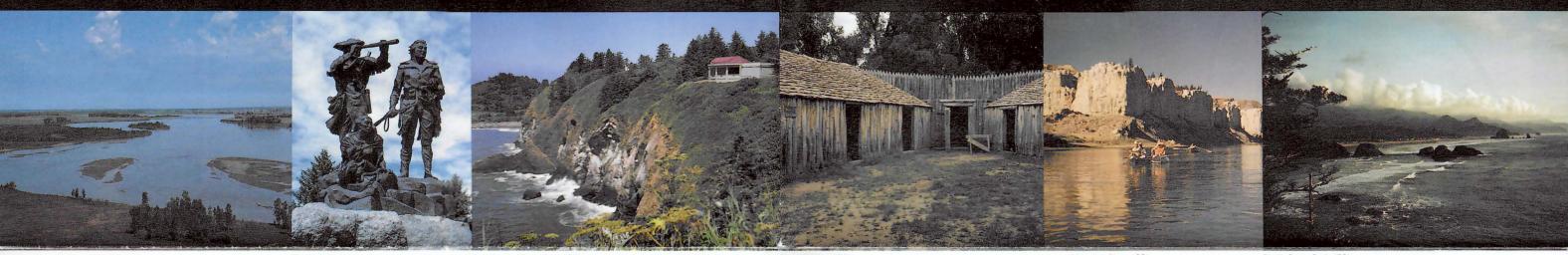
# Lewis and Clark Trail

National Historic Trail IL-MO-KS-NE-IA-SD-ND-MT-ID-WA-OR

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior



Missouri River (18,19)

Montana Lewis and Clark Memorial (38

Fort Canby State Park (76)

Fort Mandan (29)

Upper Missouri River (36

Ecola State Park (79)

# The Corps of Discovery

The Lewis and Clark Expedition was one of the most dramatic and significant episodes in the history of the United States. It stands, incomparably, as our Nation's epic in documented exploration of the American West. In 1804-06, it carried the destiny as well as the flag of our young Nation westward from the Mississippi across thousands of miles of mostly unknown land to the Pacific Ocean. This epic feat fired the imagination of the American people and made them feel the full sweep of the continent on which they lived. In its scope and achievements, the Expedition towers among the major explorations of the world.

In 1803, the United States, while attempting to purchase New Orleans from France, was unexpectedly sold the entire territory called Louisiana. This enormous, 838,000-squaremile area doubled the size of our national domain. It included most of the lands drained by the western tributaries of the Mississippi River. from the Gulf of Mexico to present Canada, and west to the Continental Divide.

Although Thomas Jefferson had previously proposed expeditions of western exploration, the purchase of Louisiana now provided the impetus to move forward and Congress authorized the Expedition. A primary objective was to find a practical transportation link between the Louisiana Territory and the "Oregon Country," claimed by the U.S. following discovery of the mouth of the Columbia River by Captain Robert Gray in 1792.

However, the Expedition was conceived as more than geographic exploration. Jefferson wanted information on the resources and inhabitants of the new territory. The party was to scientifically observe and, if practicable, collect plant, animal, and mineral specimens; record weather data; study native cultures; conduct diplomatic councils with the tribes; map geographic features "of a permanent kind" along their route: and record all important observations and events through daily journal entries.

Assigning high priority to the quest for knowledge, Lewis and Clark meticulously observations about the recorded characteristics, inhabitants, and resources of the country through which they passed. Not many explorers in the history of the world have provided such exhaustive and accurate information on the regions they probed.

Before the Expedition, the trans-Mississippi West was an unexplored, unmapped, virgin land. The members of the Expedition made their way through this vast country, living off its resources and adapting themselves to its harsh conditions. They encountered primitive tribes and menacing animals. On foot, on horseback, and by boat they pushed over massive mountain ranges, across seemingly endless plains, through dense forests, and against powerful currents of raging waters.

Meriwether Lewis began the journey at Washington, D.C., on July 5, 1803. At Pittsburgh, he gathered supplies of arms and military stores from Harpers Ferry and Schuylkill (Philadelphia) Arsenals. These and a wide assortment of other items were loaded aboard a specially designed keelboat, on which Lewis 'with a party of 11 hands'' departed down the Ohio River, August 30. Other men were recruited along the way. At Clarksville, opposite Louisville, Lewis was joined by his cocommander, William Clark. The party established its 1803-04 winter camp along the Mississippi River, above St. Louis at Wood River (Illinois), opposite the mouth of the Missouri River

After a winter of diplomatic duties and final preparations, the explorers, on May 14, 1804, headed their boats into the current of the river "under a jentle brease." The party numbered 45 from Wood River to its 1804-05 winter establishment at Fort Mandan (North Dakota), and 33 from Mandan to the Pacific and return in 1805-06. Lewis' Newfoundland dog, Seaman, accompanied the party throughout its iourney

Ascending the Missouri in 1804 proved arduous and slow as the men towed the keelboat and two smaller more maneuverable craft, called pirogues, against the swift current. Sergeant Charles Floyd, the only Expedition member to die on the journey, succumbed to apparent appendicitis and was buried near present Sioux City, Iowa. The difficulties of the first summer and autumn forged the party into a hardened "Corps of Discovery."

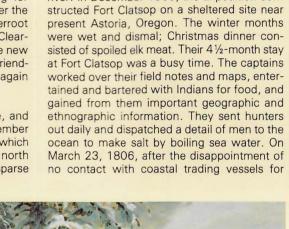
The first of many councils with Indian tribes took place north of present Omaha, Nebraska, at a place the captains called "Councile Bluff." Here they gave presents and peace medals to the Oto chiefs and informed them of the new sovereignty of the United States

The Expedition spent a productive winter at Fort Mandan, which they built in November 1804 near present Washburn, North Dakota. The fort was close to the five Knife River villages of the friendly Mandan and Minitari (Hidatsa) Indians. Here the commanders gained valuable knowledge of the country west to the Rockies and recruited as interpreters the French-Canadian fur trader, Toussaint Charbonneau, and his Shoshoni wife, Sacagawea. Together with their newborn son, Jean Baptiste, they would journey with the party to the Pacific and back to the Mandan villages.

In April 1805, the keelboat departed for St. Louis, and the "permanent party" of 33 continued up the Missouri in the two pirogues and six dugout canoes. As they forged westward through country "on which the foot of civilized man had never trodden," the explorers met danger as a matter of course, suffering hunger, fatigue, privation, and sickness.

They encountered the Great Falls of the Missouri in mid-June 1805 and spent 3 weeks portaging their heavy canoes and equipment 18 miles around the falls. They reached the source of the Missouri in August. Miraculously, the Shoshoni band contacted there were Sacagawea's people, led by her brother, Chief Cameahwait. This remarkable coincidence, together with Sacagawea's ability to speak Shoshoni, greatly enhanced the trading for horses. These were needed for travel over the Continental Divide and through the Bitterroot Mountains to navigable waters of the Clearwater River (Idaho). Here, the party made new dugout canoes, left their horses with the friendly Nez Perce Indians, and were once again waterborne.

Navigating down the Clearwater, Snake, and Columbia Rivers, the explorers, in November 1805, reached the "great Pacific Otcean which we been so long anxious to See." The north shore of the Columbia estuary proved sparse





"Lewis and Clark in the Bitterroots" by John Clymer

of game and too exposed to the fury of winter storms, so they crossed to the south side of the river. In December 1805, the Expedition con-

March 23, 1806, after the disappointment of no contact with coastal trading vessels for

possible return by sea, the Corps of Discovery began the long trek home

Struggling upstream against the current of the Columbia, they traded their canoes to Indians for horses near today's The Dalles, Oregon. Traveling overland, they returned to the Nez Perce villages and retrieved their horses but met nearly a month's delay in crossing the Bitterroots due to deep snow.

In July 1806, they reached Travelers Rest Camp near present Missoula, Montana. Here, the party divided. Lewis, with a small detachment, explored today's Blackfoot, Sun, and Marias Rivers and became engaged in the most serious Indian skirmish of the entire journey.

Clark and his group headed southeast to the Yellowstone River traversing Shoshoni tribal lands. Sacagawea contributed important guide services to Clark as she pointed out Indian trails that led to the Yellowstone. Clark and his party once again made dugout canoes and explored the river downstream to its confluence with the Missouri where they met Lewis' party. After a short stop at the Mandan villages, the homeward bound voyageurs made a rapid descent of the Missouri to St. Louis, arriving there on September 23, 1806.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition traveled more than 8,000 miles over a period of 2 years, 4 months, and 9 days. Its findings contributed vital new knowledge concerning the vast, previously unknown land, its resources, and its native inhabitants. The resulting geopolitical impact of the mission had far-reaching effects upon international boundaries and relations. The Lewis and Clark journals are among the treasures of our Nation's written history, disclosing in simple eloquence, extraordinary deeds of a sincere, determined frontier breed that endures as a lasting legacy to be enjoyed by all Americans



Expansion Memorial (2)

Missouri River (19)

Pompeys Pillar (34)

Pompeys Pillar (34)

Great Falls (41)

# The Co-Commanders

Meriwether Lewis was born August 18, 1774, near Charlottesville, Virginia, and was a boyhood neighbor of Thomas Jefferson. In 1794, Lewis joined the militia and, at the rank of Ensign, was attached to a sublegion of General "Mad Anthony" Wayne commanded by Lieutenant William Clark. In sharing the experiences of the Northwest Campaign against the British and Indians, Lewis and Clark fashioned the bonds of an enduring friendship.

On March 6, 1801, Lewis, as a young Army Captain in Pittsburgh, received a letter from the soon-to-be-inaugurated President, Thomas Jefferson, offering Lewis a position as his secretary-aide. It said, "Your knolege of the Western country, of the army, and of all it's interests & relations has rendered it desireable for public as well as private purposes that you should be engaged in that office." Lewis readily accepted the position.

The reference to Lewis' "knolege of the Western country" hinted that Jefferson was

again planning an expedition to explore the West and had tentatively decided that Lewis would be its commander. On February 28, 1803, Congress appropriated funds for the Expedition, and Lewis, who had worked closely with Jefferson on preparations for it, was commissioned its leader.

As he made arrangements for the Expedition, Lewis concluded it would be desirable to have a co-commander. With Jefferson's consent, he offered the assignment to his friend and former commanding officer, William Clark, who was living with his brother, George Rogers, at Clarksville, Indiana Territory. Clark accepted, stating in his reply, "The enterprise &c. is Such as I have long anticipated and am much pleas-. My friend, I do assure you that no man ed. lives whith whome I would perfur to undertake Such a Trip &c. as yourself.'

Also a native Virginian, Clark, born August 1, 1770, was 4 years older than Lewis. In capability and background, he and Lewis shared much telligent, adventurous, resourceful, and prove to be the right choice as joint leader of courageous. Born leaders, experienced woodsmen-frontiersmen, and seasoned Army officers, they were cool in crises and quick to

in common. They were relatively young, in- make decisions. Clark, many times over, would the Expedition

In temperment, Lewis and Clark were op-



Hin planto

posites. Lewis was introverted, melancholic, and moody; Clark, extroverted, even-tempered, and gregarious. The better-educated and more refined Lewis, who possessed a philosophical, romantic, and speculative mind, was at home with abstract ideas; Clark, of a pragmatic mold, was more of a practical man of action. Each supplied vital qualities which balanced their partnership.

Their relationship ranks high in the realm of notable human associations. It was a rare example of two men of noble heart and consolence sharing responsibilities for the conduct of a dangerous enterprise without ever losing the other's respect or loyalty. Despite the frequent stress, hardships, and other conditions that could easily have bred jealousy, mistrust, or contempt, they proved to be self-effacing brothers in command and leadership. During their long journey, there is not a single trace of a serious quarrel or dispute between them.

After the Expedition, Lewis was appointed

Governor of Louisiana Territory; Clark was promoted to Brigadier General and appointed to the Superintendency of Indian Affairs. Lewis, at age 35, died tragically on October 11, 1809, just 3 years after the Expedition. His grave lies within Natchez Trace National Parkway, near Hohenwald, Tennessee. Thomas Jefferson, who held life-long affection for his protege, is credited with the Latin inscription on Lewis' tombstone: Immaturus obi: sed tu felicior annos Vive meos, Bona Republica! Vive tuos. (I died young: but thou, O Good Republic, live out my years for me with better fortune.)

Clark lived a long and productive life in St. Louis, dying September 1, 1838, age 68. He is buried in the Clark family plot, Bellefontaine Cemetery, St. Louis. In deserved tribute, both Meriwether Lewis and William Clark are recognized members of that generation of our young nation's heroes who launched within themselves a drive of nationalistic vision and patriotic will that would form the spirit and richness of America's history itself.



Gates of the Mountains (46) Floyd Monument (17)

Bitterroot (Lewisia Rediviva)



Lolo Trail (60)

Bighorn Sheep

Hat Rock (70)

Fort Clatsop (77) Beacon Rock (74)

# Exploring with Lewis and Clark

Today you can follow in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark, exploring the route they traveled and reliving the adventure of the Corps of Discovery. By boat or canoe, by car, or on foot, you can retrace portions of their historic route. Along the way, you will learn about the Expedition from numerous interpretive signs, exhibits, museums, visitor centers, and living history displays. Some of the most outstanding retracement opportunities and interpretation/recreation facilities are identified on the map on the reverse side of this brochure. These are keyed by number to the accompanying text and to the pictures which appear on this side

To ensure that these opportunities and facilities are preserved and that others are developed, Congress in 1978 established the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail as a component of the National Trails System. The National Park Service administers the trail in partnership with many Federal, State, and local agencies, private organizations, and private landowners. These cooperating interests manage existing retracement routes and recreation/interpretation sites and work to develop additional opportunities.

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail provides three types of retracement opportunities:

Water Trail Segments are portions of Lewis and Clark's route where the Expedition traveled by watercraft on the Missouri and Columbia Rivers and their tributaries. These portions of their route can be retraced by boat or canoe. Today, long portions of these rivers are composed of a series of dams and impounded lakes. Dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers have locks; those on the Missouri do not. Commercial boat trips are available on some segments, such

as the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River (36) and the Gates of the Mountains (46).

Land Trail Segments are portions of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail that will be developed for travel on foot and/or horseback. Three segments are already open for public use: the Roughrider Trail (27), the Lolo Trail (60), and the trail over Tillamook Head ("Clark's Mountain and Point of View") in Ecola State Park (79)

Marked Motor Route Segments are portions of Lewis and Clark's overland route where modern-day roads precisely or very nearly follow the historic route and where it is not feasible to establish a footpath for retracement. Although unmarked at present, they can easily be followed by using the general map on the reverse side supplemented by State highway maps

These three types of retracement opportunities and selected interpretation/recreation sites are shown on the map. Because it is only a general map, it may be necessary to consult highway maps or make local inquiry to find these sites. Some sites have no development and/or public access. Please respect the rights of private property owners.

Marking the sites and segments of the trail with the official marker shown on the map is only just beginning. However, the present lack of markers should pose no difficulty to travelers who consult other available maps and brochures about Lewis and Clark.

Those who wish to explore Lewis and Clark's route primarily by automobile will enjoy following the Lewis and Clark Trail Highway established by State highway agencies in the late 1960's. While the national historic trail very closely follows Lewis and Clark's actual route

and method of travel, the highway system provides an opportunity to approximate their entire route by automobile following existing roads. The Lewis and Clark Trail Highway is marked with rectangular signs that utilize the same figures of Lewis and Clark as the national historic trail marker

Additional Information to assist you in following the

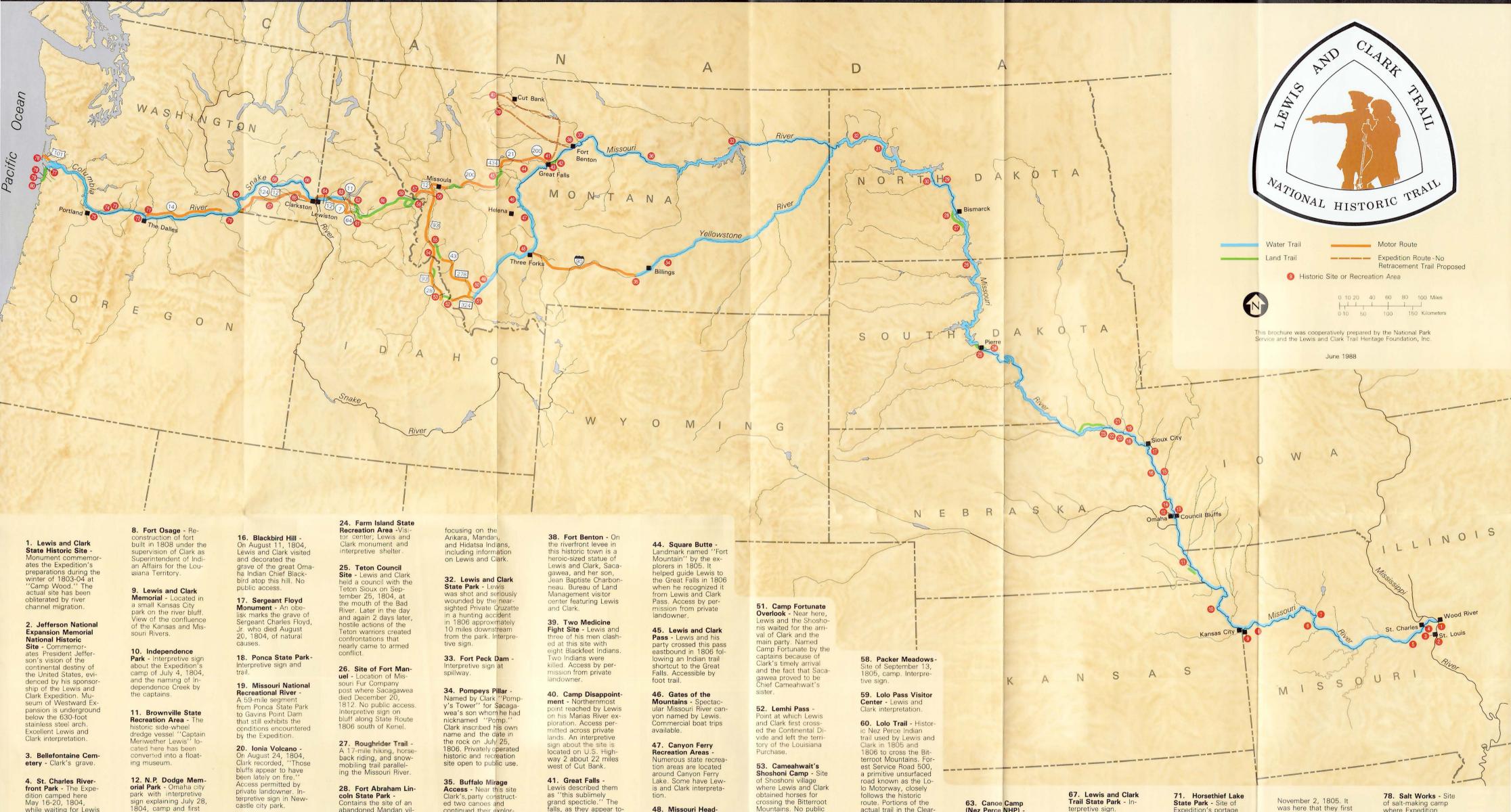
route of Lewis and Clark and enjoying its historic and recreational features can be obtained from State and local tourism agencies, chambers of commerce, historical societies, and offices of Federal and State agencies managing public lands and waters that are part of the trail.

You Can Help establish the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail by encouraging and assisting public agencies and private interests along the route to preserve and interpret sites important to the Expedi-

tion. Information on establishing, certifying, and marking sites can be obtained by writing to: Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, National Park Service, 1709 Jackson Street, Omaha, NE 68102-2571.

You can also help establish the trail and promote public interest in matters relating to the Lewis and Clark Expedition by joining or supporting the efforts of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. The Foundation promotes public interest in Lewis and Clark, publishes an informative quarterly magazine, holds an annual meeting along the Expedition route, and assists the National Park Service in its efforts. Information can be obtained by writing to: Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc., 172 Briarwood, Helena, MT 59601.

# Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail



dition camped here May 16-20, 1804, while waiting for Lewis to complete business in St. Louis, and agair on September 2 1806. Interpretive sign

5. Tavern Cave Lewis and Clark visited the cave May 23, 1804. No public access.

6. Arrow Rock State Historic Site -Clark noted Arrow Rock Bluff as they passed it on June 9 1804. Interpretive sign.

7. Stump Island Park-Located on the site the June 10-11, 1804 camp named "Stump Island" in Clark's journal. Interpretive sign.

1804, camp and first Indian encountered by

13. Lewis and Clark Monument - Located in a Council Bluffs, lowa, city park.

the Expedition.

## 14. Fort Atkinson **State Historical Park** "Councile Bluff where Lewis and Clark held their first council with Indians on August 3, 1804, is just east of the fort. Clark's report that the site was ideal for a fort led to the

15. Lewis and Clark State Park - Interpretive sign and full-scale keelboat replica.

construction of Fort At-

kinson in 1820. Visitor

center.

21. Spirit Mound On August 25, 1804 Lewis and Clark walked to this conical hill which the Indians be lieved to be the residence of "little people or Spirits." Interpretive

sign along State Route 19 about 7 miles north of Vermillion. 22. Calumet Bluff The Expedition's cour

cil with the Yankton Sioux at this site is interpreted nearby at Gavins Point Dam Visitor Center and at Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area, South Dakota.

23. Gavins Point **Dam Visitor Center** Lewis and Clark interpretation

abandoned Mandan village noted by Clark in his journal. Five earth lodges have been reconstructed.

29. Fort Mandan Park - Located a few niles downstream of the actual site, this park contains a replica of the Expedition's 1804-05 winter quar-

30. Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site - Remnants of three Hidatsa vilages visited by Lewis and Clark during the 1804-05 winter stay at Fort Mandan. Visitor center.

31. Four Bears Park nterpretive center

continued their explor ation of the Yellow

stone River by water

36. Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River - This 149-mile segment fror Kipp State Park upstream to Fort Benton provides excellent opportunities for retrac ing a section of the Ex pedition route that is little changed since 1805-06. Commercial boat trips available.

37. Marias River The explorers spent 9 days in June 1805 de termining the Marias was not the main stem of the Missouri River. Interpretive sign at nearby Loma, Montana.

falls, as they appear today, may be viewed rom Montana Power Company's Ryan Dan Park and its series of scenic overlooks. Inter pretive signs.

42. Portage Around the Great Falls - The navigational obstacle or the Great Falls detain ed the Expedition for nearly a month in 1805 while boats and supplies were portaged 18 miles. Most of the route is privately owned and not access ble to the public.

43. Giant Springs **Heritage State Park** Clark discovered this huge "fountain or spring" during the port age around the Great Falls Interpretive signs

48 Missouri Head waters State Park -Located where the Jef ferson, Madison, and Gallatin Rivers join to form the Missouri, the park has excellent Lew is and Clark interpreta-

49. Beaverhead Rock State Monument - Sacagawea recognized this landmark and told the captains that he people, the Shoshonis, would be camped not ar beyond. Interpretive sign 21/2 miles south on State Route 41.

50. Clark's Lookout State Monument -Scenic overlook of Beaverhead Valley climbed by Clark on August 13, 1805, Presently undeveloped.

pretive sign near junc-tion of U.S. Highways 93 and 12. 57. Lolo Hot Springs The Expedition camped and bathed here on June 29, 1806. Commercially operated.

access.

dians.

54. Lost Trail Pass

55. Ross' Hole - Site

met the Flathead In-

56. Travelers Rest -

here September 9-11

July 3, 1806. On the

return journey, the Ex-

into two parties. Inter-

pedition separated here

1805, and June 30-

The Expedition campeo

where Lewis and Clark

Interpretive sign.

actual trail in the Clean water National Forest are marked and open to hiking and horse back riding. Interpretive

61. Lewis and Clark 'Long Camp'' (Nez Perce NHP) - The Ex pedition camped here 27 days in the spring of 1806 waiting for snow to melt in the Bitterroot Mountains before crossing them Interpretive sign.

signs.

62. Weippe Prairie (Nez Perce NHP) Lewis and Clark made contact with the Nez Perce Indians here af ter nearly starving while crossing the Bitterroot Mountains westbound. Interpretive sign.

## (Nez Perce NHP) The Expedition camped here from September

26 to October 7, 1805 while building five canoes for their jour ney down the Clearwater, Snake, and Columbia Rivers. Interpretive sign

## 64. Nez Perce National Historical Park Park headquarters and visitor center.

65. Chief Timothy State Park - Major in terpretive center devo-ted to the Expedition and its contacts with Indians in nearby villages.

66. Bover Park - Major recreation complex and marina. Interpretive sign.

terpretive sign.

## 68. Lyons Ferry State Park - Major recreation complex and marina.

Interpretive sign. In 1964 a Jefferson peace medal given by Lewis and Clark to an Indian chief was found in an Indian grave at the mouth of "Drewyers" (Palouse) River

69. Sacajawea State Park - Important inter pretive center devoted to the Expedition and the role of Sacagawea (Park uses popular but incorrect spelling "Sacajawea.'')

70. Hat Rock State Park - Hat Rock was named by Clark on October 19, 1805. Interpretive sign.

Expedition's portage around the "Great Falls" of the Columbia.

Interpretive sign.

72. The Dalles - The reacherous "Grea Falls" (Celilo) and currents of the "Long and Short Narrows'' (al now inundated) were formidable navigational barriers encountered by Lewis and Clark. In terpretive marker at site of the Expedition's 'Rock Fort'' camp.

73. Bonneville Dam Visitor centers at the dam in both Oregon and Washington interpret the Expedition.

74. Beacon Rock State Park - Beacon Rock was named by Clark in his journal for

was here that they first observed Pacific Ócean tidewater.

75. Lewis and Clark State Park - Selfguiding trail interpret ng plants credited to Lewis and Clark for botanical discovery. Interpretive sign.

76. Fort Canby State Park - Major inte tive center devoted to a comprehensive over view of the Expedition. Located on the site where the Expedition achieved its principal goal - the Pacific Ocean.

77. Fort Clatsop National Memorial - Replica of the Expedition's 1805-06 winter quarters. Visitor center.

where Expedition members boiled seawater for 2 months to make 4 bushels of salt for use at Fort Clatsop and on the return jour ney. In Seaside, Oregon.

79. Ecola State Park-On January 7-8, 1806,

Clark and 14 others rossed over "Clark" Mountain and Point of View'' (Tillamook Head) on their way to the site of a beached whale, A 7,5-mile hik ing trail retraces their route.

80. Les Shirley Park Near mouth of Ecola Creek where whale washed ashore and blubber was purchased from Indians by Clark. Interpretive sign.