

TRIPS: JANUARY-JULY 2024

GILLIGAN'S ISLAND

Capital City Productions
Saturday, February 17

Just sit right back and you'll hear a tale... Join us for this nostalgic, comedic, musical adventure and its seven iconic castaways. *Gilligan's Island*, the musical production, is a hilarious, fun-filled, larger-than-life production that will appeal to all ages. Based on the American sitcom, the musical follows passengers of the SS Minnow as they attempt to be rescued or rescue themselves from the island where they were shipwrecked after their sightseeing boat was destroyed during a storm.

It's hard to believe that the series, produced by Sherwood Schwartz, aired from 1964 to 1967—only three short years. Like the musical, the iconic characters of Gilligan, the Skipper, the Professor, Ginger, and Mary Ann attempt to be rescued. Their efforts are continuously thwarted by Gilligan, the boat's first mate. According to the series' producer, the underlying concept was that of seven very different people forced to get along and cooperate with one other in order to survive. Character differences created many moments of hilarity for television viewers.

In the musical version, crew rescue attempts are thwarted, not just by Gilligan, but by quicksand, hurricanes...even aliens! Will the castaways finally be rescued? Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of theater and a catered dinner buffet in the Hawthorne Dining Room to find out!

Time: 11:30 a.m. Doors Open
Noon Buffet Served
1:00 p.m. Performance

Escorts: Kristin Eddy 571-217-9365
Jane Rosell 253-921-2380

Cost: \$50 Total due with registration



TRUMAN, BINGHAM, and HAPPY TRAILS

Independence
Tuesday, March 19

This adventure takes us to the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum with a comfort stop along the way. Harry Truman was our 33rd President and a native Missourian from Independence. The library has been renovated since our last visit in 2018. Here is an opportunity to learn more about Truman during possibly one of the most crucial times in world history. You will be more aware of what Truman faced and the burden of his decisions. These decisions had long-term significance around the world and continue to affect our lives today. Harry's place in history is both praised and criticized.

Next, we head over to the Bingham-Waggoner Estate in downtown Independence to tour the former home of the famous artist George Caleb Bingham and, later, of the Waggoner family. After we tour the Bingham home and enjoy Bingham's renowned artistry, we will be served a catered meal on-site. The highlight of our meal is being treated to a performance by a Truman impersonator. This should be quite entertaining as Harry was known for being outspoken and colorful.

The next part of our adventure is to take a ride on a Missouri mule-drawn, covered wagon. Reminder: Bring a comfortable jacket appropriate for that day's March weather. We will ride through Independence Square, see three historic "westward ho" trails, the jail built by slaves that held Frank James, and many other historical sites. We will wrap up our day at the National Frontier Trails Museum, where we will learn about the rich history of the pioneers and their journey to the west via the trails out of Independence, including the Santa Fe, California, Oregon, and Mormon Trails.

Our trip to Independence will be a great way to welcome spring, learn more about history and enjoy some socializing with LIR friends after a Missouri winter!

On our way home, we will have a comfort/food stop. There will be time for you to pick up a bite to eat if you like.

Depart: 7:00 a.m.
Return: 7:00 p.m.

Escorts: Wendy Hansen 573-645-2031
Jane Rosell 253-921-2380
Janet Lepper 573-680-6703

Cost: \$130 Total due with registration

LET'S GO TO MEXICO

Mexico, **Missouri** – that is!
Thursday, April 11

In its heyday, Mexico, Missouri, was a prosperous town known for being on the railroad, which included a huge livestock business, and was also renowned for its brick refractories. Its glory days have passed. However, some of its illustrious past remains. On this trip you have the opportunity to experience both its past and its present.

We begin our visit at 9:50 a.m. at the Audrain County Historical Society (Graceland Mansion). The museum collection is located in the nine-room mansion and contains displays that permit visitors to experience the rich history of the county. For example, the mansion was host to Colonel Ulysses S. Grant during the early days of the Civil War. In addition to seeing Graceland, we will be able to visit a church and one-room school located on the property.

At 11:30 a.m., we will arrive at Presser Hall Art Center for a tour. Presser Hall was originally part of the Hardin College Campus in Mexico. Founded in 1858, this was the first female seminary in the state of Missouri. Theodore Presser initially provided the funds for Presser Hall as a concert hall. He wanted to ensure that smaller communities had access to great performances, just like larger metropolitan communities. We will tour the 100-year-old hall and its backstage area, and we'll learn the building's history.

At 1:00 p.m., we will have lunch at the Missouri Military Academy (MMA) cafeteria, followed by a tour of the grounds. The Academy was established in 1889 to give boys the structure, responsibility, and love they needed to grow, compete, and thrive. MMA is a college-preparatory academy for grades 7-12 with core values of academic excellence, duty, honor, integrity, loyalty, respect, personal courage, selfless service, and leadership. We will walk through the Academy's beautiful grounds as we tour many of the buildings on the 200-acre campus.



Our final stop for the day will be Callaway Fields, LLC. Callaway Fields is a family-owned landscape nursery with a large selection of beautiful plants and shrubs available to enjoy or purchase, if you so choose. Our contact, John Graham, received early horticulture work experience at Disney World and could be the reason for their varied and beautiful inventory. Also, there are some quite unique outdoor decor items.

We will board the coach for Jefferson City at 4:30 p.m. and expect to arrive back in Jefferson City at approximately 5:30 p.m. We hope you will join us for a day in Mexico – Missouri, that is! SO, LET'S GO TO MEXICO!

Depart: 9:00 a.m.
Return: 5:30 p.m.

Escorts: Kay Martellaro 573-680-6058
Janet Lepper 573-680 6703
Mike Rehagen 573-636-5789

Cost: \$60 Total due with registration

MASTODONS, MURDER, AND MILE-HIGH PIE

Kimmswick and St. Louis Area
Tuesday-Wednesday, April 30-May 1

Intrigued by our title? We think you will be more than interested in this two-day, fun-filled trip.

An early morning start will find us at Grant's Farm shortly after the gates open. Grant's Farm celebrated its 120th anniversary in 2023. Our tour will begin with the Budweiser Clydesdale Close-Up Tour. We will see how they care for these magnificent horses, visit their stables, and get to know them. After our tour, you will have free time on your own to grab a bite to eat, feed the animals, and visit Grant's Cabin, the Deer Park, and the Bauernhof. There is a tram available to take you around the property if you wish. Don't forget to stop by the Anheuser-Busch Hospitality Center for your free beer. Please note: Grant's Farm is a cashless operation, accepting only debit and credit cards. You can convert cash to a no-cost VISA card on site.

Our next stop for the day is the Anheuser Estate and Home. The estate was gifted to Fred and Mable Ruth Anheuser in the 1940s. Fred was the last Anheuser to work at the brewery, retiring as Vice-President. Fred's great-grandfather, Eberhard Anheuser, was the founder of E. Anheuser Brewing Company. The estate was donated to the city of Kimmswick following Mable Ruth's death in 2000. The home, originally built in 1867, contains family and brewery artifacts as well as other memorabilia. The grounds feature splendid views of the river and its indigenous wildlife.

Following our tour of the estate, we will check into our overnight accommodations at the Arnold Drury Inn for a short rest before we are off to dinner. We have planned something very special for you as we head to Frontenac for a private performance at The Dinner Detective Murder Mystery Theater. We will be served a fantastic plated dinner before we enjoy the show by professionally trained actors. Oh, yes, and a few amateurs, because some of you will be chosen to participate. A full cash bar is available for you at your own cost. The show and meal are included in the price of the trip.

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Day two begins with a tour of the museum at Mastodon State Historic Site. Learn about the extensive Pleistocene-age fossil deposits and see life-size replicas and displays, as well as view a short video explaining the site. From here we make our way to the Kimmswick Visitor Center to learn more about the area and get the lay of the land for the remainder of the day.

Lunch is at the Blue Owl Restaurant in Kimmswick. You will choose from a limited menu which includes (you choose three) salad, soup, quiche, sandwich or dessert. The Blue Owl is known for its “Mile-High Pie” which is a meal in itself. After lunch, we have several hours to explore Kimmswick. The downtown area is easily walkable and boasts 25 unique shops and restaurants. Not into shopping? Walk over and check out the El Camino Real marker designating the oldest road in Missouri that was built by the Spanish in the 1700s. Or see the 1874 Windsor Harbor Bridge which is the oldest wrought iron bridge in the state. Just want to sit and rest? Check out the La Chance Winery. There is something for everyone on this trip.

We will depart Kimmswick late afternoon and arrive home about 6:30 p.m. with our minds and tummies full from our adventure. The trip cost includes transportation, all admissions, the dinner theater, lunch at the Blue Owl, overnight accommodations, and all gratuities.

Depart: 7:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 30
Return: 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 1

Escorts: Carole Spencer 573-694-5776
Cindy Stephens 573-280-0336

Cost: Single: \$410 \$250 due with registration
\$160 final payment due by March 27

Double: \$325 \$200 due with registration
\$125 final payment due by March 27

NATURE IN THE CITY

Exploring the Natural Side of Kansas City
Friday, May 24

Join us as we explore some beautiful areas in Kansas City—places where we find some unexpected examples of nature within a metropolitan area. This trip was planned for July 2023 but had to be cancelled due to extremely hot temperatures. We are hopeful the May date will work out better!

To begin our day, we will meet the coach for an early departure of 7:00 a.m., stopping for a comfort and food break at the McDonald’s in Knob Noster so you can grab a bite of breakfast if you wish.

Then, we head to the Missouri Department of Conservation’s Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center, which is situated on Troost Avenue just to the east of the Country Club Plaza in Kansas City. Our group will be divided in half with one group going on an outside guided tour of natural areas with short paved and natural trails through forest, woodland, wetland, and prairie habitats. The area has demonstration beds showcasing how native plants can be used for home landscaping. If the birds cooperate, we might even get to do some bird watching. The other group will get a brief introduction to the educational nature exhibits and rooms inside the building, and then create a simple craft item made with natural components such as leaf painting or making a rope from plant fibers. The Discovery Center staff will surprise us that day with the exact craft, depending on what materials are available. The groups will switch places after an hour so everyone will get to participate in both activities.

Next, we will pick up box lunches at Whole Foods (selection of menu to come later) and ride to the Jacob L. Loose Park where we’ll enjoy our box lunches in its covered pavilion. After lunch we will have time for a self-guided walk around the park. Loose Park is one of Kansas City’s most popular and historical parks. It is known as the site for the Civil War Battle of Westport, where Confederate forces were routed by Union forces in the area in which the park is now located. A short distance from the pavilion is the Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden. Today there are about 3,000 roses of nearly 130 varieties. If you want to know more about any rose while visiting the garden, bring your phone to scan the QR code provided on each rose sign.

Our last venue is the Ewing and Muriel Kauffman Memorial Garden. Diverse plant beds feature local and exotic botanicals that change with the seasons. Pruned foliage and flower plantings are framed by stone walls and shaped around fountains and sculpture pieces by Tom Corbin. A tropical greenhouse is the major architectural feature on the garden lawn. Before we enter the garden, an assistant will board the coach to discuss general topics and will be available for any questions as we explore the garden on our own.

We will be outside most of the day, so dress accordingly and wear comfortable walking shoes, as this trip will entail a considerable amount of walking. We will depart for Jefferson City with another comfort stop at McDonald’s in Knob Noster and arrive in Jefferson City at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Depart: 7:00 a.m.
Return: 6:45 p.m.

Escorts: Paula Hilkemeyer 816-518-9039
Wendy Hansen 573-645-2031

Cost: \$100 Total due with registration

IN THE STEPS OF *TWAIN*

Hannibal

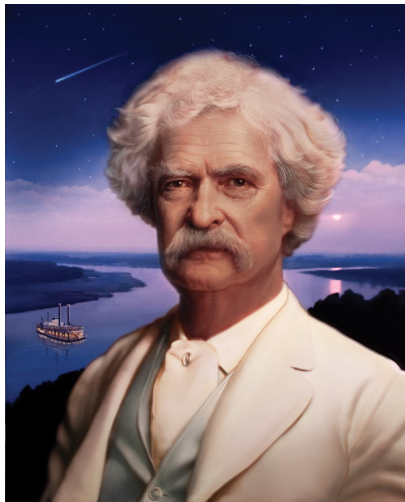
Wednesday-Thursday, June 5-6

Samuel Clemens, aka Mark Twain, was born and raised in the small Mississippi river town of Hannibal, MO. Every year, Twain's hometown welcomes hundreds of thousands who come to pay homage to this prolific author. We will join this group of fans on June 5-6 to learn more about the man and his hometown.

Once we arrive in Hannibal (comfort stop on the way), we will stop at the visitor's center to get information about the area. Then it's off to lunch at Fiddlestiks. After lunch, we'll head to Rockcliffe Mansion, the home of a former lumber baron, for a guided tour. This 13,500 square-foot mansion was built from 1898-1900 and housed John Cruikshank, Jr. and family until 1924. Next, we will venture into the downtown area to visit Mark Twain's boyhood home, the famous whitewashed fence, the town museum, and various other buildings that featured in Twain's life.

To really know Mark Twain, we also must spend some time looking at and discussing the muddy Mississippi River. First, we'll check into our hotel to freshen up because the evening will be spent on the Mark Twain Riverboat for a dinner cruise. This replica of the paddleboats that used to ply the Mississippi offers a bit of nostalgia for what Mark Twain must have seen.

On our second day in Hannibal, we'll have breakfast at the hotel, then board our coach to head for more adventures that remind us of Mark Twain. First, we will have a guided tour of the Mark Twain Cave. This cave opened for tours in 1886, one year after it was made famous by the publication of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. We'll have the pleasure of visiting the Cave Hollow Winery on the grounds which opened only a few years ago. After visiting the gift shop and having lunch at the winery, we will get to hear Mark Twain's words from a present-day impersonator. This live presentation conveys all that we have read about the witty and sardonically humorous writer and person.



Tired but knowing Mark Twain a bit better, we will board our coach for the trip home with a comfort stop on the way. The

cost of this trip includes coach, hotel, meals, venues, and gratuities. Join us as we walk in the steps of Mark Twain and learn more about Hannibal.

Depart: 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 5

Return: 5:00 p.m., Thursday, June 6

Escorts: John Gulick 573-536-1755
Cindy Stephens 573-280-0336Cost: Single: \$410 \$250 due with registration
\$160 final pay due by May 8Double: \$335 \$200 due with registration
\$135 final pay due by May 8**SPRINGFIELD CARDINALS**

Minor League Baseball

Wednesday, June 12

We've had quite a few requests to return to Hammons Field in Springfield, MO to attend a Springfield Cardinals baseball game. Your wish is our command!

There are very few day games scheduled, but we found something special in the spring called Educational Day, which just happens to fit our schedule. Learning in Retirement's main purpose is to advance our educational development, so it's a good match!

The Springfield Cardinals will be playing the NW Arkansas Naturals (a KC Royals affiliate) on a rare weekday DAY game (actually, it's a morning game) at 11:15 a.m. This makes it much easier to travel during the day and still get home before our bedtimes.

Accommodations at Hammons Field are great. We will be in the Champions Club (inside seating) with a furnished lunch/snack buffet with beverages (4) included. There is also seating outside the air-conditioned Club room (first base side of diamond), for those who prefer to be outside.

This has been a very popular day trip in the past, and we hope you will join us this year!

Depart: 8:00 a.m.

Return: 5:00 p.m.

Escorts: Vicki Ford 573-694-0014
Lee Bunch 573-797-3271
Mike Rehagen 573-636-5789

Cost: \$115 Total due with registration.

SQUABBLES

New Theatre, Overland Park, KS
Wednesday, June 19

Come join us as we travel to the New Theatre in Overland Park to see SQUABBLES starring George Wendt (Norm from Cheers) and his real-life wife Bernadette Birkett. This comedy is about the good, the bad, and the in-laws. Jerry and Alice are happily married. Then her father moves in with them. Then his mother moves in with them. Then all hell breaks out...family style.



To begin our journey, we will depart at 7:45 a.m. with a comfort stop at McDonald's in Knob Noster. We will arrive at the New Theatre in Overland Park at 11:15 a.m.



In addition to the laughs, travelers will also enjoy the wonderful New Theatre lunch buffet prior to the matinee. At 3:30 p.m. we will depart from the New Theatre with another comfort stop at McDonald's in Knob Noster. We should arrive back at the Walmart parking lot at 7:00 p.m.

Depart: 7:45 a.m.
Return: 7:00 p.m.

Escorts: Lee Bunch 573-797-3271
Martha Kleindienst 573-353-7582

Cost: \$95 Total due with registration

CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre
Thursday, July 25

Come join us for a visit to Willy Wonka's wonderful world of pure imagination. Five lucky young people find a golden ticket in their chocolate bars and win a tour of Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory.

Charlie Bucket, an imaginative boy from a poor family; .gluttonous Augustus Gloop; spoiled Veruca Salt; chewing gum celebrity Violet Beauregarde; and over-amped computer hacker Mike Teavee soon learn that no one leaves the same way they arrived. Based on Roald Dahl's weird and wonderful novel, this fantastical adventure features original music from the songwriters of *Hairspray*, as well as unforgettable songs from the 1971 classic film: "Candy Man," "I've Got a Golden Ticket," "Oompa Loompa Song," and "Pure Imagination."



You won't want to miss this musical! To begin our journey, we will depart from Jefferson City at 11:30 a.m. and arrive at Arrow Rock's Main Street at 1:00 p.m. (where those who would like to shop may get off the coach and walk to the theater on their own which is just 2-3 blocks away).

After the show, we'll enjoy dinner at Olive Garden Italian Restaurant in Columbia, where you will be able to choose from several options. After dinner, we will head back to Jefferson City arriving at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Depart: 11:30 a.m.
Return: 7:30 p.m.

Escorts: Kristin Eddy 571-217-9365
Lee Bunch 573-797-3271

Cost: \$110 Total due with registration