



DAY TRIP TO TIMES BEACH

From St. Louis · St. Louis County, Missouri



MILL, LUMBER
AND COMPANY



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STATE PARK

Demolished town, now Route 66 State Park, run by Missouri State Parks. Open daily.

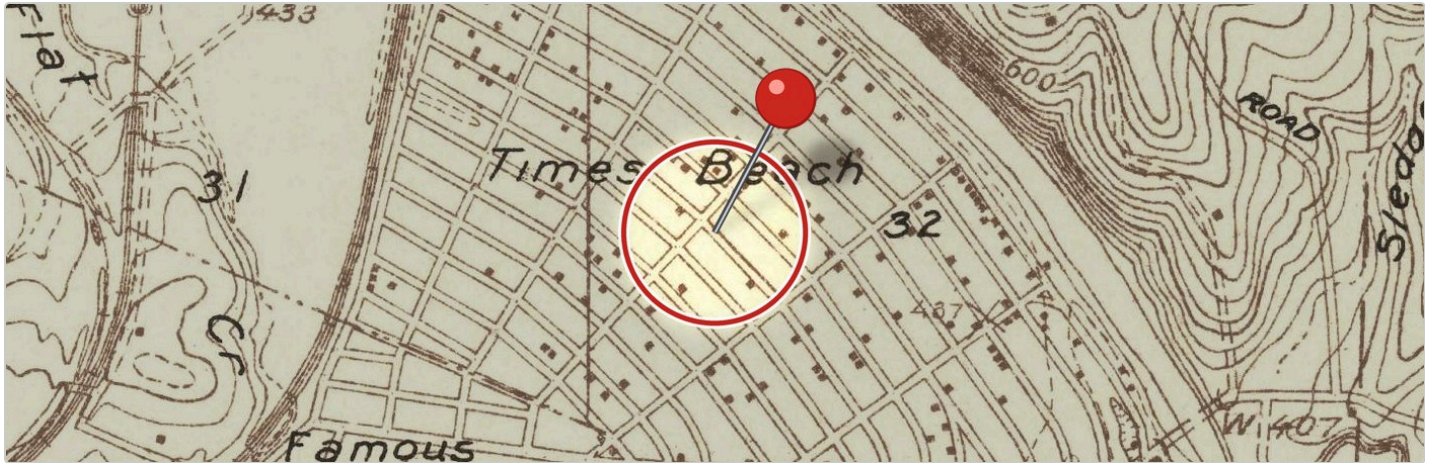
Times Beach is a half day from St. Louis. From March through October, start in the visitor center, where the exhibits tell the town's story, then walk or bike the flat trails over the old townsite. There's no food service listed for the park, so bring a picnic.

A SAMPLE DAY

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| ☐ 8:30 a.m. | Leave downtown St. Louis on I-44 west. Take exit 266, about 35 minutes. |
| ☐ 9 a.m. | The visitor center opens. Start with the Times Beach displays, then the Route 66 memorabilia. |
| ☐ 10:30 a.m. | Look at the old bridge from beside the visitor center. It's closed, so stay off it. |
| ☐ 11 a.m. | Walk or bike the trails across the old townsite. The Inner Loop is paved. |
| ☐ 12:30 p.m. | Picnic lunch in the picnic area. |
| ☐ Afternoon | Head back to St. Louis, or stop in Eureka on the way. |

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The bridge.** The 1931–1932 truss, without its deck since 2010, makes the best picture from the riverbank by the visitor center. Stay off it.
- **The roadhouse.** The visitor center is the 1935 Bridgehead Inn. Shoot the front from the parking lot.
- **The townsite.** Open fields and woods where streets used to be. Compare your photos with the 1945 and 1979 maps on this page.
- **Drones.** The park pages we read don't cover drones. Ask the park office before you fly.



USGS topographic map, 1931 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	25 mi, about 35 min each way from downtown St. Louis. From Eureka: 3 mi, about 6 min.
OPEN	Grounds daily, 7 a.m. to half an hour after sunset, year-round. Visitor center 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, March through October; from November through February it opens only in the second week of December. Park buildings close on state holidays.
ADMISSION	The park pages we read list no entrance fee. Picnic shelters can be reserved for \$70 a day.
EXHIBITS	Route 66 memorabilia and displays on Times Beach as a resort and a cleanup, in the 1935 roadhouse. A gift shop sells Route 66 items.
RESTROOMS	Two accessible restrooms in the visitor center. The picnic area has a restroom, and restrooms and water near the picnic shelters are open April 1 to October 31.
FOOD AND WATER	No food sales listed. Picnic sites, shelters and a drinking fountain are in the picnic area.
ON FOOT	Hard-surfaced, mostly level trails for walking, biking and horseback riding. The Inner Loop Trail is paved and accessible.
PHONE	636-938-7198
WEBSITE	mostateparks.com/park/route-66-state-park

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Keep out of unstable buildings and off fenced ruins.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 38.50861, -90.60250 • 38°30'31"N
90°36'09"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/missouri/times-beach/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.