

## *Meet Me in St. Louis, Meet Me at the Fair*



*"Meet me in St. Louis, Louis" is more than just a Judy Garland tune in St. Louis. Groups still can get a taste of the fabled 1904 World's Fair at sites all around town. For seven months in 1904, the world traveled to St. Louis for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. The 1904 World's Fair was held to celebrate the centennial of Thomas Jefferson's vision of a continental United States through the purchase of the Louisiana Territory and to honor Lewis and Clark's journey to the west. This greatest of all turn-of-the-century fairs brought together people from dozens of nations who re-created their art and culture, entertained and sold their wares to fairgoers from around the world. Participating in a 1904 World's Fair*

*tour will allow modern day visitors to experience this fabulous era through historic sites, special events and impressive memorabilia collections. Legacies of the famous fair are a source of interest for visitors to St. Louis year-round.*

Stop One: Walk in the footsteps of fairgoers during a visit to the **Saint Louis Art Museum** (1-2 hrs.). The museum's vast collections are housed within the only permanent exhibit building built for the 1904 World's Fair. As it did in 1904, the museum houses masterpieces and ancient artifacts from around the world. The museum's collection of modern art has become one of the largest and most distinguished components of its holdings including many outstanding examples of German Expressionist art. Other major works on display are by Cezanne, Degas, Matisse, Picasso, Van Gogh and Monet and important African and Oceanic arts collections. Docent led tours are free but must be reserved in advance through the web site at [www.stlouis.art.museum](http://www.stlouis.art.museum).

Stop Two: The official name of the St. Louis World's Fair was the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904. The event commemorated the centennial of the signing of the Louisiana Purchase and the consequent exploration of the new territory by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. At the **Missouri History Museum** ([www.mohistory.org](http://www.mohistory.org)) (1-2 hrs.), also located within Forest Park, view the original **Louisiana Purchase Transfer Document** that formalized the transfer of the Upper Louisiana Territory from Spain to France to the United States on March 9 and 10, 1804. Among the signers of that document: Meriwether Lewis. A **map of the Louisiana Purchase** territory that traces Lewis & Clarks' Corps of Discovery route is etched in the stone walkway at the museum's north entry. Galleries within the museum also include artifacts from the Lewis & Clark journey and the rest of Clark's life in St. Louis. The museum presents a special exhibit of artifacts from the 1904 World's Fair in an on-going, free display titled *The 1904 World's Fair: Looking Back at Looking Forward*. Cost is \$3.00 per person for a private, docent led tour or self guided tour is free. Please call (800) 916-8212 for reservation.

Lunch Suggestion: **Bixby's, The Missouri History Museum's** fabulous restaurant, is situated on the top floor of the Emerson Center, with a spectacular view of Forest Park through an expansive wall of curved glass from ceiling to floor. Many options are available for groups; please call 314 454-3154 for more information.

Stop Three: Composer Scott Joplin's famous Rag "Cascades" was inspired by the beautiful fountains which welcomed visitors to the Fair. The popular entertainment of the era, including Ragtime music, could be found along the section of the Fairgrounds known as "The Pike." A stop at the **Scott Joplin House** (30 min.-1 hr.), allows groups to tour the two-story antebellum structure that was home to the "King of Ragtime" during some of his most productive years. Furnishings reflect the era in which Joplin occupied the house and, since Joplin was a featured performer on The Pike, there's a display on the 1904 World's Fair. Next door is a re-creation of the Rose Bud Café, a St. Louis ragtime-era hot spot, which is used for musical performances. Group rates are \$1.50 for adults and .75 for children age 6-12. To make a reservation, please call (314) 340-5790 or visit ([www.mostateparks.com/scottjoplin.htm](http://www.mostateparks.com/scottjoplin.htm)).

Stop Four: The restored 1848 **Chatillon-DeMenil Mansion** (1 hr.) houses an extravagant and diverse collection of 1904 World's Fair memorabilia. More than 1,200 pieces are on view including photographs and souvenirs in excellent condition. Groups can tour the entire antebellum Greek revival home, a National Historic Landmark, which is furnished with authentic period furnishings and even dine in the carriage house restaurant. For group rates and information or to reserve your group call (314) 771-5828 or visit [www.chatillondemenilhouse.com](http://www.chatillondemenilhouse.com).

