



### **Visit St. Joseph to See *Where the West Officially Started Getting Wild.***

**2009 -- St. Joseph, MO** -- Located on the river bluffs of the vast "Mighty-MO", St. Joseph is an All-American city born of the fur trade, and brimming with a spirit of adventure as the starting place of the Pony Express. Named America's "Top Ten Western City" by *True West Magazine* in 2008, it is a city abounding in 19<sup>th</sup> century charm and timeless beauty, with all the elements you would expect in a modern city. Located just 35 miles north of Kansas City International Airport, St. Joseph sits at the crossroads Interstate 29 and MO Highway 36.

St. Joseph has a history spanning 175 years, and their 13 area museums include the Pony Express Museum, dedicated to the 1860 mail service, The Patee House Museum, a glorious hotel turned 19<sup>th</sup> century museum, and next door you'll find Jesse James Home, where Jesse was shot in the by Bob Ford in 1882. You can learn about the town's military history at the National Military Heritage Museum, and view extraordinary art at the Albrecht-Kemper Museum. The history of mental health treatment is at the Glore Psychiatric Museum, one of three museums on the grounds of the St. Joseph Museums complex.

The Pony Express, which will be celebrating its sesquicentennial on April 3, 2010, has continued to fascinate Americans since Johnny Fry left St. Joseph April 3, 1860, heading west to Sacramento, CA. The Central Overland and California Pikes Peak Express Company carried letters and telegrams for 19 months proving the train and pony with riders could make the trip over 1,966 miles in 10-14 days. No event in American History has captured the imagination of young and old alike, more than the excitement created by those young riders and their horses, as they rode across the western half of our continent. St. Joseph will re-capture that excitement with various events throughout the year in 2010.

In St. Joseph, you'll also find a rich cultural life of the community through the St. Joseph Symphony, Performing Arts Association, and Robidoux Resident Theater. Nightlife includes Broadway caliber performances at the historic Missouri Theatre and original comedic skits at the Robidoux Landing Playhouse. Exciting nightlife can be found Downtown at the Felix Street Experience, a series of pubs, bars and nightclubs that line beautiful Felix Street.

Saint Joseph is also one of America's best kept secrets in terms of historic architecture. Officially founded in 1843, this town quickly grew to become one of the most important sites of commerce and trade for the West which is reflected in the city's extraordinary architecture. From "Gilded Age" mansions to Arts & Crafts bungalows, or Italianate commercial buildings to Romanesque Revival warehouses, St. Joseph is an "old building" lover's dream.

Their parks system is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is comprised of 1500 acres, containing 48 parks. Their amazing parkway system, developed in 1918 by architect George Burnap, ribbons through the city for 26 miles, and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995. A new addition this year is the Remington Nature Center, which offers a unique view into the evolution nature and civilization in northwest Missouri.

There are many regional tours that center on the history of St. Joseph. The most recent, a Jesse James Regional Driving Tour, created by the St. Joseph CVB, features 7 cities in 4 Missouri counties (St. Joseph, Kearney, Liberty, Independence, Richmond, Gallatin and Winston) that have faithfully preserved their own portion of the James' family story. (Downloadable brochure available at [www.stjomo.com](http://www.stjomo.com).)

For more information about St. Joseph check out their website at [www.stjomo.com](http://www.stjomo.com) or call 800-604-4600 to request a free guide.

