-Davidson Vehicle and Powertrain Operations**. The tour begins with an introductory film before we step into the factory floor where our guide takes us thru the plant explaining the process necessary to produce each motorcycle. This evening enjoy a **live performance** at one of Kansas City’s theaters, offering award-winning performances. Overnight Kansas City metro area.

Day 5 – Kansas City MO – Topeka KS – Abilene KS

We depart Kansas City this morning and travel to the Capitol of Kansas, **Topeka**. Here we begin with a tour of the **Kansas State Capitol**. Learn the story of John Steuart Curry’s murals and view the marble and glass panels of the Capitol Dome. For the adventurous it is 296 steps to the top of the copper dome. See the elaborate architecture of the inner and outer dome. View Topeka from the outer dome windows or take a few more steps and go outside on the dome balcony for a spectacular view of Topeka. Then, see a full sized Cheyenne tipi and a covered wagon ready to travel the Oregon Trail at the **Kansas Museum of History**. This afternoon arrive in Abilene, KS hometown of our 34th President, Dwight D Eisenhower. Visit the **Eisenhower Presidential Museum and Library and the Place of Mediation**, the final resting place of Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower and their young son Doud. Situated on the original site is the family home which was occupied by the Eisenhowers from 1898 until the death of Mrs. Eisenhower in 1946. A **fried chicken dinner** awaits us at the **Brookville Hotel**, before checking into one of Abilene’s hotels for the night. Overnight Abilene, KS.



Day 6 – Abilene KS – Salina KS - Wichita KS



Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before departing for **Salina, KS** and arriving at **Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure** for two unforgettable experiences. A tram will take us thru the 65 acre zoo with more than 100 species of animals. Then journey around the world in the Wildlife Museum with naturalistic settings and traveling exhibits. Enjoy lunch at the center before continuing our travel to Wichita, KS. Here we discover dinosaurs, Egyptian Mummies and much more at the **Museum of World Treasures**. Check into one of Wichita’s hotels to freshen up before an evening at **Crown Uptown**, a professional dinner theater housed in a beautiful 1928 theater. Overnight Wichita, KS.

Day 7 – Wichita KS – Oklahoma City OK

After breakfast at the hotel we depart Wichita traveling south to Oklahoma. Upon arrival in **Oklahoma City** visit the **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum** where we can enjoy lunch at Persimmon Hill, before we take a guided or self guided tour thru the museum and see works by master artists such as Charles Russell, Frederic Remington and Albert Bierstadt. The museum complex also contains Prosperity Junction a turn-of-the-century Western town, a gallery dedicated to the western performers, a gallery honoring the American Cowboy, and a gallery focusing on Rodeos. Discover a breathtaking paradise nestled downtown Oklahoma City as we arrive at the **Myriad Gardens**. The centerpiece of the gardens is the seven-story **Crystal Bridge Conservatory**, featuring palms, flowers and exotic plants from around the globe. A walk thru the conservatory will take you from the rain forest to the desert, see the 35 foot cascading waterfall and get a bird's eye view of the gardens as we walk across the cat walk above the trees. Take a **water taxi ride** along the mile-long **Bricktown Canal** where we will hear the past and future of Bricktown. See this warehouse district built in the early 1900's when bricks were an abundance source of building material that is now a major area of entertainment in Oklahoma City. With some of the finest restaurants in the city, Bricktown Ballpark home to the Oklahoma Redhawks and 16 screens at the Harkin's Bricktown Theater there is something for everyone. Choose to dine this evening at one of the many restaurants offering everything from, Mexican, Italian, Steaks, Burgers, BBQ, and much more. Overnight Oklahoma City, OK.



Day 8 – Oklahoma City – Paris, AR



After breakfast we depart the hotel for a driving tour of Oklahoma City with a local guide before arriving at the **Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum**. The Memorial honors all 168 Oklahomans who lost their lives, those who survived and those whose lives were changed forever with the tragic bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The museum is a self guided tour thru the days, months, and years that followed the bombing. Next, go behind the scenes at the **Oklahoma City Museum of Art**. A feature of the museum is a 55 foot glass sculpture, by world renowned glass artist Dale Chihuly along with one of the most comprehensive collections of Chihuly glass. After lunch, depart Oklahoma City heading east and cross into Arkansas. We arrive at **Mount Magazine State Park** and check into **The Lodge at Mount Magazine**. The lodge sits atop a bluff with a spectacular view anytime of the year as it overlooks Petit Jean River Valley with the Blue Mountain

Lake below. Enjoy dinner in the Skyline Restaurant located within this modern, rustic-style lodge. Overnight Mount Magazine State Park.

Day 9 - Paris AR – Little Rock AR

Enjoy breakfast at the lodge along with a leisurely morning to enjoy the splendor of this resort. We'll visit the **Visitors Center** which features exhibits on the geology, history, flora and fauna of Mount Magazine. Enjoy lunch enroute to the capitol of Arkansas, **Little Rock**. We'll have time to check into our hotel and freshen up before departing on the city's trolley across the Arkansas River and enjoy the metropolitan skyline, to **ARGENTA's Art District** in North Little Rock for a gallery artwalk and dinner at Starving Artist Café, home to NPR's Tales of the South radio program. Overnight Little Rock, AR.

Day 10 – Little Rock AR – Cape Girardeau

After breakfast we depart for **The Clinton Presidential Library and Museum**. The archival and museum holdings at the Library and Museum are the largest within the Presidential Library system, including 76.8 million pages of paper documents, 1.85 billion photographs and over 75,000 museum artifacts. A replica of the Oval Office and the Cabinet Room are featured at the museum along with a timeline that presents the day-to-day work of the President highlighting domestic and foreign policy efforts and achievements. Photos, videos, presidential gifts, and interactive stations are included in this museum honoring Bill Clinton, the 42nd President of the United States. Enjoy lunch in Little Rock then depart for **Cape Girardeau**, one of Missouri's earliest settled areas. Overnight Cape Girardeau, MO.



Day 11 – Cape Girardeau – St Louis

After breakfast at the hotel we will depart on a **Cape Girardeau city tour** discovering the heritage and charm of Cape Girardeau as we see murals in all shapes and sizes on this river city. Learn how Cape Girardeau played a major part in the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Trail of Tears and the Civil War. We depart Cape Girardeau this morning and return to St. Louis where we began our tour of Grand Central USA! thru the states of Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas.





GRAND CENTRAL USA! Sampler

Day 1 – Arrive St Louis via air or Motorcoach

4:30 pm - Arrive St Louis check into the hotel.

Dinner cruise on the Tom Sawyer Riverboat

Day 2 – St Louis MO

Breakfast at hotel

9:00 am – Gateway Arch

10:45 am - Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis

12:30 pm- Missouri Botanical Garden – Lunch on own at Garden Café

3:30 pm - Anheuser-Busch Brewery

Dinner at restaurant of your choice

Overnight St Louis

Day 3 – St Louis MO– Kansas City MO

Breakfast at hotel

9:00 am – St Charles City tour with step on

10:00 am - Lewis & Clark Boat House & Nature Center

11:00 am - Shopping downtown

12:30 pm - Lunch Ameristar

2:00 pm Depart

6:00 pm - Arrive Kansas City check into hotel

Day 4 – Kansas City

8:00 am – Kansas City tour with local guide

10:00 am – Arabia Steamboat Museum

11:30 am - Depart

12:00 pm – Lunch and shopping at Crown Center

2:00 am- Hallmark Visitors Center

3:30 pm – Harley Davidson Factory Tour

Dinner at restaurant of your choice

Evening – Dinner & Theater

Day 5 – Kansas City MO – Topeka KS – Abilene KS

Breakfast at hotel

8:00 am – Depart Kansas City

9:00 am – Arrive Topeka – Tour Kansas State Capitol

10:30 am - Kansas Museum of History

lunch

1:00 pm – Depart Topeka
2:30 pm – Arrive Abilene - Eisenhower Library
5:00 pm – Dinner at Brookville Hotel
6:30 pm – Depart
7:00 pm – Check into hotel

Day 6 – Abilene, KS – Salina KS - Wichita KS

Breakfast at hotel
8:30 am – Depart hotel
9:00 am- Rollin Hills Wildlife Adventure & Lunch
12:30 pm – Depart Salina KS
2:00 pm – Arrive Wichita – Museum of World Treasurers
3:30 pm – Check into hotel
Evening – dinner and show at Crown Uptown
Overnight Wichita KS

Day 7 – Wichita KS – OKC OK

Breakfast at hotel
8:00 am- Depart Wichita
11:30 am – Arrive Nat'l Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum w/lunch
3:00 pm- Depart
3:30 pm – Myriad Gardens Crystal Bridge
4:30 pm- Depart
5:00 pm – Water Taxi Ride
6:00 pm – Dinner in Bricktown
Check into hotel after dinner
Overnight OKC OK

Day 8 – OKC – Mt Magazine Paris, AR

Breakfast at hotel
8:00 am- Depart for OKC Driving Tour
9:00 am - OKC National Memorial & Museum
11:00 am - Depart
11:15 am – OKC Art Museum
Lunch at museum
1:30 pm – Depart
6:00 pm - Arrive The Lodge at Mt Magazine State Park – Paris AR
6:30 pm – Dinner at the Lodge

Day 9 - Paris, AR – Little Rock AR

Breakfast at Lodge
Leisurely morning at the lodge
10:00 am – Mount Magazine Visitors Center
11:00 am - Depart
Noon – Lunch – Russellville Area
3:30 pm – Arrive Little Rock AR
7:00 pm – Dinner- Starving Artist Cafe

Day 10 – Little Rock AR – Cape Girardeau

Breakfast at hotel
9:00 am – Clinton Library
12:00 pm - Lunch

1:00 pm – Depart Little Rock

6:00 pm – Arrive Cape Girardeau

Day 11 – Cape Girardeau – St Louis

Breakfast at hotel

8:00 am - Great Mural Tour

9:30 am – Depart for St Louis for return trip home