

# Missouri Itineraries: Historic Churches

*Provided in Partnership*



*Several church tours are scheduled throughout the year and many other churches welcome you to tour at anytime. Our MACVB Members have partnered together to offer you personalized itineraries to meet your needs. Looking for the unique? We have it! Need an excursion for a few days? Missouri professionals are here to help.*

**Benton County**  
**Columbia**  
**Independence**  
**Lake of the Ozarks**  
**Moberly**  
**Perry County**  
**St. Charles**  
**St. Joseph**  
**St. Louis**  
**Washington**



In the 1800's many people from all over the world came to the United States in search of religious freedom. Missouri, they were told, held great promise with fertile ground and open valleys. As the population of Missouri grew it saw the building of churches of all denominations. Many of these churches still stand today, and still serve their original purpose of a spiritual home to the faithful. Several church tours are scheduled throughout the year and many other churches welcome you to tour at anytime.

**HISTORIC CHURCHES**



[www.visitbentoncomo.com](http://www.visitbentoncomo.com)

[VisitBentonCoMO.com](http://VisitBentonCoMO.com)

Lynette Stokes, Executive Director

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660-438-2090

**Benton County** Cole Camp has been blessed to have so many beautiful churches in the community – both inside and outside of town – with diverse denominations, old history and charming structures from the past and present. Take a drive to Cole Camp and you can relive these churches that were built to accommodate the growing population of small villages and farming communities – the hub of generations of descendants’ spiritual and social lives.



**COLUMBIA, MO**

WHAT YOU UNEXPECTED

[VisitColumbiaMO.com](http://VisitColumbiaMO.com)

Beth Mead, Tourism Sales

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573-441-5577

**Columbia** Representing all walks of life and faith denominations, Columbia is home to many historical churches. From the Second Missionary Baptist Church founded in 1866 and rooted in rich African American heritage, to the Missouri United Methodist Church built in 1929 whose stained glass windows depict stories of the Old and New Testament, the religious and architectural history is outstanding. Learn about the A.P. Green Chapel, an addition to Memorial Union on the Campus of the University of Missouri and tour Stephen’s College Firestone Baars Chapel designed by Eero Saarinen, of St. Louis Arch fame. As there is so much to explore and experience, all itineraries can be customized to fit the needs of the group. The churches included on this itinerary are conveniently located within the downtown Columbia footprint, which makes adding activities, including lunch on your own, or together as a group easy.



**FIND YOUR INDEPENDENCE**

[VisitIndependence.com](http://VisitIndependence.com)

Mataya Thoas, Sales Manager

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816-325-7112

**Independence** A City Rooted in Faith - Independence has a rich religious heritage shared by many different faiths. However, the Mormon Church (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints), the Community of Christ (formerly Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints), and Church of Christ (Temple Lot) share a profound Independence heritage. Learn more about the early pioneer life of the Mormon settlers and the Community of Christ, and Church of Christ (Temple Lot) faiths. Independence religious heritage sites help bring to life the story of these churches’ pursuit of religious freedom in the Heartland.



Convention & Visitor Bureau

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**Lake of the Ozarks** Natural Shine of Mary, Mother of the Church <http://www.mothersshrine.com/> - 573-374-6279 The Shrine is known as the Mothers’ Shrine and is probably the most meaningful shrine in the country, featuring the Mothers’ Wall of Life with names of mothers engraved in the black granite. A beautiful outdoor shrine with a 14 ft. sculpture of Mary standing above the fountains. Visitors of all denominations are welcome. All are invited to put a mother’s name on the Mother’s Wall regardless of religious beliefs.

# HISTORIC CHURCHES



[www.moberlychamber.com](http://www.moberlychamber.com)

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660-263-9443

**Moberly** With a variety of churches and denominations Moberly, Missouri has some beautiful and unique churches that you can't find anywhere else. During the Christmas season is when they are decorated in all their glory. The first Saturday in December provides church tours during the Moberly Christmas Festival or set up a private time throughout the year for a group tour of the area churches. Book your trip at [moberly.com](http://moberly.com)



[www.visitperrycounty.com](http://www.visitperrycounty.com)

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**Perry County** Christmas Country Church Tour - If you are looking for "the reason for the season" we have it! The Christmas Country Church Tour is a winter holiday excursion of 39 historic churches of various denominations spanning Bollinger, Cape Girardeau and Perry County, Missouri. This unique two-day treasure hunt allows you to customize your route visiting century old churches from one-room wooden clad structures to brick and mortar masterpieces. From German Lutherans, Scotch-Irish Presbyterians to Maryland Catholics, each church is decorated in their own holiday tradition inspiring and delighting. Come and experience, excite and enjoy the architecture, history, and country down-home hospitality like you never have before. Walk on tour guides available.



[www.discoverstcharles.com](http://www.discoverstcharles.com)

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**St. Charles** St. Charles prides itself on being the home to some of the oldest churches in the region and in the state of Missouri. St. Charles Borromeo is the third oldest parish in the St. Louis Archdiocese going back to 1791. A replica of the typical French log church with vertical posts began being constructed in 2004 by members of the community. The work done completely by hand with period tools, in the manner of 18th century, and was completed in 2008. Shrine of Saint Philippine Duchesne – is a lasting tribute to the French Missionary Religious of the Sacred Heart. The Old Peace Chapel – originally built as general store in 1828, remodeled into a church by a German Evangelical congregation, and today is the centerpiece of the village in the

**HISTORIC CHURCHES**



*StJoMO.com*  
*Gracia Pinzino*  
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*800-785-0360*

**St. Joseph** St. Joseph With over 100 churches in St. Joseph, you could spend an entire day admiring their beauty. Many of these structures are over 100 years old and among the oldest buildings still standing in St. Joseph. One of the finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in northwest Missouri is designed by Edmund J. Eckel, who created many of our architectural jewels. Explore the stained-glass windows imported from Austria along with “Tiffany” windows, bell towers and pipe organs. One can’t help but be awed by these beauties. They are works of art as well as places of worship



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**St. Louis** When St. Louis was founded by French fur traders in 1764, one of the first building constructed was a church. Built on the site of that first church in 1834, the Old Cathedral know officially as the Basilica of St. Louis the King is located on the edge of the Gateway Arch National Park grounds. The city’s burgeoning population soon outgrew the elegant riverfront cathedral, so a larger church was built in the city’s Central West End neighborhood. In 1909, the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis – called the “New Cathedral” by the locals was completed, but it took several decades before the 83,000 square feet of detailed interior mosaics were completed. The collection is one of the largest in the Western hemisphere.



*VisitWashMO.com*  
*Emily Underdown, Director of Tourism*  
*tourism@washmo.org*  
*1-888-7-WASHMO*

**Washington** New Year’s Day Country Church Tour - Each year more churches are added to the New Year’s Day Franklin County Historical Church Tour. The Christmas Season continues with each Church still decorated and each extremely unique. The congregations of these churches vary in number from a few families to hundreds of families. No matter the size, each welcomes you to experience their faith through these structures. Churches are located throughout Washington, Villa Ridge, Krakow, Clover Bottom, Leslie, and Union Missouri.

## HISTORIC CHURCHES