



**The Way of American Genius
Missouri Highway 36**

Along one historic and scenic highway, nestled in the rolling hills of northern Missouri, genius is cultivated. Come and experience our story and allow our geniuses to inspire the genius that lives in you.

**A Genius of an Itinerary
St. Joseph & Western Missouri**

- **The Pony Express Museum...** Mount up and head to the “Stables.” The famous overland mail service by horseback began here at Pikes Peak Stables on April 3, 1860. Carrying saddlebags, the riders traveled 2,000 miles west to Sacramento which took approximately 10 days. Exhibits illustrate the need, creation, operation and termination of the Pony Express. www.ponyexpress.org
- **The Patee House/Jesse James Home...** Step back in time. Visit the Jesse James Home where Jesse was shot and killed on April 3, 1882. The house which was moved in 1977 to its current location contains the legendary bullet hole, along with an exhibit of the 1995 exhumation of his grave by top forensic scientist professor James E. Starrs. The Patee House was built as an elegant 140-room hotel in 1858 and was considered the finest hotel west of the Mississippi. It is a National Historic Landmark for its role as headquarters to the Pony Express. For two nights after Jesse’s death, Mrs. James, her two children and Jesse’s mother stayed at the Patee House which is now a unique and unusual museum. www.ponyexpressjessejames.com

Hamilton, Chillicothe, Laclede, Marceline & Central Missouri

- **Hamilton** has the distinction of being the birthplace and boyhood home of retail magnate J.C. Penney. The Penney Library and Museum house memorabilia from his early years here until his death in 1971. A visit to his boyhood home is also scheduled. Contact: Dean Hales, 816-583-2053, 312 North Davis St. or 816-583-2168.
- **Chillicothe** has the best thing since sliced bread, literally. Chillicothe is the home of sliced bread, where the lie-changing innovation was conceived and first produced. Additionally 20 larger than life historic murals make walking our historic downtown a treat.

- The small town of **Laclede** is the home to one of American's biggest military heroes, Gen. John J. "Black Jack" Pershing. Pershing spent most of his childhood years in Laclede. 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. Tour Gen. Pershing's boyhood home and see the statue of "Black Jack" surrounded by granite tablets naming war veterans.
- Experience the Magic of **Marceline**, the Boyhood Home of Walt Disney. Visit several sites of importance to the groundbreaking visionary. The Walt Disney Hometown Museum is the recipient of a unique collection of family effects never seen anywhere else in the world. Interpretive exhibits focus on the Disney family and tell the story of
- Walt's childhood, family, friends and associates who supported him in his creative adventures; personal letters written between family members, the only ride ever to leave and be operated outside of Disneyland, and artifacts, effects and personal belongings from Disney family members.

Hannibal & Western Missouri

- The **Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum** properties include eight buildings; six historically significant buildings and two interactive museums whose collections include fifteen original Norman Rockwell paintings. Explore the Hannibal of Samuel Clemens' childhood and experience the beloved stories he created as Mark Twain through the power of his imagination. Megan Rapp, Manager of Marketing & Community Relations will provide a guided tour.
- **Mark Twain Cave** is Missouri's first Show Cave and is a Registered Natural Landmark. A guide will escort you on a 20-minute tour where the walkways are level and smooth. The cave stays at a constant 52 degrees year round, so jackets or sweaters are recommended. The nearby Visitor's Center offers gifts, books and collectibles.
- Enjoy a one hour sightseeing cruise aboard the **Mark Twain Mississippi Riverboat**. Listen to commentary on river history, legends and sites and see Jackson's Island, riverboats and Lover's Leap.

Quality accommodations, dining options, unique retailers and other amenities are abundant throughout the Highway 36 corridor.

- ❖ **More info at <http://americangeniushighway.com>**