

# Cape Girardeau

## visitors guide

### WHERE THE RIVER TURNS A THOUSAND TALES

Nestled along the banks of the Mighty Mississippi River, you'll find Cape Girardeau, Missouri, a community rich in history and hospitality. For hundreds of years, people have been drawn to Cape Girardeau, and to the river on which it lies. Through those years, events and happenings along the river have helped define the community, region, and country, and have captured the imaginations of storytellers.

Today, through the celebration of its history and heritage, Cape Girardeau continues to attract visitors and modern "settlers." Here you'll discover more than two hundred years of rich stories and tales waiting to be shared, and an abundance of attractions and activities sure to make your stay enjoyable. Whether you're touring Civil War sites, hiking through a state park, enjoying a theatre production, shopping for antiques, visiting a winery, or simply taking a relaxing stroll along the riverfront, you're sure to see the beauty, culture and charm that has made Cape Girardeau the subject of memories and tales.

Cape Girardeau is indeed "Where the River Turns a Thousand Tales." And we're sure that after your visit, you'll not only have many wonderful memories, but also your own tales to tell.



Painting "Lewis and Clark: The Departure from the Wood River Encampment, May 14, 1804" by Gary R. Lucy. Courtesy of the Gary R. Lucy Gallery, Inc., Washington, MO • [www.garylucy.com](http://www.garylucy.com)

# Cape Girardeau

## CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

100 Broadway • Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
573.335.1631 • toll-free: 1.800.777.0068 • fax: 573.334.6702  
email: [info@visitcape.com](mailto:info@visitcape.com) • website: [visitcape.com](http://visitcape.com)

## **BOLLINGER MILL STATE HISTORIC SITE MILL & COVERED BRIDGE**

A visit to Bollinger Mill State Historic Site provides a pleasant glimpse into a bygone era. This 19th century gristmill processed grain for area farmers until the mid-1940's. Guided tours of the four-story mill feature a demonstration of water-powered cornmeal grinding on the original burrstones.

Today's mill is the third one built on this site. George Frederick Bollinger, who came to this area in 1797 from North Carolina, built the first two. He received a 640-acre land grant from Louis Lorimier, the Commandant at Cape Girardeau. In return for the land, Bollinger agreed to develop the land and to bring more settlers in from the East. He returned to North Carolina in 1800 and brought 20 families, including six of his brothers and their families, back to settle along the banks of the Whitewater River.

Burfordville Covered Bridge, built by Joseph Lansmon, was started in 1858. This is the oldest covered bridge remaining in Missouri.

## **LORIMIER CEMETERY**

Located at 500 N. Fountain, Old Lorimier Cemetery was established in 1808 as a public burial ground and given to the City by community founder, Louis Lorimier. George Lewis, cousin to George Washington, is buried here, along with numerous community leaders, including Louis Lorimier, Louis Houck, and Louis Cheney.

## **OLD ST. VINCENT'S CHURCH**

Built in 1853, this church is a beautiful example of 15th century, Italian Renaissance Architecture. The church is predominately built in Gothic style with some Roman influence, and features unusual medieval-design plaster masks portraying characters from the "Miracle and Mystery Plays." The architecture is rare. Very few churches of this style exist in America. On the National Register of Historic Places, the Church is designated as a "Chapel of Ease."

## **RED HOUSE INTERPRETIVE CENTER**

A project of the Cape Girardeau Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission, the "Red House Interpretive Center" commemorates the life of community founder Louis Lorimier and the visit of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to Cape Girardeau on November 23, 1803. Lorimier welcomed Meriwether Lewis to his home, the Red House. Today, the Red House Interpretive Center houses an early 1800's exhibit that reflects the lives of the early settlers of the "Old Cape Girardeau District." In addition, a recreation of Lorimier's Trading Post displays authentic items that would have been sold during the period.

## **MISSOURI'S STATE FLAG**

The Missouri State Flag was designed and created in Cape Girardeau by Marie Watkins Oliver in 1908. Mrs. Watkins' home, the Oliver-Leming House, now a private residence, has been established as a historical landmark and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

## **GLENN HOUSE**

In 1883, Edwin Branch Deane designed the Glenn House for his daughter, Lulu Deane, and her husband, David A. Glenn. Mr. Glenn, a Cape Girardeau merchant and banker, occupied the home with his family until 1915. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this wonderful house features restored rooms depicting life around 1900, reflecting an earlier Cape Girardeau society.

## **KAGE HOUSE**

Located at 120 Broadway, this home is reminiscent of eighteenth-century New Orleans architecture, and was built sometime before 1883. Louis Lorimier deeded the lot that the house sits on to his daughter in 1807. Since 1993 this grand old house has served as the Corporate Office of Midwest Energy and the home of Ye Ole House Gift Shoppe.

## **MUSEUMS**

### **SOUTHEAST MISSOURI REGIONAL MUSEUM**

Located in Memorial Hall on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University, this regional museum offers a wide variety of permanent and monthly exhibits. Permanent exhibits include The Beckwith Collection of Mississippian artifacts, which includes bowls, water bottles, and vessels with rudimentary male and female figures; The Blum Collection of Southwestern Indian arts and crafts, comprised of Navajo rugs, pottery, Kachina dolls, and Indian paintings; and The Houck Collection, which includes a life-size sanctuary and base reliefs produced by August Gerber, Cologne, Germany for the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. Monthly exhibits include pieces from private collections and professional artists.

### **CAPE RIVER HERITAGE MUSEUM**

Located at the corner of Independence and Frederick Streets, the museum features permanent and rotating exhibits. The Lorimier Room is named for community founder Louis Lorimier. The exhibits in this room are dedicated to the early history of Cape Girardeau. The Main Floor of the museum features 19th century historical and cultural exhibits. The River Room occupies the lower level of the Museum with exhibits that include a pictorial history of Cape Girardeau's riverboats, period clothing of riverboat travelers, and items found aboard some of the old riverboats. The River Room is popular with children, as several exhibits are "hands-on".

### **HOMETOWN TO RUSH LIMBAUGH**

Talk-radio phenomenon, Rush Limbaugh, was born and raised in Cape Girardeau. On our self-driving tour you will see the hospital where Rush was born and his childhood home, now a private residence. You'll see where he attended school and cruised Broadway, a tradition during Rush's high-school days. Included in the tour is the barbershop where he shined shoes and the radio station where this record-breaking broadcaster started his career. Call the Convention and Visitors Bureau to request a Rush Hometown Driving Tour brochure, or simply go to [visitcape.com](http://visitcape.com) for more information.

## CHAIN SAW CARVINGS

Throughout Cape Girardeau, you'll find numerous chain saw carvings by artist, August W. Birk. Created from trees damaged by storms or decay, the carvings offer unique impressions of historical figures and their tales.

## ST. LOUIS IRON MOUNTAIN AND SOUTHERN RAILWAY

The sights and sounds of this historic railroad excursion will carry you back to a bygone era. The track on which you'll ride is a part of the railroad that connected St. Louis and the rest of Missouri with New Orleans and the Southwest United States at the turn of the century. There are a variety of tours available, including sightseeing, the James Gang, Dinner Tour, Engine Rides, Caboose Rides, Murder Mystery excursions and much more. So for a great time...all aboard!

## CIVIL WAR SITES

### MINTON HOUSE *(Private residence)*

Located at 444 Washington, this house was used as a smallpox hospital during the Civil War. It was rumored that a tunnel led from the basement of the house to the Mississippi River, with an opening at Old Lorimier Cemetery. It was also rumored that the house may have been later used as a way station along the Underground Railroad system.

### COMMON PLEAS COURTHOUSE

Completed in 1854, this majestic courthouse sits high atop a hill overlooking the historic downtown area. It has played a big part in the community's history, ranging from Indian council meetings to the Civil War. Completed in 1854, its "dungeon" was used to jail southern sympathizers and perhaps confederate soldiers. Memorials to the Union and Confederacy are located on its grounds.

The ornamental clock, at the intersection of Main and Themis streets, was installed in 1986 as part of a renovation of the historic downtown shopping district.

## MURALS

### MISSISSIPPI RIVER TALES

Reflecting the area's rich appreciation of history, numerous murals create a beautiful backdrop to some of the city's most charming areas. The largest, and most dramatic of these, is the Mississippi River Tales Mural, located on the city's downtown floodwall. Covering nearly 18,000 square feet, this mural spans the length of the downtown shopping district, and features 24 panels that tell the tales of Cape Girardeau and the Mighty Mississippi. You'll discover why Cape Girardeau is, indeed, where the river turns a thousand tales. Be sure to stroll along the Mississippi River Tales mural, and enjoy Riverfront Park and the river walk.

**WELCOME TO CAPE GIRARDEAU** – Located on the river side of the floodwall, it depicts 200 years of the city's history.

**SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN** – Installed in 1947, these two tile murals are located on the side of the Southeast Missourian building at Broadway and Fountain. The south mural depicts "The Art of Printing," and features the Gutenberg Press and area newspaper pioneers. The north mural, "Gathering & Disseminating News," features famous visitors to the area, including John Phillip Sousa, Billy Sunday, and Harry Truman.

**COCA COLA** – Discovered by accident during sandblasting, this historic mural located at Broadway and Water has been restored to its original appearance.

**UNIVERSITY** – Located in the lobby of Southeast Missouri State University's Kent Library, this is one of the largest indoor murals in the state. It depicts the nature and development of Southeast Missouri.

**BICENTENNIAL** – Located at Broadway and Fountain, this mural depicts the founding of Cape Girardeau.

**HERITAGE OF MUSIC** – Located on the side of Shivelbine's Music Store at Broadway and Frederick, this mural celebrates the musical history of Cape Girardeau and depicts a historic photograph of Schuchert's Silver Cornet Band, which was active in the area at the turn of the 20th century.

**MISSOURI WALL OF FAME** – On the southern end of the floodwall, this mural features 45 famous people who were either born in Missouri or achieved fame while living in the state.

**AND MORE** – There are a number of other outstanding murals that you'll want to see while here including History of St. Francis, River Heritage, William Faulkner, Riverfest and History of Medicine.



Mississippi River Tales Mural

## PARKS & RECREATION

Whether you're an avid sportsman or simply someone who enjoys a bit of fresh air, Cape Girardeau has something for you. From parks and bike trails to campsites and golf courses, our community offers many great places to enjoy the great outdoors.

Throughout the year, Cape Girardeau's parks offer the best in organized sports and public recreation. Adults and children alike participate in various soccer, baseball, softball, and football leagues, as well as enjoy activities like tennis, rollerblading, swimming, and volleyball.

## BIKING & HIKING

Take advantage of a beautiful day by taking a walk or bike ride on the Cape LaCroix Recreation Trail, a 4-plus-mile, paved trail. Weaving through the community, the trail provides an excellent path for a summer stroll or for your child's stroller. The trail begins on the north side of the city at the Osage Community Centre and ends on the south side of the city at the Shawnee Sports Complex.

## GOLF

The rolling hills of Southeast Missouri create the perfect terrain for a challenging game of golf. Lush fairways, superb greens, and long seasons make Cape Girardeau a popular destination for serious and recreational golfers. Guests are sure to find a golf course that suits their level of play.

### ARENA PARK GOLF & PUTT PUTT

2901 Hawthorne • (573) 332-0860

### BENT CREEK GOLF COURSE

Jackson, MO • (573) 243-6060

### CAPE JAYCEE MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

Perryville Road • (573) 334-2031

### DALHOUSIE GOLF CLUB (A Jack Nicklaus-designed course)

302 Blackford Lane • (573) 332-0818

## TRAIL OF TEARS STATE PARK

With over 3,415 acres, Trail of Tears State Park offers a multitude of outdoor activities for the whole family. Featuring some of Missouri's most breathtaking scenery, the park provides a day or weekend full of adventure and discovery. Fishermen can cast their lines into the Mississippi River or into Lake Boutin, which is stocked with bass, bluegill, and catfish. Hikers can traverse the numerous trails and river bluffs, which offer spectacular views and lookouts; and the entire family can enjoy numerous wooded campsites and picnic areas, great for a relaxing visit.

## THE STORY BEHIND THE NAME

This pristine park creates a peaceful memorial to the "Trail of Tears," when 3,000 to 4,000 Cherokee died on a forced march to Indian territory, now Oklahoma. Ultimately more

than 16,000 Cherokee were forced to march on the "Trail of Tears" beginning in June 1838. In December 1838 and January 1839, the winter crossing of the Mississippi River from southern Illinois into southeast Missouri was extremely treacherous. For days the group suffered the cold January wind while hundreds who were sick or dying were penned up in wagons or merely lying on the frozen earth. Fatigue and illness claimed up to one-fourth of the men, women, children and elders of the tribes.

Trail of Tears State Park features an Interpretive Center designed to retrace the steps of the Cherokee through a series of interpretive panels. Paintings, maps and other memorabilia depict the crossing of the Mississippi River.

## CONSERVATION CAMPUS

Beautiful North County Park provides the setting for the Cape Girardeau Conservation Campus. Featuring a nature center, indoor and outdoor exhibits, outdoor learning stations, discovery trails, and wildlife viewing areas, this facility combines education with exploration, creating an interactive experience that increases the understanding and appreciation of Missouri's natural setting.

## LIVE MUSIC

Cape Girardeau is the perfect place to experience music on the Mississippi. Whether you prefer to see world-renowned entertainers at the Show Me Center or local musicians at a downtown club, our city has a variety of venues that create the ultimate audio experience. Classical, country, rock 'n' roll, blues, and jazz — it's all here waiting to be heard.

## SPORTING EVENTS

For college sports fans, the Redhawks of Southeast Missouri State University offer a year-round schedule of the world's most popular sports. Attend a summertime baseball game at Capaha Park, or experience the hard-hitting action of a Houck Stadium football game, a great game of basketball at the Show Me Center or an exciting volleyball match at Houck Field House. And that's not to mention gymnastics, golf, soccer and so much more sure to satisfy any sports enthusiast.

## ART GALLERIES

Cape Girardeau's art galleries feature touring collections as well as local exhibits, with many pieces available for purchase.

## & ANYTHING ELSE YOU CAN IMAGINE...

Rodeos, monster trucks, professional wrestling, figure skating, opera, and much, much more — you can find it all in Cape Girardeau! To find out what events will be happening during your visit, or to plan your visit around an event; ask for the latest edition of our calendar of events, or simply go to [visitcape.com](http://visitcape.com) and check our online calendar.