

NATURE'S HANDIWORK

Along the Mighty Mississippi



From its headwaters at Lake Itasca to where it empties into the Gulf of Mexico, the Mississippi River stretches more than 2,300 miles. Its collective stories celebrate the flow of life that has shaped and sustained land, people, fauna, and flora over centuries.

Experience these stories as you drive along the Great River Road National Scenic Byway, which traverses ten states on both sides of the river. Visit our website for the locations of nearly 100 official Interpretive Centers along the way.

The river is not always visible during your journey, but its power in shaping the landscape is evident at many of the Great River Road Interpretive Centers.



ExperienceMississippiRiver.com

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Some Suggested Interpretive Centers

Forest History Center/Minnesota Historical Society

2609 County Rd. 76 - Grand Rapids, Minnesota - 218.327.4482

mnhs.org/foresthstory

Nature trails run throughout this property, including a boardwalk that takes you through a bog habitat.

Driftless Area Education & Visitor Center

1944 Columbus Rd. - Lansing, Iowa - 563.538.0400

allamakeecountyconservation.org

Explore this unique region of northeastern Iowa that flanks the Mississippi River. This center features exhibits on geology, limnology and archeology of the area.

Nahant Marsh Education Center

4220 Wapello Ave. - Davenport, Iowa - 563.323.3374

nahantmarsh.org

This 265-acre nature preserve is a complex of wetlands surrounded by the city of Davenport. The wetlands are one of the area's most important natural areas.

Howard & Joyce Wood Education & Visitor Center at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Rd. - St. Louis, Missouri - 314.877.6014

mdc.mo.gov/regions/st-louis/columbia-bottom

Area lies at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. The 4,318-acre urban conservation area includes more than 15 miles of trails and a 110-acre island.

Reelfoot Lake State Park Visitor Center

2595 State Rte. 21 E. - Tiptonville, Tennessee - 731.253.9652

tnstateparks.com/parks/about/reelfoot-lake

Lake was formed from the several earthquakes of 1811-1812 that caused the Mississippi River to back up on itself, filling in a once vast cypress forest.

Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie

921 E. Fourth St. - Stuttgart, Arkansas - 870.673.7001

grandprairiemuseum.org

This subregion of the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain is a major site for rice cultivation. It was once a large, flat area of native grassland amid the swampy Delta land.

Lake Chicot State Park

2542 Hwy 257 - Lake Village, Arkansas - 870.265.5480

arkansasstateparks.com/lakechicot

This curving lake, once the main channel of the Mississippi River, was cut off from the river centuries ago. At 20 miles in length, it is America's largest natural oxbow remnant.

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserve

419 Decatur St. - New Orleans, Louisiana - 504.589.2133

nps.gov/jela

The six sites that make up this park and preserve include the Barataria Preserve. The 23,000-acres offer a taste of Louisiana's wild wetlands, including bayous, swamps, marshes and forests.