

Tour #1
Beautiful Blooms & Historic Homes

Thursday, October 9, 2014

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



This itinerary includes a driving overview through Compton Heights, Soulard, the Brewery Complex and Lafayette Square as well as a stop at the Missouri Botanical Garden with a private tram ride.

Explore the real character of St. Louis through three of its most historic neighborhoods. The first neighborhood, *Compton Heights*, was developed in the late nineteenth century by the newly wealthy German beer barons. *Lafayette Square* features renovated Victorian mansions and row houses which surround Lafayette Park, the oldest public park west of the Mississippi. *Soulard* is a delightful, old working-class neighborhood, which boasts the oldest continuous farmer's market west of the Mississippi River. You will not be able to miss the 100-acre Anheuser-Busch Brewery Complex with over 70 red brick buildings, several of which are listed on the National Historic Registry.

Next, enjoy nature at its finest at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The oldest botanical garden in the country and a National Historic Landmark, the Garden has been internationally recognized for horticulture, education and scientific research since its founding in 1859. It is truly a St. Louis treasure!

A guided private tram tour will wind its way through the 79 acres of flora from a variety of diverse climates. Visit the Climatron, the first geodesic dome greenhouse based on Buckminster Fuller's futuristic design. Included is a visit to the 14-acre Japanese Garden, considered one of the finest outside Japan. There will also be time to explore your favorite areas on your own.

Cost: \$65.00 per person based on a minimum of 20 participants per minicoach.

Tour #2
Gateway to St. Louis Introductory Tour
Thursday, October 9, 2014
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



This itinerary includes a stop at the New Cathedral in Midtown, views of Laclede's Landing, the Old Cathedral, the Old Courthouse and Busch Stadium and a tram ride at the Gateway Arch. A drive through the Central West End and a Forest Park overview is included if time permits.

Enjoy the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, also known as the New Cathedral; you will see one of the largest collections of mosaics in the world – 84,000 square feet in 8,000 shades of color! Explore the historic Central West End neighborhood, the Barnes-Jewish Hospital Complex and the mansions bordering Forest Park, fine examples of the “Golden Age” of St. Louis at the turn of the century. Forest Park was the site of the 1904 World's Fair and is one of the largest city parks in the United States. Today, the Park houses the world-famous Saint Louis Zoo, the Saint Louis Art Museum, the Missouri History Museum at the Jefferson Memorial, the Science Center and the Muny, among other attractions. Enjoy views of the Central West End and Forest Park area if time permits.

Next, your Destination St. Louis tour guide traces the history of St. Louis beginning with the city's original settlement, Laclede's Landing. It is now a nine-block historic district filled with renovated turn-of-the-century buildings housing shops, eateries and offices. Visit the famous Gateway Arch, the Nation's tallest monument, which commemorates the gateway to the west for thousands of 19th century pioneers. Here, take a tram ride to the top for a unique bird's-eye view of the city or watch a documentary on how this magnificent steel structure was created. Just east of the Arch, pass the excursion riverboats that call the Mississippi River home.

En route back to the hotel, enjoy a view of the Old Cathedral, the oldest cathedral west of the Mississippi. Across the street is the Old Courthouse, the setting for cases involving slavery, the fur trade and equal rights. Of these cases, the Dred Scott Freedom Trial is the most notable. You will pass Busch Stadium, home of the St. Louis Cardinals, and St. Louis Union Station, which was once the busiest rail terminal in the world. Today, Union Station has undergone a magnificent renovation and is home to a luxury hotel, souvenir stores and restaurants.

Cost: \$59.00 per person based on a minimum of 20 participants per minicoach.