

CAPE GIRARDEAU: WHERE THE RIVER JOINS PAST AND PRESENT

What began as an 18th-century trading post has since transitioned into a bustling community teeming with boutiques, eateries and trendy entertainment options. But Cape Girardeau has not forgotten its roots, taking special care to honor and preserve the past. Come explore the rich history nestled in one of America's best-kept secrets.



DAY 1

MORNING

Spend a peaceful morning surrounded by the sound of rushing water at Bollinger Mill. This historic site serves as a kind of time capsule, taking visitors back to the turn of the 19th century. Stroll across the covered bridge – one of four in Missouri – and discover the site's role in a confrontation between Union and Confederate forces during the Civil War.

- **Location:** Bollinger Mill State Historic Site – 113 Bollinger Mill Road, Burfordville, Mo.
- **Cost:** Under six years – free; six-17 years – \$4; adults – \$5
- **Hours:** Monday-Saturday 10 am-4 pm; Sunday noon-4 pm (March-November)
- **Info:** MoStateParks.com/park/bollinger-mill-state-historic-site

AFTERNOON

The historic Glenn House serves as an oasis of nostalgia in a bustling community. Built in 1883 and adorned with period furniture and décor, the Glenn House showcases how people lived before telephones and electric lights. Relish in this time of regality by taking in the Victorian architecture and letting your imagination swirl.

- **Location:** Glenn House – 325 S. Spanish St.
- **Cost:** Under 13 years – \$2; adults – \$5
- **Hours:** Saturday-Sunday 1-4 pm (May-October)
- **Info:** GlennHouse.org

Explore more history at Cape's museums:

- Cape River Heritage Museum
- Crisp Museum
- Heritage Hall
- Red House Interpretive Center

SAVOR DELICIOUS MEALS at local eateries. Check out VisitCape.com/Eat to see all the options. The paddle wheel icon denotes original Cape flavors.

DAY 2

MORNING

Only 12 miles from downtown Cape and boasting hiking trails with stunning views, Trail of Tears State Park has plenty to discover. About 12,000 members of the Cherokee tribe endured a harsh winter here in 1839, during their forced relocation to Oklahoma. Many died on the journey, including a young woman once called Princess Otahki who was believed to be the daughter of a chief. Visit her memorial erected in Otahki's honor, and learn about her fellow travelers at the Visitor Center.

- **Location:** Trail of Tears State Park – 429 Moccasin Springs, Jackson, Mo.
- **Cost:** Free
- **Hours:** Daily 7 am-10 pm (April-October)
- **Info:** MoStateParks.com/park/trail-tears-state-park

EARLY AFTERNOON

After hiking through Trail of Tears State Park, you'll likely want to sit for a while. So it's all aboard the St. Louis Iron Mountain & Southern Railway. Located slightly out of town in nearby Jackson, Mo., this traveling history museum boasts 93-year-old passenger cars. The five-mile train ride offers a variety of themes – from haunted history to a James Gang robbery. There's no telling what you'll see outside your train car.

- **Location:** St. Louis Iron Mountain & Southern Railway – 252 E. Jackson Blvd., Jackson, Mo.
- **Cost:** Under two years – free; two-12 years – \$10; adults – \$17
- **Hours:** Saturday 1 pm (May-December)
- **Info:** slimrr.com

BEFORE DUSK

Head to the Mississippi River and soak in the breathtaking view as barges and riverboats move past. The river has always been the heart of Cape Girardeau, powering the city's economy and beckoning visitors for centuries. Discover Cape Girardeau's story by walking along the Mississippi River Tales Mural – 18,000 square feet of detailed paintings on the river's floodwall depicting local history.

- **Location:** Riverfront Park – N. Water St. and Broadway St. intersection
- **Cost:** Free
- **Hours:** 24 hours per day
- **Info:** CityOfCapeGirardeau.org/departments/parks/parks___trails/riverfront_park



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1. Bollinger Mill; 2. Glenn House; 3. Trail of Tears Overlook;
4. Mississippi River Tales Mural