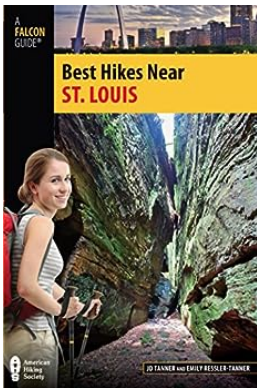


Best Hikes Near St Louis - Explore the Great Outdoors

St. Louis, located in the heart of Missouri, is a city known for its vibrant culture and rich history. However, just a short drive from the bustling city, you can find yourself in the midst of breathtaking natural beauty. With numerous hiking trails in the region, St. Louis offers outdoor enthusiasts a chance to escape the daily grind and explore the great outdoors.

In this article, we will take a closer look at some of the best hikes near St. Louis, providing you with an opportunity to connect with nature, get some exercise, and rejuvenate your mind and body.

1. Castlewood State Park



Best Hikes Near St. Louis (Best Hikes Near Series)

by JD Tanner (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 37248 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 314 pages



Located just 30 minutes west of downtown St. Louis, Castlewood State Park is a hidden gem for hikers of all levels. The park offers a variety of trails that wind through dense forests, along the banks of the Meramec River, and up to breathtaking overlooks.

One of the most popular trails in Castlewood is the River Scene Trail. This 3.25-mile loop takes hikers through rocky terrain, offering stunning views of the river and surrounding cliffs. Be sure to bring a camera to capture the picturesque scenery!

2. Rockwoods Reservation



For those seeking a more secluded hiking experience, Rockwoods Reservation is the perfect destination. Situated just 30 minutes west of St. Louis, this 1,880-acre nature reserve offers a peaceful escape from city life.

With over 13 miles of hiking trails, Rockwoods has something for everyone. Take a leisurely stroll through the forest on the Lime Kiln Loop Trail, or challenge

yourself on the rugged Dogwood Ridge Trail. Don't forget to keep an eye out for the abundant wildlife that calls this reserve home!

3. Katy Trail State Park



Stretching over 240 miles across the state of Missouri, the Katy Trail State Park is a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts. This former railway is now a popular hiking and biking trail, offering breathtaking views of the Missouri River and the surrounding countryside.

While the full length of the trail may be too much for a single day hike, there are several access points near St. Louis that allow you to experience the beauty and serenity of this trail. Pack a picnic and spend a day exploring the picturesque landscapes along the Katy Trail!

4. Shaw Nature Reserve



If you are a nature lover and enjoy botanical gardens along with your hiking adventures, Shaw Nature Reserve is a must-visit. Spanning over 2,400 acres, this reserve is home to numerous hiking trails, vibrant gardens, and diverse ecosystems.

Take a peaceful walk through the Whitmire Wildflower Garden, bursting with colorful blooms, or venture out on the Wetland Trail and observe the unique flora and fauna that thrive in this wetland habitat. Shaw Nature Reserve offers a truly immersive experience in nature.

5. Washington State Park



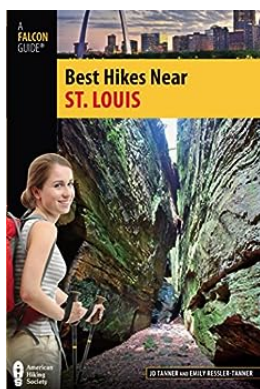
Last but certainly not least, Washington State Park is a hiker's paradise located just an hour south of St. Louis. Boasting rugged trails, towering bluffs, and ancient petroglyphs, this park offers a unique hiking experience.

Embark on the Missouri River Trail and prepare to be amazed by the stunning views from the top of the bluffs. Don't miss the petroglyphs, ancient rock carvings

created by Native Americans centuries ago. Washington State Park is a true hidden treasure for outdoor enthusiasts.

So, if you're looking to escape the city and immerse yourself in nature's beauty, be sure to check out these best hikes near St. Louis. Whether you're an experienced hiker or a beginner, there's a trail waiting for you to explore. Pack your hiking gear, grab a friend, and get ready to embark on an unforgettable adventure!

Keywords: best hikes near St Louis, hiking trails, outdoor enthusiasts, nature, Castlewood State Park, Rockwoods Reservation, Katy Trail State Park, Shaw Nature Reserve, Washington State Park



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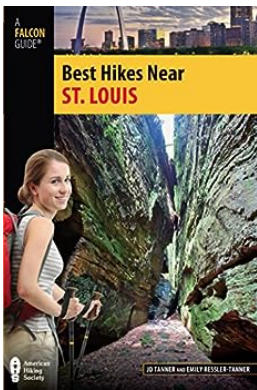
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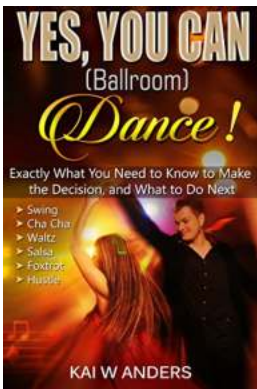
It's not necessary to travel far from home for a great hike. With these information-packed guides in hand, readers have everything they need for the adventure they seek, from an easy nature walk to a multiday backpacking trip. Each hike includes: location, length, hiking time, level of difficulty, and if dogs can come along. Other features include:

- Trail finder chart that categorizes each hike (e.g. for particular attractions such as waterfalls and if it's suitable for families with kids)
- Full-color photos throughout
- Information on the area's history, geology, flora, and fauna
- Full-color maps of each trail



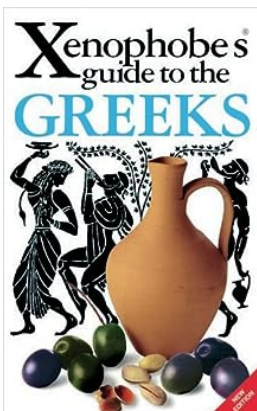
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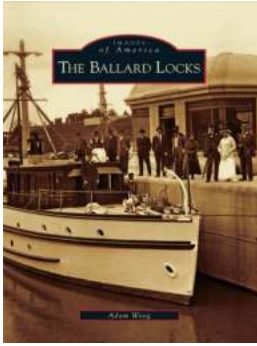
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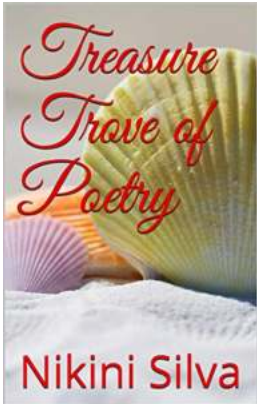
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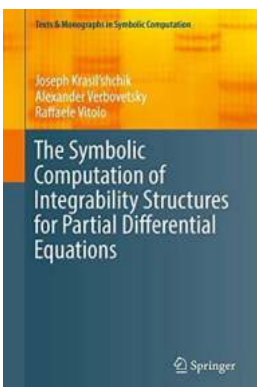
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