

Everyone knows the best place to get a look at St. Louis is through one of 32 windows at the top of the Gateway Arch. Luckily, [the trams that carry passengers to the observation deck 630 feet in the air reopened Wednesday](#) after having been closed since November for upgrades.

But the Arch's view isn't the only one in town. There are others to appreciate, with many providing a look at our favorite metal monument.

We came up with 50 St. Louis-area locations to admire the scenic surroundings. Most are open to the public, some offer a look at downtown and others show off nothin' but nature.

Do you have your own great photos of these views? Or maybe you have more suggestions for our list? Tell us about them on social media by using the hashtag **#stlviews**.

For a Google map of these view locations, visit

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1_7Y1406Lvkjwv5cNtaBWS4j7fA4&usp=sharing

For this story on stltoday.com, visit

http://www.stltoday.com/online/introduction/article_3851f2c0-e8aa-5ccf-87f8-f68bae01769b.html

--by Valerie Schremp Hahn, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

1. **Compton Hill Reservoir Park 1700 South Grand Boulevard** • Several fabulous views are to be had here: Walk the stairs up to the perimeter of the reservoir, which is great for running. One side runs along Interstate 44. Or wait until the water tower is open, usually on the first Saturday of the month or during a full moon, and climb up 198 steps for spectacular views in all directions.
2. **Malcolm W. Martin Memorial Park 185 West Trendley Avenue, East St. Louis** • This tiered Mississippi River overlook opened to the public in 2009 and offers a striking view of the St. Louis riverfront. Watch for the Gateway Geyser, the tallest water fountain in the country, which gushes up to 630 feet at noon, 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. from April through October.
3. **Bellerive Park 5570 South Broadway** • Enjoy sweeping views of the Mississippi River from benches or the overlook at the pavilion.
4. **Jefferson Barracks Park 345 North Road** • Several overlooks at this former military barracks will give you views of the Mississippi River and visiting deer. Check out the view from the patio of the free Powder Magazine museum.
5. **Chain of Rocks Bridge Paralleling Interstate 270 along West Chain of Rocks Road between Riverview Drive in St. Louis and Illinois 3 in Madison County** • This historic bridge is open to bikes and pedestrians. Watch for the 30-degree bend in the middle of the bridge and for the castle-like pump station in the middle of the Mississippi River.
6. **Weldon Spring 7295 Highway 94 South, Weldon Spring** • Climb to the top of the 75-foot-high Weldon Spring Disposal Cell (yes, the government built this site atop old TNT, DNT and uranium ore processing facilities) and you can see panoramic views of St. Charles County and the Hamburg Prairie.
7. **Busch Stadium 700 Clark Avenue** • If St. Louis has the best fans in baseball, we might have the best views, too. The view of downtown when you glance up from a Cardinals game can't be beat. [Go to cardinals.com to see the view from your seat.](#)
8. **Old North's Crown Square 14th Street between St. Louis Avenue and Warren Street** • If you're in this neighborhood just northwest of downtown, perhaps grabbing a chocolate-banana shake at Crown Candy Kitchen, you might have a moment where you look up and say, "Oh, hey." Just to the south you'll see a familiar friend, the Arch, rising above the Dome at America's Center.
9. **Thomas F. Eagleton United States Courthouse 111 South 10th Street** • Tours are available of this 29-story building, but provided you go through security, the views of the city

are vastly different whether you look out a west-facing window on the 10th floor or an east-facing window on the top floor.

10. **Eads Bridge Pedestrian access at Washington Avenue and Memorial Drive in Missouri**
 - A pedestrian walkway on this historic bridge also includes some overlook spots where you can pause and take in the view. Midway, look for the outlines of Missouri and Illinois on the concrete guardrail, and place one foot in each state.
11. **The Boathouse 6101 Government Drive, Forest Park** • Drink a beer on the restaurant's patio to take in the view of Post-Dispatch Lake, or rent a paddleboat and be part of the scenery.
12. **Art Hill 1 Fine Arts Drive, Forest Park** • If you're not digging the view of the Emerson Grand Basin from the top of Art Hill, run, roll or sled to the bottom, and then turn around and look. There's a fabulous view of the St. Louis Art Museum and the statue of the city's namesake, King Louis IX of France.
13. **Edward 'Ted' and Pat Jones-Confluence Point State Park 1000 Riverlands Way, West Alton** • This is the St. Charles County point where the Mississippi and Missouri rivers meet, and it's a literal point of land that juts out into the water. It's a great place for bird-watching and for imagining explorers Lewis and Clark embarking on their journey to the Pacific Ocean.
14. **Eckert's Millstadt Farm 2719 Eckert Orchard Lane, Millstadt** • Don't be envious of the goats' views from Eckert's infamous Gold Goat Bridge. Sit on the hay bales for the pig races, and get a beautiful view of the orchards beyond. Or take a seat near the Jack-O-Lobber, a cannon that chucks pumpkins into the fields. Beyond that you'll see the St. Louis skyline.
15. **Bee Tree Park 2701 Finestown Road** • This Oakville-area St. Louis County Park offers a few great views of the Mississippi River, among them an overlook shelter and the gardens and grounds of the Eugene Nims mansion, built in 1929 as a country retreat. Hike the Mississippi Trail for more.
16. **Montelle Winery 201 Montelle Drive, Augusta** • No doubt many St. Charles County wineries offer fabulous views, but the one from the terraced decks and patios of Montelle Winery is one of the best.
17. **Our Lady of the Rivers End of Le Seurre Street, Portage des Sioux** • A walkway extends to this 25-foot-tall, white fiberglass statue of the Virgin Mary, dedicated there in 1957 to commemorate the time a levee break spared the town.
18. **Three Sixty Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark, 1 South Broadway** • This downtown rooftop bar lives up to its name: views in all directions, and you can take them in while sipping a cocktail or having a bite to eat.
19. **Cielo Restaurant and Bar Four Seasons Hotel St. Louis, 999 North Second Street** • Enjoy sunrise yoga classes on Sunday mornings, a family-style Italian meal or a cocktail, all while enjoying sweeping downtown views of the city.
20. **Eclipse Restaurant at the Moonrise Hotel, 6177 Delmar Boulevard** • The space-themed venue offers the Rooftop Terrace Bar and the Twilight Room, where you can enjoy beautiful views of the Delmar Loop and beyond.
21. **Vin de Set 2017 Chouteau Avenue** • This Lafayette Square bistro offers upscale yet affordable French cuisine with an American twist. Enjoy St. Louis skyline views as you sip and eat.
22. **Kemoll's Restaurant and Top of the Met One Metropolitan Square, 211 North Broadway** • The Kemoll family has been serving Italian food in St. Louis for 90 years. The restaurant is on the 40th floor of downtown's tallest building, One Metropolitan Square; banquet facilities are on the 42nd floor.
23. **Klondike Park 4600 Highway 94 South, Augusta** • This 250-acre spot once was a silica sand quarry. It offers some of the few sandy beaches in the area and a lookout bluff with views of the Katy Trail and the Missouri River valley.

24. **Gateway Arch Riverboats and Helicopter Tours 50 South Leonor K. Sullivan Boulevard** • Travel up and down the Mississippi River on the Tom Sawyer or Becky Thatcher riverboat while a guide describes the architecture and history of Missouri. If you're feeling more adventurous, take in a bird's-eye view from a helicopter.
25. **Lewis and Clark Confluence Tower 435 Confluence Tower Drive, Hartford** • Check out views 50, 100 and 150 feet above the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, and learn the story of the William Clark and Meriwether Lewis expedition. Stairs and an elevator reach the three levels. On a clear day, you can see downtown St. Louis, 19 miles away.
26. **Columbia Bottoms Conservation Area 801 Strodtman Road** • This is the St. Louis County location for the confluence of our two big rivers, just across the Missouri from Confluence Point State Park. You can see the Lewis and Clark Confluence Tower in Hartford from here, as well as hike trails and visit a nature center.
27. **Castlewood State Park 1401 Kiefer Creek Road, Ballwin** • This park features about 26 miles of trails, including the popular River Scene Trail, which includes a wooden boardwalk that goes past the remains of the "grand staircase" to an old resort hotel and cabins. The trail provides views of the Meramec River Valley about 200 feet below.
28. **Creve Coeur Park 13219 Streetcar Drive, Maryland Heights** • Try the Lakeview Loop, which will get you up close and personal with the waterfowl on Creve Coeur Lake. For more views, visit the unique, saucer-shaped Greensfelder Memorial Shelter, paddle along the Creve Coeur Water Trail or go on a Go Ape! zip-line adventure.
29. **Colossus at Six Flags St. Louis, 4900 Six Flags Road, Eureka** • Climb into a covered gondola for a ride in Six Flags' 180-foot-tall Ferris wheel, which offers spectacular views of the park and its surroundings. It's lit up and runs at night, which provides a completely different viewing experience.
30. **Mississippi River Greenway** The 1.8-mile trail connects Jefferson Barracks Park to the north side of the River City Casino property and eventually to River Des Peres. Another part of the greenway, known as the Riverfront Trail, stretches from the riverfront at Chouteau Avenue to the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge. The mostly flat trail offers sweeping views of the Mississippi River and barge traffic.
31. **Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site 30 Ramey Street, Collinsville** • For a pre-Columbian view, climb to the top of Monk's Mound, where you can get a gander at the St. Louis (post-Columbian) skyline. Inside the museum, visitors can learn more about the most sophisticated, prehistoric native civilization north of Mexico.
32. **Bluff View Park 1900 Old State Road, Wildwood** • This park includes the 2½-mile Bluff View Trail. The trail through thick woods is challenging but offers an expansive view of the Meramec River Valley at the end.
33. **Fort Belle Fontaine 13002 Bellefontaine Road** • This park overlooking the Missouri River is on the site of what was the first military installation west of the Mississippi River, established in 1805. Explorers Lewis and Clark stayed here, too.
34. **India Palace 4534 Long Road, Bridgeton** • Come for the food; stay for the views of the airport runways from this restaurant on the 11th floor of an old Howard Johnson's. The former tiki bar still boasts its distinctive decor.
35. **Lewis and Clark Boat House and Museum 1050 South Riverside Drive, St. Charles** • Enjoy views of the Missouri River from porches and a huge picture window as you learn about the explorers' journey to the Pacific. Kids and kids at heart will like the dioramas depicting historical scenes.
36. **Pere Marquette State Park 13112 Visitor Center Lane, Grafton** • Views abound at Illinois' largest state park, which is on the Illinois River near the Mississippi River confluence. It's a great spot for eagle watching in January and February.

37. **Riverview Park Park Avenue, Alton** • This tiny park in the Christian Hill neighborhood of Alton offers sweeping views of the Mississippi River. The pavilion is a popular wedding ceremony spot and the site of municipal band concerts.
38. **Great River Road** The Great River Road technically extends from Minnesota to the tip of Louisiana, but our local stretch is pretty fabulous. Pull over at the Piasa bird or visit the National Great Rivers Museum in Alton, or stop for a bite or a stroll in Grafton or Elsah.
39. **City Museum 750 North 16th Street** • It's worth the extra expense to go to the City Museum rooftop. Museum director Rick Erwin recommends city views from the Ferris wheel, the driver's seat of the school bus or the walkway around the water towers.
40. **Graffiti wall South Wharf Street** • Yes, the Gateway Arch is nearby, but the graffiti wall along the riverfront steals the show. The artwork on the floodwall is always changing, visible from both land and river.
41. **Shaw Nature Reserve 307 Pinetum Loop Road, Gray Summit** • Enjoy 14 miles of hiking trails through a variety of landscapes, and take in the views from the overlook west of the Maritz Trail House and the paths in the glades, which come alive with wildflowers in the spring.
42. **Don Robinson State Park 9275 Byrnesville Road, Cedar Hill** • This state park, which opened this year, features cliffs, glades, forests and an overlook with rocking chairs. One parks resource steward says he can't think of another overlook in Jefferson County where you can look in all directions and not see another house.
43. **Horseshoe Lake State Park 3321 Highway 111, Granite City** • Horseshoe Lake was created from an old channel of the Mississippi River. Different Native American groups have lived here, the earliest evidence dating to 8,000 B.C. While you're fishing or camping, enjoy a unique view of the St. Louis skyline.
44. **Chase Park Plaza 212 North Kingshighway** • If you get invited to a wedding or special event on the rooftop terrace of the Starlight ballroom or in the adjacent Zodiac Room, go. If you're lucky, you'll get to see the sunset over Forest Park. If you don't get an invite, consider saving up for a condo, which comes with rooftop garden access.
45. **Missouri Botanical Garden 4344 Shaw Boulevard** • It seems a little like cheating to mention a place where all you need to do is crouch in a field of tulips for an excellent view, but try the views from the bridges in the Japanese garden, the porch of the Spink Pavilion, the observatory above the hedge maze or the "throne" in the Ottoman Garden.
46. **Grafton** Whether you're diving into the wave pool at Raging Rivers water park, sipping wine at Aeries Resort and Winery, or sipping beer at the Loading Dock, the tiny yet scenic city of Grafton can help you take in a Mississippi River view.
47. **St. Louis University Medical Center Stadium Track South Compton Avenue and Rutger Street** • This eight-lane track and stadium is meant for students, faculty and staff of the university, but it's also a favorite of neighbors wanting to squeeze in a walk or run. The St. Louis skyline offers a scenic backdrop.
48. **Steinberg Skating Rink 400 Jefferson Drive, Forest Park** • The Midwest's largest outdoor skating rink is more than just the rink: Look up and enjoy the surrounding trees, the strings of lights overhead, and the glow of apartments and hospitals of the bordering Central West End.
49. **Jefferson Barracks Cemetery 2900 Sheridan Road** • Rows upon rows of white tombstones stitch the green hillsides. Some sections have views of the Mississippi River, and near the Memorial Wall Plaza, you can see downtown St. Louis. Often, the deer will join you.
50. **Gateway Mall From the Arch to Union Station along Market Street** • Yes, this is a no-brainer for St. Louisans, but to omit the Gateway Mall from our list of great views would be taking it for granted. Among the buildings and traffic of downtown, the green space is refreshing. And it will only get better as various construction projects (Kiener Plaza, Soldiers Memorial and the Gateway Arch) wrap up.

