



April 2003

**Your Guide to FREE Camping Information!**

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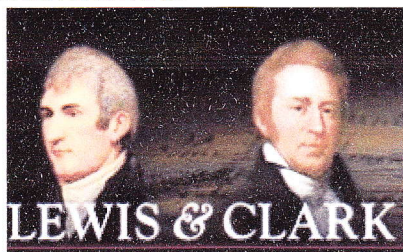
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**COMMENTS**

**The Lewis & Clark celebration has already started!** , *Al Johnson*  
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**Retrace the Lewis and Clark Trail During Its Bicentennial**



by DENNIS GAUB

Epic adventure. Scientific discovery. Preparing the United States to become a transcontinental

nation. Those phrases describe the Lewis and Clark Expedition, which journeyed from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean and back in 1804-1806. The bicentennial celebration of the expedition led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark began this year and will continue through 2006. While there is plenty of time to retrace the trail blazed by the Corps of Discovery, why not start now? Whenever they go, history-minded travelers will find ample historical attractions plus nearby KOA campgrounds. To guide the way, articles during the next four months will focus on the Lewis and Clark Trail. The first article features the expedition's travel in Illinois, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska. Articles to follow will highlight:

- Iowa, South Dakota and North Dakota.
- Montana, where the expedition covered more miles than in any other of what became states along the route.
- Idaho, Washington and Oregon, where the expedition established winter quarters in 1805-06 at the mouth of the Columbia River.

**Onward!**

The expedition officially began in May 1804, when a heavily loaded keelboat and two pirogues, or canoes, pushed



upstream into the Missouri River.

Befitting its fame as the expedition's starting point, St. Louis offers much to the visitor. Attractions in Missouri and neighboring Illinois, Kansas and Nebraska include:

- The Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, site of the 630-foot Gateway Arch and the Museum of Westward Expansion.
- Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis, where William Clark is buried.
- The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, in Alton, Illinois. The \$7 million, 15,000-square-foot center opened in December. It features the "Cutaway Keelboat," a full-size replica of the Corps' keelboat.
- Lewis and Clark State Historic Site, commemorating the expedition's preparations during the winter of 1803-04 at Camp Wood, Illinois.
- Lewis and Clark interpretive center in Arrow Rock (near Jonesburg). Attractions include 1800s-vintage buildings, arts and crafts festivals and a summer theater.
- Clark's Point, located in a small park in Kansas City, Missouri, overlooking the confluence of the Missouri and Kansas rivers. A statute portrays Lewis and Clark plus three other expedition members: Sacajawea, their Shoshone guide; York, Clark's African-American slave; and Seaman, Lewis' Newfoundland dog.
- Independence Park in Atchison, Kansas, where the Corps celebrated the Fourth of July in 1804.
- Meriwether Lewis Steamboat Museum of Missouri River History, housed in a permanently docked side-wheel dredge vessel named the Captain Meriwether Lewis that worked the Missouri River from 1932-69. The museum is located in Brownsville, Nebraska (across the river from Rock Port, Missouri).



[Campgrounds in Illinois](#)  
[Campgrounds in Missouri](#)  
[Campgrounds in Kansas](#)  
[Campgrounds in Nebraska](#)

Next month: Across Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota

For more information on Lewis and Clark see the resources listed below:

#### **WEB SITES:**

**Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation**  
<http://www.lewisandclark.org/>  
 Lewisandclarktrail.com [lewisandclarktrail.com](http://www.lewisandclarktrail.com)



**Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commemoration**

(descriptions of 15 national heritage signature events scheduled from 2003-2006)

<http://www.lewisandclark200.org/>

**BOOKS:**

Gary Moulton (editor). **The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition**. University of Nebraska Press, 1983.

Stephen Ambrose. **Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West**. Simon and Schuster, 1996.

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James P. Rhonda (editor). **Voyages of Discovery: Essays on the Lewis and Clark Expedition**. Montana Historical Society Press, 1998

David Lavender. **The Way to the Western Sea: Lewis and Clark Across the Continent**. Anchor books, 1988.

John Logan Allen. **Lewis and Clark and the Image of the American Northwest**. Dover Publications, Inc., 1991.

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