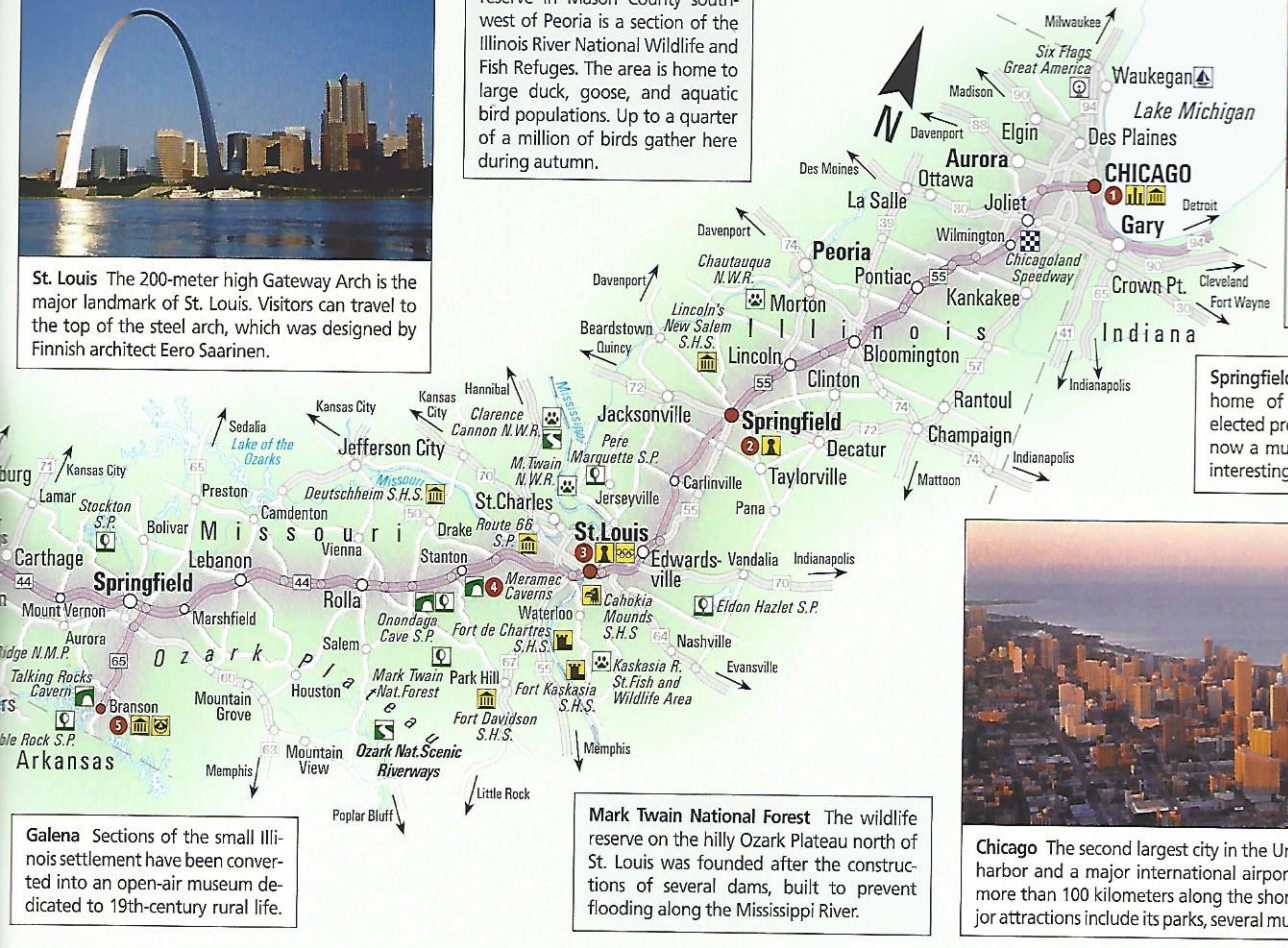
St. Louis The 200-meter high Gateway Arch is the major landmark of St. Louis. Visitors can travel to the top of the steel arch, which was designed by Finnish architect Eero Saarinen.

Chautauqua N.W.R. The 20-km² reserve in Mason County southwest of Peoria is a section of the Illinois River National Wildlife and Fish Refuges. The area is home to large duck, goose, and aquatic bird populations. Up to a quarter of a million of birds gather here during autumn.

Lake Michigan One of the five Great Lakes, Lake Michigan is 560 kilometers long and 135 kilometers wide with a total area of over 58,000 kilometers.



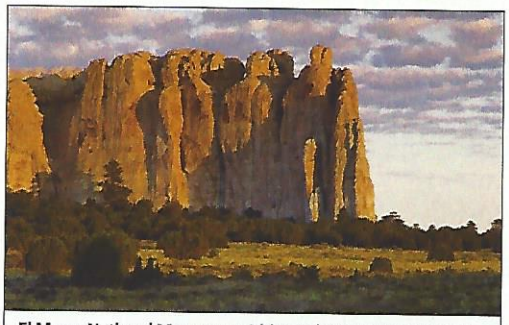
Springfield The capital of Illinois was the home of Abraham Lincoln until he was elected president in 1861. His former house is now a museum. The state capitol is another interesting local attraction.

Galena Sections of the small Illinois settlement have been converted into an open-air museum dedicated to 19th-century rural life.

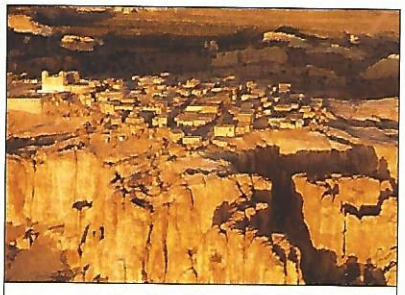
Mark Twain National Forest The wildlife reserve on the hilly Ozark Plateau north of St. Louis was founded after the constructions of several dams, built to prevent flooding along the Mississippi River.

Chicago The second largest city in the United States has both a busy inland harbor and a major international airport. Chicago and its suburbs extend more than 100 kilometers along the shore of Lake Michigan. The city's major attractions include its parks, several museums, and impressive skyscrapers.

The Painted Desert The stones in this northern section have a distinctive bright red color.

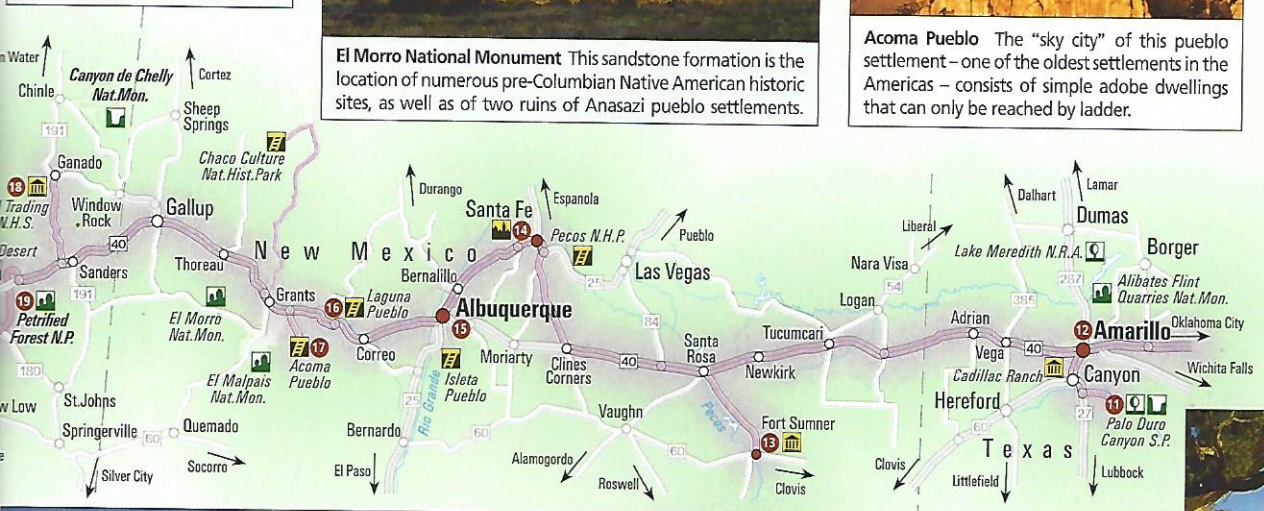


El Morro National Monument This sandstone formation is the location of numerous pre-Columbian Native American historic sites, as well as of two ruins of Anasazi pueblo settlements.

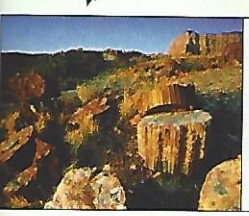


Acoma Pueblo The "sky city" of this pueblo settlement – one of the oldest settlements in the Americas – consists of simple adobe dwellings that can only be reached by ladder.

Amarillo The "Cadillac Ranch" is a bizarre attraction of old cars that are buried upright in the sand.



Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument This national monument in Texas encompasses an area where Native Americans once quarried flint that was used throughout the continent. The site is located in a series of bluffs above the Canadian River.



Petrified Forest National Park Visitors can view the colorful fossilized remains of the ancient forest that covered the area millions of years ago, during a time when dinosaurs still roamed the Earth.

Albuquerque The largest city in New Mexico is situated in a valley along the Rio Grande River. Important local attractions include the city's Hispanic old town with colonial-era buildings and the Native American cultural center.

Palo Duro Canyon State Park Panhandle Plains Historical Museum is located in this canyon, situated south of Amarillo.