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Chinese Lantern Festival

St. Louis Missouri

Scheduled Departure: June 20 – 22, 2012

2 Nights – 3 Days

*Featuring 20 Larger Than Life Lanterns at the Missouri Botanical Garden
This tour is available to groups and individual travelers on the dates listed above*

The Missouri Botanical Garden is hosting one of China's most treasured events and ancient traditions - a lantern festival! The exhibition is the first of its kind and size in the United States and offers a unique opportunity to witness a spectacle that's rarely staged outside of Asia. But that's not all...take in the Muny Theatre performance of "Thoroughly Modern Millie" and enjoy an insider's tour of The Hill.

Day 1: St. Louis / St. Louis Cathedral Basilica / The Muny Backstage Tour & Performance

Arrive St. Louis airport and take the hotel shuttle. Meet you fellow travelers for lunch on your own in the Central West End, an eclectic, cosmopolitan showplace of St. Louis. There you'll find a fine selection of restaurants and sidewalk cafes nestled in with notable art galleries, antique shops, specialty shops, boutiques and bookstores. After lunch enjoy a tour of the magnificent St. Louis Basilica where you'll be awestruck by the world's largest collection of mosaic art. This evening go behind the scenes at The Muny where you'll be escorted through the maze of mammoth stage sets. You'll see where and how those sets are designed and built, and learn the history of The Muny. The tour culminates on the Muny's grand stage itself! Enjoy a bountiful buffet dinner at the Muny's Culver Pavilion before the performance, Thoroughly Modern Millie, the tale of a small-town girl arriving in New York City to lead a new, thoroughly modern lifestyle. A big, fun-filled show done in true Muny fashion...Millie is filled with energetic dance numbers, fabulous flappers, and the spectacle of 1920s New York. Crowne Plaza Hotel, Clayton, MO (D)

Day 2: St. Louis/ The Hill / St. Ambrose Church / Missouri Botanical Garden Tram Tour / Chinese Lantern Festival

This morning meet our local guide for an insider view of The Hill, St. Louis' famous Italian-American Neighborhood.

You'll have an opportunity to learn and experience why this beloved neighborhood remains a special place to visit. Enjoy a ravioli making demonstration, savor and sample as you visit wonderful Italian markets and bakeries; visit historic St. Ambrose Church where you'll learn the colorful history of the Italian immigration to the area, why they came and stayed, plus a primer on local Italian-American culture and customs. You'll also find an array of Italian made crafts and souvenirs awaiting you as well as an authentic Italian lunch. Nearby we'll visit the Missouri Botanical Garden, founded in 1859, it is one of the oldest botanical institutions in the United States. Their Lantern Festival: Art by Day, Magic by Night, debuts for the first time in 2012. You'll have an opportunity to view the garden by tram during the day, then return in the evening for an international exhibition of 26 larger-than-life, lighted works of art from China. Besides the lighted lanterns in the evening, enjoy acrobatic performances, a marketplace, food and a "wish tree." (Note: evening performance is lawn seating, you may want to bring a chair or blanket; plenty of room to stow on the coach) Crowne Plaza, Clayton, MO (B, L, Reception)

Day 3: St. Louis / Galleria - Art Museum - St. Louis Zoo - Jefferson National Expansion Memorial

Today, enjoy St. Louis "Your Way." If you're a shopper, it doesn't get any better than the St. Louis Galleria. Did you know that St. Louis is just behind Washington DC in the

number of free attractions? Our coach will shuttle you to the attraction of your choice: St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis Zoo or the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. We'll rendezvous in the afternoon for our coach trip home. (Note:

admissions are free, but there is a charge for extra features/exhibits.) Take hotel shuttle to the St. Louis airport per your schedule. (B)

PRICE PER PERSON:

Double: \$639

Single: \$789

Triple: \$599

Deposit \$200 per person due with reservation. Final payment due 60 days before departure. Cancellation policy: Fully refundable 60 days before departure; 59-45 days before departure \$200; 44 days and less: no refund.

Tour begins and ends in St. Louis. Arrive airport before noon; depart after 3pm.

HIGHLIGHTS

- St. Louis Cathedral Basilica
- "The Muny" Backstage Tour
- "Thoroughly Modern Millie" at the Muny
- Missouri Botanical Garden Tram Tour by day
- Chinese Lantern Festival by night
- Guided tour of "The Hill" with ravioli making demonstration
- Visit Historic St. Ambrose Church
- Your choice of attractions: Shopping the Galleria, St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis Zoo, or Jefferson National Expansion Memorial at the Arch

INCLUDES

- Round trip shuttle from St. Louis airport to hotel
- Transportation by luxury coach
- 2 nights first class accommodation
- Baggage handling for 1 suitcase
- 5 meals: 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 dinner, 1 reception
- Admission to included attractions highlighted in the itinerary
- All taxes and gratuities (including driver)
- Professional Tour Director

**To receive a detailed proposal of this tour or to get this package customized specifically for you and your group, call us at
800-769-5912**

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