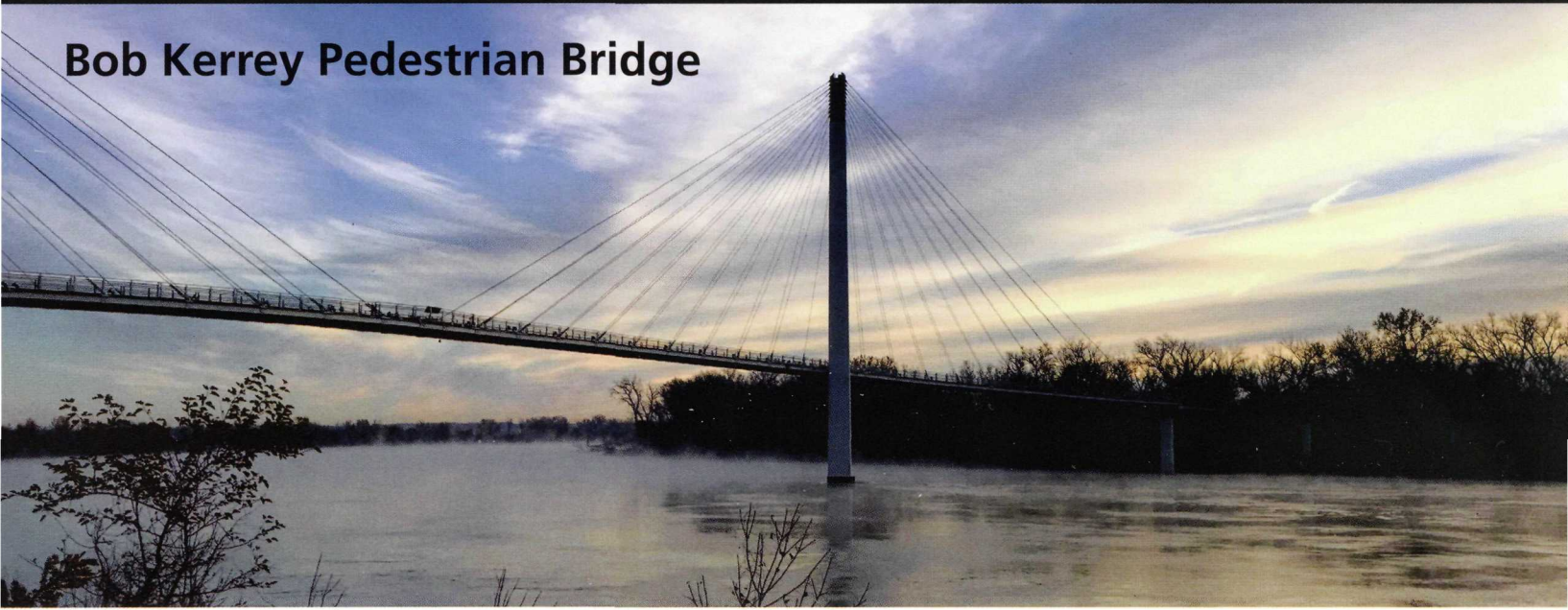




Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge



The longest river in the nation is spanned by the longest pedestrian bridge to link two states. The Bob Kerrey Bridge was completed in September of 2008 and provides a unique perspective of the river that Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery navigated over 200 years ago.

Bridge Statistics

The 3,000 foot long cable-stayed bridge is managed by the cities of Omaha and Council Bluffs. Walk from Nebraska to Iowa in 15 minutes. Roundtrip walk is 1.1 miles (1.8 km).

- Bridge connects 150 miles of biking and nature trails
- Curved shape is symbolic of the meandering Missouri
- The bridge is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Nicknamed “Bob,” it was named after former Nebraska U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey



NPS Photo

- Stand in two states at once while “bobbing” on the bridge, then share and tag your photos #ItHappensOnBob and #LewisAndClarkTrail

Missouri River

When the Lewis and Clark expedition traveled the Missouri River in 1804, it stretched 2,541 miles from its headwaters at Three Forks, Montana to its mouth at St. Louis, Missouri. Its valley was dotted with wetlands, meadows, and forests of cottonwood trees. The water was slow-moving in side channels, chutes, and backwaters.

Today’s Missouri River has gone through many changes, most man-made. The river is now 200 miles shorter than when Lewis and Clark explored it. Many of its meandering curves were straightened and the bottom was dredged to make navigation easier for ships and barges moving up and down the river.

Missouri River
1804



Missouri River
Today





Set out from Camp River a Dubois at 4 oClock P. M. and proceded up the Missouri... the Party Consisted of 2, Self one frenchman and 22 Men in the Boat of 20 ores, 1 Serjt. & 7 french in a large Perogue, a Corp and 6 Soldiers in a large Perogue...

William Clark, May 14, 1804

Keelboat

At 55 feet long, the keelboat could hold up to 14 tons of supplies. Keelboats were a common river craft in the early 19th century. They were designed for upriver travel and could withstand many of the underwater obstructions like tree snags and sandbars. The keelboat moved by sail, paddles, poles, and cordelling (a method of walking along the shoreline and pulling the boat with ropes).

The keelboat traveled down river with a small crew after the winter stay at Fort Mandan. It was too heavy to continue up the shallow Missouri River. On its journey downriver it carried items that the expedition collected to that point. These items were sent to Thomas Jefferson in Washington, DC. The items included Lewis and Clark's daily journal writings, animal and plant specimens, native American items, and a live prairie dog.

Pirogues

Two pirogues (pronounced per-rogue) made up part of the expedition's fleet during a large part of their journey. They were open boats, like large rowboats with sails. The red pirogue was 41 feet long, the white pirogue was 39 feet long, and each could carry at least 8 tons of cargo.

The smaller size of these boats, plus six canoes built at Fort Mandan, made navigation of the upper Missouri River possible until they reached the Rocky Mountains.



Visit the year-round visitor center at the
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Headquarters on Omaha's riverfront.
601 Riverfront Drive ■ Omaha, NE 68102 ■ 402-661-1804