



OLD MAN RIVER

St Louis - Festus - Chester,IL - Cape Girardot - Fredericktown - Farmington - St Louis

Small Group Tour with Cargo Van SAG, AM Stop, Lunch Stop, Hotels

PRICE = \$ _____ for 10 rider minimum, \$ _____ for 15 rider maximum

Non-Refundable Deposit of \$300

Orientation: St Louis Pear Tree Inn Union Station, Tuesday, Oct 17 – 8pm

Departure St Louis Pear Tree Inn Union Station , Day Tuesday morning, Oct 24

Ever since the days of Tom Sawyer, the mighty Mississippi River has always been known as “Old Man River.” This tour will start near the Gateway Arch saluting all the pioneers that crossed the Mississippi to settle the West. We, on the other hand, will travel south along the river and cross over to Illinois for one day and then northwest into the rolling hills of Missouri. All of this area is rich in Native American history. The river played an important part in this country’s economic growth and the control of it was vital during the Civil War.



Tuesday, Orientation St Louis, MO Tuesday, October 17

Ride east if you want to check out the Gateway Arch or Busch Stadium among other sites. Once you reach the Mississippi River turn left onto the Riverfront Trail for an out n back ride. There will not be an organized warm-up ride. Enjoy a nice dinner at Union Station with its many restaurants.



Wednesday, St Louis to Festus (63 miles, 3461 ft climbing)

We venture west to the famous Forest Park, the site of the World’s Fair in 1904, and now home to many museums, a zoo, and plenty of bike paths. Then there’s Washington University and then south through the city to reach the River Des Peres Greenway. US Grant’s Western US Army Headquarters is the location of our morning food stop, now a historic site and a national cemetery.



Thursday, Festus to Chester, IL (73 miles, 4014 ft climbing)

We get rural today and head south to quaint and historic St Genevieve. We then ferry over the Mississippi into Illinois soaking up the French and Native American Heritage throughout this area, and then Fort Kaskaskia which protected early America's claim to the western frontier from England. We reach Chester for the night. Try to spot "Popeye" statues throughout the town. Pizza night!



Friday, Chester to Cape Girardeau (68 miles, 3212 ft climbing)

We cross back into Missouri and experience the rolling farmland throughout the morning. Lunch will be at the Trail of Tears State Park while everyone should soak up some history of our the Cherokee. We're headed to Cape Girardeau Marriott Courtyard in old town with its many restaurants nearby.



Saturday, Cape Girardeau to Fredericktown (66 miles, 4369 ft ele)

We now head westward to Fredericktown. The morning stop will be at a historic mill and covered bridge in Burfordville, and lunch will be beside The Hideaway. More rollers as we gradually climb from the river.



Sunday, Fredericktown to Bonne Terre (61 miles, 3854 ft ele)

More rolling terrain but now we'll be going through the start of Missouri's wine country. At one time, Missouri led the country in wine production. The Germans like their wine, too! After Farmington we ride through St Joe State Park to Bonne Terre.



Monday, Farmington to St Louis (66 miles, 4238 ft climbing)

We're heading back to the city. St Louis has gotten a bad rap the past decade, but I think it is bouncing back. By now, I hope you have a new take on Missouri and the middle of America. So, we'll be stopping at Anheuser-Busch, a great symbol of old and new. Remember, they were probably one of the first craft beers in America. Enjoy the last overnight in St Louis.