

The Ohio River to Tennessee River to Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway to Tombigbee River to Mobile River Boat Tour

This tour incorporates maritime sights and museums along four rivers and the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. The tour can be started at any place on the route but is presented here beginning with the Ohio River and ending with the Mobile River at Mobile. Most stops are related to America's maritime or naval history.

Tour begins on the Ohio River at Marietta, Ohio.

The Ohio River Museum and the W.P. Snyder Jr. at Marietta, Ohio

The Ohio River Museum consists of three exhibit buildings, the first of which houses displays depicting the origins and natural history of the Ohio River. The golden age of the steamboat is featured in the second building, along with a video presentation on river steamboats. The last building explores the enduring relationship between man and the river. Boat construction is also featured.

Outside the museum, on the Muskingum River, visitors can take an escorted tour of the *W. P. SNYDER JR.*-- the last intact steam-powered, stern-wheeled towboat in the United States. The *TELL CITY* pilothouse and a full-scale reproduction of a flatboat complete the outside exhibits.

Activities: Tours of museum and the Snyder.

Location: The Ohio River Museum is at the intersection of Front and St. Clair streets in Marietta in Washington County. It is one block west of The Campus Martius Museum. Turn north from the Ohio River onto the Muskingum River to reach the museum.

Website: <http://www.ohiohistory.org/places/ohriver/#info>

Note: Check hours on website. The Museum is closed during the winter months and generally on Monday and Tuesday during the summer. Rates for adults are \$7; children 6 to 12 pay \$3. Children 5 and under are admitted free.

The Showboat *Majestic* in Cincinnati, Ohio

National Historic Landmark – Listed December 20, 1989

National Register of Historic Places – Listed December 20, 1989 (No. 80003085)

In 1923, Tom Reynolds' new Showboat *Majestic* slid into the water near Pittsburgh. This started the *Majestic* on a career that carried her over the Ohio River and its tributaries for the next 20 years. The Reynolds family lived, played and performed on the "Boat" until World War II, when it was tied up at Henderson, West Virginia for three long years.

The City of Cincinnati purchased the Showboat *Majestic* in 1967 to serve as a focal point for the developing Central Riverfront. Until 1988, it was leased to the University of Cincinnati as a summer stock theatre for its students. Now, under the administration of Cincinnati Landmark Productions, in cooperation with the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, the *Majestic* is a professional summer stock theatre utilizing local performers, providing them opportunity and experience in a theatre rich with history, nostalgia and river romance!

While there are newer boats on the Ohio today, the *Majestic* was the last of the purpose-built "floating operas," the last to make one-night stands, the last to actively travel, the longest-lived under one owner and home of the largest family - the eleven Reynolds children - ever reared on a showboat.

With the burning of the original Goldenrod Showboat in St. Louis, MO, on June 1, 1962, the Showboat *Majestic* became the last survivor of the singularly American tradition of floating theaters. In 1989, the Showboat *Majestic* became an official National Historical Landmark.

Activities: Plan to arrive for the evening show. Tickets can be purchased on-line or in person.

Location: Cincinnati Public Landing

Website: <http://www.cincinnati.landmarkproductions.com/sbm/>
<http://www.steamboats.com/museum8.html>

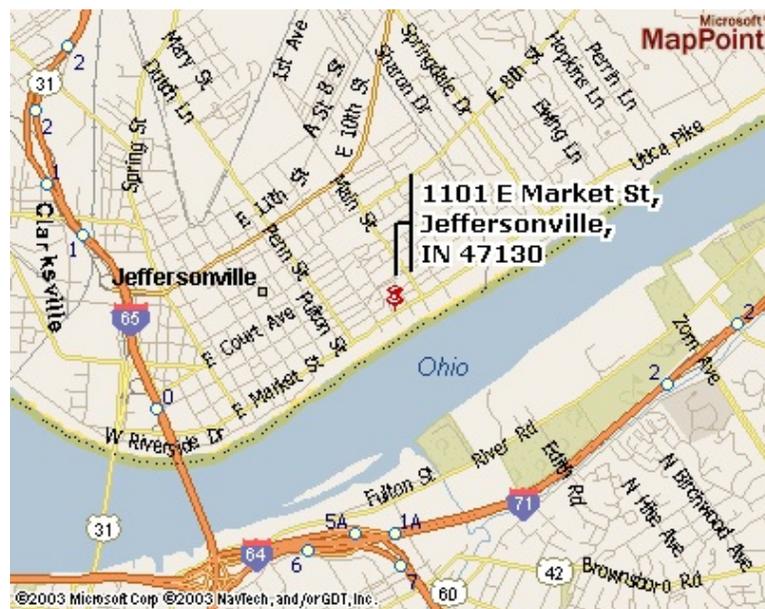
Howard Steamboat Museum in Jeffersonville, Indiana

Step back in time to the Great Steamboat Era with a tour of the Howard Steamboat Museum. This beautiful 1894 home--built by premier steamboat builders, the Howards of Jeffersonville, Indiana--features original furnishings, brass chandeliers, stained glass windows, and intricate carvings throughout--even a grand staircase! Master craftsmen from the shipyard created much of the decor in the mansion. Howard built steamboats included the luxurious *J.M. White*, the speedy *City of Louisville* and the popular *Indiana*. Models, photographs, paintings, half-hull models and other artifacts from the Great Steamboat Era abound at this unique Jeffersonville Museum.

Activities: tours

Location: 1101 East Market Street, about 1.2 miles east of I65 Bridge over Ohio River

Website: <http://www.steamboatmuseum.org/>



Falls of the Ohio State Park at Clarksville, Indiana

A total of 78 exhibits take the visitor through time, discussing prehistoric man, Native Americans, the legend of the Welsh Prince Madoc, settlement, mapping, river navigation, and more. Interactive exhibits for children and adults include reproduction pilot houses from a steamboat and a modern tow boat. Visitors can stand at the wheel and pilot themselves down the mighty Ohio River.

Activities: Museum and fossil viewing along with educational programs, hiking trails, picnicking, bird watching, fishing, and aquariums

Location: Boat ramp on Ohio River at Clarksville, Indiana.

Website: <http://www.falloftheohio.org/index.html>



The Belle of Louisville Steamer at Louisville, Kentucky

A National Historic Landmark - Listed 1989

The steamboat now known as the *Belle of Louisville* first floated on the Allegheny River at Pittsburgh. She was built there by James Rees & Sons Company for the West Memphis Packet Company in 1914. Her original name was the *Idlewild*, and her sturdy, well-built frame sat atop a steel hull that needed only five feet of water to float. Such a shallow draft allowed her passage on practically every navigable waterway in the country -- a feature she has used to its full advantage throughout her remarkable life.

Activities: Public cruises

Location: Fourth Street Wharf in Louisville.

Website: <http://www.belleoflouisville.org/history.htm>
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/maritime/nhl/belle.htm>

Mayor Andrew Broaddus River Coast Guard Station at Louisville

Mayor Andrew Broaddus (ex-Life-Saving Station No. 10), is a floating former Coast Guard life-saving station usually moored at the foot of Fourth Street, on the Ohio River at Louisville, Kentucky. The Broaddus now serves as the wharfboat, housing offices and shops for the city's other historic vessel, Belle of Louisville.

Activities: Tours and shopping

Location: usually moored at the foot of Fourth Street Wharf next to the Belle of Louisville

Website: <http://www.cr.nps.gov/maritime/nhl/mayor.htm>

From Louisville to just east of Paducah the tour remains on the Ohio River. At the junction of the Ohio and the Tennessee Rivers, the tour turns south on the Tennessee River and continues through Kentucky Dam and Kentucky Lake south to Tennessee.

Kentucky Dam (built in 1944)

Website: <http://www.kentuckylake.com/kylake/060702b.htm>

As you proceed through Kentucky Lake and into the Tennessee River, enjoy the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (Don't miss the Elk and Bison Prairie.) and the Tennessee River Wildlife Refuge. Unfortunately, there are no maritime sights or museums along this stretch of the waterway.

Kentucky Lake

Website: <http://www.kentuckylake.org/>
<http://www.kentuckylake.org/links/rivercharts.htm> (maps and charts)
<http://www.kentuckylake.com/>

Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area

Website: <http://www.lbl.org/Home.html>
<http://www.explorekentuckylake.com/maps/lbl/lbl.htm> (map)

Tennessee River National Wildlife Refuge

Website: <http://tennesseerefuge.fws.gov/>

At Navigational Mile 215.2 on the Tennessee River, proceed onto the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. This is mile marker 450.7 for the Waterway. This site has a good chart of the waterway: <http://tenntom.sam.usace.army.mil/pdf/rec/lakemaps/project.pdf> .

Your first stop on the Waterway is the U.S. Snagboat *Montgomery* at the Tom Bevill Lock and Dam, mile marker 306.8.

Proceed south on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway to the Tombigbee River then the Mobile River to Mobile.

USS Alabama and USS Drum at Mobile, Alabama

Both vessels are National Historic Landmarks and can be seen at Mobile's Battleship Memorial Park.

Courage comes alive at Battleship Memorial Park, one of America's finest military parks. Here, along the shores of Mobile Bay, you'll experience heroism spanning more than seven decades from World War II to Desert Storm.

Activities: Tours of the battleship, submarine, military aircraft and memorials, a flight simulator, videos, and other military armaments.

Website: <http://www.ussalabama.com/>

Location: 2703 Battleship Parkway (Highway 90/98)
Just off Interstate 10, Exits 27 or 30



The Museum of Mobile at Mobile, Alabama

The Museum of Mobile, Alabama, interprets the cultural, social, economic and political history of the Mobile bay area and southwest Alabama. Collection Content: General areas - Colonial period, Civil War, Battle of Mobile Bay, armaments. Pre-history - present. Also, library, paintings and HUNLEY submarine, CSS ALABAMA and the Admiral Raphael Sommes collection. Full scale historic vessel - CSS HUNLEY (ca 1865) - 35' replica of Confederate submarine. Hand powered by nine men, was first sub to sink another ship in war and has now been recovered.

Activities: Tours including the Hunley replica and maritime paintings.

Website: <http://www.museumofmobile.com/>

Location: Southern Market/Old City Hall, 111 South Royal Street

The United States Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District hopes you enjoyed these maritime sights along the Ohio River, Tennessee River, Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, Tombigbee River, and Mobile River.