

Sixteen States • 4,900 Miles • One Lewis and Clark Trail

The Trail

Tracing the route of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1803 to 1806, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail winds 4,900 miles across North America through eastern forests and the Great Plains, across high deserts and the Rocky Mountains, and on to the Pacific Ocean. The national historic trail commemorates and protects the rich diversity of historical and cultural landscapes along this route.

Follow in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark along the banks of the Ohio, Missouri, Yellowstone, Clearwater, Snake, and Columbia rivers. Visit local communities and native homelands. Listen to the stories of then and now. Go by car, bus, or bicycle, by water, or on foot. Interpretive signs, exhibits, visitor centers, museums, and special events will guide you along the way (see map).

Tribal Homelands

Every mile of Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail was first the homeland of indigenous peoples. The route crosses the homelands of more than 60 tribes. Since time immemorial, tribes have celebrated their dynamic cultures, languages, technologies, art, trade, and economies on this continent.

Tribes are as key to the Lewis and Clark story as the expedition's namesake captains. Two hundred years ago, tribal knowledge and assistance proved critical to the expedition's survival. Today, whether rooted in their original homeland or displaced, Native peoples remain—and so do their connections to these places.

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail honors tribal homelands historically, presently, and in perpetuity.

Designation

In 1978 Congress established Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail as part of the National Trails System. At that time, the 3,700-mile-long trail began in Hartford, Illinois, and ended at the shores of the Pacific Ocean. In 2019 Congress extended the trail by 1,200 miles to include the preparatory segment of the expedition—following the Ohio River from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Today the trail stretches 4,900 miles through 16 states: Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon.

Plan Your Trip

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail connects museums, interpretive centers, parks, and points of interest that are managed by federal, state, and local agencies; tribal nations; nonprofit organizations; and private landowners.

Find places to visit, maps, history, and partner toolkits at www.nps.gov/lecl.

We strive to make facilities, services, and programs accessible to all. For information check the website and contact individual sites you plan to visit.

The headquarters of Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is located inside the National Park Service Regional Office along the Missouri River in Omaha, Nebraska. A visitor center is open year-round. Western National Parks Association, a nonprofit education partner of the National Park Service, operates an onsite bookstore.

If you plan to travel sections of the historic trail by boat, canoe, or kayak, be aware that long portions of the rivers traveled by Lewis and Clark are now impounded by dams. The dams on the Ohio, Snake, and Columbia rivers have locks. Commercial boat trips are available on some segments.

Seven different water trails, with a combined total of over 1,500 miles, can be found along the route: Ohio River Water Trail, Missouri River Water Trail, Missouri National Recreational River Water Trail, Missouri River Breaks Water Trail, Jefferson River Canoe Trail, Northwest Discovery Water Trail, and Lower Columbia River Water Trail. To learn more visit www.nps.gov/lecl.

Visitor Etiquette

Before visiting tribal communities and reservations, be sure to first consult individual tribal websites for current information. Just as each community is unique, so are their policies and codes of conduct for ceremonies and special events.

Respect privacy. Recording video and taking photographs may be prohibited; ask for permission first.

Do not move, remove, or otherwise disturb any found objects or artifacts. Federal laws protect all natural and cultural features including Native American remains and artifacts.

Partners

The Lewis and Clark Trust serves as friends group for the national historic trail. The trust is dedicated to telling the and preserving the trail from coast to coast. www.lewisandclarktrust.org

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation is a nonprofit national organization dedicated to preservation of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The foundation publishes the quarterly magazine *We Proceeded On* and has an annual meeting at a site along the trail. www.lewisandclark.org

The National Park Foundation, the charitable partner of the National Park Service, enriches America's national parks and programs through the support of private citizens, park lovers, stewards, nature, history enthusiasts, and will adventurers. www.nationalparks.org

More Information

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