Geotourism Along the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail

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The **Purpose** of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is to commemorate the 1804 to 1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition through the identification; protection; interpretation; public use and enjoyment; and preservation of historic, cultural, and natural resources associated with the expedition and its place in U.S. and tribal history.
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Experience
Retrace the Expedition and Explore New People, Places, and Stories

Established 1978
4,900 miles
16 states
15 Indian reservations
6,157 miles of auto route
1,439 miles of water trails
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Experience
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Trail is Administered by the National Park Service.

Park headquarters are in Omaha, Nebraska.

Management relies on close partnerships with key stakeholders:

• States
• Tribes
• Federal land managers
• Volunteers
• Nonprofit groups
• Private sector
Our Mission:
To preserve the remnants of the historic route of the 1804-1806 Corps of Discovery Expedition located along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, and to provide for comprehensive interpretation of its history to allow for better visitor understanding and appreciation of its significance.
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Geotourism Program
Geotourism is tourism that sustains or enhances the geographic character of a place, its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the well-being of its residents. Geotourism encompasses a range of travel including culture and heritage, history, food, nature, adventure, the outdoors, water, music, and arts.
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How does Geotourism work?

1. Brings together different destination stakeholders (local/state/national government, heritage, conservation, CVBs, tourism companies, and residents)

2. Develops a common vision for sustainable tourism development and commitment to action

3. Develop MapGuide and other marketing tools using user-generated content that tells local stories from a local perspective
Geotourism Program Objectives

1. A strong and active community of public and private stakeholders working to conserve the land and legacy of the LCNHT

2. Increased domestic and international awareness of the trail legacy and its tourism assets

3. Thriving tourism communities with visitors that appreciate their authentic sense of place

4. Strong participation of Native American tribes along the Trail, sharing their stories with travelers and leveraging tourism in a way that is compatible with their goals and sentiments
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Explore by Region

Ohio River
Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania

Missouri Traverse
Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa

Great Plains
North and South Dakota

Plains to Peaks
Montana and Idaho

The Columbia River
Oregon and Washington
Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site

Imagine a busy earthlodge village full of life and excitement. Women sitting on platforms singing to their gardens, girls playing with homemade leather dolls, boys practicing with their first bow and arrow, old men smoking tobacco and laughing at each other’s stories.

You see faces from across North America and even the world. You hear Hidatsa and Mandan and maybe even Lakota, English, French, or German. You smell corn boiling in a clay pot, sage smoke filling the air, and sweet wildflowers blowing in the prairie.

Or perhaps you hear the howling winds of a winter blizzard. Thick wool smoke stings your eyes and cold air nips at your nose but the thick buffalo robe around your shoulders keeps you warm. Strange visitors enter the earthlodge bringing gifts of tobacco and in return ask for information of the land to the west.

This is the sense that is created as you hike one of the many trails within the park, which has three village
How Can you get Involved?
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Experience

Retrace the Expedition and Explore New People, Places, and Stories

1. Community Partner Program

2. Sustainable Tourism Program
Community Partnership Program Goals

- Educate local residents about the Trail;
- Build community-based constituencies of people who feel connected to the Trail;
- **Engage active participation in sharing the sites, attractions, heritage, and stories that make the region unique;**
- Improve destination marketing and tourism promotion for participating communities;
- Encourage communities to develop their own projects that support the objectives of the Geotourism program, such as volunteer events, festivals, and other events.
Community Partnership Program Criteria

1. Community is located on the trail (within 20 +/- miles)

2. Participation in the program is endorsed by official community/tribal cultural OR tourism agency

3. Community showcases—or intends to showcase—its connection to the trail
Community Partnership Benefits

**Destination Marketing**
- Promotion on www.lewisandclark.travel website and other LCNHT communications channels;
- Recognition as LCNHT Community through digital badge for community destination;
- In-destination signage;
- Press release distributed in conjunction with Geotourism program.

**Increased Community Engagement**
- Opportunities for residents to share stories about their place and local narratives about Lewis and Clark through LCNHT website;
- Enhanced partnership with National Park Service and other Geotourism Program supporters;
- Connection to other LCNHT Communities.
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About
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About the Generation Project
Frequently Asked Questions
Project Partners
Geographies Partnership
Coalition

Get Involved
The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail recognizes the hundreds of communities and creates opportunities through the length of the trail for residents and visitors to connect to the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

The Generation program has created two programs for residents and communities to leverage their connection to the trail in ways that benefit their communities along the trail. The Lewis and Clark Trail Partner Community Program designates historical communities along the route and provides tools for them to use in connecting residents and visitors to tell their stories through this website and associated programs.

Partner Community Program
The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail runs through eleven states and crosses hundreds of communities, large and small. Cities, towns, counties, and tribal communities along the length of the trail are invited to participate in the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Community Program. The program is designed to connect communities with economic development through tourism while engaging residents to see the trail as a resource and asset.

Become a Lewis Clark National Historic Trail Partner Community

About the Trail
“The Lewis and Clark Expedition is more than the story of two men. It is the story of many: individuals and groups, military men and scientists, a president and a slave, women and men, French-speaking boatmen and American Indians. It is a story of loss and hope; it is a story of changes that began in 1803 and that continue today.” ~ U.S. National Park Service

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, administered by the National Park Service, is more than 4,900 miles long, covering eleven states and many tribal lands, along the historic route of the expedition. Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail was designated by Congress to commemorate the 1804 to 1806 Corps of Discovery expeditions through the identification, protection, interpretation, public use, and enjoyment, and preservation of historic, cultural, and natural resources associated with the expeditions and their place in U.S. and U.S. history. This 180 miles journey continues significant scientific knowledge and profound political, social, economic, cultural, and environmental changes to the peoples and landscapes of the North American continent.
Sustainable Tourism Program Goals

• Build community-based constituencies of people who feel connected to the Trail;

• Engage active participation in sharing the sites, attractions, heritage, and stories that make the region unique;

• Grow local economies and increase the tourism multiplier in communities along the trail

• Linking past/history to current traditions and culture
Benefits

• Businesses, attractions, and points of interest who participate in the Sustainable Tourism program will be featured on this website.

• You will have the ability to create your own page, upload your own content, and edit it at your convenience.

• Approved participants will then receive an official Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Sustainable Tourism decal to display at their storefront or other public area, as well as a digital badge to add to their website or social media channels.
What Can Be Nominated to the Site?

- Locally owned and family businesses
- Events, ceremonies, and festivals
- Cultural experiences such as heritage sites, museums, theaters, music,
- Artist studios and galleries, craft workshops, and shops featuring handmade items
- Operators of outdoor experiences such as rafting, hiking, biking, hunting
- Historic sites such as trails, old homes, or places that features local architecture
- Scenic routes including hiking trails, bike routes, water ways, birding trails
- Local artist or artisan, storyteller, outdoor guide or historian
Get Started

Step 1: Go to lewisandclark.travel

Step 2: Click “nominate a place”

Step 3: Register for the site

Step 4: Verify Email – be sure to check your junk mail folder if it is not in your inbox
Get Started

Step 1: Go to lewisandclark.travel
Step 2: Click “nominate a place”  Step 3: Register for the site
Step 4: Click verification email

Step 5: Return to sign-in page and sign in

Step 6: Click “Start a New a Nomination”

Step 7: Complete online form
How else can Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail support tourism in your community?
Thank you

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