



Lewis & Clark Trail News

Bringing the Trail to Life
July 12, 2025



The Hidden Gems

Discovery has different connotations—but personal discovery is unique. For those drawn to the story of Lewis and Clark, that sense of wonder, curiosity, and courage lives on. At heart, we are all explorers.

We all love the crown jewels along the route—but the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is also rich with hidden gems that invite you to slow down, step off the beaten path, and connect with the journey in a more personal way. Have you explored the Natchez Trace near Hohenwald, Tennessee, where the Meriwether Lewis Monument marks the site of the explorer's mysterious and still-debated death? Have you stood along the Missouri River at Fort Pierre, South Dakota, where the Corps of Discovery first met the Teton Sioux in a pivotal moment of diplomacy and tension? Or hiked the short trail to Tower Rock in Montana, the same soaring landmark that caught Lewis's eye in 1805? Perhaps you've experienced the quiet beauty of Patit Creek near Dayton, Washington, where life-size statues of the expedition members capture a rare moment of rest on the open prairie. These places may be less visited—but they offer powerful, personal connections to the past, and moments that stay with you long after the visit ends.

These places aren't just historical, they are alive with meaning, memory, and possibility. Whether you're walking in their footsteps or exploring from home through our [digital resources](#), let the Trail guide you to new places, new stories, and new reflections.

[Richard Hunt](#)

Keelboat's a coming!

The rumors are true.

The Discovery Expedition of St. Charles is bringing the keelboat to Kaw Point for the LCTA Annual Gathering Chautauqua on Monday, September 15.

Members of DESC will hold an encampment, school groups will be invited to educational interpretation, and you will have a chance to connect with some historic characters (and they are characters).

Come join us for the LCTA Annual Gathering in Kansas City, September 14 - 17.



Don't Miss the Deadline

Early Bird Registration Ends July 31

Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance Annual Gathering

Kansas City, Missouri
September 14 - 17

[Gathering Registration](#)

[Marriott Registration](#)

Discounted hotel rooms are going fast!

[Registration Guide](#)



Of Interest

[Robert Heacock](#)

[The Girandoni Air Rifle](#)

Grants

[Operating Support](#)

[Fenton Foundation](#)

Alliance

[Apply for LCTA Grants](#)

[Travel Magazines](#)

[Forever 605](#)

[Snowy Owl \(KY\)](#)

[Event Calendar](#)

[July 12, 1806](#)

[Grow Wild](#)

[Book Maps Exhibit](#)

["Across" Exhibit](#)

[Mellon Foundation](#)

[Join LCTA](#)

[Update on National Parks](#)

[Kelsey Foundation](#)

[Expedition Timeline](#)

[National History Day
Winners](#)

[Mertz Foundation](#)

[Tent of Many Voices](#)

Play Lewis & Clark Trivia

Which of the fifty states did the Lewis and Clark Expedition spend the most nights in within its present-day borders?

[Submit your answer \(via feedback\)](#)



Correct answers will be entered in a drawing to receive the book, *Adventures Across America: On and Off the Trail of Lewis and Clark*. The book is an intriguing and highly useful work by Jennifer White Fischer. The book details her road-trip expedition along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail with quirky out-of-the-way attractions and hidden gems, as well as more than 150 of Jennifer's photographs that help enhance her narrative.



Watch
[The Great Falls](#)

After weeks of navigating the upper Missouri, the Corps of Discovery encounters not only the thundering falls but a new crisis: Sacagawea falls seriously ill. In a moment of hope and mystery, Captain Lewis gives her water from a nearby source known as Sulphur Springs—and she makes a remarkable recovery.



Watch
[Medicines of the Expedition](#)

Watch a fascinating demonstration by John Fisher as he showcases one of his hand-crafted replicas of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's medicine chest, you'll get a rare look at the medicines, instruments, and frontier-era treatments that accompanied America's greatest explorers. Video Courtesy of Scott Putnam, Bluz River Productions LLC

BIG MEDICINE YORK OUTDOORS

**Scheduled dates across
Lewis and Clark
National Historic Trail**

August 13 Nebraska City, NE
September 6 Hartford, IL
September 9 Columbia, MO
September 12, Hohenwald, TN
September 16 Missoula, MT
September 27 Richland, WA
October 14 Great Falls, MT
October 22 Portland, OR

Learn more at:
nps.gov/lecl/york.htm

#YorkOutdoors



New screenings being added - check the [Events Calendar](#) for updates

Share the Adventure!



Help us expand the community by sharing the newsletter with your network. Simply provide this [sign-up link](#) to friends, family, and fellow Trail enthusiasts.

EXPERIENCES NEAR ME



Crank up the tunes and hit the open road with your crew.

RV CAMPING



Unplug and escape into nature.

TENT CAMPING



From boating, to OHV areas, and picnics, discover something new.

ACTIVITY PASSES



Walk through history, take in culture, and more.

TICKETS & TOURS

[Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) is a one-stop digital gateway to some of America's most spectacular outdoor destinations, offering travelers a convenient and comprehensive way to plan unforgettable adventures.

Idaho Scenic Byways

Lewis and Clark Backcountry Byway

Take a drive on the breathtaking Lewis and Clark Backcountry Byway. This remote route recognizes the area where Meriwether Lewis and William Clark began their explorations of the Pacific Northwest. Visitors will find that many of the forests and meadows on this drive look much the same as when these explorers journeyed to the area in 1805.

" We travelled 20 miles this day, and encamped at a place where the mountains come close to the river The man who had remained behind at the first village and the other who had gone with the Indians to their fishing place, both joined us here. The Indians gave them five salmon to bring to us: and he that had stayed for a horse, brought one with him."
—William Clark August 21, 1805



Upcoming Featured Events on the [LCTE Events Calendar](#)



[Frontier Sewing](#)

Sibley, MO

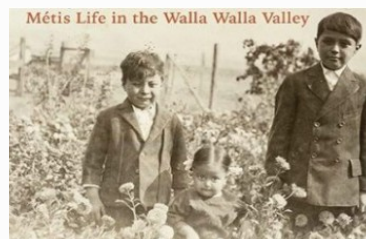
July 19



[Gear and Gadgets](#)

Three Forks, MT

July 26



[Metis Life](#)

Pendleton, OR

August 1 - 31



Download the APP

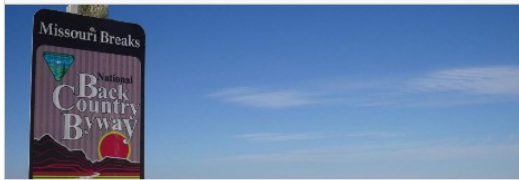
**Traveling the Trail
this summer?**

Take the Lewis and Clark Trail Experience with you by downloading our mobile APP. Scan the QR code with your mobile device.

Missouri Breaks Trip Inspirations

Into the Breaks

Malta to Lewistown via C M Russell NWR



The Upper Missouri River Breaks through Central and Eastern Montana is a rugged, yet scenic, stretch of the Lewis and Clark Trail typically accessed by boat. This route provides an option to see and explore the Breaks on land. The...

Stops: 6

Distance: 201 miles

[VIEW INSPIRATION](#)

Out of the Breaks

Russell NWR to Great Falls



Into the Breaks introduced you to a land route tour in this rugged landscape. Out of the Breaks takes you from Lewistown to Great Falls with an option to travel part of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. Visit the...

Stops: 7

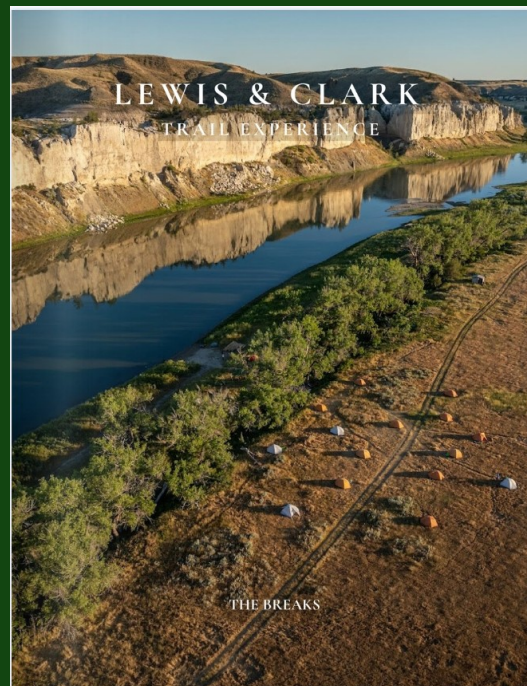
Distance: 355 miles

[VIEW INSPIRATION](#)

[Into the Breaks](#)

[Out of the Breaks](#)

Explore the Missouri Breaks with our latest Trip Inspirations and Travel Magazine.



[The Breaks](#)



Rails to Trails Update - Jefferson River

The proposed Ruby Valley Rail Trail would span approximately 19 miles, connecting the communities of Twin Bridges, Sheridan, Laurin, and Alder along the inactive Montana Rail Link (MRL) right-of-way. This trail would serve cyclists, walkers, equestrians, and potentially winter recreation users, providing a safe and scenic path through Ruby Valley ranchlands with great views of the Ruby Range and Tobacco Root Mountains.

The Ruby Valley Rail Trail offers a rare alignment of opportunity, manageability, and community benefit. It is less contentious and logistically simpler than other large-scale trail projects in Montana, with a strong chance of near-term success. We believe this corridor could serve as a flagship model for rural trail conversion in the state.

[Montana Rail Trails](#) [Bike Walk Montana](#)

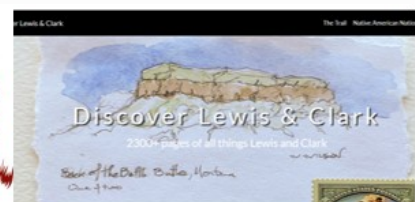
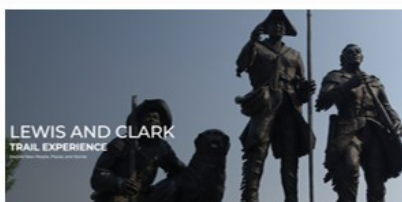
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