

# Welcome to St. Joseph, MO

On behalf of St. Joseph, we would like to welcome you to our community – Where the West Officially Started Getting Wild! St. Joseph is located on the river bluffs of the vast “Mighty Mo.” It is an All-American city born of the fur trade, and brimming with a spirit of adventure. St. Joseph has many attractions that simply can’t be missed. From the start of the Pony Express to the end of Jesse James, our story spans over 175 years. Our 16 area museums all work together to illustrate the rich history that played a significant role in the development of our amazing country. Our world renowned parkway system winds through the city for 26 miles; it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995. We hope you enjoy your visit just as much as we enjoy sharing our home with you!

**Population:** Seventh largest city in Missouri. According to a 2011 census, the city population is approximately 77,000.

**History:** St. Joseph is full of historic information and attractions. In July 1843, plans for the city were filed with the state, and St. Joseph officially came into being. During the time of the Gold Rush, more people were leaving from St. Joseph to head west than from any other location. The Pony Express was established in 1860, in an effort to obtain a government contract for mail service. It became the nation’s first transcontinental mail service. Pony Riders carried mail pouches across the plains and to the mountains, relaying them to their destination in Sacramento, California. Another important aspect of St. Joseph history is the legend of Jesse James. The infamous bank robber moved to town in the fall of 1881 under the assumed name of Tom Howard. Most of his gang had been killed, wounded or captured five years earlier in a bank robbery in Northfield, Minnesota.

But despite all of its history, St. Joseph is a modern city, featuring unique shopping, restaurants, sports facilities, and more than a thousand affordable hotel rooms. Here you can enjoy the warmth of a contemporary city while enjoying the sights and sounds of history that are still alive today.

**Attractions:** Listed below are a few of the attractions St. Joseph has to offer...

- **The Glore Psychiatric Museum** offers displays and documents to illustrate how the 130 year history of mental illness has been portrayed and treated.  
3406 Frederick Avenue 816-232-8471 [www.stjosephmuseum.com](http://www.stjosephmuseum.com)
- **National Military Heritage Museum** exhibit depict the history of military service abroad and at home both during and between wars.  
701 Messanie Street 816-233-4321 [www.nationalmilitaryheritagemuseum.com](http://www.nationalmilitaryheritagemuseum.com)
- **Patee House Museum** is listed by True West magazine as one of America’s Top Ten Western Museums. Climb aboard the 1860 train that brought the mail to St. Joseph for the Pony Express.  
1202 Penn Street 816-232-8206 [www.ponyexpressjessejames.com](http://www.ponyexpressjessejames.com)
- **Pony Express National Museum** is where the mail service by horseback began. Come experience the operation and termination of the Pony Express.  
914 Penn Street 816-279-5059 [www.ponyexpress.org](http://www.ponyexpress.org)
- **Remington Nature Center** is filled with Native American artifacts, displays a beaver family, and also displays a 10,000 year old Mammoth.  
1502 MacArthur Drive 816-271-5499 [www.stjoenaturecenter.info](http://www.stjoenaturecenter.info)
- **St. Joseph Museum** features extensive American Indian exhibits and “Civil War Medicine.”  
3406 Frederick Avenue 816-232-8471 [www.stjosephmuseum.com](http://www.stjosephmuseum.com)