

KATY TRAIL DAY FIVE

HERMANN TO ST. CHARLES

MAY 26, 2025

MAP AND MILEAGE



Source: BikeKatyTrail.com

Mileage Chart – Hermann to St. Charles

McKittrick	Treloar	Marthasville	Dutzow	Augusta	Matson	Defiance	Weldon Spring	Green Bottom	St. Charles
163.8	179.9	186.9	190.6	198.3	204	205.5	208.6	218.9	225.1

ROUTE

Since we had a long ride to St. Charles ahead, we started the day around 8:00 am. My day didn't start off well: My friend noticed that the back tire on the bike had lost air pressure. After reinflating the tire, we set off for the ride.

The ride today was 64.76 miles, my longest ride ever. Fortunately, the elevation changes were gradual. We only had 533 feet of ascend that was spread over the 65 miles. The biggest climb was climbing

up from Hermann to the bridge over the Missouri River. The weather



was overcast with temperatures in the 50s, and we were riding into headwinds from the east northeast at 10 mph. We made it back to the McKittrick trail head and started our journey east.

The trail was still wet from the previous day's rain. As we were riding, we noticed that my back tire was not keeping air pressure in it, and it eventually went flat. My friend was kind enough to put a new tube in the tire, and off we went once the repair was complete. On the Katy Trail, many of the trailheads have tire pumps and other



tools for mechanical issues. At the next trailhead, Marthasville,



we inflated the tire and off we went again. Unfortunately, we only traveled a couple of miles before I had a blowout. Again, my friend fixed the flat and put in one of the tubes he had brought with him.



Our closer examination revealed that there was a patch inside the tire. With all the rain over the past 24 hours, I most likely ran over a sharp rock or a stick. After the blowout, I couldn't enjoy my ride because I

was worried about getting another flat; consequently, I rode very defensively. The headwinds were also playing havoc with me.

Missouri Highway 94, a scenic route from Defiance to Marthasville, is known as Weinstrasse, a German word for "road to the wineries."

The Katy Trail parallels the highway. My entry to Weinstrasse was two flats.



As we rode, we noticed that all the restaurants and stores were closed for Memorial Day. We didn't have a place to stop for lunch, so we ate the cliff bars we had brought with us. Eventually, we ran out of water and became hungry. We thought

that Augusta would have some establishments open for lunch, but they were not. In Augusta, we saw a sign for a winery, but it was a climb to get there. By this point, I didn't want any part of a climb - I just rode 36 miles and have 30 miles to go to get to St. Charles. My friend made the sacrifice to ride to [Augusta Winery](#) to get water, and of course, he had to have a glass of their wine. Meanwhile, I was inquiring about food establishments in Augusta. I talked to a couple who completed their ride, and they offered their extra Cliff bars. I accepted their very generous offer, and I chatted with them while my friend was making his way back from the winery. Resupplied, we were ready for the final push to St. Charles.



After Augusta, the traffic on the trail increased, and it was busy all the way to St. Charles. While we rode by some restaurants that were open as we got closer to the Chesterfield cutoff, we didn't want to stop; we just wanted to finish the ride.

Here are some pictures from our final day.



Dutzow Trailhead



Boat docked at River, Augusta



Limestones - Augusta



Sunflower Silos, Matson



Crossing across from Sunflower Silos



Trail - Weldon Spring Conservation area



[Daniel Boone's](#) house on Hwy F, Defiance. We didn't stop here on this trip, but it is worth a visit.



Lime Stones under Daniel Boone Bridge – I-64, US 40.

The Monarch Levee Trail connects the Katy Trail to Chesterfield. I didn't ride the Monarch Levee Trail on this ride; I plan on a separate ride from Chesterfield to St. Charles, about 31 miles one way. Once I got to the Chesterfield cutoff, I started to get impatient because when I am driving, St. Charles is "right there," but that is not the case on a bike. The final 12 miles were brutal for me: I was hungry, tired, and worried about running over a rock or branch and getting another flat. Traveling the trail surface was a challenge as I got close to completing the ride in St. Charles. The trail and the adjacent road were going through heavy construction, and there were rocks everywhere on the trail. I was determined to ride the bike and not walk the bike to the finish.



Missouri River Bluffs, St. Charles



Family Arena, St. Charles



Ameristar Casino, St. Charles



Tunnel under I-70, St. Charles



Finally, St. Charles – Old Rail station

CONCLUDING THE RIDE AND ST. CHARLES

We finished our ride at the gazebo, which is where the shuttle picked us for our drive to Clinton. I returned the rental bike at the prearranged bike pick up spot.

Wow, what a ride I had embarked on. I quenched some of my fernweh or wanderlust. I made good memories from the ride with fellow riders, area business owners/workers, and strangers on the trail who were willing to provide directions and share food.

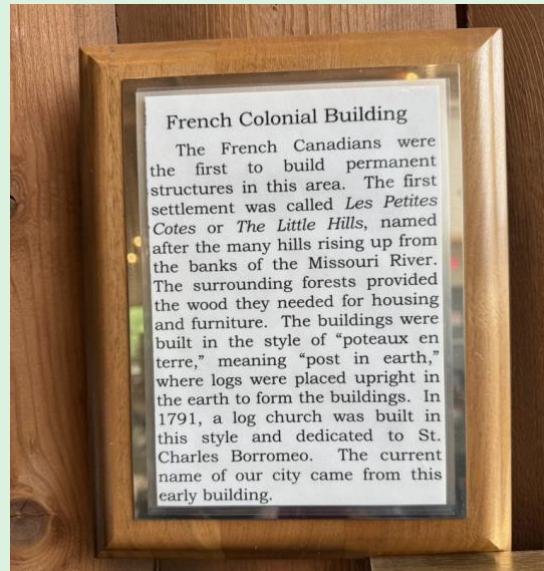


I had completed 241 miles over five days of riding in sunny, rainy and windy conditions.

To celebrate our accomplishment, one of my friends from St. Louis joined us for dinner at [Lewis and Clark restaurant](#), where we sat on the balcony overlooking historic St. Charles with a view of the Missouri River. After the long ride, the meal tasted really good! During dinner we called one of our other friends who couldn't be there, and we had a mini celebration. The picture above is the view from the restaurant.



After dinner and a brief walk, I was ready to call it a day. We stayed at [Country Inn and Suites](#) in Historic St. Charles. The hotel is located within walking distance to restaurants.



St. Charles history Plaque

LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION AND SEAMAN



St. Charles is the place where Lewis and Clark started their journey westward on May 21, 1804 with their dog, Seaman. There is a museum across from the gazebo that recaps their journey. It's worth a visit, as they do a good job describing the journey westward. I rode a section of the route that the expedition took way back when, and that made me feel good. The picture to the left is a statute commemorating the journey in

Frontier Park, Katy Trail, St. Charles.



Boathouse Museum



Lewis and Clark Marker



Information about Seaman