



# HOLIDAY IN MISSOURI

*ST LOUIS, ST CHARLES & HERMANN, MO*

**4 Days November 27 – 30, 2018 \$799\***



## Highlights

**St Louis, MO** • Culinary Cooking Class & Lunch at Mama's On The Hill • Chocolate, Chocolate, Chocolate Tour • Herbaria Soap Tour • DiGregorio's Italian Market Shopping • Garden Glow and Gardenland Express Holiday Flower & Train Show at Missouri Botanical Gardens • **St Charles, MO** • 3 night stay at Country Inn & Suite on Main Street • Guided Tour of Historic Main Street • First Missouri State Capital Tour • Visit to Gingerbread Village • Foundry Art Center & Artists' Studios Tour • Spice Craft Class by Old Town Spice Shoppe • Holiday Shopping & Trolley ride on Main Street • Candlelight Processional with Christmas Carolers • Lewis & Clark Boat House and Museum Tour • **Hermann, MO** • Guided City Tour • Wurst Haus Bratwurst & Sausage Tasting • Shopping in Historic Downtown • Christmas Traditions at Living History Farm Museum • Guided Tour of First Settlement Village • Tour, Wine Tasting and German Dinner at Stone Hill Winery • Celebration of Lights Holiday Light Tour in O'Fallon, MO



# HOLIDAY IN MISSOURI

## Introduction

Welcome in the holiday season by joining us for a “**Holiday in Missouri**” including the diverse ethnic immigrant cities of St Louis, St Charles and Hermann, MO. Discover St Louis’ vibrant Italian neighborhood “The Hill”. Italians, mainly from the northern Italian region of Lombardy, immigrated and settled in the area starting in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, attracted by jobs in nearby plants established to exploit deposits of clay discovered by immigrants in the 1830s. With the growth of Italian immigration came the growth in the influence of the Roman Catholic Church St Ambrose in 1903 to serve the recent Lombard immigrants.

Just west of St Louis, is St Charles, a river city with a unique historical perspective. Founded a Les Petites Cotes – The Little Hills, by French Canadian fur trader Louis Blanchette, St Charles grew into a thriving riverfront trading center for a young America. Thousands passed through on their journeys westward, replenishing supplies before departing into new territory. St Charles is a source of historical encounter: the Lewis and Clark Rendezvous, Missouri’s First Capital, origin of the Boone’s Lick Trail and home of Daniel Boone.

West of St Charles is Hermann, the city founded by the German Settlement Society of Philadelphia in 1837. An early group of settlers were led by George Bayer and Edward Hermann, who bought land and is considered by many to be the founder of the town. The society had almost utopian goals of “heart of German-America” where it could perpetuate traditional German culture and establish a self-supporting colony built around farming commerce and industry. In the 1960s, people began to rebuild the wine industry in the Hermann area. Today, the vineyards and wineries contribute to the agricultural and heritage tourism economies, with winery tours and wine tastings.

## Itinerary

### **Day 1 Tuesday, Nov 27: Champaign-Decatur-Springfield St Louis-St Charles, MO**

We depart in the morning for our 2018 holiday motorcoach tour from Champaign and Decatur to St Louis, MO. Arrive at “The Hill”, St Louis’ Italian neighborhood for our hands-on Culinary Cooking Class with Andrea at **Mama’s On The Hill** as we learn to make their house signature dish “**Chicken Spedini**”. After our cooking lesson, we will enjoy this delicious entrée lunch along with a glass of wine and our own handmade Cannoli for dessert. Following lunch, we will tour this wonderful Italian neighborhood with stops at **Chocolate Chocolate Chocolate** for an artisan chocolate tour & shopping, **Herbaria** for a handcrafted soap tour & shopping, and more shopping at **DiGregorio’s Italian Market**. Late afternoon, we depart “The Hill” for the **Missouri Botanical Garden**. Celebrate the holiday season with one million dazzling lights at **Garden Glow** and **Gardenland Express Holiday Flower and Train Show**. Will make a quick dinner stop (on your own) before departing for the **Country Inn and Suites** in **St Charles, MO** for our 3 -night stay. (*Breakfast snack, L*)

### **Day 2 Wednesday, Nov 28: St Charles, MO**

Enjoy a hot continental breakfast (included) at the hotel before we depart for our step-on guided tour, in period costume, of **Historic St Charles Main Street**. St Charles has one of the largest designated Historic Districts in the state of Missouri with buildings dating from 1790 to the late 1800’s and lined with gas light and charming restored buildings filled with antiques, crafts and specialty shops. Next, we tour the **First Missouri State Capital** that has been completely



restored and furnished as it appeared from 1821-1826. Following this tour, we will visit the **Gingerbread Village** at Main Street Church where the sugary smells and holiday colors of the Gingerbread creations are sure to bring Christmas cheer. Enjoy lunch (on your own) at one of the many restaurants on Main Street. After lunch, we will visit the **Foundry Art Centre** as we stroll through the art galleries and visit the artists' studios. The artists' work represents a variety of media, including oil painting, printmaking, wheel-throw ceramics, sculpture and watercolor. Mid-afternoon, we will try our own creative hand at a Spice Craft Class presented by Carol of the **Old Town Spice Shoppe**. Late afternoon, choose from taking a Trolley ride down Main Street to shop the many specialty shop on Main Street OR return to the hotel for rest and relaxation before dinner. Dinner (included) tonight will be at **Trailhead Brewing Company** with a surprise visit by one of the **Legends of Christmas**. After dinner, the street is alive with seasonal excitement as Christmas Carolers stroll the streets with Christmas characters, smells of roasting chestnuts filled air and jingle bells can be heard as we continue shopping the stores along the cobblestone Main Street. Cap off the evening of festivities by participating in the **Candlelight Processional**. The **Legends of Christmas** make their way to the gazebo in Kistner Park. Join them in a sing-a-long of traditional Christmas carols lead by St Charles' **Cobblestone Wassaliers**. Late evening, return to the hotel for a night of welcome rest with "sugar plum fairies dancing in our heads"! **(B, D)**

### **Day 3 Thursday, Nov 29: Hermann, MO**

Enjoy a hot continental breakfast (included) at the hotel before departing for Hermann, Mo. Meet our local step-on-guide to experience the historic heritage and culture of this German village of **Hermann**. Enjoy a complimentary tasting of bratwurst and sausages at the **Hermann Wurst Haus** where Wurstmeister Mike produces 40 varieties of fresh and smoked sausages and bratwurst. Spend time shopping in historic downtown along with lunch (on you own). After lunch, tour **Christmas Traditions** at the **Living History Farm** dedicated to preserving and presenting the unique agricultural, social and economic history of the German immigrants who settled the lower Missouri River Valley in the mid-1800's. Tour the beautiful decorated buildings in the **First Settlement Village** which includes the Schuetzenhalle, the 1790's trading post, the Tradesmen Barn, the Riverboat Captain's House and the Mercantile Gift Shop. Next stop, the **Stone Hill Winery** for a guided tour of the large wine underground cellars, which are the largest series of vaulted cellars in North America. At the conclusion of the winery tour, we will visit one of the historic tasting rooms for tasting samples of award-winning wines and juices. Our German dinner (included) tonight is in the **Vintage Restaurant**, the restored horse barn and carriage house, located on the grounds of the winery. After dinner, we will stop in **O'Fallon, Mo** as our motor coach drives through Fort Zumwalt Park for the viewing of the **Celebrations of Lights** holiday light tour before arriving back at our hotel in St Charles, Mo for a night of rest and relaxation. **(B, D)**

### **Day 4 Friday, Nov 30: St Charles-Springfield-Decatur-Champaign, IL**

Enjoy a hot continental breakfast (included) at the hotel before departing for our tour of the **Lewis & Clark Boat House and Museum**. Experience the Lewis & Clark Expedition through a National Geographic video. See the replica keel boat and two piroques used by the Lewis & Clark Expedition and walk through an 1804 campsite and St Charles street scene. After our tour, we depart St Charles for home with a lunch stop (included) on our drive as we make our back to Springfield, Decatur and Champaign with *wonderful memories* of our holiday adventure in Missouri. **(B, L)**

Included meals are noted each day with the initials of Breakfast, Lunch, or Dinner.



**What's Included:** • Round trip motor coach transportation from Champaign, Decatur & Springfield to/from St Louis, St Charles and Hermann, MO • 3-night stay at Country Inn and Suites, St Charles, MO • Admission to all tours and classes • Breakfast snack on motor coach • (3) Hot Continental Breakfasts • (2) Lunches • (2) Dinners • Luggage Handling • Driver Gratuity • Travel Insurance • Led by Mary Beth Kurasek

**What's Not Included:** (2) Lunches and (1) Dinner on your own

**Pick up locations:** Country Fair Parking Lot, 301 S Mattis Ave, Champaign, IL  
Sam's Club Parking Lot, 4334 Prospect Dr, Decatur, IL  
Panera Bread, Capital City Shopping Ctr., 3019 S Dirksen Pkwy.

\*Double \$799, Triple \$749 (in a room with two double beds). Single \$1036 or if you book by October 31, we have a "Single Share Guarantee" on just this tour—means that if you do not have a roommate already, we will assign you a roommate. Or if we do not have a roommate for you, you will have a single room at no extra charge! Insurance coverage is Deluxe Group Plan from Travel Guard is included in the package price and for coverage details see [steviejaytravel.com/insurance](http://steviejaytravel.com/insurance) covering cancellation charges; other terms at [steviejaytravel.com/terms](http://steviejaytravel.com/terms) which are incorporated by reference. Price and details are subject to change. Acct#181127s 10/23/18 13:26

### Join us from Champaign, Decatur or Springfield IL

**Tour Coordinator: Mary Beth Kurasek**

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**Cell: 217 840-8724**

**Address:** Stevie Jay Travel, 4413 Trostshire Cir, Champaign IL 61822

**You can book online\*\* & pay with your credit card or debit your bank account.  
Or call Mary Beth directly (or Stevie Jay 217 840-9913).**

**\*\*Book online securely at: [www.steviejaytravel.com](http://www.steviejaytravel.com)**

*Stevie Jay*  
**TRAVEL**



*Mary Beth Kurasek*