When evening falls, take a stroll through the Historic Districts under the glow of antique gaslights or relax to the soothing sounds of horses’ hooves clip clopping along while snuggling in a horse-drawn carriage.

Saint Charles’ riverfront Historic Districts are filled with quaint shops, brick-lined streets and quiet places for reflection. Enjoy creative cuisine that includes American fare, French, Mexican, Italian and Spanish influences.

Early explorers and pioneers made Saint Charles their place of choice for shopping in the 19th century. Today, you can walk those same streets, shop in the same buildings, but rather than pelts and barrels of nails, you will find unique specialty items, home accessories, artwork and many other one of a kind gifts in any of the 125 individual shops.
With a handshake, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark departed the riverbank in Saint Charles, amid cheers from the many citizens along shore. With each step and billow of sail, they began what many historians consider the greatest military expedition in U.S. history. Gone two years and four months, the Discovery Expedition traversed the wild, largely unknown Missouri River valley and western territories, scaled the Great Divide, reached the Pacific, and then came back by land.

Today, you can still explore the “butiful” countryside that Lewis and Clark remarked of so frequently. As their trip began in 1804, Lewis and Clark and their Corps of Discovery passed through what was later to become the State of Missouri. During their travels, they documented their observations with volumes of carefully detailed journals. Thanks to these efforts, visitors may follow in their footsteps today beginning in St. Charles.
For well over 200 years, visitors have been settling into their comfortable rooms for the night as they listen to the rhythm of horse drawn carriages or fife music in the distance. Our overnight guests have included explorers, pioneers, statesmen and steamboat captains. As evening descends on our Missouri River village, the essence of history and life in a simpler time envelops you. Come and be our guest at one of our many bed and breakfasts or hotels.