

Missouri Itineraries: Historic Squares



Historic Squares are a wonderful stop for group tours seeking free time! MACVB Members have partnered together to offer personalized itineraries to meet group needs. Looking for the unique? We have it! Need an excursion for a few days? Missouri tourism professionals are here to help.

- Benton County
- Cape Girardeau
- Carthage
- Chillicothe
- Clay County
- Clinton
- Columbia
- Independence
- Jefferson City
- Lake of the Ozarks
- Pulaski County
- Springfield
- St. Charles
- St. Louis
- Warrensburg



Historic town squares within a community offer amazing history, architecture, and excitement. Groups can take part in organized tours or allow the traveling guests to roam free in a small radius filled with museums, art galleries, restaurants, and retail opportunities. Each downtown square has a personality of its own; each with unique experiences.

HISTORIC SQUARES



www.visitbentoncomo.com

VisitBentonCoMO.com

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Benton County There is no shortage of history and heritage, including the former Osage Motel (now home to Common Ground Café), where Harry S. Truman was staying when he received word about becoming Vice President. The Benton County Courthouse, re-built in 1886 and the Benton County Jailhouse, which is just west of the Courthouse, are both historical buildings. The Joe Dice Swinging Bridge was the first suspension bridge and is one of 15 remaining swinging bridges that once crossed the Osage River. The Harry S. Truman Dam & Reservoir was completed after 15 years of development and construction, beginning in 1964. Warsaw maintains its downtown riverfront roots with boat docking facilities and the Drake Harbor Recreation Area, which overlooks the beautiful Osage River/Lake of the Ozarks.



VisitCape.com

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Cape Girardeau Cape Girardeau has been welcoming visitors since its founding in the mid-1700s. Our community is dedicated to providing exceptional service and warm hospitality. We believe one of our strongest assets is our people who are ready to welcome your group to Cape Girardeau. Spectacular natural vistas, a picturesque downtown, and our historic past blend together to offer the perfect destination for tour groups of all ages and interests. We have a wide range of dining experiences, shopping, antiquing, sightseeing, tour options, and entertainment sure to satisfy.



VisitCarthage.com

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Carthage Take a break on the historic Carthage Square with antique shopping, specialty boutiques, art galleries, restaurants, and the most photographed Courthouse in Missouri. Delight in architecture, history, art and inspiration at the crossroad of America where the Mother Road meets the Jefferson Highway. The Carthage CVB offers great stops as you make memories with your group!



VisitChillicothe.com

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Chillicothe Experience the Greatest Things in Downtown Chillicothe. Our picture-perfect Historic Square provides a unique destination for visitors. Over 23 larger-than-life, breath-taking murals offer visitors a scenic surprise around every corner. History comes alive in Downtown Chillicothe through unique, well-preserved architecture and public art that depicts scenes and stories from a by-gone era. Delicious dining and unique shopping complete a day of strolling through our square. And be sure to catch one of our popular downtown events that take place year-round. Wine walks, chocolate crawls, art exhibits, free concerts and more make a great experience in Downtown Chillicothe.

HISTORIC SQUARES



VistClayMO.com

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Clay County Founded in 1822, Liberty's quaint square tells tales of the Mormon leader Joseph Smith, the Civil War, and the infamous Jesse James. With a history dating back to 1869 and to the childhood and wartime days of the outlaw brothers Jesse and Frank James, Kearney's charming, store-lined square is a historic gem. History flows through Excelsior Springs like the mineral water that helped found the town in 1880. Visit the Hall of Waters to see Excelsior's past come to life in this marvelous Art-Deco, Depression Modern styled hall first opened in 1937.



ClintonMo.com

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Clinton The Greater Clinton-Area Chamber of Commerce and Clinton Main Street welcomes you. Clinton is located at the intersection of MO Highways 7, 13, 52, and 18. The Historic Downtown Square, the largest square district in MO, offers a Victorian setting. Browse through shops, where you will find jewelry, clothing, quilting supplies, a bookstore, restaurants, the visitor's center and an array of gifts. Our Henry County Museum and Cultural Arts Complex, located in an old Anheuser Busch building, takes you back in time and is worth seeing. In the middle of it all is the Henry Co. Courthouse, which dates to 1893. As you soak in the small town atmosphere, don't miss the Memorial Bandstand, the Soldiers Memorial, the 9/11 Memorial and the granite Historic Fountain that was donated to Clinton in 1911 by the Human Alliance Foundation. Find out more at www.clintonmo.com or call 660-885-8166. You can email david@clintonmo.com.



COLUMBIA, MO
WHAT YOU UNEXPECTED

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Columbia Enjoy Columbia's twist on a historic square: a collection of historically important buildings in a park setting. You won't want to miss the Boone County History and Culture Center's Village at Boone Junction, a planned village consisting of historic structures relocated from their original locations in Boone County and placed together for easy exploring. The village features a log cabin built circa 1820, a family-owned and operated country store, and two architecturally diverse homes. In addition to the history village, your group can tour the 1877 Maplewood Home, built in 1877 by one of Boone County's pioneer families. Anchoring your visit is the museum itself which includes rotating history exhibits as well as the vibrant art displayed in the Montminy Art Gallery. The park provides plenty of shade; an opportunity for strolling or resting on a bench and there is plenty of space: indoor or outdoor to enjoy a catered meal.



VisitIndependence.com
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Independence History, Fine Dining, & Fun! Anchored by the Truman Courthouse, the historic Independence Square is filled with shopping, dining and entertainment opportunities. The Square experience includes mule-drawn covered wagon tours, the Historic Truman Courthouse and Clinton's Soda Fountain, where President Truman had his first job as a boy. Locally owned businesses flourish, with fine dining, bowling, an art gallery and much more. Whether you're here for a day, weekend, or even a date night, the Independence Square has a variety of excellent options to fit your needs.

HISTORIC SQUARES



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Jefferson City Surrounding the Missouri State Capitol complex, in Jefferson City's reinvigorated downtown, are numerous blocks of historic buildings and landmarks. Just east of the Capitol on Jefferson Street, is the Jefferson Landing State Historic Site, which is home to some of the city's oldest buildings, including the Christopher Maus House, Union Hotel, and the Lohman Building Store and Warehouse. Just around the corner on Madison Street is the Missouri Governor's Mansion, complemented by the Carnahan Memorial Garden, both flaunting beautiful architecture and landscaping. Directly across the street from the Capitol building on High Street is the Supreme Court of Missouri, the state's highest court, built in 1907 using funds from the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis.



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Lake of the Ozarks Bagnell Dam Strip www.visitbagnelldam.com - 573-964-1008 Bagnell Dam Strip is not your typical "town square" but it is full of history. Vintage Ozark memories and memorabilia flood the senses in the Lake of the Ozarks area, bringing visitors back to a place filled with barbeque, candy stores, ice-cream parlors, nostalgic gift shops, music and classic arcades.

If you are looking for the one place that everyone in the family can find something to do, look no further than Bagnell Dam Strip. From arcade games to water activities, you will find it here. Many of the Lake of the Ozarks events begin or take place on The Strip, such as Hot Summer Nights, Bikefest and many other events.



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Pulaski County Frog Rock welcomes groups upon arrival in Waynesville's quaint downtown Square for a day filled with relaxation and exploration. Visitors will revel in guided tours of the 1903 Courthouse and Old Stage-coach Stop Museums offering rich history of Trail of Tears, Civil War, and Route 66. Groups delight in free time roaming through antique stores and unique gift shops. Enjoy a guided history tour of the town and of the National Park Service - Trail of Tears Memorial, nestled along the banks of the beautiful Roubidoux River. Gather for your group photo at the 8-foot Route 66 Shield.



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Springfield Park Central Square has been the center of everything in Springfield, Missouri for 200 years. Native Americans were the first inhabitants of what is now Springfield, followed by the early settlers. There are many historical events associated with Park Central Square including Civil War battles, a gun duel between Wild Bill Hickock and Dave Tutt and the development of the railroad just to name a few. Park Central Square today is home to unique restaurants with a local flavor, coffee shops, the library and boutiques for that one of a kind find. History Museum on the Square honors Springfield's past, including the Birthplace of Route 66 and the site of the first Wild West shoot out. HistoryMuseumOnTheSquare.org

HISTORIC SQUARES



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St. Charles Once the stomping grounds of traders, legislators, and explorers, Saint Charles' historic Main Street has prided itself on being "historically awesome" since 1769. One of the oldest and largest Historic Districts in Missouri, Main Street's brick-paved road, authentic gas lamps, and fourteen blocks of preserved 19th century architecture provide the perfect backdrop to explore its more than 125 unique shops and boutiques. Feeling hungry? Over 25 diverse restaurants are sure to satisfy any craving. The past collides with the present as each year Main Street hosts dozens of special events. Concerts, art fairs, cultural celebrations, and acclaimed holiday festivals attract guests of all ages from around the country. We invite you to discover historic Main Street, where the past comes to life and timeless memories are created every day.



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St. Louis Lafayette Square just located south of downtown St. Louis centers on a collection of "painted ladies," a set of stately Victorian homes that surround beautiful Lafayette Park. The park also includes one-of-a-kind restaurants, bars, specialty shops, and bed-and-breakfast inns. Twice a year, the residents of Lafayette Square generously open their homes for annual tours. Lafayette Park is St. Louis' oldest historic district, and also designated National Historic District. Souldard Farmers Market had humble beginnings in 1779 as a flat meadow that farmers could come and sell their locally raised fruit, vegetables, dairy, and livestock. It is one of the oldest public markets in the U.S. and the oldest farmers market west of the Mississippi.



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Warrensburg Explore Warrensburg's historic downtown! The area is filled with locally owned, unique shopping, dining and more. No visit to the historic area is complete without a picture or two with the Old Drum statue located on the Johnson County Courthouse lawn. The Old Drum trial held in Warrensburg, the county seat, in the late 1800's inspired the phrase, Man's Best Friend. When you visit, you might just find an event happening downtown. Warrensburg Main Street offers 70+ events year round including the Warrensburg Farmers' Market on Saturday mornings around the Courthouse from May through early October.