

GIANT SPRINGS HERITAGE STATE PARK

Visit Giant Springs Heritage State Park and marvel at the same remarkable feature William Clark did on the bank of the Missouri River, June 18, 1805.

The freshwater spring, one of the largest in the United States, flows 6.4 million gallons per hour. Its crystal clear waters, emerald green vegetation, and constant 54-degree temperature attract visitors and make it one of the most photographed sites in the State Park system.

Over 400 acres of wild prairie grassland and groomed lawns await picnickers and sightseers alike. Secluded Missouri River shoreline and accessible platforms accommodate many styles of fishing. Kids can enjoy the playground near the picnic area. Relax under the shade of the cottonwood canopy. The park is open year-round.

A nickel still buys a handful of food for the trophy trout at one of Montana's newest and most modern trout hatcheries located within the park. Annually, over a million fish are raised and distributed to lakes and streams statewide. Trout varieties include Arlee, DeSmet, Eagle Lake, and Arlee-Eagle Lake cross. Additionally, a small number of Kokanee Salmon swim the hatchery runs. Exhibits in the hatchery visitor center illustrate the trout life cycle from fry to adolescent.



1068-02065700 - 6/2002



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LEWIS AND CLARK INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Plan a two-hour visit at the Interpretive Center. Exhibits feature the epic travels of Lewis and Clark through Indian Country, the West in 1805. Celebrate the successes, feel the frustrations of the Expedition.

From the lobby, enjoy panoramic views to the Missouri River. The centerpiece exhibit, featuring five explorers pulling a life-size canoe, highlights the Expedition's struggle portaging the Great Falls of the Missouri River. Get a quick introduction watching the 30-minute feature film. The complete story unfolds in the 6,000 square-foot exhibit hall. Follow the Corps of Discovery from their 1804 departure in St. Charles, Missouri, up the Missouri River, across the expansive plains, and over treacherous snow-capped mountains to their ultimate goal, the Pacific shores. Feel their labors by gripping a rope and pulling your own "canoe" to gauge your daily towing capacity using the mile-o-meter. Try your hand at building the iron boat; rattle door clappers and enter the Mandan lodge; and scribe your name at Pompey's Pillar.

With every step, meet the First Nations who unselfishly assisted the explorers. Experience Indian lifestyles and witness the elaborate, often imperfect, diplomacy of the exploring party. Experience the struggles and successes of these early explorers traveling across the continent through the American West, accompanied by the Indian woman Sacagawea, her husband Charbonneau and their infant son, Pomp.



Photo credit: Phil Bell, Donnie Saxon/Travel Montana, Ray Ozmon, Joe Stark Walker Design Group, USDA Forest Service, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Seasonally, interpretive programs move outdoors. Enjoy guided walks on summer mornings; keep an eye open for pelicans swooping for the catch of the day and listen to songbirds calling for a mate.

In River Camp try your hand at scraping a hide, or pitching a tipi - daily survival skills essential to the enterprise.

During the school year, thousands of schoolchildren engage in special programs integrating science, English, history, botany, geology, and leadership into their classroom instruction. Reservations are required for school groups. Call ahead to schedule.

Like the people in this story, Interpretive Center programs are constantly on the move. Changing temporary exhibits, on loan from other national facilities, complement the Center's permanent collection. The Center's bookstore, the Portage Cache, offers innovative selections for the discerning buyer. For scholars, the Archives Library of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation boasts a superior assemblage of collectable books. Schedule a research visit with the librarian.

Return time and again to see a new interpretive program, new exhibit, or new selection in the gift store.



Plan Your Visit Today



Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, hours and fees
Memorial Weekend - September 30:
• 9 am to 6 pm, Monday through Sunday
October 1 - Memorial Weekend
• 9 am to 5 pm, Tuesday through Saturday
• Noon to 5 pm, Sunday
Closed New Year's, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day
Entrance Fee - \$5 adults, \$2 youths 6-17, Under 6 - Free Admission
Seniors (62+) and Students with college ID - \$4
Golden Age, Golden Access, and Golden Eagle passes honored. Group rates available by pre-arrangement. Annual family and individual passes available.

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center
4201 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405-0900
(406) 727-8733
www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark/lcic.htm

Giant Springs and Heritage State Park, hours and fees
• 8 am to dusk, year-round
Entrance Fee - \$1 per person, 6 and over. Under 6 - Free Admission
Montana Resident State Park Annual Pass - \$24
Non-resident State Park Annual Pass - \$24
Giant Springs Fish Hatchery Hours
• 8 am to 4:30 pm, year-round, Free Admission
Region Four Headquarters Visitors Center Hours
• 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday, Free Admission

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405-0901
(406) 454-5840

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This brochure was made possible by donations from the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center Foundation, P.O. Box 398, Great Falls, MT 59403-0398, the Giant Springs Heritage State Park Commission, and Accommodations Tax Funds in cooperation with Travel Montana, Department of Commerce, and Russell County. Printed in the USA for free distribution. Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided upon request.

1068-02065700 • Second Printing June 2002

GREAT FALLS • MONTANA LEWIS AND CLARK AT GIANT SPRINGS



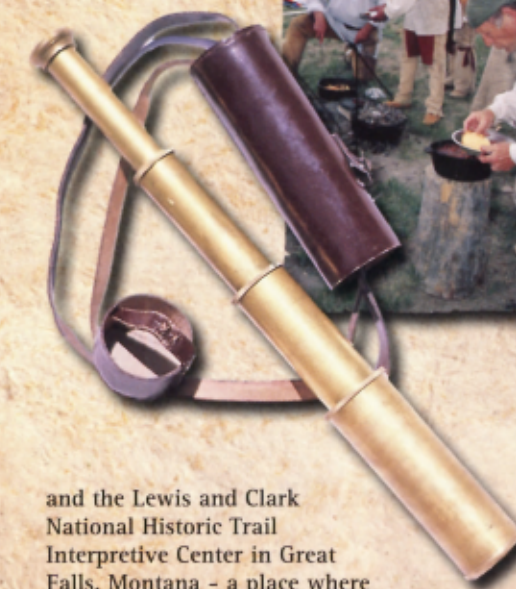
NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL INTERPRETIVE CENTER
HERITAGE STATE PARK
FISH HATCHERY
VISITOR CENTER



LEWIS AND CLARK AT GIANT SPRINGS

Step back in time to the open prairie where antelope grazed amongst roaming herds of bison, and Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, Sacagawea, and the Corps of Discovery explored the landscape. Indians called this land home; explorers called it paradise.

Lewis wrote of the countryside in 1805, "... I overlooked a most beautiful and extensive plain reaching from the river to the base of the Snowclad mountains ..." The beauty of the prairie and the history of the Expedition await those who visit Giant Springs Heritage State Park



and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center in Great Falls, Montana - a place where the past meets the future.

Centrally located along the 4,000-mile Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, Great Falls is the heart of Montana's "Big Sky Country" where Lewis and Clark camped more often and trekked more miles than any other trail state.

Site of a documented Lewis and Clark landmark, Giant Springs Heritage State Park, with its paved foot trails, scenic overlooks, abundant waterfowl, picnic sites, and the world's shortest river, is also home to the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center. Visitors, surrounded by the historic landscape, come to hike, fish, birdwatch, re-energize and re-live the Lewis and Clark adventure.

Whatever brings you to this place,
enjoy your stay
and return often.



GREAT FALLS • MONTANA

LEWIS AND CLARK

NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL INTERPRETIVE CENTER

GIANT SPRINGS

HERITAGE STATE PARK

LEGEND	
Interpretive Trail (Paved)	Scenic View
River's Edge Trail	Restrooms
Roadway	Picnic Area
Railroad Tracks	Foot Bridge
Hiking Trails	Information Kiosk
Heritage Park Day Use Fee Area	Mile Marker
The Expedition (Lewis, June 14, 1805)	Drinking Fountain
The Expedition (Clark, June-July, 1805)	Handicap Access
The Expedition (Lewis, July 16, 1806)	Gate

"...we proceeded on...to the largest fountain or Spring I ever Saw, and doubt if it is not the largest in America Known, this water boils up from under the rocks near the edge of the river and falls immediately into the river 8 feet and keeps its Colour for 1/2 a mile which is emencely Clear and of a bluish Cast..."
—William Clark Tuesday, June 18th 1805

"...below this fall at a little distance a beautiful little Island well timbered is situated about the middle of the river. in this Island on a Cottonwood tree an Eagle has placed her nest... the water is also broken in such manner as it descends over this pitch that the mist or spray rises to a considerable height."
—Meriwether Lewis Friday, June 14th 1805

"...hearing a tremendous roaring above me I continued my route across the point of a hill a few hundred yards further and was again presented by one of the most beautiful objects in nature, a cascade of about fifty feet perpendicular stretching at right-angles across the river from side to side to the distance of at least a quarter of a mile... the water descends in one even and uninterrupted sheet to the bottom where dashing against the rocky bottom rises into foaming billows of great height and rapidly glides away, hissing flashing and sparkling as it departs the spray rises from one extremity to the other..."
—Meriwether Lewis Friday, June 14th 1805

"after passing one continued rapid and three small cascades of about four or five feet each at the distance of about five miles I arrived at a fall of about 19 feet; the river is here about 400 yds. wide. this pitch which I called the crooked falls occupies about three fourths of the width of the river..."
—Meriwether Lewis Friday, June 14th 1805

Roe River
The world's shortest river, having an average length of 201 feet.

Giant Springs
From a fracture in the Earth's limestone, water flows upward 700 feet from beneath the surface at a force of 300 pounds per square inch, discharging 6.4 million gallons per hour.

River Camp
At this living history site, Center staff demonstrate skills of the Corps members and native people during the summer season.

River's Edge Trail
The trail is an accessible bicycle and pedestrian trail extending from downtown Great Falls to the scenic overlook at Crooked Falls. An unpaved trail extends 3 miles downstream to Cochrane Dam.

