

Dig Into Joplin Challenge

From shootouts to Shoal Creek, Joplin's varied history and landscape tell the story of a rough and tumble mining town that grew into a Route 66 icon and today serves as a testament to resiliency and the power of community. As Joplin nears its 150th birthday, this challenge celebrates what makes "The Town that Jack Built" a unique crossroads of the Midwest.



The Dig Into Joplin Challenge is sponsored by Visit Joplin MO, the Convention and Visitors Bureau of the City of Joplin. As the official destination marketing organization for the city, Visit Joplin MO works hard to keep you informed about the Joplin community. For more information, go to www.visitjoplinmo.com. #JoplinRocks #TrekJOMO #JoplinRoute66



Dig Into Joplin Challenge ... Visit at least 5 sites. Remember: Missouri Explorers must be registered in the program, and they are responsible for checking hours and availability of sites. Upload your verification photographs using the online submission form at <https://missouri2021.org/missouri-explorers/> to receive your merit badge button.

Remember, Missouri Explorers, you are responsible for checking hours and availability of sites before arriving.

Jasper County

417-623-1180

Joplin History and Mineral Museum \$

504 S Schifferdecker Avenue
Joplin, Missouri
417-623-1180

The Joplin History and Mineral Museum is a complex made up of several small museums. You'll feel like you're underground as you go in the entrance of the Everett J. Ritchie Tri-State Mineral Museum, which was created to resemble the entrance of a mine shaft. As you walk past Smithsonian-quality mineral specimens, you can get an up-close glimpse into the mining culture that caused a boom in the Kansas-Oklahoma-Missouri (Tri-State Mining District) region in the late 1800s and gave birth to the city of Joplin. Snap your photograph with Joplin's amazing mineral collection in the background.

<https://www.joplin-museum.org/>

Joplin History and Mineral Museum

CIRCUS BONUS \$

504 S Schifferdecker Avenue
Joplin, Missouri

The Joplin History and Mineral Museum is also home to the Merle Evans and Miniature Circus exhibits. Merle Evans was born near Joplin in Columbus, Kansas, in 1891. Evans became the band director for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus in 1919 and held the position for fifty years. In addition to artifacts from Evans' career, the exhibit has a miniature 3-ring circus display and other pieces from the heyday of the circus. Snap your photograph up close to the activity of life under the big tent with this miniature circus replica, or with the many circus posters.

<https://www.joplin-museum.org/>

Mercy Park

3002 St. Johns Boulevard
Joplin, Missouri
417-625-4750

Mercy Park is located on the site where St. John's Hospital once stood. The hospital was destroyed in the May 2011 tornado, and the land is now used as a public space. The butterfly mural represents the transformation of Joplin

and the hope for a beautiful future. The park is also home to the Rotary Sculpture Garden. Spread your wings and fly! Snap your photograph in front of the colorful wings of the larger-than-life butterfly mural and extend your arms out wide for an incredible photo op.

<http://www.joplinmo.org/Facilities/Facility/Details/Mercy-Park-38>

Route 66 Mural Park

617 S. Main Street (south side of building)
Joplin, Missouri
417-625-4789

Historic Route 66 brought travelers through the heart of Joplin in the mid-20th century. Joplin became a popular stop on the highway, and businesses along Main Street flourished because of it. Today, on the same street, you'll find Route 66 Mural Park, which pays homage to that nostalgic era with two large tile murals: Cruisin' into Joplin and The American Ribbon. Become a Route 66 Mother Road enthusiast and snap your photograph in front of the red mock 1964 Corvette located just below the murals.

<https://www.visitjoplinmo.com/business/route-66-mural-park>

Thomas Hart Benton Mural: Joplin at the Turn of the Century, 1896–1906

602 S. Main Street (inside City Hall)
Joplin, Missouri
417-625-4789

The 1972 mural Joplin at the Turn of the Century is the last signed work by the American painter Thomas Hart Benton. It depicts people from different social spheres on the Main Street of Joplin, Missouri, at the turn of the 20th Century. The painting is 14 feet wide and 5 1/2 feet high. It is located near the elevators in the Joplin City Hall. The mural was commissioned for the city's 1973 centennial. Snap your photograph in front of this mural.

<https://www.visitjoplinmo.com/business/murals-at-city-hall>

Jasper/Newton Counties

Joplin Welcome Sign

Located at various locations in Joplin: southwest corner of Range Line Road and 7th Street; southwest corner of Schifferdecker Avenue and 7th Street; 1111 N. Main Street (northwest corner of Ozark Christian College campus); 410 Richard Joseph Boulevard (in front of Cracker Barrel); 3031 E. Hammons Boulevard (in front of Olive Garden)
Joplin, Missouri

Joplin is a city in southern Jasper County and northern Newton County in the southwestern corner of Missouri. Joplin is the largest city in Jasper County, though it is not the county seat. As of the 2010 census, the city population was 50,150. In 2010, the surrounding Metropolitan Statistical Area had an estimated population of 175,518. Celebrate your arrival in Joplin and snap your photograph in front of one of these welcome signs.

Newton County

Bonnie and Clyde Apartment

3347 1/2 Oak Ridge Drive
Joplin, Missouri

In 1933, infamous outlaws Bonnie and Clyde spent several weeks in a garage apartment in Joplin and robbed several area businesses. Tipped off by a neighbor, Joplin police attempted to apprehend Bonnie and Clyde. Bonnie and Clyde escaped, killing Newton County Constable John Wesley Harryman and Joplin Police Detective Harry McGinnis in the process during a shoot-out at the garage. Snap a photograph of your meanest mug shot with the historical marker in front of the garage.

<http://www.joplinmo.org/576/Bonnie-Clyde>

Grand Falls

5400 S Riverside Drive
Joplin, Missouri
417-652-4789

Grand Falls is Missouri's highest continuously flowing waterfall. Snap your photograph with the falls in the background.

<https://www.visitjoplinmo.com/business/grandfalls>

Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma Tri-State Marker

118th Street
Quapaw, Oklahoma

This is the Tri-State Marker where the state borders of Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma converge. (I-44 exit 1 in Missouri). Drive NW one half mile on US Highway 400. Enter the traffic circle and drive three-quarters around. Exit right (west) onto Downstream Blvd, toward the casino, then take the very first left onto 118th Street (a gravel road). The marker is set into the dead end of that road, and there's a large rock cairn as well. Snap your photograph with one foot in Missouri and the other in Oklahoma or Kansas.