

New Madrid MISSOURI

Voyagers from the prehistoric Mississippian Indians to Hernando de Soto and the expeditions of Marquette and Joliet have visited the New Madrid area at its location on the banks of the Mississippi River. Colonel George Morgan of Washington's Colonial Army established the City of New Madrid in 1789 under a secret agreement with the Spanish government. Located just three miles off I-55 at exit #49 coming from the north, or exit #44 coming from the south, the views and experiences of early visitors plus what is new in New Madrid awaits your visit.

Oldest American City West of the Mississippi River



Higginson School Visitor Center and Museum 1



Begin your tour of the one-room Higginson School at the new Visitor Center and Museum directly across the street from the school. The museum explores life in the isolated Mississippi River community at Higginson Landing and the history of the Higginson School. A special exhibit area is also devoted to the Veteran's Park located next to the school.



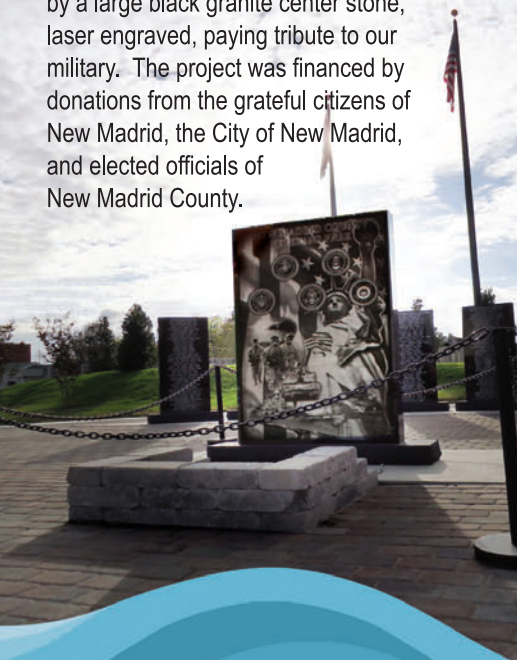
Higginson School 2

The Higginson School held grades 1-8 for 32 students in the remote rural Higginson Landing area on the Mississippi River. In 1948 instruction was provided to all eight grades by one teacher in one room. The school was relocated to the downtown New Madrid site and was restored to its original condition of no lights, sack lunches and "outside" restroom facilities.



Veteran's Park 3

A new project of the River Bend Botanical Society, commissioned by the City of New Madrid, was completed in 2010 to honor New Madrid County citizens who have served or are currently serving the U.S. Armed Services. This unique park recognizes all branches of service including the Coast Guard with special recognition to Vietnam Veterans. Eight black granite monuments, shipped in from Asia, proclaim our pride in our service men and women. Visitors will be welcomed by a large black granite center stone, laser engraved, paying tribute to our military. The project was financed by donations from the grateful citizens of New Madrid, the City of New Madrid, and elected officials of New Madrid County.



New Madrid Historical Museum 4

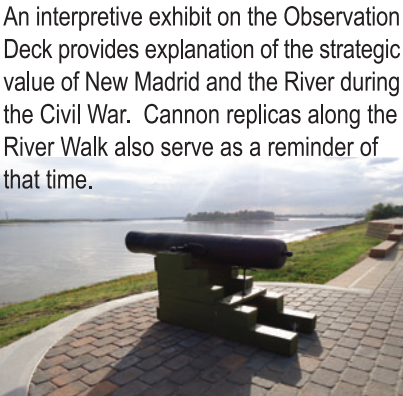
The "First and Last Chance Saloon" has served Mississippi River voyagers since its founding in 1886. Known also as the "Kendal Saloon", it is now home to the New Madrid Historical Museum. Artifacts in the Museum provide evidence of the area's earliest inhabitants, "The Mississippian Indians" who were known as the Mound Builders. The role of New Madrid as a strategic point on the Mississippi River is depicted by locally discovered artifacts as well as items loaned by descendants of those involved in the Civil War Conflict. The New Madrid earthquake of 1811-1812, the greatest seismic event in North America, continues to attract the attention of seismologists and residents of the Midwest. New state-of-the-art seismic monitoring equipment, which shows both local and worldwide activity in real-time, has been added. From kids to adults, this hands-on interactive display is a must see.



The New Madrid earthquake of 1811-1812 was felt from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

Observation Deck and River Walk 5

A favorite vantage point of local residents and visitors to New Madrid is the Observation Deck and the new River Walk. The spectacular view of the eight mile long "Bessie Bend Oxbow" provides a photographic opportunity of the busy life on the Mississippi River as well as unforgettable sunrises and sunsets.



An interpretive exhibit on the Observation Deck provides explanation of the strategic value of New Madrid and the River during the Civil War. Cannon replicas along the River Walk also serve as a reminder of that time.

New Madrid may have served as a stopping point on the "Trail of Tears". New commemorative interpretive plaques on the River Walk mark that journey. The River Walk ends near the River Park with its picnic facilities, boat docking and automobile parking lot.



The Mighty Mississippi River

Located at river mile 888.7, the city of New Madrid owes its existence-past, present, and future-to its location on the Mississippi River. This mighty waterway is over 2,300 miles long with a breathtaking eight miles in view at the Bessie Bend Oxbow.



Bring your camera because life on the river is ever changing, moment to moment.



Trail of Tears 6

Commemorative plaques on the River Walk provide interpretation of the infamous "Trail of Tears" march. The 1830 Indians Removal Act dictated that the Cherokee and the other Indian tribes in the southern states be relocated to the Oklahoman Indian Territories. White settlers gained access to the productive, desirable, ancestral lands of the Indians. The journey was hazardous whether by the land route or the Mississippi River passage which passed through this area.



Hart-Stepp Gallery 7

This is the oldest standing home in New Madrid and was constructed by Abraham Augustine in an area southeast of present day New Madrid known as "Old Town". The home was moved to its current location to escape the encroaching waters of the Mississippi River. The building is now home to the Hart-Stepp Gallery which features the work of local photographers and fine artists as well as invited special exhibitions. Visit their gift shop for souvenirs of the local area.



Take a front row seat and watch as barges are assembled to form a tow. These multi-barge tows will hold commodities produced in America's great heartland and carry them downstream and on to international markets. Empty barges, as well as fuels, chemicals and raw materials, will make the upstream journey to manufacturing and producing centers.



Hunter-Dawson State Historic Site 8

This 15-room antebellum home and accompanying structures reflects the plantation economy that existed in Southeast Missouri in the mid 19th century. Completed in 1859 of yellow cypress, the home has many of the original furnishings including a large collection of Mitchell and Rammelsberg furniture shipped to New Madrid by steamboat. Tours are available daily.



Indian Ceremonial Mound 9

The Mississippian Indians, also known as the Mound Builders, occupied the Mississippi basin and area of the southern states. This culture constructed mounds of various sizes and shapes believed to be ceremonial structures. Sites have been dated to pre-1500. Artifacts discovered near the New Madrid Mound are on display at the New Madrid Historical Museum.

New Madrid MISSOURI

Set your course for fun!

Visitors Guide

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR SCHEDULE

THE RIVERBOATS RETURN!

Restaurants

El Bracero 530 Hwy 61	Helmes Deli 430 Main Street (573) 748-7757
Johnson's 605 Main Street (573) 748-2598	Kinsey's Freeze Queen 411 Hwy 61 (573) 748-2046
M&M Deli 501 Main Street (573) 748-7929	Main Street Market 410 Main Street (573) 748-2153
Pizza Hut Hwy 61 (573) 748-5540	Pro Pizza 704 Hwy 61 (573) 748-5199
Riverside Deli 325 Hwy 61 (573) 748-5400	Taster's 25 Villa Shopping Center Dawson Rd (573) 748-2044

Grab a quick sandwich or stay for a while!

MO IL KY TN AR

Chicago St. Louis New Madrid Paducah Nashville Memphis Little Rock

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Photos courtesy of:
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