



TRAVEL THE LEWIS & CLARK TRAIL

🍁 Fall Foliage Trek

West Alton → Jefferson City, Missouri

Follow the Lewis & Clark Route along Missouri Route 94

Experience Missouri's heartland the way Lewis and Clark first saw it—majestic, wild, and unforgettable.

Route 94 traces the path of Lewis and Clark as they navigated the Missouri River in 1804. Starting in West Alton, just north of St. Louis, this scenic route winds west through rolling hills, river bluffs, and vineyard country before ending in Jefferson City, Missouri's capital. Autumn paints the corridor in gold, amber, and crimson—making it one of the state's most breathtaking drives.

🚗 Stop 1: Hermann, Missouri

A Historic Wine Town on the Missouri River

• Stay: [Hermann Crown Suites – Historic Downtown](#)

Enjoy a stay in one of Missouri's most charming river towns. Hermann's entire downtown is a designated National Register Historic District, with more than 150 buildings showcasing 19th-century architecture. Wander cobblestone streets lined with:

- Boutique shops, art galleries & antique stores
- The Deutschesheim State Historic Site – preserving early German-American culture
- The Historic Hermann Museum, housed in the 1871 German School Building

Did You Know?

By the mid-1800s, Hermann was home to the second-largest winery in the United States and the third-largest in the world! Today, the region remains the Wine Capital of Missouri, producing award-winning vintages surrounded by spectacular fall color.

Back on Missouri Route 94 → Jefferson City

The drive west reveals towering limestone bluffs and sweeping river vistas—the same landscapes the Corps of Discovery marveled at more than two centuries ago.

Stop 2: Jefferson City, Missouri - Capital of Missouri

Where History and River Views Meet

Jefferson Landing State Historic Site

One of the few surviving 19th-century riverfront landings, featuring the Lohman Building—an 1850s general store and warehouse. Watch the short film on Jefferson City's early river commerce and the founding of Missouri's capital.

Ellis-Porter Riverside Overlook

A perfect vantage point for Missouri River fall foliage—a favorite local photography stop.

Missouri State Museum (in the Capitol)

Explore galleries celebrating the state's natural and cultural history, including Native American heritage, frontier exploration, and Missouri's role in westward expansion.

Did You Know?

Jefferson City—named for Thomas Jefferson—became the capital in 1821, moving from St. Charles to this commanding bluff overlooking the river.

Missouri State Capitol & Grounds

A magnificent white-limestone structure reminiscent of Washington, D.C.'s Capitol.

Highlights include:

- The Signing of the Treaty – Bronze sculpture by Karl Bitter depicting the 1803 Louisiana Purchase signing (recast from its 1904 World's Fair original).
- Thomas Jefferson Statue – A 13-foot bronze by James Earle Fraser, considered among the finest likenesses of the President.
- Corps of Discovery Monument – Honoring Lewis & Clark, York, George Drouillard, and Seaman by Missouri sculptor Sabra Tull Meyer.

 **Groundbreaking:** October 4, 2007

 **Dedication:** June 4, 2008

Located at the Lewis & Clark Trailhead Plaza, overlooking the Missouri River and the Jefferson Landing Historic Site.

Trip Takeaway

From river bluffs and vineyards to bronze monuments and marble halls, this drive immerses travelers in the natural beauty and living history that shaped the American frontier. Experience Missouri's heartland the way Lewis and Clark first saw it—majestic,

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From river bluffs and wineries to bronze heroes and marble halls, this route blends fall beauty with frontier history. Experience Missouri's heartland the way Lewis and Clark first saw it—majestic, wild, and unforgettable.

