

**Independence, Missouri
Tourism Department**

Independence
MISSOURI

“An American Original”

City Hall
111 East Maple
Independence, MO 64050
USA

- Truman Presidential Museum & Library
- Truman Home
- Santa Fe, Oregon & California Trails Attractions
- Victorian Mansions
- 1859 Jail & Museum
- Missouri Mormon Heritage Sites
- Historic Independence Square & Jackson County Courthouse
- 3-time “All America City”
- "Preserve America" City, 2006
- Three Golf Courses

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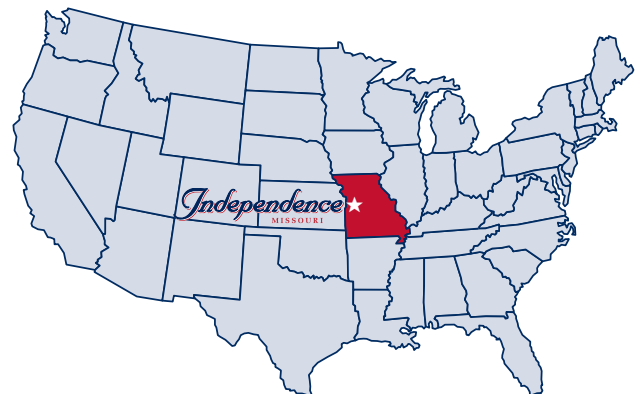
Destination Overview

From pioneers to presidents, enjoy 16 heritage attractions, all within a short distance from the downtown historic square. Home to President Harry Truman and the beginning of the Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails. Groups enjoy a variety of Truman sites including the newly renovated Truman Presidential Museum and Library, Victorian mansions, the National Frontier Trails Museum, the 1859 Jail and Marshal’s Home, plus religious sites that have received national architectural recognition. A wonderful location for a holiday trip, with all sites participating in the “Spirit of Christmas Past.”

- 16 heritage attractions
- 11,000 sq. ft. Convention Center with hotel in large restaurant district
- 16 hotels/motels
- Numerous restaurants, shopping centers, antique stores
- New Family Waterpark
- 4th largest city in Missouri

Geographic Description

The rolling hills and dramatic bluffs of Independence provide a beautiful landscape for this heritage tourism city. Located in west central Missouri in the center of the United States just minutes from downtown Kansas City and four hours north of Branson. Easy access from I-70 & I-435. With a population of 114,000, Independence offers a blend of hometown heritage with modern-day amenities.



Independence Sites

1827 Log Courthouse - First courthouse in Jackson County. Harry Truman held weekly court here in 1930s.

1859 Jail, Marshal's Home and Museum - The dungeon-like cells housed famous prisoners Frank James and William Clark Quantrill. Historic Jail includes home of county marshal, 12 cells, schoolhouse and museum.

Bingham-Waggoner Estate - 1850s Victorian Home to Missouri artist George Caleb Bingham. Rustic carriage house available for meals. Wagon swales are located southwest of the main house.

Community of Christ Auditorium & Temple - Unique architectural appeal, museums, a Children's Peace Pavilion and two world renowned organs. Concerts available. (Free on Sunday & daily during summer.)

Englewood Theatre - Restored "1949" theatre offering classic and first-run films. Group bookings available.

Harry S. Truman Office & Courtroom at Historic Jackson County Courthouse - Truman began his career here as a county Judge; 28 minute show highlights his rise to power and life in Independence.

Historic Independence Square - 6 antique shops, 4 historic sites, 15 gift & specialty stores, 8 restaurants.

Leila's Hair Museum - Only museum in the nation dedicated to this art form that died out in the early 1900s. Antique hair jewelry and wreaths.

Mormon Visitors Center - Learn of Mormons' role in developing the West. Follow the triumphs and tragedies of these stoic early day pioneers. Renovated in 2006.

National Frontier Trails Museum - Independence was the "jumping off" point for the Oregon, California and Santa Fe Trails. Authentic covered wagons, original trail diaries, and a variety of programs that focus on Laura Ingalls Wilder. Covered wagon rides and special evening meals and entertainment available. Chicago & Alton Depot, built in 1879, relocated on grounds in 1996.

Pioneer Spring Cabin - One room log cabin built in 1850s offers glimpse at austere pioneer life.

Puppetry Arts Institute - features a collection of Hazelle Rollins, a nationally known puppeteer who began manufacturing marionettes in 1932. Groups can make their own puppet heads.

Truman Home - Known as the Summer White House, President Harry S Truman's home appears exactly as it was in 1972 when he passed away.

Truman Presidential Museum & Library - Recent renovations include a multi-media exhibit on the Truman Presidency, interactive decision theaters, a replica of the Oval Office, and award-winning film. New permanent exhibit on Truman's life and Presidency. Special exhibits include Churchill and the Great Republic, August 19, 2006 – October 15, 2006; and Caroline Kennedy Dolls, November 18, 2006 – April 15, 2007.

Vaile Mansion - Best example of Second Empire Victorian architecture in nation, 31 rooms of Victorian opulence.

Walking Trails - "Missouri Mormon Trail" features 14 plaque sites along a mile-long route. The "Truman Trail" has 43 locations around the historic Square and neighborhoods.

Enhance Your Tour with Performances or Entertainment

- Special Christmas activities and events
- Horse-drawn Covered Wagon or Sleigh Rides
- Harry S. Truman Impersonator
- Victorian Fashion Show and Parlor Games
- Pioneer stories accompanied by dulcimer
- Old time Barn Dancing
- Afternoon Tea at the Vaile Mansion
- NEW – Discount program with the "New Theatre" in Kansas City

Special Offer for 2006-2007

"Buck Stops Here" program provides a free step-on guide for a 45 minute driving tour, a buck off baggage handling, and a welcome reception for groups booking an overnight in Independence.

Services for Group Tour Operators

- Special itineraries including *Presidents & Pioneers*, *Girlfriends (Red Hatters)*, *Off the Beaten Path*, *Grandparents* and three-city tours with Kansas City and St. Joseph
- Group tour manuals, videos and photo CD's
- Free customized itinerary planning
- One-call site and performance reservation service
- Step-on guides and receptive motorcoach referrals

Miscellaneous

- Site inspections available
- Minutes from riverboat casinos
- 15 minutes from Kansas City Royals Baseball & Kansas City Chiefs Football Stadiums
- 12 miles east of Kansas City attractions including Arabia Steamboat Museum