



Take a Vacation Close to Home – “Nearcation” in St. Joseph, MO

June, 2009 -- St. Joseph, MO – Feeling the economic pinch? Tired of the hassle of long distance travel? Then take the time this summer to “Nearcation in St. Joseph, MO.”

St. Joseph offers many great economical and quality opportunities to local travelers, since most of the major attraction admissions are less than \$5. Couple that with lower hotel rates than neighboring communities and you have the perfect retreat close to home.

So what does St. Joseph have to offer? Much more than you think!

Located on the river bluffs of the vast “Mighty-MO”, St. Joseph is an All-American city born of the fur trade, and brimming with a spirit of adventure as the starting place of the Pony Express, which turns 150 years old in 2010. Named America’s “#1 Top Western City” by *True West Magazine* in 2008, we’re a city abounding in 19th century charm and timeless beauty, with all the elements you would expect in a modern city. Located just 35 miles north of Kansas City International Airport, St. Joseph sits at the crossroads of Interstate 29 and MO Highway 36.



St. Joseph has a history spanning 175 years, and our 13 area museums include the **Pony Express Museum**, dedicated to the 1860 mail service, The **Patee House Museum**, a glorious hotel turned 19th century museum, and next door you’ll find **Jesse James Home**, where Jesse was shot in the by Bob Ford in 1882. You can learn about the town’s military history at the **National Military Heritage Museum**, and view extraordinary art at the **Albrecht-Kemper Museum**. The history of mental health treatment is at the **Glore Psychiatric Museum**, one of three museums on the grounds of the St. Joseph Museums complex. Doll lovers have to take a stop by the **Society of Memories Doll Museum** which boasts over 600 dolls ranging from 1840’s to present-day. Other not to miss museums can be found at www.stjomo.com/historical_museums.aspx.



In St. Joseph, you’ll also find a rich cultural life of the community through the **St. Joseph Symphony**, **Performing Arts Association**, and **Robidoux Resident Theater**. Nightlife includes Broadway caliber performances at the historic **Missouri Theatre** and original comedic skits at the **Robidoux Landing Playhouse**. Exciting evening activities can be found Downtown at the **Felix Street Experience**, a series of pubs, bars and nightclubs that line beautiful Felix Street. www.stjomo.com/entertainment.aspx

Saint Joseph is also one of America's best kept secrets in terms of historic architecture. Officially founded in 1843, this town quickly grew to become one of the most important sites of commerce and trade for the West which is reflected in the city's extraordinary architecture. From "Gilded Age" mansions to Arts & Crafts bungalows, or Italianate commercial buildings to Romanesque Revival warehouses, St. Joseph is an "old building" lover's dream. Visitors can tour several residences of prominent St. Joseph townspeople that have been restored to their original architecture and décor. www.stjomo.com/historic_homes.aspx



The St. Joseph parks system is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is comprised of 1500 acres, containing 48 parks. Our amazing parkway system, developed in 1918 by architect George Burnap, ribbons through the city for 26 miles, and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995. During the hot summer months one must take a refreshing dip at the **St. Joseph Aquatic Center**, which has 2 huge waterslides, a zero depth beach entry and a lazy river. www.ci-st-joseph.mo.us/parks/aquaticpark.cfm. A new addition to the parks system this year is the **Remington Nature Center**, which offers a unique view into the evolution nature and civilization in northwest Missouri. www.stjomo.com/naturecenter.aspx



And if you're looking for an organized itinerary to keep you busy, there are many regional tours that center on the history of St. Joseph. The most recent, a **Jesse James Regional Driving Tour**, created by the St. Joseph CVB, features 7 cities in 4 Missouri counties (St. Joseph, Kearney, Liberty, Independence, Richmond, Gallatin and Winston) that have faithfully preserved their own portion of the James' family story. (Downloadable brochure available at www.stjomo.com.)



For much more information about St. Joseph please go to www.stjomo.com or call 800-604-4600 to request a free guide.