

KATY TRAIL DAY THREE

BOONVILLE TO JEFFERSON CITY

MAY 24, 2025

MAP AND MILEAGE CHART



Source: BikeKatyTrail.com

Mileage Chart – Boonville to North Jefferson

Boonville	New Franklin	Rocheport	Huntsdale	McBaine	Easley	Hartsburg	N. Jefferson
72.8	76.4	86.3	93.6	95.1	102	111	121.4

THE ROUTE

Day Three started early for us. After a hearty breakfast at Main Street Diner, we set off for our 52.28-mile journey. The weather was pleasant: Temperatures were in the 60s and the wind was around 7 mph from the east. From Boonville, we were cycling by the Missouri River and on the Lewis and Clark route. We climbed 971 feet for the ride, with most of it coming within the first couple of hours of riding. Once we passed Huntsdale, the gradient became flatter, and the inclines were more gradual. I found this part of the Katy Trail to be very scenic. There are farms and lush green vegetation surrounding the trail, the river, and the cliffs above us.

Here are some pictures from this section of the trail.



Rendering of Turntable reconstruction
New Franklin



Turntable
New Franklin



Old rail cart, New Franklin



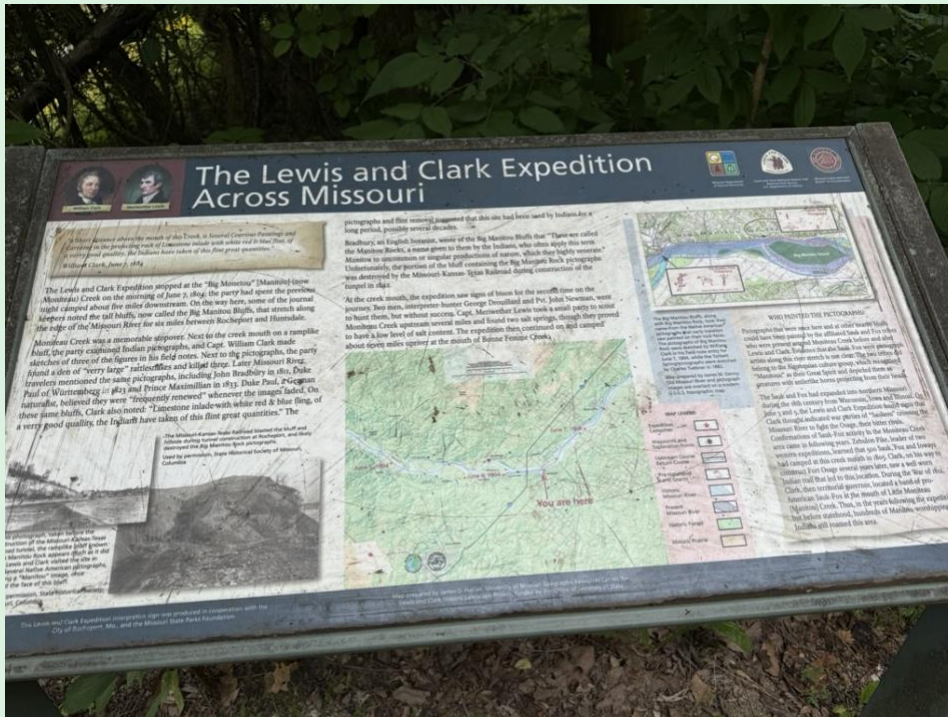
Rocheport



Tunnel Rocheport



Sign before entering the tunnel. Rocheport



Lewis and Clark Expedition sign in Rocheport



Rocheport ("Roche" is French for "stone") has an excellent cafe shop called [Meriwether Cafe and Bike Shop](#). We arrived in Rocheport around 10 am, and the cafe was busy. Many families were renting bikes to ride the trail. We also had heard in

Boonville that today was going to be a busy day on the trail between Boonville and the cutoff to Columbia. [The Pedalers Jamboree](#) was starting on this day and is a weekend-long affair. The cyclists start the Jamboree in Columbia and ride to Boonville where they spend the night. On Sunday, they ride back to Columbia. We saw the

preparations for the cyclists as we rode east from Boonville. There were set-ups for bands, food stations, and (of course) beer.

A couple of miles east of Rocheport, we encountered the participants for the Jamboree. It was a sea of cyclists coming towards us. It was a challenging ride on this part of the trail. The trail path can get narrow, and many of the cyclists were not riding single file. Some of the cyclists wore costumes. We saw cyclists wearing Pee Wee Herman outfits, Viking helmets, Santa Clauses, and Unicorns. Other cyclists had brought stuffed animals along for the ride. We rode past them until McBaine, nine miles east of Rocheport, where the crowd thinned out. You can tell it was going to be a big party. Afterwards, we found out that the organizers had to cap the Jamboree to 2,500 participants; we had heard that participation could be as high as 5,000. I have to admit I missed them for the rest of the day; they provided good entertainment.



The starting point of the party, or the ending point for us

I had heard about [Roche Percée \(Pierced Rock\) Natural Arch](#) when I went to school in Columbia and always wanted to see it. I got my chance on this ride.



Roche Percée Natural Arch Marker, Rockbridge, near Columbia

Another feature after Roche Percée is BoatHenge. I would highly recommend stopping to see this site.



Boathenge by Little Boone Femme Creek



Boone Femme Creek

After Boathenge, we arrived at Coopers Landing, located on the Missouri River near Easley. We had lunch here, as there is a bar and a couple of food trucks. It was a good point to stop since we had completed half of our ride for the day. Coopers Landing can get busy. Columbia, home to the University of Missouri, is 12 miles to the north. People come from Columbia to Coopers



Landing for day trips or to camp at the local camp site, and there are concerts here during the summer. What struck me as we were eating lunch at a bench overlooking the river was how wide the Missouri River is here, how rapid the currents were at the time, and



how many tree trunks were floating by us. The view is scenic and very peaceful. We caught up with our fellow Katy Trail riders as they also had stopped here for lunch.



More cheerleaders for our ride, Hartsburg





Limestone cliffs, outside Jefferson City



At the North Jefferson trail head, there are monuments about the establishment of the three counties surrounding Jefferson City.



Northwest of Jefferson City



Northeast of Jefferson City



Jefferson City's County

JEFFERSON CITY

We spent the night in Jefferson City, locally known as "Jeff City." The city is named for President Thomas Jefferson, the architect of the Louisiana Purchase through which the United States acquired from France the territories west of the Mississippi River in 1803. At North Jefferson, we took a trail spur to Jeff City. To cross the "mighty Mo,"

you have to climb a rectangular bridge (approximately 80 feet climb). I did it, not that I had a choice - I was not going to walk up the bridge. This crossing was at the end of a 52-mile ride, and my legs were, let's say, a little tired.



Artist rendering of rectangular bridge

After the ride up the rectangular bridge and crossing the Missouri River, we were in Jeff City, the Capitol City. We made our way to Courtyard by Marriott. As part of my planning for the trip, this was



the hotel I had planned on washing my riding clothes from the last couple of days. The other Katy Trail riders had a similar idea on

wash. Waiting my turn for the washer/dryer gave me an opportunity

to get to know our fellow riders a little bit better and swapped stories about our ride so far.



After finishing my laundry, my biking friend and I ventured out for dinner. We went down a hill and ate at [Big Whiskey's American Restaurant & Bar](#).

After dinner, we noticed that it was getting cooler and it was getting cloudy. This was an ominous sign of the weather to

come.

I was very content that I had completed a personal best for ride length and felt fine at the end of the day. My previous longest ride was a 51-mile ride. Tomorrow, it's on to Hermann.



Jefferson City & Fulton



Missouri State Capitol and Museum
The Missouri State Capitol, built in 1918 of Carthage marble and standing 362 feet high, is a majestic site. On the first floor is the Missouri State Museum with one wing dedicated to the history of Missouri. Another wing depicts the diverse natural and cultural resources of the state and the interaction of resources, people and culture. The museum is open and tours of the Capitol are available free of charge Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.; call (573) 751-2854.
Photo courtesy of Jefferson City Convention and Visitors Bureau.



Governor's Mansion
The Missouri Governor's Mansion is an outstanding example of Second Empire architectural style. The first story has been authentically restored. The interior features four pink granite columns and Victorian furnishings. It is one of the oldest governor's mansions in the United States. Tours must be arranged 24 hours in advance; call (573) 752-7929. Across the street is the Cole County Historical Museum, limited hours; call (573) 635-1850. CRK The photo



Jefferson Landing State Historic Site
Jefferson Landing State Historic Site is located one block east of the Capitol. The Lathrop building, built in 1839, once a center of rail and river commerce, is in the National Register of Historic Places. It contains a visitor center with exhibits related to transportation and Jefferson City history; call (573) 751-2854.
Photo courtesy of Jefferson City Convention and Visitors Bureau.



The Missouri State Highway Patrol Museum
Experience popular displays such as "Otto the Talking Car," vintage patrol cars, a reaction simulator and a computerized driving test; 1510 E. Elm Street; call (573) 526-6149. Photo courtesy of the Missouri State Highway Patrol.



Runge Nature Center
Runge Nature Center features interactive exhibits, live animals, a wildlife viewing area, a fire tower and five nature trails. It is open seven days a week, is free of charge and is located a quarter-mile north of Hwy. 50 on Hwy 179; call (573) 526-5544.
Photo courtesy of the Missouri Department of Conservation.



Winston Churchill Memorial
The Winston Churchill Memorial is a National Historic Site. A 17th century Christopher Wren-designed London church, bombed during World War II, was shipped across the ocean and rebuilt. The site also offers a museum dedicated to the life and works of Sir Winston Churchill, who gave his famous "Iron Curtain" speech when visiting Westminster College in 1946 with President Harry S. Truman. Located 22 miles north off U.S. Hwy. 54 in Fulton, Mo.; call (573) 592-5369.
Photo courtesy of the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library.

Other Attractions in Jefferson City
Missouri State Information Center, 600 W. Main; call (573) 526-5326.
Missouri Veterinary Museum, limited hours, 2500 Country Club Drive; call (573) 636-8612.
The Museum of Missouri Military History, 2302 Militia Drive; call (573) 638-9603.

Background skyline, houses & museum
CRK The photo

History about Jefferson City and Fulton