
LEWIS *and* CLARK TRAIL



The
South Dakota
Adventure

MAKING OF A COUNTRY

THE MISSION

President Thomas Jefferson became the principal author of one of America's most famous history lessons when he sent a hardy crew, led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, up the Missouri River to explore America's newest frontier. The expedition's goals were ambitious, a northwest passage to the Pacific Ocean, trade with American Indians and scientific discovery. Captains Lewis and Clark assembled their crew and the Corps of Discovery began its more than 8,000 mile trek on May 14, 1804, at the mouth of the Missouri River near St. Louis.



William Clark



Meriwether Lewis

RE-TRACE THE JOURNEY...

RE-LIVE THE ADVENTURE

Lewis and Clark spent the late summer and early fall of 1804 exploring present-day South Dakota. Their return trip, in 1806, led them back through the area. The captains' journal entries for this region described lush vegetation and wildlife, not to mention unusual sights like barking squirrels, burning bluffs and immense herds of buffalo. The journals also tell of first-ever councils with Sioux and Arikara tribes. Follow in the footsteps of the Corps of Discovery along the Missouri River. Walk where they walked, see what they saw and feel what they felt as the sometimes wild and isolated trail is revealed. Now, more than 200 years later, you too, can experience the same rugged adventure along South Dakota's Lewis and Clark Trail.

FOLLOW THE TRAIL, FIND THE FUN

You'll discover a wealth of adventure along South Dakota's Lewis and Clark Trail. This list of highlights begins at the southeastern tip of the state, where the explorers first entered South Dakota, and ends near the North Dakota border.

1- ADAMS HOMESTEAD AND NATURE PRESERVE

In Lewis and Clark's day, the Missouri River was shallow and unpredictable. Some days, the men spent hours towing the keelboat over sandbars. At Adams Nature Preserve, see one of the last free-flowing segments of the Missouri River. This section of the river retains its original character. More than seven miles of hiking and biking trails crisscross the preserve. Located near North Sioux City. Take exit 4 off I-29 and follow the signs.

2- SITE OF FIRST ELECTION

Following the death of Sgt. Charles Floyd, the captains needed a replacement. A vote was held Aug. 22, 1804. Patrick Gass received 19 votes in what is believed to be the first election by U.S. citizens west of the Mississippi. A marker in downtown Elk Point relays the story and the event is re-enacted each August as part of a community commemoration. Take exit 18 off I-29.

3- SPIRIT MOUND

Earlier in their journey, Lewis and Clark encountered Indian tribes who told them of 18-inch tall devils, armed with arrows inhabiting a prairie



hill. The story sparked Lewis and Clark's interest, and on Aug. 25, 1804, they set off on foot to investigate. The men hiked for four hours in the sweltering heat. At the top, the infamous devils were nowhere to be found. But the explorers did see an incredible sight: a herd of buffalo, nearly 800 of them, grazed in the distance. The Spirit Mound Historic Prairie is managed by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. It stands along Hwy 19 six miles north of Vermillion.

4- LEWIS AND CLARK VISITOR CENTER

This is a great place to learn more about the expedition, the Indian tribes they encountered and the river itself. Built on a bluff overlooking Lewis and Clark Lake, one

of four Missouri River reservoirs in South Dakota, the center offers incredible photo opportunities. Pastel-colored cliffs line the shore, and the shimmering waters play host to sailors, anglers and water-skiers throughout the summer. The center is located at Gavins Point Dam. Take Hwy 52 west from Yankton.

5- LEWIS AND CLARK RECREATION AREA



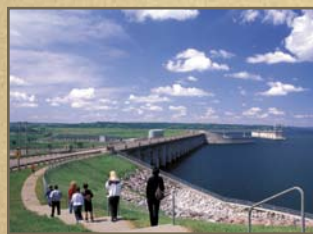
The activity is non-stop at Lewis and Clark Recreation Area near Yankton. Water enthusiasts come to sail, boat, fish and swim. The park is located on Lewis and

Clark Lake and offers a full-service marina, sandy beaches, hiking/biking trails and a paved trail that hugs the shoreline. Options for accommodations include campsites (many with spectacular views of the lake), cabins and motel rooms. Take Hwy 52 west from Yankton.

6- NATIVE AMERICAN SCENIC BYWAY

South Dakota's cultural roots unfold as you travel into the heart of the Great Sioux Nation along the Native American Scenic Byway. The breathtaking trail follows the Missouri River through the lands of the Yankton, Crow Creek, Lower Brule, Cheyenne River and Standing Rock Sioux Tribes. The Corps of Discovery reported seeing an abundance of wildlife when they passed through this area. Today, your chances of spotting prairie dogs, pronghorn and deer as you drive the byway are still good. Several Indian tribes also maintain bison and elk herds. Besides the animals, you'll be captivated by the wild, rugged country, much of which remains undeveloped. The route begins at Standing Bear Bridge on Hwy 37 near Running Water.

7- FORT RANDALL DAM



More than 50 years after Lewis and Clark forged a path up the Missouri River, Fort Randall was built along the river near present-day Pickstown. Today, you can walk the old fort grounds and view

the remains of a chapel the soldiers built. Inquire at the Visitor Center about tours of the Fort Randall Dam and power plant. The stretch of river below the dam is great for canoeing. It remains undeveloped, however, so be sure to plan ahead. Take Hwy 281 west from Pickstown.

8- LEWIS AND CLARK INFORMATION CENTER

The Information Center along I-90 at Chamberlain affords breathtaking views of Lake Francis Case, a sprawling Missouri River reservoir. Step out onto the two-story balcony to photograph the river and its gentle bluffs. The balcony is shaped like a keelboat, the expedition's primary form of transportation in South Dakota. Exhibits inside the center depict items the explorers brought on their journey and show examples of the wildlife the Corps encountered. Take exit 264 off I-90.



9- AKTA LAKOTA MUSEUM

While in South Dakota, Lewis and Clark had their first meetings with the Yankton and Teton Lakota Sioux. Before the expedition even began, President Jefferson had instructed Meriwether Lewis to make a "favorable impression" on the tribes of the Sioux Nation because of their immense power. Today, you can learn all about Sioux history, heritage and culture at the Akta Lakota Museum in Chamberlain. Take exit 263 off I-90 and travel two miles north.

10- BIG BEND OF THE MISSOURI

On Sept. 20, 1804, the explorers reached the Big Bend of the Missouri River. Here, the river makes a huge loop, almost creating a full circle. In his journal entry for the day, Clark reported the distance of the Narrows, the area between the two ends of the loop, on foot was only 2,000 yards. By water, the same trip was 30 miles! Now, more than 200 years and four dams later, the river still makes that huge loop. Stop by West Bend Recreation Area to view the river, fish, boat or camp. Located 26 miles east and nine miles south of Pierre off Hwy 34. Or view the Narrows three miles north of Lower Brule off Hwy 10.

11- BUFFALO INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Step into the past for a first-hand look at the importance buffalo played in American Indian culture. The bison was the mainstay of Plains Indian life, providing food, clothing and shelter; little of the animal was ever wasted. See interpretive displays and hands-on exhibits while native artists demonstrate their craft. The center is owned and



operated by the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe. Located along the Native American Scenic Byway east of Fort Pierre.

12- THE BAD RIVER

The expedition had its first meeting with the powerful Teton Lakota at the mouth of the Bad River. The group smoked a pipe and Lewis delivered a speech. After a tour of the keelboat, Clark returned the chiefs to shore. As the pirogue approached land, three young Tetons grabbed hold of it and wouldn't let go. It was a pivotal moment as members of both groups drew arms. But, thanks to the quick action of Chief Black Buffalo, a fight was avoided. The explorers moved to a nearby island, which they named Bad Humored Island. Today, an interpretive sign on La Framboise Island in Pierre offers a description of the day's event. From here, you can watch the Bad River pour into the Missouri and imagine that historic meeting of Sept. 25, 1804. A historical marker in Fischers Lilly Park in Fort Pierre commemorates the site.

13- CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER

At the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre, the Oyate Tawicoh'an (Ways of the People) exhibit focuses on South Dakota's tribal heritage. You'll learn about the religious, social and cultural practices of the Yankton and Teton Lakota Sioux, the Arikara and other Plains Indian tribes. The exhibit includes an Arikara bullboat just like the one Clark described in his journal on Oct. 9, 1804. Other highlights include a full-size tipi, a rare horse effigy and striking examples of colorful quill- and beadwork. The Cultural Heritage Center is located north of the State Capitol. It's built into the side of a Missouri River bluff.

14- LEWIS AND CLARK FAMILY CENTER



Discover an historical adventure at the Lewis and Clark Family Center at Farm Island Recreation Area near Pierre. Hands-on interpretive exhibits allow visitors to climb in a dug-out canoe, identify animal tracks and feel the difference between elk and buffalo hides. Displays also recount the Corps of Discovery's trek through present-day South Dakota. The expedition hunted elk on Farm Island. Located east of Pierre on Hwy 34.

15- WEST WHITLOCK RECREATION AREA

In October of 1804, the explorers spent several days at an Arikara village. The Arikara were primarily farmers who tended crops such as corn, beans, squash and tobacco. They lived in earth-lodge homes along the upper Missouri. At West Whitlock Recreation Area near Gettysburg, you can step inside a full-size replica of an Arikara lodge, just like the ones Lewis and Clark visited more than 200 years ago. The lodge is made of logs and branches, and its grass roof blends into the surrounding prairie. Follow the signs from Hwy 1804.

16- MONUMENT TO SACAGAWEA

Two different stories surround the death of Sacagawea, the only woman to accompany the Corps of Discovery. While some say she died at an old age in Wyoming, many historians believe she died at Fort Manuel in present-day South Dakota. Sacagawea's untimely death of a "putrid fever" came just six years after the expedition ended. A simple monument to this heroic woman overlooks the Missouri River at Mobridge. Take Hwy 12 across the river and watch for signs to Sitting Bull's grave, which is near the Sacagawea monument.

17- FORT MANUEL LISA REPLICA

Once a busy fur trading post along the Missouri River, Fort Manuel Lisa offers a glimpse into the lifestyle of the 1880s. It is believed that Sacagawea is buried in the vicinity of the original Fort Manuel. The fully replicated fort is located 25 miles north of Mobridge on Hwy 1806, near the town of Kenel. The center is owned and operated by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

18- LEGEND OF THE STONE IDOLS

Lewis and Clark visited north central South Dakota in the fall of 1804 and were told of two stones resembling human figures and a third like a dog near present-day Pollock. In Arikara lore, the idols are a pair of star-crossed lovers forbidden to marry and a faithful dog all turned to stone. Many believe the stone idols were recently uncovered above a creek that feeds into the Missouri River near Pollock.



LEWIS AND CLARK'S ARK OF DISCOVERY

The expedition made significant discoveries for the animal kingdom. Here's a look at the "ark" of critters the party collected while in present-day South Dakota. Watch for these animals on our river bluffs and open prairie as you trace the explorers' route.

BARKING SQUIRRELS



The party discovered prairie dogs in the vicinity of Gregory County. It took nearly all day for the men to flush one of these furry critters out of its underground tunnel. They called the animals "barking squirrels" because of their resemblance to the rodents they knew back home. The reference to barking comes from the chattering noise prairie dogs make.

WILD GOATS

Clark bagged the expedition's first pronghorn in Lyman County. In their journals, both captains referred to the animals as wild goats. Lewis wrote this description on Sept. 14, 1804: "They appear to run with more ease and to bound with greater agility than any anamall I ever saw." Today, we know these graceful creatures routinely reach speeds of 60 mph.



PRAIRIE WOLVES

They'd heard the distinctive howls at night, but the expedition didn't get their first coyote specimen until Sept. 17, 1804. It was north of present-day Chamberlain that the hunters brought in a "Small wolf with a large bushy tail," according to Clark's journal. That same day, Lewis brought in a "remarkable bird." Clark went on to describe the black-billed magpie, a species not known to exist in the New World.



BUFFALO

Time and again, the captains recorded seeing buffalo by the hundreds (and sometimes thousands) on the rolling prairies. Joseph Fields shot the party's first buffalo on Aug. 23, 1804, in the southeastern tip of what is now South Dakota. The animals provided an excellent food source for the men, who ate well while in South Dakota. Between buffalo, elk and deer, each man ate about nine pounds of meat a day!



"this senery already rich pleasing and beatiful, was still farther hightened by immence herds of Buffaloe deer Elk and Antelopes which we saw in every direction feeding on the hills and plains. I do not think I exagerate when I estimate the number of Buffaloe which could be compreed at one view to amount to 3000."

— Meriwether Lewis, Sept. 17, 1804

BRAVENESS IN TIMES OF MISFORTUNE

Considering the length and breadth of the journey, the Corps of Discovery had few calamities. But they did have a few close calls while in present-day South Dakota.

STARVING IN A LAND OF PLENTY

Imagine going hungry in a land where food sources are plentiful. That's what almost happened to Pvt. George Shannon in the fall of 1804. Shannon spent more than two weeks on shore – lost, alone and struggling to catch up with the keelboat. When he ran out of bullets, Shannon lived by eating grapes and a rabbit that he shot using a stick in place of a bullet. Finally, weak and tired, young Shannon sat down on the shore to rest. That's when the keelboat arrived. It seems he had been ahead of the party the whole time. An interpretive panel is located at Snake Creek Recreation Area west of Platte.

MUTINY ON THE KEELBOAT?



Shortly after leaving the Arikara village, Pvt. John Newman was charged with uttering “mutinous” expressions and attempting to turn the men against the captains. A court-martial was held Oct. 13, 1804, near present-day

Pollock. Newman pleaded innocent, but a jury of his peers didn't agree. They found him guilty and sentenced him to receive 75 lashes and to be let go from the permanent party. A historical marker near Pollock describes the incident.

CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

On the return trip through South Dakota, the explorers had a tense moment near present-day Running Water. The men were in several canoes when they passed a group of American Indians, which Clark took to be a “war party” on shore. When shots rang out, Clark gathered 15 men and ran towards the direction of the shots. The so-called “war party” turned out to be a group of Yankton shooting at an empty keg the explorers had thrown into the river. Realizing his mistake, Clark invited the Yankton to smoke, which they did. An interpretive panel near the bridge at Running Water commemorates the incident.

EXPLORE THE AMERICAN INDIAN CONNECTION

Lewis and Clark's journey was successful, in part, because of the help they received from American Indians. The expedition had its first meetings with the Yankton, Teton Lakota and Arikara while in present-day South Dakota.



COUNCIL AT CALUMET BLUFF

The explorers had their first council with a Sioux tribe, the Yankton, at Calumet Bluff on Aug. 30, 1804. The two groups met under the shade of an oak tree. Lewis delivered his customary speech, promoting commerce with the United States, and presented the chiefs with gifts of tobacco, clothing and medals. The council continued into the next day, when the chiefs gave their own speeches. On Sept. 1, the Corps of Discovery proceeded up the river. On the return trip, the explorers would meet up with these “good men,” as Clark referred to them in his journal, again.

LEGEND OF STRUCK BY THE REE

About the time of the council at Calumet Bluff, a Yankton baby was born. Legend has it that Meriwether Lewis took the baby boy in his arms and wrapped him in an American flag. The boy grew up to become Struck by the Ree, a respected Yankton chief who led his people through troubled times. The chief lived to be an old man, known affectionately to his people as “Old Strike.” Today, you can visit his grave at a tiny cemetery north of Greenwood.

FROM CONFLICTS TO CELEBRATION

Lewis and Clark's first meeting with the Teton Lakota got off to a shaky start. The two groups barely avoided a confrontation at the Bad River on Sept. 25, 1804 (see page 6). The next day, however, the Teton Lakota hosted a grand

celebration. They carried the captains on buffalo robes to a large tent, where they served a feast of roasted dog, prairie turnips and pemmican. After dark, the tribe built a glowing fire and dancers swirled around the campfire to the sounds of drums and rattles. That night, the Teton Lakota gave the explorers a supply of bison meat to take with them as they continued up the river.

SOJOURN WITH THE ARIKARAS

It was early October when the expedition stopped at an Arikara village. As the entourage approached, the villagers lined the shore to witness a curious sight. The captains discovered later the Arikara were fascinated by York, Clark's servant and the expedition's only black man. Clark wrote in his journal that the Arikara "flocked around him & examind. Him from top to toe." Over the course of several days, the two groups held councils, shared meals and exchanged gifts. One Arikara chief gave the explorers 10 bushels of corn as well as beans and squash to take with them on their journey.

"the Sceoux Camps are handson of a Conic form Covered with Buffalow Roabs Painted different Colours and all Compact & hand Somly arranged, covered all round an orpen part in the Center for the fire, with Buffalow roabs each Lodg has a place for Cooking detached, the lodges contain 10 to 15 person – " William Clark, Aug. 29, 1804

Today, five tribes have their homes along the Missouri River: the Yankton Sioux Tribe, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

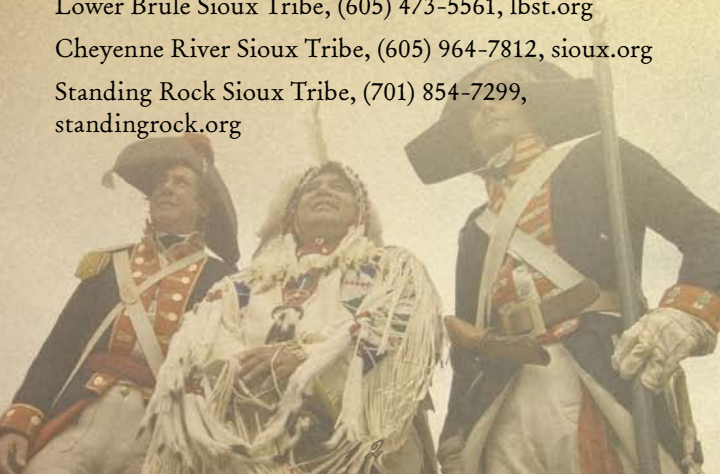
Yankton Sioux Tribe, (605) 384-5687,
yanktonsiouxtourism.com

Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, (605) 245-2221

Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, (605) 473-5561, lbst.org

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, (605) 964-7812, sioux.org

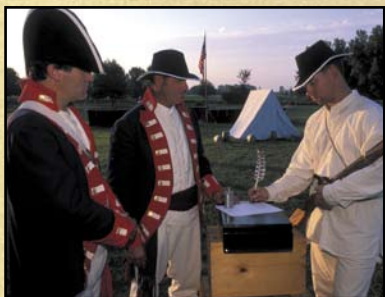
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, (701) 854-7299,
standingrock.org



COMMEMORATIVE FESTIVALS

Discover the adventure and heritage of the Corps of Discovery at these special events in communities along South Dakota's Lewis and Clark Trail.

LEWIS AND CLARK HERITAGE DAYS, ELK POINT



Elk Point holds a re-enactment of the historic election that took place there Aug. 22, 1804. On that day, members of the expedition selected Patrick Gass to replace

Sgt. Charles Floyd, who had died two days earlier. Gass garnered 19 votes in what has been called the first election by U.S. citizens west of the Mississippi. The re-enactment is held annually Aug. 22. Heritage Days takes place the weekend before. It includes an old-fashioned rendezvous encampment, living-history demonstrations, musical entertainment and more. Call the event planners at (605) 356-3336 for more information. elkpoint.org.

LEWIS AND CLARK FESTIVAL, VERMILLION

Up the river near Vermillion, the explorers hiked Spirit Mound on Aug. 25, 1804. According to legend, tiny devils once inhabited this prairie hill, which is still visible from Hwy 19 north of Vermillion. The community commemorates Lewis and Clark's journey through the area every year in August with a hike to the mound. Call the W.H. Over Museum at (605) 677-5228 for more information. usd.edu/whom

LEWIS AND CLARK FESTIVAL, YANKTON

Yankton hosts its annual Lewis and Clark Festival in late August. Costumed re-enactors set up an encampment of tents and tipis along Lewis and Clark Lake, a sparkling Missouri River reservoir. The re-enactors demonstrate frontier skills such as fire starting, hide tanning and musket shooting. Educational programs address the expedition's history and cultural activities showcase American Indian heritage and traditions. Call (402) 667-2546 for more information. lewisandclark-festival.org

MISSOURI RIVER RESERVOIRS

YOUR PLAYGROUND ON THE WATER

Today, the Missouri River reaches depths of up to 205 feet, thanks to a series of dams. South Dakota's four Missouri River reservoirs provide 900 square miles of playground, where you can sail, fish, water ski, wind-surf, canoe or scuba dive. Bring your own water toys or rent them at waterfront marinas and resorts. Below is a list of public parks and recreation areas on the reservoirs. You also can stay at private resorts located up and down the river.

PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

(Listed under nearest town)

KEY

RA Recreation Area

LUA Lakeside Use Area

* Primitive camping sites; may or may not have flush toilets or electricity

☉ Day use only, no camping

LEWIS AND CLARK LAKE

North Sioux City

Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve☉

Vermillion

Clay County LUA*

Yankton

Chief White Crane RA

Cottonwood RA

Lewis and Clark RA

Pierson Ranch RA

Tabor

Tabor LUA*

Springfield

Sand Creek LUA*

Springfield RA

LAKE FRANCIS CASE

Pickstown

Randall Creek RA

North Point RA

South Shore LUA*

Spillway LUA☉

Lake Andes

Joe Day Bay LUA☉

Pease Creek RA

White Swan LUA☉

South Wheeler LUA☉

Bonesteel

South Scalp Creek LUA☉

Whetstone Bay LUA☉

Platte

Buryanek RA

North Wheeler RA

Platte Creek RA

Snake Creek RA

West Bridge LUA☉
Chamberlain
American Creek RA
Cedar Shore LUA☉
Dude Ranch LUA☉
Elm Creek LUA☉

LAKE SHARPE

Fort Thompson
Left Tailrace RA
North Shore RA
Old Fort Thompson RA *
Right Tailrace RA*
Lower Brule
Iron Nation North and South RA*
Pierre
Farm Island RA
Joe Creek LUA☉
North Bend LUA☉
West Bend RA
DeGrey LUA☉
Fort George LUA☉
Antelope Creek LUA☉
Rosseau Overlook LUA☉
LaFramboise Island Nature Area☉
Oahe Downstream RA

LAKE OAHE

Pierre/Fort Pierre
Cow Creek RA
Okobojo Point RA
West Shore LUA☉
East Shore LUA☉
Peoria Flats LUA
Chantier Creek LUA☉
Spring Creek RA
Foster Bay LUA☉
Minneconjou LUA☉
Onida
Little Bend LUA☉
Bush's Landing LUA☉
Sutton Bay LUA☉
Eagle Butte
Rousseau Creek RA*
Gettysburg
East Whitlock LUA*
West Whitlock RA
Dodge Draw LUA☉
Akaska
Swan Creek RA
LeBeau LUA☉
Bowdle Beach LUA☉
Mobridge
Blue Blanket RA*
Indian Creek RA
Indian Memorial RA
Thomas Bay LUA☉
Walth Bay LUA☉
Revheim Bay RA
Pollock
Shaw Creek LUA☉
West Pollock RA

FOR MORE INFORMATION

South Dakota Office of Tourism
1-800-S-DAKOTA, TravelSD.com

Great Lakes of South Dakota Association
1-888-386-4617, sdgreatlakes.org

Southeast South Dakota Tourism Association
1-888-353-7382, southeastsouthdakota.com

Alliance of Tribal Tourism Advocates
(605) 341-2378, attatribal.com



South Dakota



GREAT FACES. GREAT PLACES.



LOCATOR MAP LEGEND

- Cities/towns
- Attraction

South Dakota