In St. Louis, on March 9-10, 1804, a momentous transfer of lands took place that marked a profound new direction for the vast tract drained by the Missouri River. The Louisiana Territory passed from Spanish and French hands to the United States of America, thereby doubling the size of that fledgling nation. Likely witnessing this transfer were Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, two army officers with an extraordinary charge from the President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, to explore this newly acquired territory and proceed on to the Pacific Ocean.

St. Louis, long the governmental center of the Upper Louisiana, played a vital role in the planning of the expedition. During the winter of 1803-1804, the merchants and officials of this city provided tons of supplies for the upcoming journey, and vital maps and information on what lay ahead up the Missouri River. The Lewis and Clark Expedition entered the Missouri River on May 14, 1804, well prepared for the first leg of their 1,600-mile journey to the Mandan/Hidatsa Indian villages in present-day North Dakota.

When the expedition left on its journey, the group of over 45 included crew members from many cultures and backgrounds. While most were young soldiers, the group also included interpreters of French-Shawnee parentage, French boatmen, several of whom had French fathers and mothers from the tribes of the Upper Missouri, and Clark’s black slave, York. After arriving at the Mandan/Hidatsa villages, they were joined by Sacagawea, a Shoshone woman who served as an interpreter.

For the first 600 miles of their trip, they had to battle the swift and dangerous currents of the Missouri River. By the time they left Missouri on July 18, 1804, they were an efficient and motivated team united behind the common goal of reaching the Pacific Ocean.

After the triumphal return of the expedition to St. Louis on Sept. 23, 1806, Lewis and Clark went on to help create the future state of Missouri. Lewis served as territorial governor until his death in 1809. Clark spent a long life in St. Louis, always playing a key role in Missouri’s growth and development. He served as general of militia, territorial governor, and finally as U.S. Indian agent for the Missouri River. He died in 1838 and is buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis.

The Departure from St. Charles, May 21, 1804, © Gary R. Lucy
Missouri: Where Jefferson’s Dream Came True

Thomas Jefferson envisioned a rural landscape inhabited by small farmers. In such agrarian settings, American democracy would flourish far into the future. Drive the back roads of Missouri, follow the footsteps of Lewis and Clark, and come to learn that Jefferson’s dream is alive and well in Missouri.

Ten reasons that you will have an unforgettable Lewis and Clark experience in Missouri:

1. See why Missouri is the state where the rivers of Lewis and Clark flow as you follow the 800 miles of Missouri and Mississippi rivers that Lewis and Clark journeyed upon with their Corps of Discovery.

2. Revel in Missouri’s scenic wonders. You will exclaim with Sgt. Charles Floyd that Missouri “is a butifull Contry of Land.” A drive through the many scenic regions along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers will yield the same sensations of beauty and bounty that Lewis and Clark felt as they journeyed up our great rivers.

3. Soak up Missouri’s history. Lewis and Clark were not the first and hardly the last adventurers to travel Missouri’s historic riparian highways of discovery. Travel in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark and you will brush shoulders with some of history’s most colorful characters, and see quaint, picture postcard towns and farms along the entire route.

4. Walk or bicycle the longest non-motorized segment of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail – Katy Trail State Park. For more than 150 miles, the Katy Trail etches its way along the Missouri River, tracing the route of the great explorers.

5. Follow a chain of state parks and conservation areas along the route. Scenic riverside state parks and conservation areas, many offering camping and other services, exist along the entire route of Lewis and Clark’s track through Missouri.

6. See signs of Lewis and Clark everywhere you travel. Lewis and Clark interpretive signs will be in place at more than 100 publicly accessible locations along the Missouri and Mississippi rivers by early 2004.

7. Enjoy Missouri’s legendary hospitality. “We were treated in the best manner by this party,” proclaimed Sgt. John Ordway after an encounter near present-day St. Joseph. You will find friendly people and a warm welcome everywhere you journey along Missouri’s piece of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Replicas of dugout canoes on the Missouri River

Missouri Department of Conservation photo by Pat Whalen
8. See the Lewis and Clark Expedition brought to life by Discovery Expedition of St. Charles. The full-sized replicas of the keelboat and the red and white pirogues constructed by Discovery Expedition of St. Charles will re-enact the journey of the Lewis and Clark Expedition on Missouri’s rivers of history during the bicentennial period. For the expedition’s schedule, visit www.lewisandclark.net. After the bicentennial, the keelboat and pirogues will be on display at the Lewis and Clark Boat House and Nature Center in St. Charles.

9. Don’t miss the big party. A continuous series of riverside community events and festivals will take place across Missouri and beyond as the Lewis and Clark Expedition re-enactment moves up the Missouri River on the same approximate dates that the original expedition made its epic journey 200 years ago.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition spent a total of 103 days in what is now Missouri and camped at 70 different locations along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. The expedition began to ascend the Mississippi River on Nov. 20, 1803, and arrived at Wood River, opposite the mouth of the Missouri, on Dec. 12, 1803. This was a journey of 210 miles with 17 camps, eight of which were on the Missouri side of the river.

Between May 14, 1804, and July 18, 1804, the Corps of Discovery traveled 603.6 miles up the Missouri River to the present bounds of this state. They camped 53 times, and 43 of these were on the Missouri side of the river. On the return trip, the expedition again crossed the future northwestern border of Missouri on Sept. 9, 1806. They were eager to cover the remaining distance to home and reached St. Louis on Sept. 23, 1806. Of their 15 campsites along this return route, 14 are within the present boundary of Missouri.

Throughout the journey, the crew encountered many adventures and became a team that conquered them all. Each expedition member had a role to play. York, Clark’s black slave, was the only member other than Sacagawea who had no choice about going on the mission and received no compensation. However, York evidenced fully as a member of this historic journey. Journal entries state that he carried a gun (which slaves usually were not allowed to do) as a part of his role to help supply fresh meat to the expedition. Other entries mention his role as a caregiver to the sick or injured, and later as a scout on a reconnaissance mission.

York was also an object of curiosity to the Indians tribes the expedition encountered. “The Indians [are] much astonished at my black servant and call him the big medicine man. This nation never saw a black man before,” Clark wrote.

York’s story is just one of the many stories about the expedition, its members and their impact on the people and cultures they encountered along the way.

Foggy Morning, © Gary R. Lucy
Guide to the Maps

Map 1: Nov. 16 - 25, 1803
Lewis and Clark move up the Mississippi River from the Ohio River to Tower Rock.

Map 2: Nov. 26 - Dec. 12, 1803
Lewis and Clark continue the journey up the Mississippi River to St. Louis and Wood River.

Map 3: May 14 - June 2, 1804; Return trip: Sept. 19 - 23, 1806
Lewis and Clark enter the Missouri River and journey to the mouth of the Osage River.

Map 4: June 3 - 13, 1804; Return trip: Sept. 17 - 19, 1806
Lewis and Clark journey up the Missouri River from the Osage River to the Grand River.

Map 5: June 12 - 28, 1804; Return trip: Sept. 15 - 17, 1806
Lewis and Clark run the gauntlet of the Missouri River between the entrances of the Grand River and the Kansas River.

Map 6: June 29 - July 18, 1804; Return trip: Sept. 9 - 15, 1806
Lewis and Clark turn north and journey from the mouth of the Kansas River to the state line.

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
Watch for this sign to show you the route of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean. The trail is designated by the National Park Service and is marked in Missouri by the Missouri Department of Transportation. Generally, the trail follows state highways on both north and south sides of the Missouri River. The North Trail begins in West Alton, Mo., on Missouri Route 94, and the South Trail begins on U.S. Route 40 near the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (the Arch) in downtown St. Louis.

Lewis and Clark Historical Markers
Watch for this sign to guide you to more than 100 interpretive markers within Missouri from Cairo, Ill., to the Iowa line. These interpretive markers are placed by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the Missouri Department of Conservation and local partners to provide information about relevant Lewis and Clark sites. On the maps, the historical markers are indicated by a black box with a number inside. For signs along Katy Trail State Park, each mile is marked with the traditional railroad mile marker system.
Lewis and Clark move up the Mississippi from the Ohio River to Tower Rock. Nov. 16 - 25, 1803

On Nov. 15, 1803, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark arrived at the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and set up camp for several days. The captains got their first glimpse of what would become the state of Missouri two days later, on Nov. 16, 1803. On Nov. 20, Lewis and Clark and their party broke camp, entered the Mississippi River and directed their 55-foot-long keelboat and pirogues up the mighty river. They passed the primordial lowland forest, known as Tywappity Bottom, and saw flourishing American settlements. They stopped in Cape Girardeau and Lewis met the legendary Louis Lorimier, Spanish Commandant of the Cape Girardeau District. Above Cape Girardeau, forested highlands, terminating in sheer bluffs, hugged the river on the Missouri side for the next 75 miles. On Nov. 25, Lewis and Clark came to Tower Rock, the best known landmark on the lower Mississippi River.

Points of Interest

Mississippi County wayside at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers: Lewis and Clark set their feet on Missouri soil for the first time at this location on Nov. 16, 1803. The captains encountered the Bird’s Point American settlement and “a great many” Shawnee and Delaware Indians. Today, a wayside offers a dramatic view from the Missouri side of the meeting of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. Also, an interpretive exhibit about Lewis and Clark is located at the Henry S. Whipple Park in Charleston.

Commerce: On Nov. 22, 1803, Lewis and Clark noticed a cluster of American settlements on a thickly wooded bottom known as Tywappity Bottom. Lewis saw an 8-foot, 2-inch tall horsetail plant growing in this lush bottom. As the expedition passed the upper end of Tywappity Bottom, where Commerce is now located, Lewis and Clark noticed a “handsome farm.”

Cape Girardeau: Lewis was let out at the landing of New Cape Girardeau on Nov. 23, 1803. Here, he dined with Commandant Louis Lorimier and his family in his home, known as the “Red House.” A replica of this house is now open to the public. Meanwhile, Clark proceeded up the river two miles and camped at the site of Old Cape Girardeau (today’s Cape Rock Park).

Trail of Tears State Park: The party pushed off early on the morning of Nov. 24, 1803, and Lewis soon noticed high bluffs with sheer perpendicular walls rising on the Missouri side. They camped for the evening near today’s Trail of Tears State Park. This park features an overlook with a spectacular view of the Mississippi River and trails that lead through thick forests like those that Lewis noted in his journals.

Apple Creek Conservation Area: On Nov. 25, 1803, the party came to Apple Creek, the largest stream on the Missouri side above the Ohio River that had yet been encountered. Apple Creek was the northern boundary of the Cape Girardeau District. Thanks to Lorimier’s policies, this district had the largest American population in the Upper Louisiana area. Lewis noted in his journals that a large village of Shawnee Indians was located seven miles up this creek.

Tower Rock Conservation Area: As the sun was starting to set on Nov. 25, 1803, Lewis and Clark saw Tower Rock, a famous landmark to all rivermen. Lewis described the “immense and dangerous” whirlpool that formed below the rock in high water.
“Passed the Mississippi this day and went down on the other side after landing at the upper habitation on the opposite [Missouri] side. We found here some Shawnees and Delawars incamped; one of the Shawnees a respectable looking Indian offered me three beaverskins for my dog...”

Meriwether Lewis, Nov. 16, 1803
Lewis and Clark continue the journey up the Mississippi River to St. Louis and Wood River. Nov. 26 – Dec. 12, 1803.

After departing from Tower Rock, the party made its way upriver to Fort Kaskaskia, where they arrived on Nov. 28, 1803. Here the captains selected 12 men from the army garrison stationed there. Added to “the nine young men from Kentucky” and two recruits from Fort Massac who joined the party earlier, these recruits brought to 23 the number of men who would shortly form the Corps of Discovery, bound for the Pacific Ocean. Lewis proceeded on horseback to St. Louis to meet with the Spanish Lt. Gov. of Upper Louisiana. Meanwhile, Clark took charge of the boats and moved them up river to the mouth of Wood River, where the party would camp for the winter. Clark arrived on Dec. 12 and immediately set the men to work erecting the huts where the party would pass the winter.

Points of Interest

Ste. Genevieve: Ste. Genevieve: On Nov. 28, 1803, Clark noted that the party had landed opposite the old village of Ste. Genevieve. This flood-prone community, he said, was known as “Misar,” or Misery. On Dec. 3, after leaving Fort Kaskaskia, the party camped on the edge of the common fields, or Grand Champs, of the relocated town of Ste. Genevieve. They were two miles from “new” Ste. Genevieve, which today still has many historical buildings and reminders of its early French history.

Magnolia Hollow Conservation Area: Soon after setting out on Dec. 4, 1803, Clark noted the mouth of Gabouri Creek, the landing for Ste. Genevieve. Above this creek, Clark saw highlands next to the river that formed a tremendous bluff. Today, Magnolia Hollow Conservation Area preserves forested highlands similar to those Clark saw.

Jefferson Barracks County Park: The morning of Dec. 7, 1803, was dark and rainy as Clark’s party set off on the river. At noon, a violent wind tore a mast off one of the boats. Half way between the Meramec River and the River Des Peres, the party passed the location where Jefferson Barracks, named after President Thomas Jefferson, would be established in 1826 as a U.S. Army post. Today, tours of the barracks are available.

Carondelet: The village of Carondelet was encountered by Clark and his men on Dec. 7, 1803, a couple of miles after the party passed the River Des Peres. Clark referred to this place as “Viele Pauchr,” or “vietpuche” (actually Vide Poche in French), or Empty Pocket (Clark translated the name as “empty belly”). He also noted that the village consisted of 40 French families.

Jefferson National Expansion Memorial: On Dec. 10, 1803, the party was encamped at Cahokia opposite St. Louis, a town of just over a thousand people that served as the governmental center and trading center for Upper Louisiana. Over the next five months, the captains would spend a great deal of time in St. Louis, meeting with officials and traders and gathering information and maps about the Missouri River and Indian nations they might encounter on their upcoming expedition. The site of colonial St. Louis is today occupied by the grounds of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial.

Missouri History Museum/Missouri Historical Society: After the expedition, both Lewis and Clark played important roles in St. Louis and Missouri history. Important documents and artifacts associated with Lewis and Clark have been preserved at the Missouri History Museum and its parent organization, the Missouri Historical Society.

Clark’s Grave, Bellefontaine Cemetery: On Dec. 11, 1803, Clark directed that camp be made on Cabaret Island. He was opposite the hillside location where a large monument would be placed over his gravesite a century later in Bellefontaine Cemetery. Clark spent his entire post-expeditionary career in St. Louis, where he died in 1838. He had just turned 69 at the time of his death.
"Set out this morning before sun rise, passed the upper point the Island at two miles, In this Course I observd Several caves, also a number of Indented Arches of deferent sises in the Clifts on the Larbd. Side, which gave it a verry romanteck appearance."

William Clark, Dec. 5, 1803

On May 14, 1804, the Lewis and Clark Expedition entered the swift, dangerous currents of the Missouri River and began to work their way up the turbulent stream on the first leg of their epic journey. Over the first 140 miles, they would pass through the hilly and forested uplands of what today is Missouri’s Ozark border region. The expedition would leave behind the last major settlements when they passed the villages of St. Charles and La Charrette. They would observe their first new scientific specimen (the eastern wood rat) and enjoy extended stays at the mouths of the Gasconade and Osage rivers. They encountered four parties of homeward-bound traders and gained useful information. This leg had its share of dangers. Lewis almost fell from a bluff on May 24. The next day, the keelboat nearly fell victim to the Missouri River when the 55-foot-long boat wheeled out of control in the swift deadly currents of the river.

Points of Interest

Edward “Ted” and Pat Jones-Confluence Point State Park/Columbia Bottoms Conservation Area: After a modest send-off by the local neighbors, the Lewis and Clark Expedition entered the Missouri River on May 14, 1804. A gentle breeze blew and the sails were unfurled. Clark and 41 men were aboard a keelboat and two pirogues. Both banks of the Missouri River at its confluence with the Mississippi River are now in public ownership.

Fort Bellefontaine Park: The Lewis and Clark Expedition spent its first night on the Missouri River camped 4.5 miles upstream on an island opposite the entrance of Cold Water Creek. The following year, Fort Bellefontaine was erected at this site. The returning expedition encamped at this garrison on Sept. 22, 1806, the last night of their epic journey.

St. Charles: Clark and the men of the Corps of Discovery enjoyed the hospitality of this village of some 400 French-Canadian inhabitants for five days, from May 16 to May 20, 1804, while Lewis attended to last minute business in St. Louis. Today’s St. Charles boasts a boat house/interpretive center, which serves as the base for the re-enactors that are members of the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles.

The Missouri Rhineland Country:

Washington, New Haven, Hermann: For the next five days, May 21-25, 1804, the expedition passed the high bluffs and steep hills that in the following generation attracted a large German migration that established wineries, neat farms and solidly built towns that remain today. Lewis nearly fell from Tavern Rock on May 24, and the keelboat came close to capsizing at Retrograde Bend near Washington the next day. On an island near Hermann, Lewis and Clark formally organized the Corps of Discovery.

Katy Trail State Park—St. Charles to Jefferson City: Katy Trail State Park etches its way through a region rich with scenery and history. Lewis and Clark passed by the Daniel Boone settlement on May 23, 1804, and enjoyed the hospitality of the poor but hospitable residents of La Charrette, near today’s Marthasville, two days later. Near today’s Mokane, on May 31, Lewis identified an animal new to science, the eastern wood rat.

Clark’s Hill/Norton State Historic Site: The Lewis and Clark Expedition came to the mouth of the Osage River on June 1, 1804. The captains took measurements of the Osage and Missouri rivers and made astronomical observations. On June 2, Clark climbed “Clark’s Hill,” where he had a “delightful prospect” of the surrounding country. Today, this hill is preserved as a state historic site.
Lewis and Clark Historical Markers

1. **Columbia Bottom Conservation Area**
   Off I-270 north on Riverview Dr./Columbia Bottom Rd., in St. Louis County

2. **Edward “Ted” and Pat Jones-Confluence Point State Park**
   Off U.S. Hwy. 67, on Riverlands Way in St. Charles County

3. **Fort Bellefontaine Park**
   Hwy. 367 to New Jamestown Rd., north on Bellefontaine Rd., in St. Louis County

4. **St. Stanislaus Conservation Area**
   Hwy. 370 to Missouri Bottoms Rd., to Aubuchon Rd. in St. Louis County

5. **Katy Trail State Park, St. Charles**
   Mile marker 39.1 near Frontier Park trailhead in St. Charles

6. **Lewis and Clark Sculpture**
   Hwy. 94 to Clark St. to Riverside Drive in St. Charles County

7. **St. Charles Frontier Park**
   Hwy. 94 to Clark St. to Riverside Drive in St. Charles County

8. **Lewis and Clark Boat House and Nature Center**
   Hwy. 94 to Clark St. to Riverside Drive in St. Charles County

9. **Katy Trail State Park, Weldon Spring**
   Off Hwy. 94 at mile marker 54.3, east of Weldon Spring trailhead in St. Charles County

10. **Weldon Spring Conservation Area**
    Off Hwy. 94 in St. Charles County

11. **Katy Trail State Park, Weldon Spring/Femme Osage Creek**
    Mile marker 57.4, west of Weldon Spring trailhead in St. Charles County

12. **St. Albans**
    Off Route T in Franklin County

13. **Katy Trail State Park, Klondike Park**
    Off Hwy. 94 at mile marker 63 at Klondike St. Charles County Park Boat Ramp

14. **Washington**
    Off Hwy. 100, Jefferson St. to Heritage Park in Franklin County

15. **Katy Trail State Park**
    Off Hwy 94 at mile marker 77.7 at Marthasville trailhead in Warren County

16. **Colter’s Landing Access**
    Off Hwy. 100 in Franklin County

17. **New Haven**
    Off Hwy. 100, Miller St. to Riverland Park in Franklin County

18. **Katy Trail State Park, Core**
    Mile marker 92.6, between Treloar and McKittrick trailheads in Warren County

19. **Hermann**
    Off Hwy. 100, Gutenberg St. to Riverfront Park in Gasconade County

20. **Gasconade Park Access**
    Off Hwy. 100, at Gasconade City Park on Oak St. in Gasconade County

21. **Grand Bluffs Conservation Area**
    Off Hwy. 94, on County Road 291 in Montgomery County

22. **Katy Trail State Park, Bluffton**
    Mile marker 111.4, east of Portland trailhead in Montgomery County

23. **Katy Trail State Park, Little Tavern Creek**
    Mile marker 113.6, east of Portland trailhead in Callaway County

24. **Katy Trail State Park, Standing Rock**
    Mile marker 120.4, west of Portland trailhead in Callaway County

25. **Chamois**
    Hwy. 100 to the City of Chamois Riverside Park in Osage County

26. **Smoky Waters Conservation Area**
    East of Osage City on Engineers Rd. in Cole County

27. **Clark’s Hill/Norton State Historic Site**
    Off Route J in Osage City on Hickory Rd. in Cole County

28. **Museum of Missouri Military History at Ike Skelton Training Site**
    Militia Dr. off of U.S. Hwy. 50/63 in Cole County

29. **Moreau 50 Access**
    U.S. Hwy. 50/63 east of Jefferson City in Cole County

30. **Ellis Porter/Riverside Park, Jefferson City**
    Clark exit off U.S. 50/63 to McCarty and Riverside Dr., Cole County

The expedition resumed its upriver journey on June 3, 1804, and camped at the Moreau River. Here, a mysterious bird that Clark called a nightingale sang all night (they named a creek in the bird’s honor). On June 4, the mast of the keelboat was snapped when the boat struck a tree near the mouth of Grey’s Creek. Near modern Marion and Rocheport, Clark reported seeing Indian pictographs representing Manitous (representations of the Great Spirit) painted on the bluffs along the river. Near today’s Arrow Rock, the keelboat was saved by the quick action of the men. Near the future site of Glasgow, Clark left a vivid description of the prairies, bountiful with berries, abundant wildlife and luxuriant grasses. The expedition was starting to pass out of the eastern woodlands into the tallgrass prairie region.

Points of Interest

Jefferson City:
The Lewis and Clark Expedition passed the future site of Jefferson City on June 4, 1804. In 1826, the state capital was moved from St. Charles to a more central location along the Missouri River and the city was named in honor of the president that dispatched Lewis and Clark to explore the vast new tract of land. Exhibits in today’s Capitol tell the history of Missouri.

Katy Trail State Park – Jefferson City to Boonville:
From June 1 to June 8, 1804, the expedition passed through the scenic bluff country that Katy Trail State Park now traverses. The trail passes Roche Percée Natural Arch, seen by Lewis and Clark on June 6. The river still washes at the base of Big Mantiou bluff, passed by the expedition the next day. Clark recorded the pictographs he saw painted on the bluff that the Katy Trail tunnel now passes through near Rocheport.

Columbia: The obelisk that Thomas Jefferson originally designed for his grave is now located on the quadrangle of the University of Missouri-Columbia in recognition of the first state university founded in the Louisiana Purchase Territory. The State Historical Society of Missouri, located here, preserves manuscripts and maps from the Lewis and Clark era. Cutting-edge computer mapping of the Lewis and Clark route through Missouri is also being done at the university’s Geographical Resources Center.

The Bountiful Boonslick: The stretch of river the expedition moved up during June 7 to June 9, 1804, appeared particularly bountiful: “this is a butifull Contry of Land,” said Sgt. Charles Floyd. Within a few years, this area became known as the Boonslick, a premiere settlement region. The agricultural products of the Boonslick were shipped down the Missouri River from prosperous river towns such as Rocheport, Boonville, New Franklin and Glasgow.

Arrow Rock: On June 9, 1804, the Lewis and Clark Expedition noted passing the “Prairie of Arrows,” where the Santa Fe Trail town of Arrow Rock would be founded within a few years. Today, the quaint village of Arrow Rock and Arrow Rock State Historic Site preserve the history of this time.

Glasgow: On June 10, 1804, the expedition passed the high bluff on which Glasgow would later be built, and encountered the Chariton River coming in at a hairpin bend. They then passed Chicot, or Stump, Island and camped. The captains walked three miles through a prairie that, according to Clark, “abound with Hasel Grapes Y a wild plumb...I saw great numbers of Deer in the Praries, the evening is Cloudy, our party in high Spirits.”
**Lewis and Clark Historical Markers**

31 Carl R. Noren Access  
U.S. Hwy. 54 to Route W in Callaway County

32 Katy Trail State Park,  
North Jefferson City  
Mile marker 143.2, North Jefferson trailhead off U.S. Hwy. 54 in Callaway County

33 Katy Trail State Park,  
Claysville  
Mile marker 147.4 west of North Jefferson trailhead off U.S. Hwy. 63 in Boone County

34 Marion Access  
Off Hwy. 179 in Cole County

35 Katy Trail State Park,  
Easley  
Mile marker 161.2, west of Hartsburg trailhead in Boone County

36 Katy Trail State Park,  
Rochee Percée Natural Arch  
Mile marker 166.9, east of McBaine trailhead in Boone County

37 Lupus  
Hwy. 179 to Route P in Moniteau County

38 Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area  
Hwy. K in McBaine to Star School Rd. in Boone County

39 Katy Trail State Park,  
Lewis and Clark Cave  
Mile marker 174.4, east of Rocheport trailhead in Boone County

40 Katy Trail State Park,  
Rocheport  
Mile marker 178.3, Rocheport trailhead in Boone County

41 Katy Trail State Park,  
Katy Tunnel  
Mile marker 178.9, just west of Rocheport trailhead in Howard County

42 Franklin Island Conservation Area  
East of New Franklin on U.S. Hwy. 40 in Howard County

43 Katy Trail State Park,  
Kingsbury Siding  
Mile marker 190.8, On Hwy. 87 in Howard County

44 Harley Park, Boonville  
U.S. Hwy. 40/Hwy. 5 to Sombart Rd. to Santa Fe Trail in Cooper County

45 De Bourmont Access  
Off Hwy. 41 in Cooper County

46 Arrow Rock State Historic Site  
On Hwy. 41 in Saline County

47 Stump Island Access, Glasgow  
Hwy. 87 to Old Hwy. 87 in Howard County

48 Glasgow  
Hwy. 5 to Market St. at River Overlook Park in Howard County
Lewis and Clark run the gauntlet of the Missouri River between the entrances of the Grand River and the Kansas River. June 12 – 28, 1804.

Return Trip: Sept. 15 – 17, 1806.

As the Missouri River turned west toward the Kansas River, the floodplain became wider, stretching as much as 10 miles to the low grass-covered hills. The river also became swifter. Lewis estimated that the river flowed as fast as seven miles per hour through the reach between the Kansas and Grand rivers. Every day was filled with back-breaking labor and near disasters as the men battled the rapids, floating logs and trees, collapsing banks, and the deadly “rolling sands” or ever-shifting sandbars that gave the Missouri River its fearsome reputation. The men were impressed with the beauty of the prairie landscapes that were opening before them. Game became abundant and the men feasted on venison, bear, turkey and waterfowl. On June 15, Clark described the scenic plain on which the long-abandoned Missouri and Little Osage Indian villages had once been located.

Points of Interest

**Brunswick:** On June 13, 1804, the expedition camped at the mouth of the Grand River. Sgt. Patrick Gass was captivated by the beauty of the prairies he saw: “This is as handsome a place as I ever saw in an uncultivated state.” The captains climbed a nearby hill, near present-day Brunswick, and enjoyed “a butifull prospect of the Serounding Countrey.”

**Van Meter State Park:** On June 15, 1804, the expedition camped opposite the sites of the former Little Osage and Missouri Indian villages (near present-day Van Meter State Park). The villages had been well located. Sgt. Charles Floyd said the site was as “handsome a prairie as any man ever saw.” Exhibits in the state park visitor center tell the story of the Missouri Indians and a boardwalk takes visitors into the wetland that is a natural remnant of the Missouri River floodplain.

**Grand Pass Conservation Area:** A portion of the 1804 river course, covered by Lewis and Clark on June 15, is preserved as Teteau Lake in the Grand Pass Conservation Area. That day, the river was rising fast and the current was running with such force that the men at the oars could make no headway, even with the sail unfurled. The keelboat had to be pulled by towrope through the most difficult stretches of the river.

**Waverly:** On June 16, 1804, the expedition camped opposite present-day Waverly. The next day, they moved upriver only a mile before camping again. The men were exhausted from the daily struggle against the river, and they had literally worn out their oars and needed to make replacements. “The Countrey about this place is butifull,” wrote Clark of the location.

**Lexington:** On June 20, 1804, Lewis and Clark passed the future site of the wealthy and elegant antebellum river town of Lexington. The day proved to be particularly grueling and they only made 6.75 miles. Sweat was pouring off the men in streams as they strained with oar, pole and ultimately towrope to get the boats through the agitated currents of the river.

**Fort Osage:** On June 23, 1804, a headwind blew so strongly that the exhausted crew could make no headway against the river and pulled in early at the head of an island. Across the river from their camp was a high hill. The captains determined that this hill would offer a commanding location for a fort. In 1808, William Clark returned to the site to build Fort Osage. Jackson County Parks Department offers tours of a reconstructed fort to visitors today.

**Kansas City:** On June 26, 1804, with the hardest stretch of the Missouri River gauntlet behind them, the expedition came to the mouth of the Kansas River and camped above the future site of Kansas City for three days. On the return trip, on Sept. 15, 1806, Lewis and Clark climbed to the top of a hill with a commanding view of the Missouri and Kansas rivers. This is now known as Lewis and Clark Point in Case Park.
“We set out a 6 oClock after a thick fog proceeded very well. . . just below a piece of High Land on the Starboard Side Called the place of Snakes, passed the worst place I have seen. . . a Sand bar making out Cross the river Sand Collecting &c forming Bars and Bars washg a way, the boat Struck and turned, She was near oversetting we saved her by Some extrodany exertions of our party ever ready to inconture [endure] any fatigue for the promotion of the enterprise.”

William Clark, June 14, 1804
Lewis and Clark turn north and journey from the mouth of the Kansas River to the state line. June 29 – July 18, 1804; Return Trip: Sept. 9 – 15, 1806.

After the expedition moved on from the Kansas River, the hot, sweltering days of early July bore down on the oarsmen and long mid-day halts were necessary to revive them. The river continued to flow rapidly as the crew worked its way steadily upstream. They passed abandoned Kansas Indian village sites and saw oxbow lakes that had once been channels of the river. The lakes were teeming with waterfowl and fish, and the deer were so numerous that “their tracks are as plenty as Hogs about a farm,” said Clark. Near the modern Iowa line, Lewis’ chronometer stopped and had to be reset. The layover provided Lewis the opportunity to explore the “bald pate” prairie along the Nishnabotna River. On the return journey, the expedition re-entered present-day Missouri to find the river low and choked with snags. They encountered several upstream-bound trading parties. They provided news and lavished hospitality on the returning members of expedition, who had been given up for dead back home.

Points of Interest

Weston Bend State Park: As the expedition moved up the river on July 2, 1804, they noticed a range of hills on the Missouri side that Clark thought contained fine land. As they worked their way around what is today’s Weston Bend, the keelboat ran aground on a bad sandbar in the face of a swift current. An overlook at Weston Bend State Park gives visitors a spectacular view of the Missouri River bend.

Weston: As the expedition rounded the upper end of today’s Weston Bend, they encountered “Bear Medicine” Island and pulled over to rest their exhausted crew. This island was immediately west of today’s Weston. The day was exceedingly hot, and the men put up a new mast on the keelboat to replace one broken two days earlier.

Little Bean Marsh Conservation Area: On July 3, 1804, the expedition camped at a round bend of the river opposite a large sandbar. A portion of this former bend of the river, including the campsite, is now Little Bean Marsh Conservation Area. The wetland environment seen today also prevailed in 1804; Sgt. Charles Floyd described the land as very miry, or boggy.

Lewis and Clark State Park: The Lewis and Clark Expedition began July 4, 1804, by firing the swivel cannon on the keelboat in honor of the Fourth of July. The expedition then passed an oxbow lake (now called Lewis and Clark Lake) that Clark recognized as a former channel of the river. The lake was a wildlife paradise, with fish and so many young geese that Clark named the lake “Gosling Lake.” Today, the lake is part of Lewis and Clark State Park.

St. Joseph: The expedition passed St. Michael’s Prairie (where St. Joseph was later founded) on July 7, 1804. Coming back, the expedition camped at St. Michael’s prairie on Sept. 12, 1806. They shared their camp with Robert McClellan, an army friend of the captains and now an upstream-bound trader. “We were treated in the best manner by this party,” according to Sgt. John Ordway.

Big Lake State Park: July 13, 1804, was a rare day when the expedition was able to move under sail power for most of the day. The 20.5 miles they covered was one of their best days on the lower Missouri. Early in the day, the expedition rounded a bend and Clark saw an elegant prairie. Big Lake, preserved today in Big Lake State Park, is an oxbow lake formed from a remnant of this bend. On the return trip in Sept. 10, 1806, the expedition camped on an island in Big Lake.

The Bald Pate Prairies: The last days in Missouri, July 16 and 17, 1804, were spent at Bald Pate Prairie (a portion of this prairie is now known as Star School Hill Prairie Conservation Area). The party had halted to reset the chronometer, which had stopped. Lewis rode out along the Nishnabotna River and admired the thinly timbered prairie country. The last night in Missouri, the party dined on four freshly killed deer and two fat catfish.
Statewide

Missouri Travel Information
Missouri Division of Tourism
1-866-846-8666
www.VisitMo.com

State Parks and State Historic Sites
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
1-800-334-6946
www.mostateparks.com
Katy Trail State Park
www.katytrailstatepark.com

Conservation Areas and Accesses
Missouri Department of Conservation
(573) 751-4115
www.conservation.mo.gov

MAP 1
Charleston, Mo.
Charleston Chamber of Commerce
(573) 683-6509
www.charlestonmo.org

Cape Girardeau, Mo.
Cape Girardeau Convention and Visitors Bureau
1-800-777-0068
www.capegirardeaucvb.org

MAP 2

Ste. Genevieve, Mo.
1-800-373-7007
www.saintegenevieveturism.org

Jefferson Barrack’s Park
St. Louis County Parks and Recreation
(314) 544-5714
www.stlouis.com/parks/j-b.html

Carondelet Park/Bellerive Park
St. Louis Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry
Parks: (314) 289-5300
Recreation: (314) 289-5320
Forestry: (314) 613-7200
http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/parks

St. Louis, Mo.
St. Louis Convention and Visitors Commission
1-800-325-7962
www.explorestlouis.com

Jefferson National Expansion Memorial/Gateway Arch
(314) 655-1700
www.nps.gov/jeff
Arch tour information: 1-877-982-1410
www.stlouisarch.com

Clark’s Grave
Bellefontaine Cemetery
(314) 381-0750

MAP 3

Fort Bellefontaine Park
St. Louis County Parks and Recreation
(314) 615-7275
www.stlouisco.com/parks/FtBellefontaine.html

Missouri Historical Society
(314) 454-3150
www.mohistory.org

St. Charles, Mo.
Greater St. Charles Convention and Visitors Bureau
1-800-366-2427
www.historicsaintcharles.com

Washington, Mo.
Washington Area Chamber of Commerce
1-888-7-WASH-MO
www.washmo.org

New Haven, Mo.
New Haven Area Chamber of Commerce
(573) 237-3830
www.newhavenmo.com

Hermann, Mo.
Hermann Chamber of Commerce
1-800-932-8687
www.hermannmo.com

Marthasville, Mo.
Marthasville Chamber of Commerce
(636) 433-5242

Powder horn, courtesy of the Missouri Historical Society

View from Wyeth Hill Park, St. Joseph
Missouri Department of Natural Resources photo
Jefferson City, Mo.
Jefferson City Convention
& Visitors Bureau
1-800-769-4183
www.visitjeffersoncity.com

Columbia, Mo.
Columbia Convention
and Visitors Bureau
1-800-652-0987
www.visitcolumbiamo.com

Rocheport, Mo.
www.rocheport.com

Boonville, Mo.
Boonville Chamber of Commerce
(660) 882-2721
www.c-magic.com/boonvill/

Glasgow, Mo.
Glasgow Chamber of Commerce
(660) 338-2407

Arrow Rock, Mo.
Historic Arrow Rock Council
(660) 837-3306

Arrow Rock Area Merchants
Association
(660) 837-3268
www.arrowrock.org

Brunswick, Mo.
Brunswick Area Chamber of Commerce
www.brunswickmo.com

Waverly, Mo.
www.lafayettecountymo.com/waverly.htm

Lexington, Mo.
Lexington Tourism Bureau
(660) 259-4711
www.historiclexington.com

Fort Osage
(816) 650-5737
www.historicfortosage.com

Kansas City, Mo.
Kansas City Convention
and Visitors Bureau
1-800-767-7700
www.visittkc.com

Jefferson Landing State Historic Site,
Jefferson City
Missouri Department of Natural Resources photo by Sarah Grantham

Leonard, Mo.
Leonard Convention and Visitor's Bureau
1-800-939-0953
www.leonard.org

Linn, Mo.
Linn County Convention and Visitor Services
(573) 682-3600
www.missouri-linn.org

Louisiana, Mo.
Louisiana Convention and Visitor's Bureau
(573) 987-2822
www.visitlouisiana.org

Map 6

Weston, Mo.
Platte County Convention
and Visitors Bureau
1-888-875-2883
www.co.platte.mo.us

St. Joseph, Mo.
St. Joseph Convention and Visitors
Bureau
1-800-785-0360
www.stjomo.com

Missouri Lewis and Clark Information Resources

Discovery Expedition of St. Charles
www.lewisandclark.net

Jefferson National Expansion Memorial/
Gateway Arch
(314) 655-1700
www.nps.gov/jeff
Arch tour information: 1-877-982-1410
www.stlouisarch.com

Lewis and Clark
Historic Landscape Project
http://lewisclark.geog.missouri.edu/index.shtml

Missouri Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education
(573) 751-4936
www.dese.mo.gov

Missouri Department of Transportation
1-888-275-6636
www.modot.org

Missouri Historical Society
(314) 746-4599
www.mohistory.org

Missouri Office of Secretary of State
(573) 751-4936
www.sos.mo.gov

Missouri Rivers Community Network
http://moriver.org

Missouri Water Patrol
www.mswp.dps.mo.gov

State Historical Society of Missouri
(573) 882-7083
www.system.missouri.edu/shs

Missouri Lewis and Clark
National Historic Trail
www.nps.gov/lecl/

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
www.lewisandclark.org

National Council of the Lewis
and Clark Bicentennial
www.lewisandclark200.org

U.S. Coast Guard
www.uscg.mil

U.S. Geological Survey
http://infolink.cr.usgs.gov

Through this Web site, you can find current information on Lewis and Clark events and activities in Missouri, educational programs and curriculums, a virtual tour of the Missouri River as it looked in 1804 and travel information to help plan your own Lewis and Clark trip through Missouri.

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“The Departure from St. Charles, May 21, 1804”
“Foggy Morning”

Front cover: Katy Trail State Park includes the longest non-motorized section of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Missouri Department of Natural Resources photo