

Up the Missouri ...

May 27, 1804: The Expedition proceeded 15 1/2 miles. They met two canoes and rafts loaded with pelts coming down from the Omaha, Pawnee and the Big Osage Nations. Camped on a willow island in the mouth of the Gasconade River. Clark measured the Gasconade River at 157 yards wide.

May 28, 1804: The Expedition remained at the Gasconade campsite unloading the baggage of the red pirogue to dry. They found many items wet due to the carelessness of the French boatmen.

May 29, 1804: The Expedition left the campsite at 4:30 p.m. but left one of the pirogues with crew behind to wait on Pvt. Whitehouse who had not returned from hunting. Whitehouse finally returned two hours after the Expedition departed and records he had discovered one of the most remarkable caves he had ever seen. The expedition proceeded 4 miles to an island in the rising river.

May 30, 1804: The Expedition proceeded 14 miles passing an overhanging bluff named Monbrun Tavern. They encountered several rain showers along the way with the river rising very fast and finally camped at the mouth of Grindstone (probably Deer) Creek.

May 31, 1804: A westerly wind blew with such force that the Expedition remained at their campsite. A French trapper and two Indians arrived on a raft loaded with bear skins and pelts from the Big Osage Nation.

*...Several rats of Considerable Size was Caught in the woods to day Capt Lewis went out to the woods & found many curious Plants & Srubs...
Clark*

This rat species was later identified as the eastern wood rat, then new to science.

June 1-2, 1804: The Expedition set out early journeying 13 miles before camping at the mouth of the Osage River. The Captains took several astronomical observations and river measurements. Clark measured the Missouri at 875 yards wide and the Osage at 397 yards wide. While at the Osage, Clark climbed a hill now known as Clark's Hill - Norton State Historical Site.

June 3, 1804: The Expedition remained at their campsite until 5 p.m. Before setting out, Clark attempted to take observations of the sun using the octant but found it was too cloudy to be depended upon. They passed Rising Creek that Clark calls Cupboard Creek as its mouth is behind a rock that projects into the river. The party camped at the mouth of Moreau Creek. Clark noted Indian war party signs of crossing at the creek's mouth. He also complains of a "very Sore Throat & am Tormented by Musquetors & Small ticks". Due to their late start they made only 5 miles on this day.

River Hazards

The Missouri River is deep in some areas, but other locations may have rock dikes, sandbars and shallow spots. Snags and floating debris also present hazards that may be difficult to see until you are right on top of them. Varying river levels can expose or submerge hazards within a short period of time.

As you travel the river, look for water areas with boils or ripples. This indicates sandbars, dikes or possible hazards close to the surface. Maps and charts may not necessarily show the location of sandbars because they shift with the flow of the river. At locations where the river narrows, or where there are obstacles in the river, tongues of relative glassy water form inverted "V's" downstream of the obstruction.

Rock dikes are numerous below Kansas City. There is a possibility of submerged dikes during periods of high water that create a hazard for boaters. The location of these dikes is indicated on river navigation charts, which are available from the Corps of Engineers. Mile markers (blue with silver numbers) make it easy to track your location. These are placed on the bank you should be favoring. Navigation Markers are provided whenever the channel crosses from one side to another. A rule of thumb is to stay toward the outside of every bend and the dikes should give you no trouble.

Missouri River Access & Public Lands

River Access (Boat Ramps)	Toilets	Camping	River Mile	Owner	Stream
Bonnots Mill	Y	Y	130.0	MDC	Osage River
Capitol View	Y	N	148.2	MDC	Cedar Creek
Chamois	N	N	117.9	MDC	Missouri River
Fredericksburg Ferry	N	Y	104.3	MDC	Gasconade River
Gasconade Park	Y	Y	104.3	MDC	Gasconade River
Helds Island	Y	Y	104.3	MDC	Gasconade River
Mari-Osa	Y	Y	130.0	MDC	Osage River
Mokane	N	Y	124.7	MDC	Missouri River
Moreau 50	N	Y	138.4	MDC	Moreau River
Noren	Y	N	144.0	MDC	Missouri River

Public Lands and Parks	Toilets	Camping	Ownership/ Management
Ben Branch Lake, Conservation Area	Y	Y	MDC
Earthquake Hollow, Conservation Area	N	N	MDC
Ellis-Porter Park, River Overlook	N	N	Jefferson City
Grand Bluffs, Conservation Area	N	Y	MDC
Katy Trail State Park, Biking/Hiking Trail	Y	N	MDNR
Mark Twain National Forest	Y	Y	USDAFS
Reform, Conservation Area	Y	N	MDC
Smoky Waters, Conservation Area	N	Y	MDC
St. Aubert Island	N	N	USFWS
Tate Island, Mitigation Site	N	N	MDC/USACE



Capt. William Clark - Full Dress
1802 Artillery Officer's Uniform

Painting by: © 1999 Michael Haynes



Beaver Hut (On the Missouri) Vignette XVII

Hand-colored Engraving by: Karl Bodmer

Lewis & Clark Dated Campsite	Lewis and Clark Point of Interest	River Mile	Public Land	Current River Channel	Interstate Highway	Street	State Boundary
Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Highway	Lewis & Clark Information Sign	Ramp Name	City Boundary	1879 Missouri River Channel	US Highway	Railroad	County Boundary
	Boat Ramp (with Fuel)	Indian Reservation		County Highway	State Highway	Katy Trail State Park (with trail heads)	