

Missouri River 6-Day Trip Itinerary*

Pre-Trip-Meet in Fort Benton, MT. Located 45 miles NE from Great Falls, MT on Highway 87.

Usually, the pre-trip meeting is held between 5-7pm at the Grand Union Hotel 1-888-838-1882 or the Pioneer Lodge 1-800-622-6088 two of our recommended lodging locations. Plan any flight arrivals into Great Falls for no later than 1pm on this day. Try and plan a visit to the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center on this day or the day after your river trip.

Day-1 Meet for departure from lodging location in Fort Benton by 8:30-9:00am. We provide transportation to the put-in and usually put on the river between 10-11am with lunch on the river. Paddle the 13 miles entering the white cliffs to Eagle Creek camp where we settle into camp, go for a hike, have dinner and talk around the fire. There are many hiking opportunities at Eagle Creek. Eye-of-the-Needle sandstone rock formation, Native American petroglyphs, tepee rings, and USGS marker of the Lewis & Clark campsite.



Day-2 Breakfast, pack canoes, paddle 10 miles to Hole-In-The-Wall rock formation for a hike and lunch, paddle 11 miles passing steamboat rock, and other majestic sandstone rock formations, the L&C camp of May 30, 1805, and landing at Slaughter River camp (L&C camp of May 29, 1805 & June 29, 1806) settle in, activities, reading, dinner etc.

Day-3 Breakfast, pack canoes, paddle 12 miles to Judith Landing here the river canyon changes from vertical sandstone rock to wider and deeper bluffs, commonly referred to as "The Breaks," have lunch, re-supply, pass L&C campsite of May 28, 1805, paddle through incredible scenery and camp near L&C's camp of May 27, 1805.

Day-4 Breakfast, pack canoes, paddle through more grand bluffs passing L&C's camp of May 26, 1805. Lewis & Clark walked along the banks to get better views of the land. In this section Clark walked up the Cow Creek drainage to a high point where he first view the Rocky Mountains. From there he walked out the Bullwhacker Creek drainage to meet up with the party. 72 years after the L&C expedition, the Nez Perce crossed the Missouri at Cow Island en route to Canada fleeing from the US Army and General O.O. Howard.



Day-5 Breakfast, pack canoes, paddle through the heart of the badlands and enter the Charles M. Russell wildlife refuge. Without the impact of cattle grazing this section of river is most like what Lewis & Clark saw. Pass L&C camp of May 25, 1805. From camp, a large flat bench with cottonwood grove, we often see bighorn sheep navigating the bluffs across the river.

Day-6 Breakfast, pack canoes, paddle through more of the wildlife refuge to James Kipp landing, unload and transport back to Fort Benton. Plan all flight arrangements for the following day.



*All times & locations are tentative. Exact itineraries will be listed on confirmations.

--**Good Physical condition** is important and the willingness to accept whatever the trail may bring but no technical skills are needed The Missouri River has a gentle meandering current with no rapids.