

Family Cultural Activities

When children visit places like the zoo, art museum, or science center, they are able to see and experience things that cannot be experienced in a classroom. Teachers call this “building background knowledge.” Having strong background knowledge helps children be more successful in reading, as well as science, social studies, and other subjects. Visiting cultural sites in the St. Louis area with family and friends will increase your child’s background knowledge *and* create some great memories.



Free (or nearly free) Places to Visit in the St. Louis Area

(Places are free unless otherwise noted)

Attraction	Address/Phone	Description	Cost (if any)
August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area	2360 Hwy. D St. Charles, MO 63304 636-441-4554	http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/st-louis/august-busch-memorial-conservation-area August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area has hiking trails, a visitor center, and Kids Fishing Lake	Admission is free. Children under the age of 16 can fish without a fishing license. Anyone 16 to 64 must have a current Missouri Fishing License in order to fish.
Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site	30 Ramey Street Collinsville, IL 62234 618-346-5160	http://cahokiamounds.org/ The ancient city of Cahokia was inhabited from about A.D. 700 to A.D. 1400 by the Cahokians, a subtribe of the Illiniwek. Over 120 mounds were built during that time and some can still be visited today.	Museum admission is free, but donations are accepted and appreciated. Entrance to the Mounds is free, but a donation is appreciated. **Closed Monday and Tuesday until further notice.
Contemporary Art Museum	3750 Washington Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63108 314-535-4660	http://camstl.org/ The Contemporary Art Museum houses a collection of modern day art.	Free admission compliments of the Gateway Foundation. **Closed Monday and Tuesday
Gateway Arch & Jefferson National Expansion Memorial	11 North 4th St. St. Louis, MO 63102 877-982-1410	http://www.gatewayarch.com/ Visit their website to learn about all the changes in the Arch and the National Park.	New museum exhibits are open in the Old Courthouse where Arch Entry tickets can be purchased. Entry only tickets are \$3.00 for adult, children free but still require a ticket. Rides to the top are extra.

Grant's Farm	10501 Gravois Road St. Louis, MO 63123 314-843-1700	www.grantsfarm.com Grant's Farm is an animal reserve for animals such as buffalo, elephants, camels, kangaroos, the Clydesdales, and many more. The property was once owned by Ulysses S. Grant, 18 th President and Civil War Union General.	Admission is free. There is a charge for parking and some special exhibits and activities.
Laumeier Sculpture Park	12580 Rott Road St. Louis, MO 63127 314-615-5278	http://www.laumeiersculpturepark.org/ Walk through the outdoor sculpture exhibit. Leashed dogs are welcome in the park.	Admission is free.
Magic House	516 S. Kirkwood Rd. St. Louis, MO 63122 314-822-8900	https://www.magichouse.org/ The Magic House has more than 100 hands-on science exhibits to engage children.	On the third Friday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. admission is free for no more than two adults and four of their own children. (June 17, July 15, & August 19, 2016)
Mastodon State Historic Site	1050 Charles J. Becker Drive Imperial, MO 63052 636-464-2976	http://www.mostateparks.com/park/mastodon-state-historic-site Site of the Kimmswick Bone Bed, an extensive deposit of fossils from the last ice age, the park includes a number of bones from giant mastodons. There are several walking trails and picnic sites.	Admission to the park is free. Museum - \$4-age 13+ 12 and under are free
Missouri Botanical Garden	4344 Shaw Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63110 314-577-5100	http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/ Missouri Botanical Garden is a botanical (plant) research center. The Children's Garden is free to St. Louis City and County residents on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.	Children 12 & under are free. St. Louis City/County Residents: \$4 Adult, \$3 65+ Non-Residents: \$8 Additional fee for some special attractions.

Missouri History Museum	5700 Lindell Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63112 314-746-4599	http://mohistory.org/ The Missouri History Museum has galleries filled with items from Missouri's past. Visitors can explore what life was like in bygone eras.	Admission to the Museum is free. There may be a charge for special exhibits.
Old Courthouse	11 North 4 th Street St. Louis, MO 63102 314-655-1600	http://www.gatewayarch.com/experience/old-courthouse/ The Old Courthouse is a special historical site. It is where Dred Scott and his wife sued for their freedom from slavery, and where Virginia Minor sued for the right to vote in 1872.	Admission is free.
Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center	11715 Cragwold Rd. Kirkwood, MO 63122 314-301-1500	http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/st-louis/powder-valley-conservation-nature-center Powder Valley has three trails on 112 acres. One of the trails is disabled accessible. The nature center has two levels of exhibits.	Admission is free. Grounds are open seven days a week. **The nature center is closed Sunday and Monday
Purina Farms	200 Checkerboard Dr. Gray Summit, MO 63039 314-982-3232	http://www.purinafarms.com/ Purina Farms Visitor Center includes the Pet Center, where dogs and cats live, and the Barn and Play area where the domestic farm animals live.	Admission to the Visitor Center is free. Parking is free, except during some special events. **Purina Farms is closed on Monday.
Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary	301 Riverlands Way, West Alton, MO 63386 1-888-899-2602 (right before Clark Bridge to Illinois)	www.greatriverroad.com/cities/wAlton/Riverlands.htm Sites within the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary include Ellis Bay, the Teal Pond, the Native Prairie Restoration Project, and a 300-acre prairie-marsh complex. There are public facilities and trails throughout the Environmental Demonstration Area.	Admission is free. Open daily.

St. Louis Art Museum	1 Fine Arts Drive St. Louis, MO 63110 314-721-0072	http://www.slam.org/ St. Louis Art Museum houses a collection of over 33,000 works of art.	Admission to the Museum is free every day. Admission to special exhibitions is free on Friday. **The Museum is closed on Mondays.
St. Louis Carousel at Faust Park	15189 Olive Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63017 314-615-8345	http://www.stlouisco.com/ParksandRecreation/ChildrensFun/StLouisCarouselatFaustPark The St. Louis Carousel was installed at the Forest Park Highlands in 1929. When the Highlands burned, the Carousel was the only thing that remained. It was moved to Faust Park in 1987.	**Closed Mondays Carousel rides are \$2.00.
St. Louis County Parks	(see website for 40 Park site contact information)	http://www.stlouisco.com/ParksandRecreation/ParkPages Many parks have their own summer activities planned along with different day camps for children of all ages. Please see the catalog for more detailed information.	Admission is free. There may be fees for some activities.
St. Louis Science Center	5050 Oakland Ave. St. Louis, MO 63110 314-289-4400	http://www.slsc.org/ St. Louis Science Center has a large number of free science exhibits located in two adjoining buildings. The main building and the planetarium are connected by a skywalk over I-64. There is an additional charge for the OmniMax Theatre, Planetarium, flight simulators, Discovery Room, and Lego Mindstorms. There is also a charge for special traveling exhibitions.	General admission to the Science Center is free, however there is a charge for some of the special attractions and the OmniMax theatre. There is a \$10 fee for parking by the main building. There is a smaller free parking lot near the planetarium.
St. Louis Zoo	1 Government Drive St. Louis, MO 63110 314-781-0900	http://www.stlzoo.org St. Louis Zoo is one of the few free zoos in the United States. There are over 19,000 animals at the zoo. Families can pack a lunch and picnic just outside the gates in beautiful Forest Park.	Admission is free. Parking in Forest Park is free, but there is a charge for parking in the zoo parking lots. There are charges for some attractions inside the zoo.

Suson Park	6073 Wells Rd. St. Louis, MO 63128 314-615-8822	http://www.stlouisco.com/ParksandRecreation/ParkPages/Suson Most breeds of farm animals can be found at the Suson Park Animal Farm display.	Admission is free.
The Muny	#1 Theatre Drive St. Louis, MO 63112 314-361-1900	http://www.muny.org/ The 2016 summer season at the Muny includes the family-friendly shows: <i>Wizard of Oz</i> – June 13 – June 22 <i>The Music Man</i> – July 5 – July 11	There are approximately 1,500 free seats available for every Muny performance. The seats are in the last nine rows and are filled on a first come, first served basis. The free seat gates open at 7:00 each evening (lines begin forming as early as 4:00.
Wabash Frisco and Pacific Railroad Association	101 Grand Ave. Glencoe, MO 63038 636-587-3538	http://www.wfpr.com/ A scaled-down live steam engine train takes visitors on a two mile round trip that lasts about 30 minutes. The track travels along the Meramec River.	**Open every SUNDAY May through October from 11 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. A \$4.00 donation is asked per ticket.
World Bird Sanctuary	125 Bald Eagle Ridge Road Valley Park, MO 63088 636-225-4390	http://www.worldbirdsantuary.org/ Over 200 animals are cared for at the World Bird Sanctuary. Visitors are able to view and learn more about raptors, eagles, and many other wild birds at the Nature Center, Visitor's Center, and the Wildlife Hospital.	Free admission daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.