

MARK TWAIN'S HANNIBAL

Rise and shine everyone, your classic ferryboat ride down the Mississippi River is coming to an end; but don't fret because a new adventure is about to begin in Hannibal, Missouri! Founded in 1819 by Moses D. Bates, Hannibal started off as a small river town that quickly flourished as thousands came to visit. Because it sat beautifully between the East and West coasts along the Mississippi River, it was nicknamed "America's Hometown." The final event that gave this town a spot on the map is thanks to Mark Twain. As a little boy, he grew up here, which inspired his beloved characters Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer to come to life, thus creating a legend for himself. Create your own adventure as you explore the historic Mark Twain buildings, shop the Historic District Downtown and take a ride along Sawyer's Creek!

1. Twain on Main is an annual free festival that celebrates the works of Mark Twain.
2. Take a walk down the Historic Downtown streets of Hannibal and discover the Chocolate Extravaganza or Twain on Main.
3. To see the panoramic view of Hannibal from The Mark Twain Memorial Lighthouse, you only have to climb 244 steps; or around 20 stories high.
4. Visitors can tour the Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum which is also Tom Sawyer's home and was constructed around 1843 or 1844. It marked its 100th anniversary in 2012 as a public museum.
5. National Tom Sawyer Days is a tribute to the Tom Sawyer character with contests ranging from fence painting, frog jumping to mud volleyball. There are also local arts and crafts throughout the day until it finishes with a big 4th of July fireworks display.
6. The Mark Twain Riverboat was built in 1964 and has been a unique icon cruising down the banks of the Mississippi for more than 30 years.
7. Look! It's Engine Joe with his buddy and the Hannibal treasure!
8. As you float the river, keep an eye out for Eric's happy jumping fish.
9. Tom and Becky often "appear" together here in Hannibal every Saturday and Sunday from March to October because local children are chosen to portray the famous literary couple.
10. Huck Finn and Jim escaping down the Mississippi River.