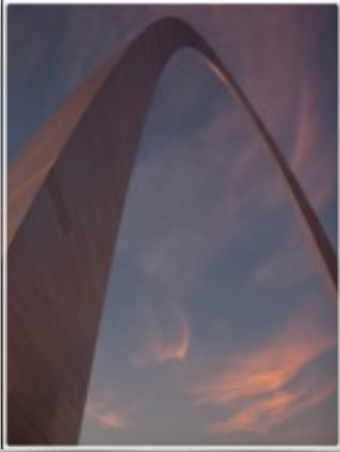




GATEWAY TO THE WEST

... great days in St. Louis

It is already our second time here in St. Louis Missouri. This time we brought more time with us to explore this magnificent city on the banks of the Mississippi. And once again I can say we could stay here weeks, because the city gives thousands of reasons to stay here.



WELCOME TO THE TOP





The symbol of the city is the 629 foot tall Arch, the gateway to the West which is part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial.

Guess who started their trail to Oregon here? If you said the Gefeke's you are absolutely wrong, it was Lewis and Clark. Even today St. Louis is considered the door to the West. Because of the fear of flooding they did install dikes all along the shores of the Mississippi, so that it is

not that beautiful as the shores of the Rhein or Mosel. On top of that

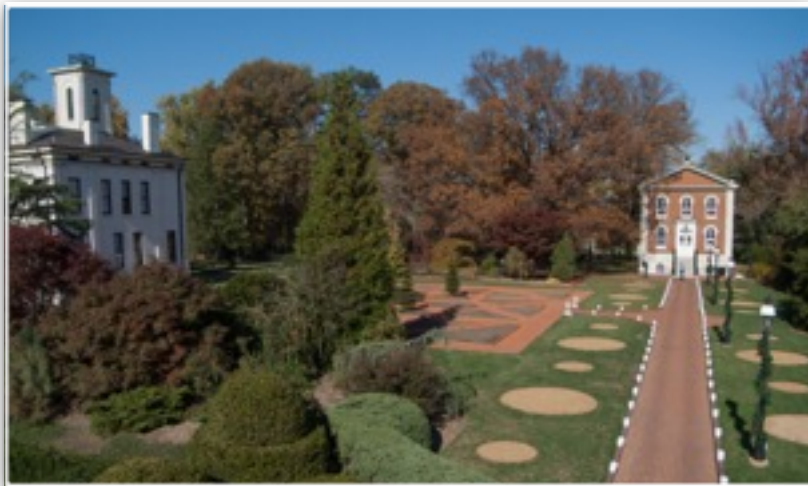
there is industry and/or harbors which do not help to make it look attractive. Still we found good neighborhoods, the Hill is ruled by the Italians, and the Lafayette Square is in the iron hand of the French (at least till the Germans invade), the Loop belongs to the college students... Till World War one was there a German neighborhood, but they changed overnight to become Dutch, I have not the slightest idea why ;) The highlight of the city are the parks, churches, and museums. No matter of your skin color, religion, sex, sexual orientation this places are free to explore, where else can you find that? Serious tell us, remember I am retired and want to save money. The zoo, the famous Art museum, a gigantic nature museum, and many many parks. Especially the Forest Park did impress us. This park is bigger than the famous central park in New York City (1371 acres to 843 acres). Here we relish the autumn days with long walks and visits of various museums. Waterways, bike lanes, trails, forests, lakes, golf and tennis courts, soccer fields, fire pits, picnic areas with a grill and signs telling us to "step on gras" shows us, why this park was the ground of the World Expo of 1904.







FOREST PARK





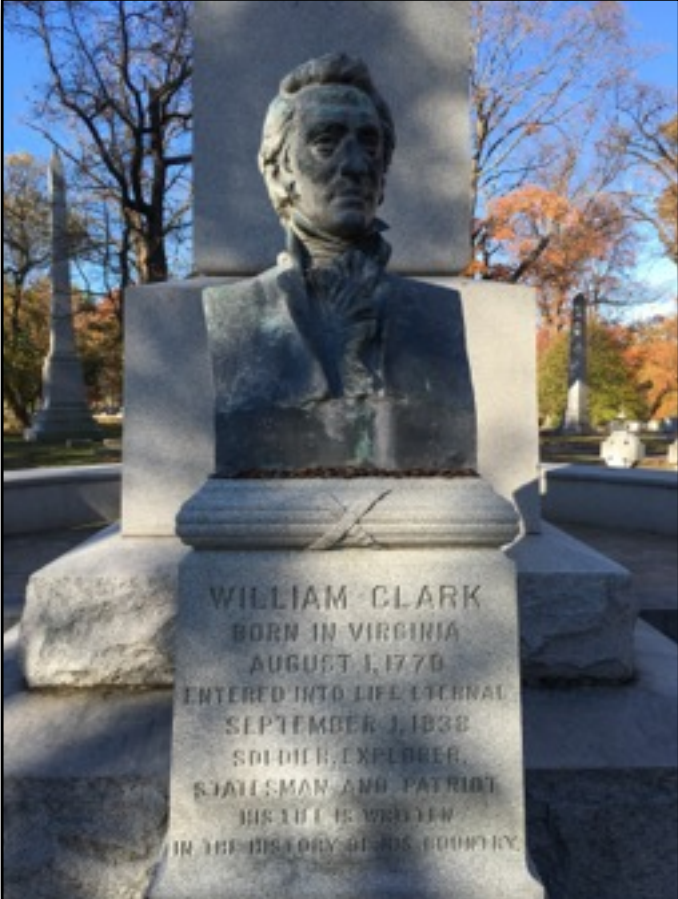
Noah is tired every night!



When in other cities I love to go to the cemetery to learn about the history and the people who helped make the city/state/country what it is today. Also the area usually has great Flora and Fauna. At the entrance you should ask for a map which will tell you where the rich and famous are having their eternal sleep. Usual in the USA that you can drive your car in boneyards since some of them can be huge.



So we went to the Bellefontain cemetery the resting place of William Clark (I swear we do not follow him) Also there is a 331 acres military cemetery which is the resting place of about 190,000 soldiers which have been buried here since 1829.







If you drive through Illinois or Missouri you will encounter the legendary, the mother of all streets, Route 66.

Everywhere we look, we are reminded of her existence, if it is with signs or museums. Most of the original has been the victim of time, meaning that over the last decades it gave way to modern infrastructure so that the old diners and gas stations are now gone. That makes it even more amazing if you find a still original parts of the route. So we went and saw the Chain of Rocks Bridge which has something unique to it, while crossing the Mississippi it makes a 22 degree curve right over the river. One thing we did not expect was that there are rapids in the Mississippi so that ships need to be routed around them in a canal which was built.





Nothing would make
Pope Francis
happier than YOU
becoming
CATHOLIC!

For more information on
joining the Catholic Church, call
314.373.8202
or visit
www.cathedralstl.org



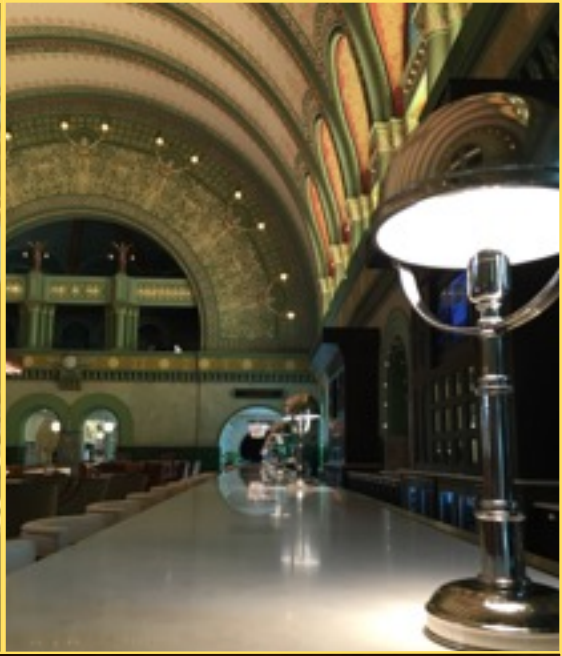
St. Louis is home of the catholic bishop and has an fantastic cathedral which has the biggest mosaic in the world. After I reached 41 million of the glass pieces I gave up counting, but trust me there are way more than that. And if you do not trust me I dare you to count them all. The beauty can't be transferred to pictures.





While in St. Louis the NFL team had a home game, which means TAILGATEN. Other than in Europe before football games do both sides of the fans celebrate and party in front of the stadium in harmony. With beer, BBQ, games, and beer, no police, no hooligans. Hundreds of grills in the parks mark the way to the stadium with the beautiful smells. You encounter the armature with just a small grill and a cooler in the back of the pickup truck all the way to the pros with generators, TV and dishes. Overall just an amazing party. They even let Beate partake with her Cowboy jersey, that's how tolerating the fans are. Even though with what happened on Friday in Paris the police was not seen, even though they tightened up the security here in the USA as well.





Another highlight in St. Louis: Central Station. Once the largest station in the US it's now a great hotel, a shopping and a party center.



LOST AND FOUND

OTHER THINGS TO BE MENTIONED



Only in the US, because you don't
have a TÜV !!
Lucky Americans!

we did 66666



like the birds:
we are heading south!

you can reach us:

gefeke@freenet.de

(915) 667 - 0501 or (915) 667 - 0595

[Facebook](#)

Whatsapp

[skype](#)

That's it for today. Have a nice week!

Beate, Rudy and Noah

