



# KANSAS CITY

MISSOURI

VISIT THE

USA



Step into Kansas City's most storied neighborhood, 18th & Vine, where jazz melodies still dance through the air and history hums beneath your feet. This vibrant district pulsates with rhythm, offering a glimpse into the roots of American music and the Civil Rights Movement. Explore immersive exhibits that celebrate pioneers of jazz and baseball, two cultural cornerstones born from the struggles and triumphs of a community that changed the nation. Around the corner, the scent of slow-cooked barbecue draws you in; this is where Kansas City's love affair with smoky meats began. Dining here isn't just a meal, it's a rite of passage, best enjoyed with sticky fingers and a satisfied grin.

Kansas City dazzles with artistic flair and architectural elegance, blending big-city vibrancy with a touch of European charm. Start your day surrounded by world-class art, where classic masterpieces and quirky outdoor sculptures invite reflection and curiosity. Then, head downtown to a district alive with murals, pop-up galleries, and local artisans crafting everything from ceramics to cocktails. When twilight arrives, the city's Spanish-inspired plaza comes alive with romance and style, featuring tiled fountains, lamp-lit walkways, and rooftops buzzing with laughter. This is the heart of Kansas City's cultural soul, where every alleyway hides a discovery, and every evening feels like a celebration.

For those who crave action, Kansas City's sports scene delivers in full force. Game day at the stadium is a sensory explosion, cheering crowds, sizzling grills, and the unmistakable pride of a city united by passion. But even on quiet days, adventure awaits. Wander the bustling markets near the riverfront or follow scenic trails where the city meets nature, perfect for cycling or simply soaking in the view. As the sun sets, trade your walking shoes for a bar stool and dive into the nightlife. Whether it's a smoky jazz lounge tucked into a vintage train depot or a lively pub pouring local brews, KC's after-dark scene hums with energy, flavor, and unforgettable melodies.

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## BEYOND THE CITY

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### **OREGON TRAIL & INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI**

Step into the pages of frontier history with a quick drive twenty-five minutes east to Independence, Missouri, once the official starting point of the Oregon Trail. Explore interactive exhibits and preserved wagon ruts at the National Frontier Trails Museum, or hop aboard a horse-drawn wagon ride through historic streets. The town square offers charming antique shops, pioneer-era buildings, and warm, welcoming cafés. At nearby Independence Landing, you can follow the riverbanks where early explorers once camped. Wind down with homestyle comfort food and a drink at a cozy local tavern where stories of westward adventure still echo.

### **ROUTE 66, JOPLIN & CARTHAGE, MISSOURI**

Head just over two hours southwest and discover the nostalgic spirit of the Mother Road. In Joplin, enjoy murals, historic downtown walks, and the natural beauty of Grand Falls. Continue to Carthage for classic Americana, from the historic courthouse to the outdoor exhibits at Red Oak II, a recreated small town full of whimsical charm. Don't miss a chance to catch a movie at the 66 Drive-In Theatre if timing permits. Whether you're savoring saucy barbecue or exploring quirky roadside stops, Route 66 in this region offers a laid-back, story-filled ride into yesteryear.

### **LAKE OF THE OZARKS, MISSOURI**

Drive two and a half hours southeast through scenic hills to Missouri's favorite lakeside escape. At Lake of the Ozarks, you can dip your toes in the water, rent a boat, or stretch your legs on hiking trails that wind through forests and bluffs. At Ha Ha Tonka State Park, discover castle ruins perched above dramatic cliffs, a hidden gem for both history buffs and nature lovers. Docksideries serve up relaxed meals with lake views, while beach bars and tiki huts bring the nightlife to the water. This is a perfect blend of sunshine, serenity, and mid-Missouri adventure.

### **ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**

Though just outside the usual day-trip range, three and a half hours south, St. Louis is a fantastic choice for a bold overnight escape. From the soaring Gateway Arch to riverboat rides and blues clubs, this city blends classic Americana with vibrant creativity. Stroll through Forest Park, explore museums, or grab lunch in The Hill, famous for old-school Italian cuisine. In the evening, enjoy rooftop cocktails, a Cardinals game, or live jazz in historic Soulard. For those who don't mind the extra drive, St. Louis makes the distance worth it with its unforgettable energy.



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