



THE WAY OF AMERICAN GENIUS: INNOVATIONS

Cities: St. Joseph, Hamilton, Osborn, Cameron, Jamesport, Chillicothe, Marceline, Kirksville, La Plata, Hannibal

Discover some of America's great ideas, inventions and innovators along Missouri Highway 36 –The Way of American Genius featuring: Pony Express, JC Penney, General Pershing, Walt Disney and Mark Twain. This itinerary can be done from east to west or west to east, and can start at any point. The trip below goes west to east

Day 1 – St. Joseph, Shatto Dairy

Visit the Patee House Museum (home to the Pony Express headquarters)

To begin the story of one of the West's greatest innovations – This former pioneer hotel and Pony Express headquarters was also a gathering spot for Jesse James' family and the media during the Ford brothers' trial after James' assassination. Visit the "Streets of Old St. Joe," enjoy art and antique toys and trains. And ride the vintage "Wild Thing" carousel.

Head to the Pony Express Stables to continue your journey through this piece of Legendary American history.

The famous overland mail service by horseback began here on April 3, 1860. The state of the art exhibits illustrate the need, creation, operation and termination of the Pony Express.

Lunch in historic St. Joseph www.stjomo.com

Depart St. Joseph

Visit and tour Shatto Dairy

This real working farm processes and bottles their own milk on site – in glass bottles! See how milk gets to your local grocery store, and sample some tasty dairy products, like ice cream, butter and eggnog!

Estimated Tour Time: 1.5 hrs www.shattomilk.com

Dinner and overnight in Cameron, Missouri or St. Joseph

St. Joseph to Cameron, 36 miles

Day 2 – Hamilton, Jamesport, Chillicothe

Visit a museum that honors one of the greatest retailers in the Midwest – Mr. James Cash Penney, or JC Penney as you may know him from his stores.

Tour the museum and Penney's boyhood home in Hamilton, MO. The museum contains items belonging to JC Penney and explains his contributions to American retailing. The home was moved to its original farm site and renovated to its 1875-1900 appearance.

Contact: 816-583-2168
312 N. Davis Street
Hamilton, MO 64644

St. Joseph to Hamilton, 48 miles

Lunch in Jamesport

Dine in and explore a place where technological innovation has been forsaken in favor of simple, spiritual living. Jamesport Missouri, Missouri's largest Amish population has several shops specializing in handmade goods and stores for tourists looking to explore the simpler times of days gone by. www.jamesport-mo.com

Hamilton to Jamesport, 23 miles

Visit the home of one of America's greatest military leaders; Gen. John 'Blackjack' Pershing.

Learn how his leadership inspired other great military leaders. A statue of "Black Jack" stands next to the home surrounded by granite tablets naming war veterans. Inside Prairie Mound School, an exhibit gallery allows visitors to walk through the many doorways Gen. Pershing passed through during his childhood life, military career and numerous accomplishments. www.pershingmuseum.com

Contact: 660-963-2525
900 Pershing Drive
Laclede, MO 64651

Jamesport to Laclede, 47 miles

Take a driving tour of the Chillicothe murals.

Each mural has historical significance based on events in the Chillicothe area. Along with each mural, there will be a short narrative explaining the mural and its connection to the community. The murals provide a pictorial record of our history. Chillicothe hopes to eventually have 12 to 15 murals throughout the town. Chillicothe is the home of sliced bread; a great invention if there ever was one! It was recently discovered that sliced bread was first offered for sale – ever – in Chillicothe, Missouri. A product of the Chillicothe Baking company, it was sliced on a machine called the Rohwedder Bread Slicer. www.visit Chillicothe.com

Dinner and overnight in Chillicothe

Laclede to Chillicothe, 23 miles

Day 3 – Marceline, Kirksville & La Plata

Depart for Marceline, MO

Visit the Walt Disney Hometown Museum

Learn about one of America's most-loved creators! Walt, the man behind the Disney phenomenon, spent formative childhood days in Marceline, and even patterned Main St. USA in Disneyland after Main St. in Marceline! While perusing this special museum, you'll feel transported to a simpler time and unlike the hustle and bustle of the Disney Theme Parks, you'll feel closeness and get an intimate understanding of Walt Disney and his amazing life history & family. www.waltdisneymuseum.org

Enjoy lunch and shopping in Marceline 'Downtown USA'
Depart for Kirksville, MO

Chillicothe to Marceline, 38 miles

Explore one of medicine's great breakthroughs – osteopathy - at the Osteopathic Museum in Kirksville.

Begun in 1894, the School of Osteopathic medicine is as popular as ever. There are two historic buildings preserved inside a two-story atrium adjacent to the Museum, the birthplace log cabin of Dr. Andrew Taylor Still, M.D., D.O.,

(1828-1917), founder of osteopathy, the original two-room classroom building of the American School of Osteopathy, founded in 1892. www.atsu.edu/museum

Dine at one of the 30 restaurants in Kirksville. www.visitkirksville.com

Depart for La Plata's Depot Inn & Suites

Celebrate another great innovation – the railroad! Enjoy lounging in their indoor heated pool or gather a group for some fun board games, provided by the hotel. www.depotinnandsuites.com

Marceline to Kirksville, 62 miles

Kirksville to La Plata, 15 miles

DAY 4 - Hannibal

The Hannibal Convention & Visitors Bureau can help you by planning a custom itinerary to fit your schedule, and we provide free itinerary booking! Call or email us to book the Hannibal itinerary below or to create your own unique HWY 36 adventure!

Upon arriving in historic downtown Hannibal. Before enjoying lunch, browse the shops along Main Street to stretch your legs. After lunch, board the Hannibal Trolley for a fun and informative sightseeing tour of Hannibal. You'll see notable landmarks as well as learn some history you may not have known about Hannibal – Mark Twain isn't the only claim to fame the town has to offer! www.visithannibal.com

Explore the Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum properties on a fun self-guided tour.

The Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum encompasses eight buildings including six historically significant buildings and two exciting, interactive museums whose collections include fifteen original Norman Rockwell paintings. Come discover how a young boy growing up in the small village of Hannibal became one of the world's most beloved authors. A self-guided tour of the Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum properties gives you the chance to explore the Hannibal of Samuel Clemens' childhood and experience the beloved stories he created as Mark Twain through the power of his imagination. www.marktwainmuseum.org

Gather at the Museum Gallery

The last building on the museum tour, to hear a lecture from the museum's curator on "Mark Twain the Inventor". Did you know Twain held a total of three patents in his lifetime? Twain, received his first patent for an adjustable strap that could be used to tighten shirts at the waist. Twain also received patents for a self-pasting scrapbook in 1873, that was very popular and sold over 25,000 copies, and in 1885 for a history trivia game. And you thought he only wrote stories!

Enjoy a live stage performance from Mark Twain Himself!

This show will take you back to the days of Twain's famous stage shows. Richard Garey brings Twain alive as you enjoy a light Victorian tea. This live theater show has been performed to great reviews in over forty states and Canada and now makes its home in Hannibal. In this show Garey recreates the famous Mark Twain shows of 100+ years ago. Sam Clemens or Mark Twain was just as famous for his shows as he was for his writing.

www.heritagestage.com

All aboard the Mark Twain Riverboat for a beautiful evening dinner cruise.

Enjoy the scenes of the Mississippi as you listen to live music. Step up to the Pilothouse to meet the captain and be entertained with stories of the river. www.marktwainriverboat.com

Overnight in Hannibal

La Plata to Hannibal, 81 miles