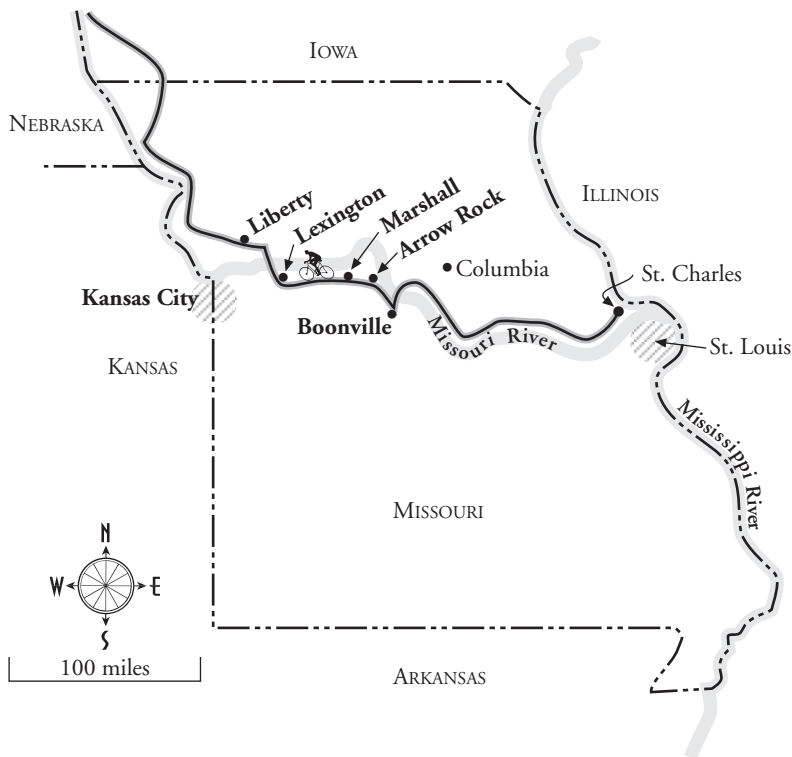




B. GENTLY ROLLING MISSOURI

BOONVILLE, MO TO KANSAS CITY, MO



Although Boonville was not a camping spot for Lewis and Clark, it is a significant spot for bicycle tourers. It marks the end of the Katy Trail and the beginning of normal roads. It is also the end of the flat riding, as our route leaves the river for 75 miles of gently rolling farmland. At Lexington the route crosses the river and continues in the mostly flat flood plain for 37 miles to Liberty. Traffic is generally light.

You may also notice a change in surroundings. Leaving the river means leaving abundant water for trees and fields. The land is drier farmland with fewer trees and less shade. Towns are farther apart with just a hint of the open feeling of the prairies far ahead.

Arrow Rock, MO

Population: 80

Arrow Rock is a small historic town that has been delightfully restored and is now home to the Lyceum Summer Theatre (660-837-3311; www.arrowrock.org). The 80 permanent residents operate a number of B&Bs, restaurants, and antique shops. Reservations are strongly recommended, especially on weekends.

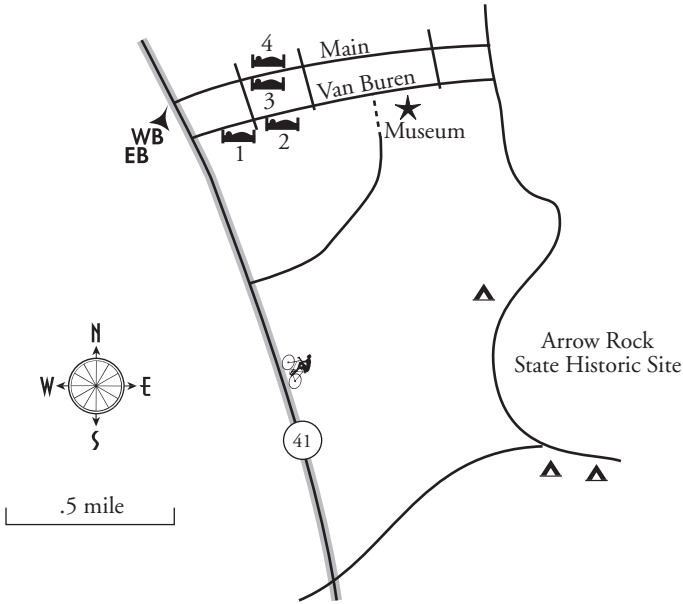
There is excellent camping at the Arrow Rock State Historic Site nearby, with 23 “improved” sites for RVs and 22 “basic” sites for tenting. These basic sites are on beautiful lawn with lots of shade, some privacy, and excellent restrooms. There are no reservations, but tent sites probably aren’t that popular with the theatre and antique crowd. If you plan to camp, stop at the campground first and get a map of the area. Although the town and the historic site are small, the roads wind around, and you can waste a lot of time and effort if you miss the shortcuts.

The free Visitor Center at the Historic Site has excellent exhibits on both Arrow Rock and the whole Boon’s Lick region. What the town lacks is food shopping, so stock up in Boonville or Marshall or plan to eat at the upscale restaurants.

The bluff at Arrow Rock was originally a rendezvous place for Native Americans, where they gathered flint for arrowheads. Although Lewis and Clark did not stop here, they knew it as the Prairie of Arrows. Near this spot they encountered the first dangerous situation mentioned in their journals, when their boats were almost capsized by huge trees floating downriver. Clark later recommended this bluff as a good site for a fort and town. It was settled in 1815 as a ferry crossing, and the town grew to more than 1,000 by the mid-1800s. Right across the river was Boon’s Lick, a source of salt that was hauled to St. Charles on the Boon’s Lick Trail. Later both the railroads and the highways bypassed this area in favor of a river crossing at Boonville, and the town gradually declined and almost died before its recent revival.



Main Street, Arrow Rock, MO



Arrow Rock, MO — Zip: 65320

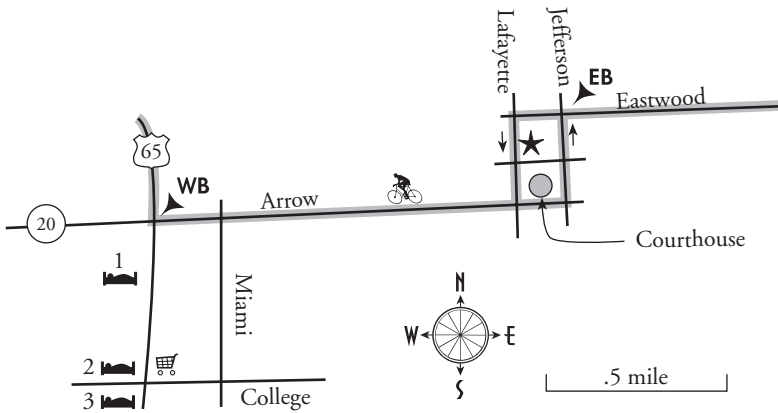
- ★ **Historic Arrow Rock Council:** Box 147B, 660-837-3335; www.arrowrock.org
- 🏠 1) Borgman's B&B (\$\$), Van Buren, 660-837-3350
- 2) Westward Trails Inn B&B (\$\$), Van Buren, 660-837-3335
- 3) Down Over B&B (\$\$), Main, 660-837-3268
- 4) Miss Nelle's B&B (\$\$), Main, 800-795-2797
- ▲ State Historic Site, Box 1, 660-837-3330; www.arrowrock.org; beautiful grass, shade, excellent restrooms with showers; no reservations.

Marshall, MO

Population: 13,000

Marshall (named after Supreme Court justice Thurgood Marshall) is the county seat of Saline County and a regional center in a hog farming area. There are a couple of motels, good food shopping, and a variety of restaurants; but no camping nearby.

Although Marshall is the home of Missouri Valley College with 1,200 students, this is only a small part of the town. There are a number of attractive historic homes here, and the Chamber of Commerce can provide a brochure with more information and a suggested tour. The town is spread out and flat, traffic is light, and you will probably want your bicycle to get around.



Marshall, MO — Zip: 65340

★ **Marshall Chamber of Commerce:** 241 N Lafayette, 816-886-3324

- 1) Marshall Lodge (\$\$), 660-831-0022
- 2) Super 8 Motel (\$\$), 660-886-3359
- 3) Comfort Inn (\$\$), 660-886-8080

*Saline County Courthouse,
Marshall, MO*



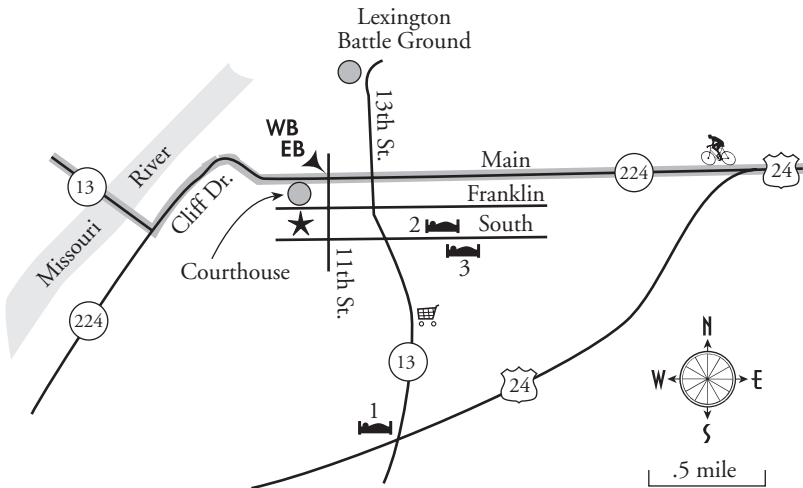
Lexington, MO

Population: 5,000

Back on the Missouri River, Lexington is another regional center with all services except camping. There are two B&Bs near downtown, one motel, good food shopping, and a variety of restaurants.

The primary attraction in Lexington is the Battle of Lexington State Historic Site and Visitor's Center. As an Easterner, I always think of the Battle of Lexington (Massachusetts) in the Revolutionary War; but Missouri was the site of many vindictive and bloody Civil War battles. This site commemorates and interprets the three-day battle fought here.

Once an important river port, Lexington was later superceded by Independence and then Kansas City, as steamboats were able to navigate farther and farther upriver. Lexington has a number of attractive historic homes and the Wentworth Military Academy.



Lexington, MO — Zip: 64067

★ **Lexington Tourism Bureau:** 1029 Franklin Ave., 660-259-3082, www.historiclexington.com

- 🏠 1) Lexington Inn Motel (\$\$), Routes 24 and 13 (13th St.), 800-259-4641
- 2) Victorienne B&B (\$\$), 1522 South, 660-259-2868
- 3) Parsonage B&B (\$\$), 1601 South, 660-259-2344

Liberty, MO

Population: 25,000

Liberty is the county seat of Clay County on the north side of the Missouri River about twelve miles from Independence. It is a good resting place, with B&Bs and motels. Although there are several good restaurants and good food shopping, there is no camping in the area. The Fork and Spoon Café on Kansas, a block west of the courthouse, is worth a special mention. There are wonderful murals by Jeff Parson on the walls outside, and their breakfast is especially good. We also enjoyed an excellent dinner at the Hardware Café, another long time institution on Liberty Square across from the courthouse.

Although Liberty is inland from the river and was never visited by Lewis and Clark, our bicycle route passes through here for several reasons. First, it offers pleasant cycling and avoids the heavy traffic and dangerous Missouri River bridges near Kansas City. Second, for anyone wishing to begin or end their tour here, our route passes right by Kansas City International Airport between here and Platte City. Finally, it offers some unique and interesting historic points of interest.

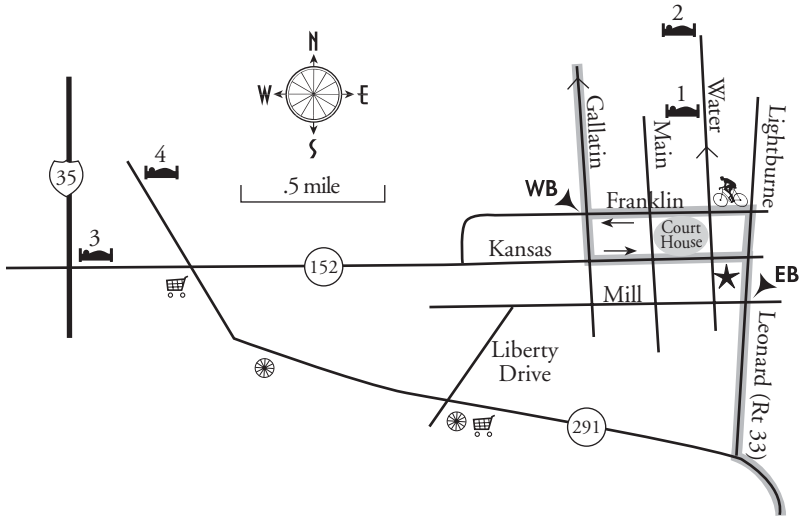
The first daylight bank robbery in peacetime (notice all the qualifications!) occurred at the Clay City Savings Bank on February 13, 1866, resulting in the accidental shooting death of an innocent spectator. There is speculation that the robbers were Jesse James and his brothers, whom we'll meet again in St. Joseph. Nearby is the former Clay County Jail, where the Mormon leader Joseph Smith was held



One of two murals by Jeff Parson at the Fork & Spoon Café, Liberty, MO

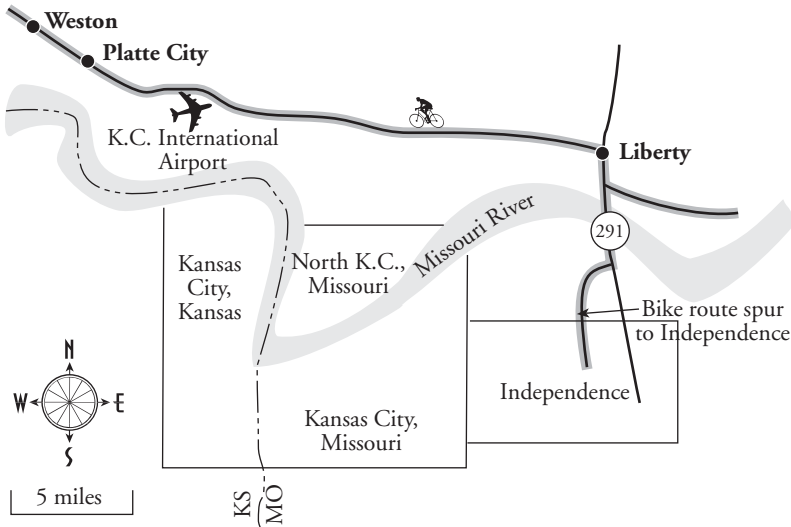
awaiting trial in 1838. He was later murdered by a mob, and the jail is now a shrine run by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Liberty is also a good staging point for those wishing to visit Independence and/or Kansas City. See the next section for this option.



Liberty, MO — Zip: 64068

- ★ **Liberty Chamber of Commerce:** 9 S Leonard, 816-781-5200, www.ci.liberty.mo.us
- 🏠 1) Dougherty House B&B (\$\$), 302 N Water, 816-792-4888, www.doughertyhouse.com, historic home, porches, gardens, gazebo, private baths, jetted tubs, TV-VCR, full breakfast; historic photos, documents; direct link to Major John Dougherty and Lewis and Clark.
- 2) James Inn B&B (\$\$), 342 N Water, 816-781-3677
- 3) Super 8 Motel (\$\$), Route 152 at I-35, 816-781-9400
- 4) Best Western Hallmark Inn (\$\$), 209 N Route 291, 816-781-8770
- 🛒 Biscari Brothers, 884 S Route 291, 816-792-8877
- 🚲 Sunshine Bicycles, 352 S Route 291, 816-792-1331

SIDE TRIP TO INDEPENDENCE AND KANSAS CITY

Both these cities have lots of attractions and are great to visit—but not necessarily by bicycle. If you are determined to visit one or both of these cities, there are three options. First, you can ride a thirteen-mile spur route from Liberty to Independence (see Chapter 5 for detailed Cue Sheet), and it is possible to take a bus from Independence to downtown Kansas City. Second, there is express bus service between Liberty and downtown Kansas City (The Metro, 816-221-0660). Third, you can take a bus between downtown Kansas City and the airport, which our route passes in the next section.

Visiting the attractions in Independence is quite possible by bicycle if you are willing to invest the time and indulge in some urban riding. Although Route 291 between Liberty and Independence is a large four-lane divided highway, traffic is not too bad outside of commuting hours, the Missouri River bridge is wide, and the bicycle spur route takes back roads just south of the river. However, riding from Independence into downtown Kansas City is strongly discouraged, and the Kansas City bridges across the Missouri River to get back on our bicycle route are very dangerous and/or closed to bicycles.

Independence—Queen City of the Trails—was originally a thriving river port before Kansas City even existed. As the population pushed westward across Missouri in the early 1800s, the overland starting point for the Santa Fe Trail moved up the Missouri River from New Franklin to Independence, and later to Westport, now on the western edge of Kansas City. For several years this was also the starting point for the Oregon and California Trails.

In 1831 Joseph Smith and the Mormons attempted to build their city of Zion here, but they were quickly pushed farther westward. Ironically, today there is a sig-

nificant Mormon population, and the Mormon Center with its distinctive spiral architecture is open to the public.

Although Independence today is still technically a separate city of 100,000, it appears more like an eastern appendage of Kansas City. It is perhaps most famous as the home of Harry Truman. The Truman Library and Museum offers excellent displays and interpretations of his life and times, and it is also possible to visit the Truman home a few blocks away. Nearby, the National Frontier Trails Center offers displays, mementos, and interpretations of the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California Trails.

If you have special interests in these cities, contact the Visitor Centers listed below:

★ **Independence Tourism Department**

800-748-7323, www.ci.independence.mo.us

Kansas City Convention and Visitors Bureau

1100 Main, Suite 2550, Kansas City, MO 64105

800-767-7700, www.kansascity.com, info@visitkc.com

Special Attractions

Truman Library and Museum, Hwy. 24 at Delaware,

800-833-1225, www.trumanlibrary.org

National Frontier Trails Center, 318 W Pacific, 816-325-7575



Truman House, Independence, MO

Bicycle Guide to the Lewis & Clark Trail

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The author and publisher of this book, and the government agencies on whose roads you bicycle, are not responsible for your riding habits, bicycle condition, and any accidents which might occur while following this route. They urge users of this Guide to wear a certified bicycle helmet, wear highly visible clothing, use reflectors and lights, obey all traffic laws, watch for pedestrians and motorists, and generally use good common sense and courtesy.

Road and trail conditions change. The routes suggested in this book may be altered due to road and trail maintenance, changes in state and local roads, and road and trail surface conditions. Surface conditions of roads and trails may change due to weather, construction, and other local factors. Every effort has been made to provide accurate information in this book at the time of publication.

Updates will be posted on the author's website at www.deerfootpublications.com as they are received and verified. Readers are invited to send suggested updates to Tod@deerfootpublications.com.

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