

History, by apprising the people of the past, will enable them to judge of the future; it will avail them of the experience of other times and other nations; it will qualify them as judges of the actions and designs of men . . . —Thomas Jefferson, 1782

PORTRAIT—WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
SIGNATURE—UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY

Th Jefferson



The riverfront beneath the Gateway Arch often hosts festivals, historical events, and concerts. The soaring Arch is both a memorial to westward expansion and an icon of the city of St. Louis.

Architect Eero Saarinen and long-time collaborator Dan Kiley, a master of modern landscape architecture, designed the landscape surrounding the Gateway Arch. The tree-lined walks, rolling hills, reflecting ponds, and grand staircase descending to the Mississippi River mirror the shape of the Arch.

ARCH SILHOUETTE—LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



Eero Saarinen felt that an architectural idea must be as simple as possible to have meaning and impact. All its elements must contribute to the overall artistic expression. The central idea of the Gateway Arch is a graceful catenary curve, the shape a chain takes when suspended freely between two points.

Neither an obelisk nor a rectangular box nor a dome seemed right on this site or for this purpose. But here, at the edge of the Mississippi River, a great arch did seem right. —Eero Saarinen, 1959

PORTRAIT AND SIGNATURE—NPS

Eero Saarinen



GATEWAY TO THE WEST

Gateway Arch National Park commemorates St. Louis' role in the westward expansion of the United States in the 1800s. Because of its strategic location near the confluence of the nation's two longest rivers—the Mississippi and Missouri—St. Louis was a successful trading center from the time of its founding in 1764. Fur trade with regional Indian tribes, particularly the Osages, developed during a colonial period when primarily French-speaking residents were ruled by Spain.

In 1803 the Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of the United States and ensured prominence for St. Louis. The town grew rapidly in the early 1800s and became the headquarters for the American fur trade in the Rocky Mountains, the jumping-off point for westward exploration, the site of government

treaties with Indian tribes, and a growing economic and manufacturing center. By the 1840s, it was the last major city on the way west and an outfitting point for covered wagon expeditions to California, Utah, and Oregon.

Westward expansion had both positive and negative results. Railroads transported manufactured goods and settlers west from cities like St. Louis. In the span of two generations, the region between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Ocean was dramatically transformed with towns, farms, ranches, forts, and public land reserved for homesteaders. As Americans and European immigrants settled more and more land, American Indian tribes lost their homelands and ways of life.

Today, architect Eero Saarinen's masterpiece is a place to learn this complex history, contemplate its significance, and meet the people of America's Western epoch.



ART WHITMAN COLLECTION
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

AMERICAN IDENTITY EXPRESSED

The Gateway Arch is a world-renowned masterpiece of modern architecture built on the banks of the Mississippi River in downtown St. Louis. Rising from a forested park, it is a part of the national historic site created in 1935 to commemorate the role of St. Louis in the westward expansion of the United States.

To create the memorial, 40 blocks of old buildings were leveled in the core of the downtown area. It was here that the French originally set up a fur trading post in 1764, and that steamboats jostled for space in one of the nation's busiest pre-Civil War ports.

In 1947 a national competition challenged architects to design a memorial that would evoke the grand scale and drama of the nation's westward expansion. The judges chose Eero Saarinen's Gateway Arch from among 172 entries. The Arch, like his other works—the TWA terminal at JFK airport in New York City and Dulles airport outside Washington DC—combined engineering, materials, and technology to create an iconic and daring structure.

MAKING OF A MONUMENT

The structure of the Gateway Arch, built between 1963 and 1965, is a sandwich made of stainless steel on the outside, carbon steel on the inside, and concrete in the middle.

Nothing like this had ever been built or even attempted. How could workers be sure the legs would meet at the top? How could they keep it from tipping over? The plans called for exact measurements of the two freestanding legs as each piece was welded into place. Post-tensioning rods

made of steel placed within the back side of each leg kept the structure from tipping over until the final section could stabilize the 630-foot structure. Workers struggled against high winds, biting cold, and searing heat, coupled with dizzying heights and uneven surfaces. On the final day of construction an excited audience watched as the crane settled the keystone into place (left). The tram system, created in just two weeks by elevator designer Dick Bowser, takes one million people to the top every year.

MEET THE PEOPLE OF THE WEST

If St. Louis is the gateway, who ventured beyond the gateway and who did they encounter along the way? Stories of explorers, fur traders, overlanders, and American Indians create a rich and nuanced saga that reverberates well beyond their era. Their experiences and contemporary significance are explored in six exhibit galleries in the Museum at the Gateway Arch.

COLONIAL ST. LOUIS Founded as a French fur trading post in 1764, St. Louis prospered because of its central location. The European newcomers participated in travel and trade networks that American Indians had used for centuries. This gallery explores early French architecture, cuisine, language, and customs.

JEFFERSON'S VISION Thomas Jefferson had a passionate interest in the West. He brokered the Louisiana Purchase, sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore the new acquisition, and devised a scheme to remove eastern Indian tribes to lands west of the Mississippi River. The gallery chronicles Clark's role in facilitating Indian removal. The Old Rock House, an 1818 fur trade warehouse, is reconstructed here.

MANIFEST DESTINY During the 1800s, many Americans embraced the idea of "Manifest Destiny," a phrase coined in 1845 to justify the phenomenon of westward expansion. This gallery explores the positive and negative effects of the Manifest Destiny

concept on American Indians, Spanish-speaking residents of the Southwest during the Mexican-American War, and American pioneers.

RIVERFRONT ERA The present-day grounds of the Gateway Arch were part of a thriving riverport that fueled westward expansion. Those heading West came here to buy supplies for a grueling six- to seven-month trek across the continent. Murals, a detailed scale model, and a reconstructed storefront recreate the activity of the historic levee area.

NEW FRONTIERS As the 20th century dawned and railroads crisscrossed the land, the West was quickly settled. St. Louis prospered

as an economic and manufacturing center. American Indian tribes were confined to reservations, ushering in a long period of hardship. This gallery depicts the West memorialized in art, literature, and film. Models and artifacts document construction of the Eads Bridge. Videos feature reflections from Indian tribal members.

BUILDING THE GATEWAY ARCH City residents spent decades dreaming, planning, and building a fitting monument to St. Louis' role in westward expansion. The gallery shows the riverfront demolition and reconstruction, design and construction of the Arch, the career of Eero Saarinen, and the evolution of the monument's significance.



William Clark's *Map of the West, 1805-38*, was first compiled during the Lewis and Clark expedition. It later hung in Clark's Indian Council Chamber in St. Louis. Fur traders, explorers, and Indians amended the map during visits to Clark, making it the most accurate view of its time.

ST. LOUIS

Established near the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, St. Louis became a center of trade.

ABOVE—NMAA/USGS; BACKGROUND—CHAD COMBS © TERRELL CREATIVE



OLD COURTHOUSE Built in 1839–62 as a community crossroads, the St. Louis Courthouse was the setting for the pivotal Dred Scott case in the 1840s and 50s.



The courthouse was remodeled in the 1860s with a cast-iron dome. The Italian Renaissance-style ROTUNDA features murals of St. Louis history.



In 1846 DRED AND HARRIET SCOTT sued for—and won—their freedom here. After a decade of litigation, both the Missouri and US supreme courts overturned the decision, upholding slavery and bringing the nation closer to war.



The tram takes 4 minutes to reach the observation deck at the top of the Arch and 3 minutes back down. The area has 32 windows and can hold 160 visitors.



VIEW FROM THE TOP
To the east: Mississippi River, boats and barges, East St. Louis, IL.
To the west: Downtown St. Louis, Busch Stadium, Old Courthouse.



Opened in 2018, the MUSEUM AT THE GATEWAY ARCH covers 201 years of history focusing on the role of St. Louis in the westward expansion of the US. Exhibits include this model of the levee in 1852.



Park rangers lead a variety of programs and activities every day. Check schedules at the visitor center or on our website.



The story of St. Louis is the story of the Mississippi River. View the city on a RIVERBOAT TOUR. Get information and tickets at www.gatewayarch.com. Below: The riverfront statue of LEWIS AND CLARK commemorates the 1804–06 Corps of Discovery expedition.



A Modern Age of Discovery at Gateway Arch National Park

Gateway Arch National Park includes the Arch, underground visitor center and museum, Old Courthouse, Mississippi riverfront, and landscaped green spaces and trails.

VISITOR CENTER AND MUSEUM AT THE GATEWAY ARCH Six exhibit galleries explore the central role St. Louis played in the nation's westward expansion and the experiences of people past and present. Information desk, documentary film, museum store, and cafe.

RIDE TO THE TOP OF THE ARCH Take a tram ride to the observation deck at the top of the Arch. Tickets are required and are available at the underground visitor center or online at www.gatewayarch.com.

OLD COURTHOUSE Site of the Dred Scott case. Exhibits and museum store.

1834 OLD CATHEDRAL Still an active Catholic parish, the cathedral is open for visits and has a small museum.

SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY Lock all valuables out of sight or take them with you. • Be careful crossing streets and on steps and ramps. • Keep your children with you at all times. • Those entering the visitor center and museum are subject to search and examination of all items. • We strive to make our facilities, services, and programs accessible to all. For information ask at the visitor center or check our website.

MORE INFORMATION Gateway Arch National Park is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. Learn more at www.nps.gov.

Gateway Arch National Park
11 North 4th St.
St. Louis, MO 63102
www.nps.gov/jeff

Emergencies call 911

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Know the Numbers

Gateway Arch is the tallest human-built monument in the US. Both its height and base width are 630 feet.

The Arch is designed to sway up to 18 inches in high winds or an earthquake.

In ideal conditions, you can see 30 miles from the top.

The site was federally designated as Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in 1935; it became Gateway Arch National Park in 2018. The park encompasses 91 acres.

Eero Saarinen's sleek modernist design was chosen from among 172 proposals.

Construction of the Arch began February 12, 1963, and ended October 28, 1965. It opened to the public June 9, 1967.

Construction costs totaled \$13 million. The \$11 million cost of the Arch itself was 75 percent federal funds and 25 percent from the City of St. Louis. The Bi-State Development Agency provided the \$2 million for the tram system.