



Complete Stage by Stage Information (for maps, go to <http://www.tourofmissouri.com>)

Stage 1 – Monday, September 8

St. Joseph to Kansas City / 90-miles / road race / Start: 12:30 pm – Est. finish: 4:30 pm

The city of St. Joseph will play host to a Tour stage for the first time, as the race kicks off in front of City Hall, and only 100 yards away from a monument to the Pony Express. Riders on two wheels, rather than four legs, will exit town on a picturesque parkway before feasting on the first *Mich ULTRA* King of the Mountain competition less than 20 miles into the overall race. The first 50-plus miles feature a series of relentless small, uncategorized climbs, some of which form a panoramic view of the Missouri River. This differs from the relatively flat out-and-back course featured on the course last year for Stage 1. The first points toward the *Edward Jones* Sprint Jersey will be up for grabs in **Platte City** and **Parkville** en route to the final three circuits around the Country Club Plaza District and Ward Parkway in Kansas City. In a wrinkle different from last year, the circuits in Kansas City will be reversed and feature a 300-meter climb to a *Mich ULTRA* KOM point. The finish will be fast and furious with cyclists descending at about 45 miles per hour before winding up for the flat sprint ending near last year's finish.

- **Last year's stage winner:** Ivan Dominguez (Cuba), Toyota United

Stage 2 – Tuesday, September 9

Clinton to Springfield / 126-miles / road race / Start: 11:00 am – Est. finish: 4:15 pm

The longest stage of this year's race, this course is a remake of last year's decisive stage of the inaugural Tour of Missouri. The stage starts in historic Clinton, near the head of the state-long Katy Trail, and winds through flat, pastoral regions of western Missouri en route to the finish in Springfield. Last year, spectators witnessed George Hincapie steal the stage and essentially the overall race during this flat stage. The race features crosses three water ways. *Edward Jones* sprint points are featured in the towns of **Stockton** and **Willard** en route to three finish circuits around the downtown of Missouri's third-largest city. There are no KOM points on this stage.

- **Last year's stage winner:** George Hincapie (U.S.A.), Discovery Channel

Stage 3 – Wednesday, September 10

Branson / 18 miles / individual time trial / First cyclist: 11:00 am – Est. Finish of last rider: 2:05 pm

Another remake of a 2007 course, many teams have already cited this stage as the most pivotal toward the overall win. Starting at *The Landing*, a new development on Lake Taneycomo off downtown Branson, cyclists will be challenged by what 2007 overall race champion George Hincapie called "the hardest time trial course" he'd ever ridden. In reversed order of their placing, cyclists will go off the start ramp in intervals of one minute each until the final 10, which will go off at two-minute intervals. The course features the rich hill terrain around Missouri's national tourist hot-spot. It is an 18-mile grind over three climbs, the last being a two and half-mile haul up to **Shepherd of the Hills Homestead and Outdoor Center**, the location where tourism in the Ozarks was started in 1907. It was also made famous by the book and movie by the same title. The movie starred John Wayne.

- **Last year's stage winner:** Levi Leipheimer (U.S.A.), Discovery Channel

Stage 4, presented by Emerson – Thursday, September 11

Lebanon to Rolla / 95 miles / road race / Start: 11:00 am – Est. finish: 3:00 pm

Playing host to a start for the second consecutive year, Stage 4 starts in the south-central agricultural hub city of Lebanon. The All-American city is an appropriate place to start on September 11, as race organizers have special plans to route through **Fort Leonard Wood Military Reservation** as a tribute to U.S. Armed Forces. *Edward Jones* sprint lines will be contested at Fort Leonard Wood and **Richland** en route to a finish adjacent to the campus of the **University of Missouri-Rolla**. This will mark the first finish for the Tour of Missouri on a college campus. The race also will feature long stretches in the Mark Twain National Forest and three *Mich ULTRA* KOMs, with perhaps the toughest climb, a nasty 12-percent half-mile climb outside of Waynesville. The route also tracks on and off the famous Route 66. Touted as "deceptively tough", this may be the surprise stage of the race, according to race organizers. It will be Rolla's first time as host venue for the Tour.

- **Last year's stage winner:** new course

Stage 5 – Friday, September 12

St. James to Jefferson City / 108 miles / road race / Start: 2:00 PM – Est. finish: 6:30 PM

The quaint wine country town of St. James will play host for the first time to a stage of the Tour. The 2 p.m. send off is the latest start of this year's tour and route to Missouri's capital city of Jefferson City for a late finish under the shadows of the Capitol's dome. Jefferson City was a start city in the 2007 race. Now in the limelight as a prime-time finish, the hilly streets of the capital city will undoubtedly put pain into riders leg as the last 300 meters of the race finish uphill, which could produce time gaps between leaders of the stage. The race will feature one *Mich ULTRA* KOM point, and *Edward Jones* sprint points in the towns of **Bland** and **Vienna**. "A never ending series of small hills," is how one course director describes this stage.

- **Last year's stage winner:** new course

Stage 6 – Saturday, September 13

Hermann to St. Charles / 96 miles / road race / Start: 12:30 pm – Est. finish: 4:15 pm

Starting in the heart of wine country in the Bavarian town of Hermann, which hosted a sprint line last year, cyclist will race along Highways 100 and 94, rolling through a series of three *Mich ULTRA* KOM points, in one of the most rugged stretches of the overall race. During this race, cyclists will face two 1.2 kilometer (or about 1,400 yards) steep climbs on Old Colony and Schluersburg Roads. *Edward Jones* sprint lines will be featured in the towns of **Augusta** and **O’Fallon**. The race will finish on the banks of the Mississippi River in historic St. Charles, where massive crowds greeted cyclists last year. The course will finish from the north, instead of the south into St. Charles, dropping down to the river before a 1-kilometer flat run to the finish, ideal for a potential breakaway attempt.

- ***Last year’s stage winner:*** *Danny Pate (U.S.A.), Slipstream – Chipotle*

Stage 7 – Sunday, September 14

St. Louis / 70 miles circuit race / Start: 2:00 pm – Est. finish: 4:50 pm

The grand finale of the 2008 Tour will again finish with a circuit race in St. Louis, Missouri’s largest metropolis and one of America’s great sports cities. The start and finish line will move from Union Station to Tucker and Market in front of St. Louis’s City Hall. That is not the only change. This year’s course will route five times and encompass a large part of Forest Park, routing on Lagoon and Government Drives within the Park, and past the Museum, before returning through the Central West End. Two sprint lines, sponsored by St. Louis-based *Edward Jones* and one KOM line, sponsored by St. Louis-based *Anheuser-Busch* will be featured on the 14-mile circuit, which saw a police-estimated 55,000 spectators last year. The overall award’s ceremony will crown the race champion appropriately within the shadows of the Gateway Arch, towering less than half-mile to the east.

- ***Last year’s stage winner:*** *Ivan Dominguez (Cuba), Toyota United*

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