






Pioneers & Patriots: A 2-Day Journey Through Missouri's Civil War and Trailblazing History

Day 1 – Trails West & the Frontier


Morning:

- **National Frontier Trails Museum – Independence, MO**
Explore exhibits dedicated to the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California Trails, featuring authentic covered wagons, trail artifacts, and original diaries.
 Website | [National Park Service](#)
- **Pioneer Spring Cabin at Courthouse Square**
Visit the restored Pioneer Spring Cabin, symbolizing the starting point for many pioneers heading west.
 Website | [Johns Hopkins Community Health Services](#)

Midday:

- **Lunch in Independence Square** – Enjoy local eateries like Square Pizza or Café Verona.
- **Bingham-Waggoner Estate – Independence, MO**
Tour this 26-room mansion situated along the Santa Fe Trail, offering insights into 19th-century life.
 [Website](#) |

Afternoon:

- **Fort Osage National Historic Landmark – Sibley, MO**
Explore this reconstructed 1808 fort established by William Clark, offering panoramic views of the Missouri River.
 [Website](#)

Evening:

- **Drive to Lexington, MO** (~45 min)
 - **Battle of Lexington State Historic Site** – Learn about the 1861 Civil War battle, known for the "Battle of the Hemp Bales."
[Website](#)
 - **Anderson House** – Visit this 1853 mansion that served as a Union hospital during the battle, still bearing battle scars.
[Website |](#)

Overnight Suggestions:

- Stay in *Independence*, *Blue Springs*, or *Lexington* depending on preference.
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Day 2 – Civil War Skirmishes & the Pony Express

Morning:

- **Battle of Westport Visitor Center** – *Kansas City, MO*
Discover the largest Civil War battle west of the Mississippi, often referred to as the "Gettysburg of the West."
[Website](#)
- **Loose Park Walking Tour** – Stroll through the park that was once a battlefield, now featuring Civil War markers and a beautiful rose garden.
[Website](#)

Midday:

- **Lunch near the Country Club Plaza** – Dine at local favorites like Gram & Dun or Rye KC.
- **John Wornall House Museum** – *Kansas City, MO*
Built in 1858, this home served as a field hospital during the Battle of Westport and offers insights into civilian life during the war.
[Website](#)

Afternoon:

- **Drive to Lone Jack, MO** (~45 min)

- **Lone Jack Civil War Museum & Battlefield** – Explore artifacts, dioramas, and the soldiers' cemetery from the 1862 battle.

 [Website](#)

Evening:

- **Optional scenic drive to Fort Scott National Historic Site** (~1.5 hrs from Lone Jack)
Visit this well-preserved frontier fort that played roles in both westward expansion and the Civil War.




 [Website](#)

Alternative if staying local:

- Spend the evening in **Weston, MO** – a charming 1800s town with local shops, wineries, and the *Weston Bend State Park* overlook.



Bonus Stops You Could Add

- **Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop** – *Olathe, KS*
Experience a working 1860s farm with stagecoach rides and living history demonstrations.
 [Website](#)
- **Watkins Woolen Mill State Historic Site** – *Kearney, MO*
Tour the only 19th-century textile mill in the U.S. with its original machinery still intact.
 [Website](#) | [Missouri State Parks](#)
- **Liberty Arsenal Site** – *Liberty, MO*
Visit the site of a significant early Civil War skirmish, known as the "Fort Sumter of Missouri."
 [Website](#) | [Civil War on the Western Border](#)