



101 THINGS *every* ST. LOUISAN MUST DO

YOU CAN TRAVEL ACROSS THE COUNTRY, CARRYING YOUR LAPTOP FROM ONE STARBUCKS TO THE NEXT, AND NEVER KNOW WHERE YOU ARE. OR YOU CAN STAY IN ST. LOUIS AND RACK UP A LONG LIST OF EXPERIENCES SO QUIRKY, SO ROOTED IN THIS PLACE, SO DELIGHTFUL AND SO INIMITABLE, THEY COULD ONLY HAPPEN HERE

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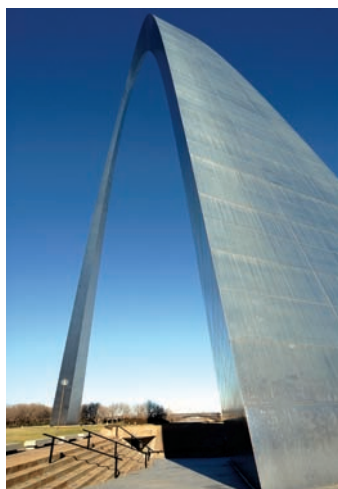


NOTES ENTRIES THAT ARE
TIED TO A SPECIFIC DAY,
WEEKEND OR MONTH.

FOR CONTACT INFORMATION
ON THE SITES FEATURED IN THIS
ARTICLE, PLEASE SEE P. 102.

SEE}

1 THE GATEWAY ARCH—it's a given. But you've got to be there about 10 minutes before sunset, preferably in the spring or fall when the air is very, very clear. And you've got to stand about 75 feet to the south and 50 feet west of the south leg (the one closer to the Poplar Street Bridge), looking at the north leg (the one closer to the Veterans Bridge). What you will see is an array of color more vivid than any rainbow—really glorious reds and blues and greens, shimmering off the metal. The display ends as soon as the sun drops behind the horizon, leaving a reddish-orange glow until the city lights are reflected in the Arch's steel skin.



2 The mosaics lining the walls of the **NEW CATHEDRAL**. With approximately 41.5 million glass pieces, this is the largest mosaic collection in the world. The best way to experience it? Lie down in the nave, if you can, and gaze up at the glowing world above. Don't miss the Stations of the Cross, restored in 2004.



4 The city from the top of the **COMPTON HILL WATER TOWER**, one of seven such towers remaining in the country. This one's elegant French Romanesque, built in 1898 to costume a 100-foot standpipe, and a haunt of architects for its 360-degree view of the city.

ERNEST TROVA'S SCULPTURES, tucked away in the wooded grounds of Laumeier Sculpture Park. It was his gift of 40 sculptures—the largest public collection of this internationally known St. Louisan's work—that made it possible for the park to open, and coming upon one of his Cantos or Variations amid the trees is magical.



"Falling Man," 1969



Stairway at Auvers

5 These 10 signature artworks from our beloved **SAINT LOUIS ART MUSEUM** (not all of which are on view at all times): the Egyptian Mummy Mask, the Buddhist deity Guanyin, Liu Cai's 8-foot-long hand-scroll *Fish Swimming Amid Falling Flowers*, George Caleb Bingham's *The Verdict of the People*, Vincent van Gogh's *Stairway at Auvers*, Henri Matisse's *Bathers With a Turtle*, Max Beckmann's *Christ and the Woman Taken in Adultery*, Claude Monet's *Water Lilies*, Jackson Pollock's *Number 3, 1950* and Gerhard Richter's *Betty*.



Mummy Mask

PHOTOGRAPHS BY/COURTESY SAINT LOUIS ART MUSEUM, MIKE VENSO (LAUMEIER SCULPTURE PARK), MARY LOU OLSON (CATHEDRAL BASILICA), ST. LOUIS UNION STATION, ISTOCKPHOTO.COM



DO}

PICK AT LEAST ONE RITUAL OF YOUR OWN IN THIS FESTIVAL-RICH CITY: Mardi Gras in Soulard, the St. Paddy's Day Parade in Dogtown, Fair St. Louis, one of the Greek festivals, the Festival of Nations, the Polish Festival at the Polish Falcons Gardens, the French festivals in Ste. Genevieve, the Thanksgiving Day Parade downtown ...

17



16

Paddle through FOREST PARK'S WATERWAYS, starting at the Boat House and winding up there again at sunset to eat and drink on the dock.

18

Drag a few of your urban-phobic friends into the "big, bad city" for a **DOWN-TOWN GALLERY WALK**, and show them what they've been missing.

Kick up your heels at the **CASA LOMA BALLROOM**

to the sounds of Sentimental Journey or the Knights of Swing. If you don't dance, grab a table, order up a burger and enjoy the music—these are real live big bands, as they were meant to be heard. You'll hear standards, sure, but keep listening. The cats at Casa Loma are anything but predictable.

19

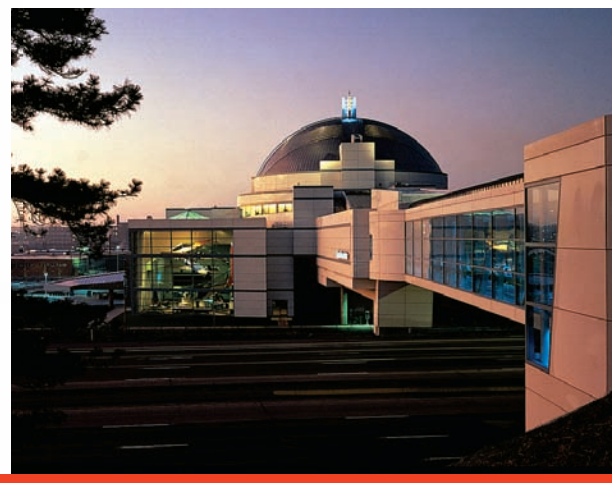


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21 GO GRASS-SLEDDING ON A BLOCK OF ICE on a hot summer's day at Sioux Passage Park. Better yet: Let the kids run around on the playground—one of North County's best—until they're tuckered out. Then put 'em on ice.

24 Build an arch of your own at the **SCI-ENCE CENTER**. Then walk out on the skywalk over 64/40 (remember 64/40?), and point a radar gun at speeders. We promise you'll catch some.



20 

Rendezvous with faux-fur trappers, colonial soldiers, settlers, *voyageurs* and blacksmiths at **FORT DE CHARTRES IN PRAIRIE DU ROCHER**. In the 18th century, the rendezvous was the peak of a fur trapper's year; now the fort's June Rendezvous is hog heaven for history lovers. Hundreds of reenactors camp on-site, and visitors can watch archery demonstrations, listen to period music or even learn how to tan a hide (!) themselves.



FEED THE PYGMY GOATS in the Tier Garten at Grant's Farm, Affton's 281-acre wonderland. The wee things' hilariously single-minded devotion to gorging themselves—they're little more than stomachs with legs—will lighten even the gloomiest mood. We kid you not.

22



Picnic at **TOWER GROVE PARK'S FOUNTAIN POND**—the stone ruins would fire Byron's European imagination, but they're really bits of the Lindell Hotel that burned in 1867, and the stone balustrade on the south shore came from the original U.S. Custom House downtown. Now look up: 200 species of birds take refuge in this Victorian strolling park.

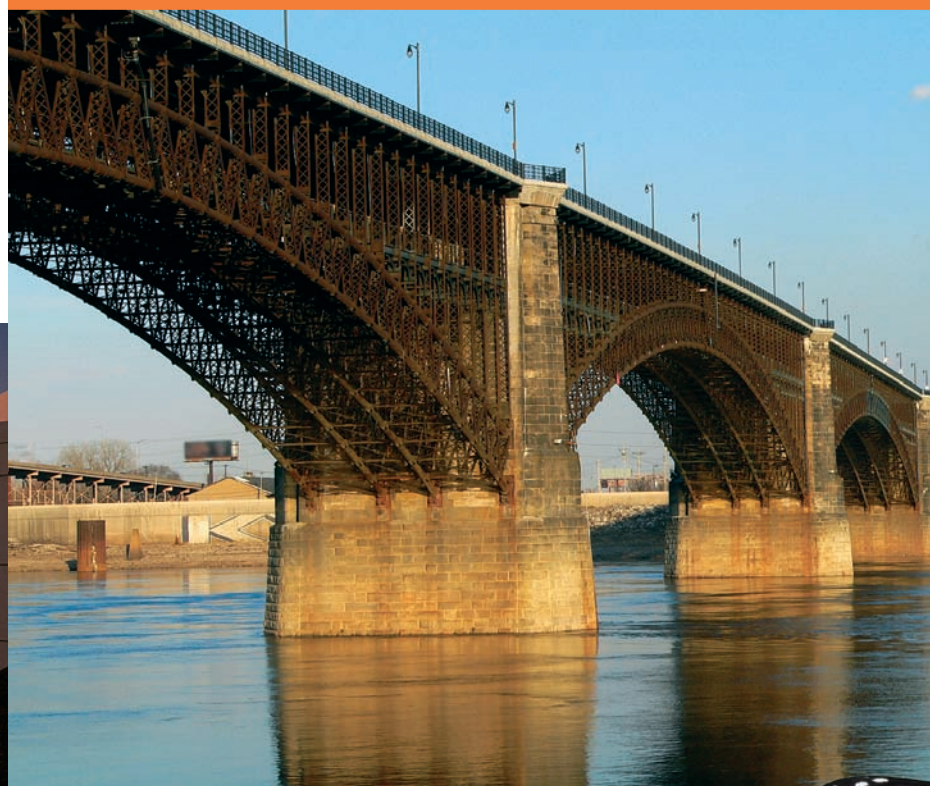
23

25 STROLL THE GRANDEST STRETCH of urban elegance our city boasts, from the College Church at Grand and Lindell west to Skinker, where Brookings' towers heave into view.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY/COURTESY ASHLEY HEIFNER (TOWER GROVE PARK), SAINT LOUIS SCIENCE CENTER, ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

26

Walk across an engineering marvel at the **EADS BRIDGE**—when it was completed in 1874, it was the longest arch bridge in the world and St. Louis' first rail and road link with Illinois. Stop halfway, poised above the center of one of the world's great rivers.



30

Drive down the river road in the fall and stop at **ECKERT'S ORCHARDS IN GRAFTON** to pick your own apples. Orchard workers drive you out to the arbor on a tractor-powered wagon, where you wander through the trees, gathering as much fruit as you can carry. (You can sample the fruit as you pick, too.)

ICE SKATE AT STEINBERG RINK

in Forest Park when it's cold enough outside to see your breath. Bring a date. You ever see the movie *Serendipity*? It's just like that.

27

28

Forget that corny old joke about the newly converted Catholic trying to baptize his steak: Fried fish is tasty! And St. Louis offers endless variations on the **LENTEN FISH FRY**. If you grew up Catholic, finding a seat in a musty old church gym with a paper plate full of fried fish and slaw is nostalgia at its best; if you grew up outside the fold, it's more authentic than Filet-O-Fish—and the miracle is, there's always more.



29

Find your favorite place to **WATCH THE RIVERFRONT FIREWORKS**—whether it's the Barnes-Jewish crosswalk, SLU's quadrangle, the spinning top of the Millennium Hotel or a wooded hill in the park, just off the globe-lit path to the fairgrounds, between trees in the moonlight.



31

Photograph butterflies at the **BUTTERFLY HOUSE AT FAUST PARK**. Either you can spend a rapt hour mastering the capture of perpetual motion, or you can take the fun route: Bring a child and snap one of the cutest photos ever, a butterfly perched on his or her button nose.

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40  The **FERRIS WHEEL** AT **WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY'S THURGOOD MARSHALL CARNIVAL**. Look out upon that which student hands hath wrought—they've been skipping class to work on this April tour de force, the nation's oldest and largest student-run carnival, for months. (Tip: When you disembark the wheel, beware the fraternity-made chop suey.)

RIDE}



43 The **SUPERMAN TOWER OF POWER** at Six Flags—a 230-foot plume at 60 mph. Go again? Oh yeah! Hot? Head for the old-favorite Log Flume.



41  In one of the balloons in **THE GREAT FOREST PARK BALLOON RACE**, held every September. Just don't look down.



42 **YOUR BIKE ON THE RIVERFRONT TRAIL**, from the Arch leading up to—and across—the Chain of Rocks Bridge, stopping midriver to admire the architecture of the two water intake towers originally used to supply the 1904 World's Fair with one of its marvels: "crystal clear" drinking water.

44 

The **BARKUS PET PARADE AT MARDI GRAS**. Put on your green and purple, scrounge up some beads, and trot your pooch down to Soulard. Our humble suggestion? Save your pup the embarrassment, and leave that "oh so adorable" just-for-dog-gies court jester hat at home.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY/COURTESY SIX FLAGS ST. LOUIS, OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS, ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

45 Through the **WAY OF LIGHTS AT THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS** in Belleville—5 mph would be too fast. One of the oldest such displays in the country, it glows with more than 1.1 million lights.



46

THE WABASH FRISCO & PACIFIC RAILROAD. Each Sunday from May through October, the miniature steam locomotives of “The Uncommon Carrier” take 30-minute, 2-mile trips, chugging through Wildwood groves near the Meramec River. Relearn why toddlers’ eyes glimmer at the merest mention of a choo-choo.



47 **FAUST PARK’S CAROUSEL.** Thought you’d had enough of spinning amusements after Thurtene? Think again. The carousel’s your chance to ride a reindeer.

A TOBOGGAN DOWN ART HILL with as many of your favorite people as will fit. Whoa—don’t slide into the lake.

48

Cupples House



49
STEP BACK IN THE PAST—AND PRETEND YOU LIVE THERE

Check out the Chatillon-DeMenil Mansion’s exhaustive

World’s Fair collection, and then relax on its old-world patio. Visit the Campbell House Museum. Go to a madrigal dinner at Cupples House, the Richardsonian Romanesque masterpiece on Saint Louis University’s campus. Visit Taille de Noyer in Florissant, one of the oldest houses in St. Louis County. Drive to Old North to see the Mullanphy Emigrant Home, dubbed St. Louis’ Ellis Island and now fighting for its life—and a proper restoration—after a narrow escape from demolition.



50 **AMID THE ELEPHANT ROCKS**—then picnic in the woods—then drive to nearby Johnson's Shut-Ins, famous for its breathtaking cliffs and chutes, and swim in clear pools sheltered by water-smoothed rock.

PLAY}



51 **BY BOWLING AT THE CLASSICS** (Saratoga, Tropicana or Olivette Lanes) and the retro newbies (Pin-Up, Flamingo). Then visit the International Bowling Museum to see what you could have been.

52 At **RAGING RIVERS** for the day. Rent floats and paddle out to the middle of the wave pool. Imagine yourself adrift, shipwrecked on the high seas. When you get worn out, head to the concession stand and order one of those huge slices of pizza—it will taste like ambrosia. Thirty minutes later, do it all over again.



54 **AT THE MAGIC HOUSE.** The four-floor Kirkwood kiddie landmark includes everything from a mirror maze to an art studio to a science lab, all predictably pint-size. A visit there can turn the everyday into the enchanting. And the Van de Graaff generator can be downright hair-raising—but in a *good* way.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY/COURTESY INTERNATIONAL BOWLING MUSEUM AND HALL OF FAME, THE MAGIC HOUSE, RAGING RIVERS WATERPARK, THE REPERTORY THEATRE, THE RIVER CITY RASCALS

53 On **QUEENY PARK'S IMMENSE PLAYGROUND**, or walk its trails when the dogwoods are in flower—you can see deer very early and late in the day. If it starts to rain, shake yourself dry at the inimitable Dog Museum on the east side of the park.

55 **CHESS ON THE LIFE-SIZE BOARD** (shades of Alice) at Pere Marquette Lodge. Then rest your exhausted brain in front of the 50-foot-tall fireplace, eat a big dinner and spend the night in one of the cabins.



77 TO DRESS TO THE NINES FOR ONE OF THE CLASSIC FUNDRAISERS—

Zoo-fari or COCACabana, the Wall Ball or the masked Mayor's Ball. Or at least sweat in one of the charity runs.



80 TO FLOAT THE CURRENT RIVER, one of Missouri's three protected scenic rivers. Peaceful and spring-fed, it can be paddled even in winter and has no real hazards—except that current.

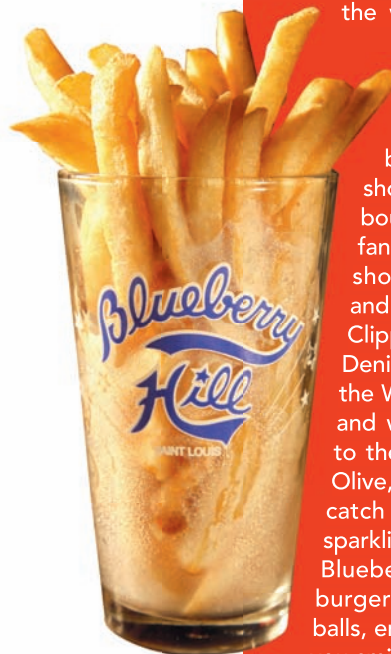


81

TO SHOW UP for a midnight movie at the Tivoli—or a midnight bike ride at the Moonlight Ramble.

82 SPEND A SATURDAY AFTERNOON ON THE LOOP

Browse the Craft Alliance gift shop, R. Sole sneaker gallery and Compônera art gallery; sit on the wall around the parking lot at Fitz's, watching the Loop's denizens and costumed visitors swarm by. Dig for books at Subterranean, shop Ziezo and any other boutique that catches your fancy, including the vintage shops, Meli-Melo antiques and comics superhero Star Clipper. Get your hair cut by Denise Edgar at D-Zine. Stroll the Walk of Fame, stargazing, and when it gets dark, move to the balcony of the Twisted Olive, above Vintage Vinyl, and catch Audio Agent spinning sparkling soul grooves. On to Blueberry Hill for its famous burger and cheddar cheese balls, enough cold beer to make you smile at the Howdy Doodys, a lively game of darts, music in the Duck Room and, if you're lucky, a glimpse of Chuck Berry.



78 TO TAKE A CLASS AT COCA OR CRAFT ALLIANCE—

feel your blood thrum to African drumming, hear the hiss of the torch as you forge metal, slick clay around a wheel—we don't care if you're any good. It's good for your soul.



79 TO FLIRT—with a date or a spouse—in the pricey, time-warped, David Lynch-esque diorama bar at Al's Restaurant (on First Street, established 1925).

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88 The spaghetti maybe, or the fish sandwich, with an ice-cold baby Coke at **BEFFA'S** on Olive (no sign, you gotta know where it is) while you eavesdrop on homicide cops, DAs and politicians.

THE CHEF'S TASTING MENU AT TONY'S. Sure, it'll set you back more than \$200 for you and your date, but you don't go to the mecca of fine dining in St. Louis to pinch pennies.

TASTE}

90 **WARM GOOEY BUTTER CAKE FROM GOOEY LOUIE'S**, which dared improve on the St. Louis original with eight flavors. Bet you can't eat just one.

92 **A BLT AND A JOHNNY RABBITT** (the local radio personality's trademark banana malted with crushed nuts, whipped cream and nutmeg) at Crown Candy Kitchen. Play the table jukebox, leave with a box of the house-specialty heavenly hash and walk off the calories in the reemerging Old North neighborhood.



91 **A LATE-NIGHT BURGER AT O'CONNELL'S**, which opened in Gaslight Square in the '20s and serves regulars at Kingshighway and Shaw.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY/COURTESY KATHERINE BISH (CROWN CANDY, O'CONNELL'S)

93 **PECAN PANCAKES AT THE ORIGINAL UNCLE BILL'S** on Kingshighway at 3 a.m.

