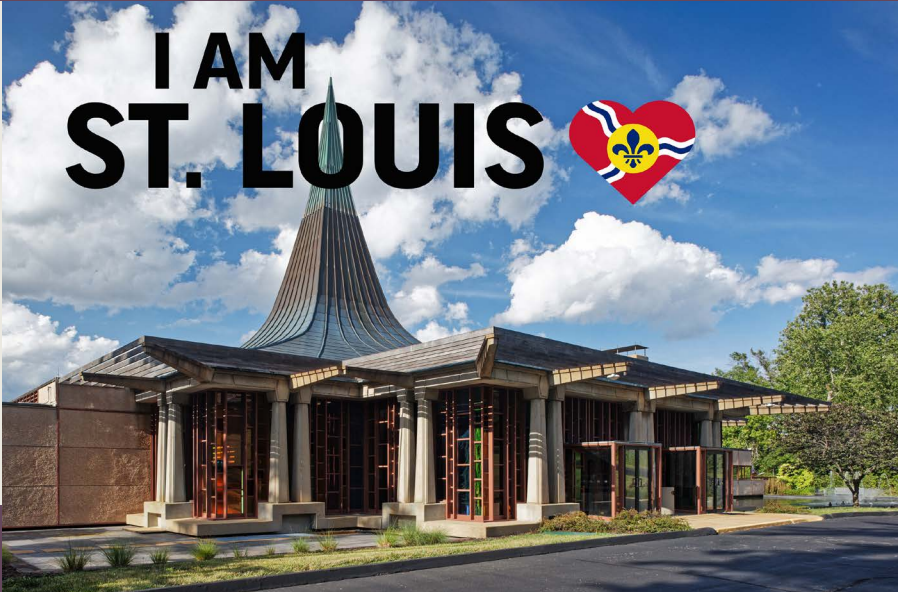


Saint Louis – Gateway to the West



St. Louis sits at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, anchoring a vibrant metro area that spans multiple counties on both sides of the Mississippi. With its central U.S. location, St. Louis is within 500 miles of nearly one-third of the nation's population and enjoys four distinct seasons.

People & Community

- Regional population: 2.81 million, with a median age of 39.5.
- Education: 89.2% high school graduation rate and 38% bachelor's/advanced degree attainment—both above the national average.
- Diversity: While the region is primarily white (73%), the city itself is highly diverse, with African Americans representing 44.8% of residents and the white population at 46.3%. About 6.8% of residents are foreign born.

Cost of Living & Housing

- Overall cost of living: 88% of the national average.
- National recognition: Ranked among the coolest and most affordable cities for millennials and a top city for millennial happiness and affordability.
- Homeownership: One of the top 25 best cities for first-time home buyers, with a median home price of \$179,200.

Getting Around

St. Louis is known as a “20-minute city”: most popular destinations are about a 20-minute drive apart. The region's average commute (23.3 minutes) is consistently below the national average, helping residents reclaim time for family, community, and leisure.

World-Class Healthcare

- Barnes-Jewish Hospital: #1 in Missouri and tied for 18th nationally, ranking in 11 specialties.
- St. Louis Children's Hospital: Ranked 15th in the nation and one of only 23 children's hospitals to rank in every specialty.
- Medical education: Home to two medical schools—Washington University and Saint Louis University.

Education Hub

The region includes the top four K–12 school districts in Missouri, plus:

- Public universities: Two, including one historically Black college.
- Private universities: Seven.
- Additional options: Numerous community colleges, technical schools, and theological institutions.

Food Scene

From cozy diners to fine dining, St. Louis serves a wide spectrum of cuisine. In addition to classic American fare, you'll find vibrant Italian, French, Mexican, Thai, Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, Ethiopian, Creole, Indian, Nepalese, Caribbean, Moroccan, Bosnian, Portuguese, Cuban, and many more culinary traditions represented across the region.

Business & Innovation

St. Louis has a diversified, cost-competitive economy and is ranked among the top 10 most cost-competitive places to do business in the U.S.

Key sectors include:

- Advanced manufacturing
- Transportation and distribution
- Defense and agriculture
- Plant and medical sciences
- Information technology and other emerging technologies
- The region is home to 15 Fortune 1000 headquarters, including 7 Fortune 500 companies

Arts & Entertainment

St. Louis offers a rich performing arts scene, including:

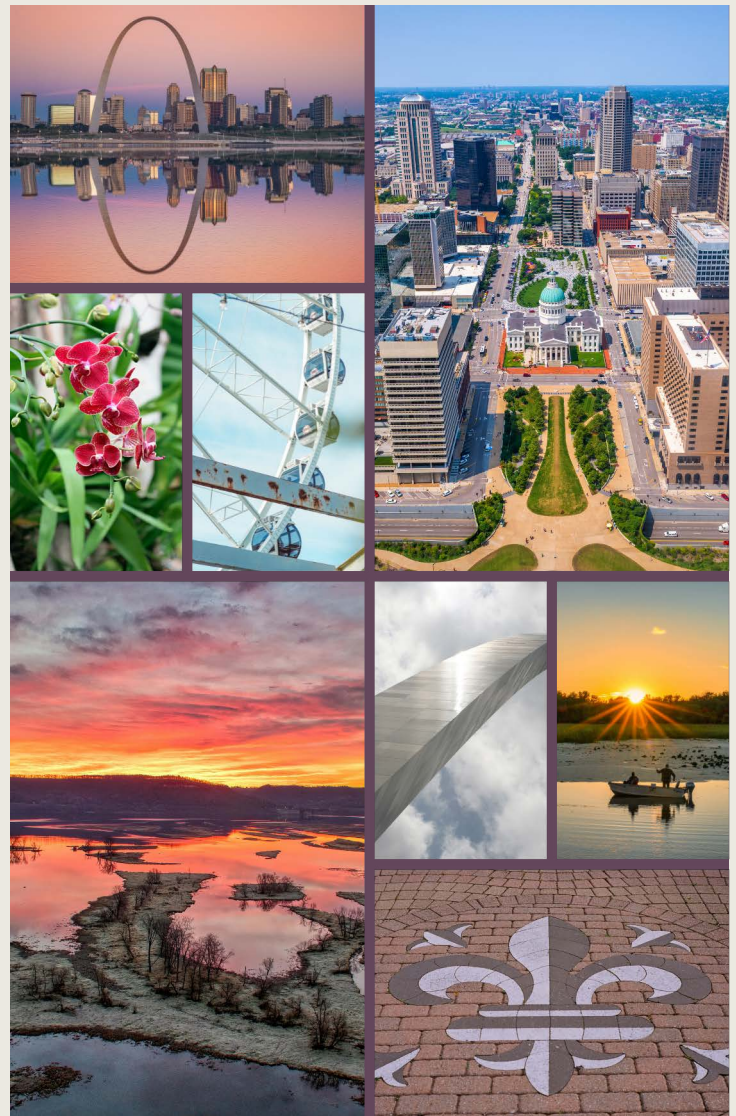
- St. Louis Symphony Orchestra
- Opera Theatre of Saint Louis
- Dance St. Louis
- More than 40 live theaters, including The Muny, the oldest and largest outdoor musical theatre in the country
- Shakespeare in the Park
- Iconic venues like Blueberry Hill, where Chuck Berry performed over 200 times.

Parks, Nature & Free Attractions

- Over 200 parks across the region
- Forest Park: Larger than New York's Central Park by 500 acres
- 128 miles of greenways for hiking and biking
- Missouri Botanical Garden: 79 acres of world-renowned horticulture
- St. Louis Zoo: A world-class zoo with free admission
- Additional attractions: a major aquarium and multiple sculpture parks.

St. Louis' Zoo-Museum District, funded by property taxes, makes admission free at the zoo and major science, history, and art museums—making the city exceptionally accessible for residents and visitors alike.

The iconic Gateway Arch offers panoramic views of the city and hosts a free museum exploring the history of westward expansion.



Sports City

- MLB: St. Louis Cardinals – 11-time World Series Champions
- NHL: St. Louis Blues – 2019 Stanley Cup Champions
- MLS: St. Louis CITY SC – professional soccer
- College sports: Saint Louis University Division I basketball.

Media & Culture

Residents have access to local ABC, CBS, NBC, PBS, and three NPR stations (talk, jazz, and classical). The St. Louis Post-Dispatch is the largest daily newspaper in Missouri, alongside a robust ecosystem of free publications, including the St. Louis American, serving the African American community.