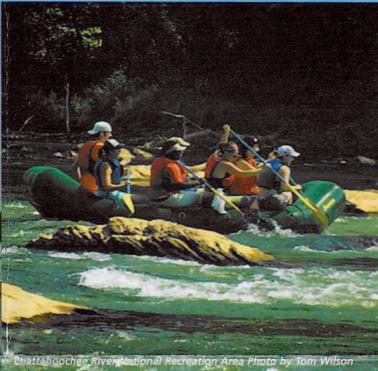
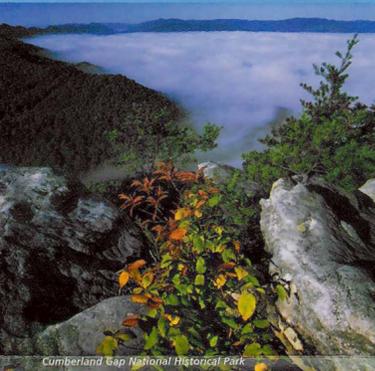


National Parks in the Southeast

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

www.nps.gov
EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



Southeast Parks - Land of Natural & Cultural Diversity

Welcome to the Southeast! We hope your visit is the experience of a lifetime. Whatever your interest—sightseeing, hiking, kayaking, bicycling, horseback riding, exploring history, nature study, or photography—you will find the Southeast Region of the National Park Service a place like no other.



"The national park idea has been nurtured by each succeeding generation of Americans. Today, across our land, the National Park System represents America at its best. Each park contributes to a deeper understanding of the history of the United States and our way of life; of the natural processes which have given form to our land, and to the enrichment of the environment in which we live." George B. Hertzog, Jr., National Park Service Director, 1964–1972.

The National Park Service's Southeast Region encompasses 66 parks in nine states, including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Southeast Region parks range in size from 1.5 million acres at Everglades National Park to 1 acre at Tupelo National Battlefield on the Natchez Trace Parkway. Two-thirds of the Southeast parks have history as their primary theme.

They include a beach in the Virgin Islands where Columbus landed, the place where the Civil War began and historical places associated with American heroes such as Abraham Lincoln and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Southeast parks tell stories that cover a span of about 10,000 years of human history, from the earliest inhabitants at Russell Cave, to National Heritages Areas, like the Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site and to the home of our 39th President Jimmy Carter. Scenic wonders in the Southeast range from the hazy splendor of the Great Smoky Mountains, to the lush grass swamplands of Florida's Everglades, kaleidoscopic coral reefs in the Virgin Islands, and the world's longest cave system at Mammoth Cave.

The southeast parks units are listed on the reverse side by State, Trail, and Caribbean



categories. Read a short description on the park unit, locate them on our regional map or get detailed information by visiting the park web page. For more information, please contact us at 404-507-3200.

National Park System - Southeast Region

www.nps.gov

The National Park Service was established in 1916 to "promote and regulate the use of...national parks, monuments, and reservations" and "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

The National Park System consists of over 390 areas and embraces over 30 million acres. The National Park Service's Southeast Region encompasses 66 parks in nine states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These parks receive 60,573,282 million visitors a year—about one fourth of the total visitation to National Park System areas nation-wide and more visitors than any other region in the National Park System.

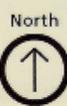
The National Park Service's Southeast Region is served by a regional office located in Atlanta, Georgia. The mission of the regional office is to provide professional service, consultation, policy direction, oversight, guidance, and technical assistance to Southeast parks, partners, and other stakeholders in support of the National Park Service mission. The address of the regional office is:
100 Alabama Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-507-5600
www.se.ro.nps.gov



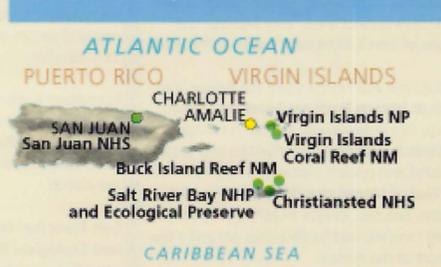
Historic Richs Department Store in Atlanta, home of the Southeast Regional Office.

National Park System Area Abbreviations

- NB National Battlefield
- NBP National Battlefield Park
- NBS National Battlefield Site
- NHP National Historical Park
- NHP & PRES National Historical Park and Preserve
- NHS National Historic Site
- NM National Monument
- NMP National Military Park
- N MEM National Memorial
- NP National Park
- N PRES National Preserve
- NRA National Recreation Area
- NRRA National River and Recreation Area
- NS National Seashore
- NST National Scenic Trail
- PKWY Parkway
- WSR Wild and Scenic River



0 100 200 Kilometers
0 100 200 Miles



Kentucky

Abraham Lincoln was born February 12, 1809, on his family's Sinking Spring Farm, now designated as the **Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park**. Visitors can walk over the land of Lincoln's birth and view an early Kentucky cabin symbolic of the one in which Lincoln was born.



Mammoth Cave National Park

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, located where Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia meet, commemorates the first major transportation corridor for settlement of the interior of the nation. This break in the Appalachian Mountains was an animal migration route and American Indian trail before becoming an important route of commerce and transportation.

There are two worlds to explore at **Mammoth Cave National Park**: the giant vertical shafts, underground rivers and passageways of the world's most extensive cave system, and the surface world of oak-hickory forests and woodland wildlife. Tours of the cave illustrate human activity as well as the natural wonders within the cave.

North Carolina

Cape Lookout National Seashore, accessible only by boat, protects one of the few remaining natural coastal barrier island systems in the world. Three undeveloped islands are home to turtles, wild horses, wide beaches, and historic Portsmouth Village.

Fort Raleigh National Historical Site, located on Roanoke Island, marks the site of the first British attempts to colonize the New World in the 1580s. Building reconstructions, exhibits, and dramas help visitors understand the human history of Fort Raleigh.

On level ground at Kill Devil Hill, Orville and Wilbur Wright made history on December 17, 1903, when they made the first successful powered flights in a heavier-than-air machine. At **Wright Brothers National Memorial**, visitors can tour museum exhibits,

reconstructed camp buildings, and the first flight trail area that interprets and preserves this historic achievement.

Moore's Creek National Battlefield commemorates the first decisive Patriot victory of the Revolutionary War achieved on February 27, 1776. Visitors can see the



Moore's Creek National Battlefield

Moore's Creek Bridge, the site of the battle, that ended plans for a British invasion of North Carolina.

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park preserves the site of the largest battle of the Revolutionary War southern campaign fought on March 15, 1781. Footpaths and an auto/bicycle road allow visitors to view the battle site that eventually led to an American victory at Yorktown, Virginia.

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site preserves Sandburg's legacy as a poet, biographer, folksinger, lecturer, author, and social activist by preserving the home where he spent the last 22 years of his life. The historic site also acknowledges the role of his wife, Lillian "Paula," who bred and raised prize-winning dairy goats and ran the farm

business, giving Sandburg the freedom to concentrate on his writing.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore is land and sea intersecting at the ocean's edge. Shipwrecks and lighthouses mingle with beaches, sand dunes, marshes, and woodlands, giving visitors opportunities for recreation and education.

Following the crests of the southern Appalachian Mountains, the **Blue Ridge Parkway** is a scenic motor road connecting Shenandoah National Park in Virginia and Great Smoky Mountains National Park in western North Carolina. Over half of the parkway is in North Carolina, creating a variety of recreational opportunities while providing travelers with a rich mix of natural and cultural history.

Louisiana

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve provides visitors with four distinctly different experiences. Centers in Lafayette, Thibodaux, and Eunice interpret the culture of the Acadian people who were relocated from Nova Scotia, Canada from 1765–1785. Barataria Preserve protects 20,000 acres of marshland, hardwood forest, and cypress swamp. Chalmette Battlefield and Cemetery commemorate the site of the 1815 Battle of New Orleans. At the Visitor Center in New Orleans French Quarter, park rangers interpret the history of New Orleans and the diverse cultures of Mississippi's Delta region.



New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park

New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park celebrates the people and places responsible for the birth and evolution of jazz in New Orleans. The historical park helps to keep the spirit of traditional New Orleans jazz alive through a calendar of musical performances, lectures, and educational programs.

Cane River Creole National Historical Park preserves landscapes, sites, and structures important to the development of the Creole culture in central Louisiana. Oakland and Magnolia Plantations, the Cane River corridor, and the historic town of Natchitoches tell the stories of colonization, frontier influences, cotton agriculture, French and Creole architecture, and slavery and tenancy labor systems through the 19th century.

Mississippi

Natchez Trace Parkway, designated a National Scenic Byway-All American Road, closely follows the old Indian trace, or trail, from Natchez, Mississippi, through Alabama, to Nashville, Tennessee. Paralleling nearly one third of the parkway is the **Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail**.

Brices Cross Roads National Battlefield Site and **Tupelo National Battlefield** are related to General William Tecumseh Sherman's successful 1864 efforts to keep the Union supply lines open from Nashville to Chattanooga, Tennessee in anticipation of his march to Atlanta and Savannah, Georgia.



Vicksburg National Military Park

The campaign, sieges, defense, and ultimate surrender of Vicksburg is preserved and interpreted at **Vicksburg National Military Park**. Over 1300 historical monuments and markers make Vicksburg battlefield one of the most densely monumented battlefields in the world as well as one of the largest collections of outdoor art in the southern United States.

The rich cultural history of the antebellum South is reflected at **Natchez National Historical Park**. Although the historical park has three distinct areas, only Melrose, the estate of John T. McMurry, is open to the public.

Mississippi and Florida share the mosaic that is **Gulf Islands National Seashore**. Eleven units, five in Mississippi and six in Florida, provide recreational opportunities and protect natural and cultural elements along 150 miles of Gulf of Mexico coastline. Sparkling blue water, beaches, coastal marshes, prehistoric shell mounds, and fortifications are just a few pieces of the mosaic.

Tennessee

The **Andrew Johnson National Historic Site** traces the life of the 17th President of the United States from humble beginnings in Raleigh, North Carolina to the White House. The site preserves his two homes, tailor shop, and gravesite.

Recreational activities abound within **Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area**, located in south-central Kentucky and northeast Tennessee. Ninety miles of the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River provide a unique outdoor laboratory where students and visitors learn about the natural and cultural forces that have shaped the land.

The Union army's victory at Fort Donelson in February 1862 opened the heart of the Confederacy and established Union supply lines in southern Kentucky and western Tennessee. **Fort Donelson National Battlefield** includes the fort, Fort Donelson National Cemetery, and the Dover Hotel, the

Georgia

Cumberland Island National Seashore preserves the scenic, scientific, and historical values of the largest, most southerly island off Georgia's coast. A substantial portion of the 17.5 mile-long island has been designated a wilderness area that entails permanent protection of the area in its primitive state. Visitors can experience marshes and tidal creeks, a diverse variety of wildlife, and historic structures that reflect the human history.



Ocmulgee National Monument

Ocmulgee National Monument, located near Macon, preserves 12,000 years of human habitation, from the Ice Age to the Space Age. Eight earthen mounds and a ceremonial earthlodge are vivid reminders of the skillful farming people who lived in the area from 900–1200 AD.

The Union attack on Fort Pulaski in 1862, using rifled canon fire for the first time, rendered brick forts obsolete. **Fort Pulaski National Monument** preserves the fort and 5,623 acres of scenic marsh and uplands, home to white-tailed deer, alligators, and raccoons and is a location with a wide variety of recreational activities.

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park commemorates the siege and battle for control of Chattanooga, Tennessee in the fall of 1863. A seven-mile self-guiding auto tour, monuments, and historical tablets atop Lookout Mountain in Tennessee and on the battlefield at Chickamauga, Georgia, help visitors understand the importance of this battle for Chattanooga, a key rail center and the gateway to the heart of the Confederacy.

Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands

San Juan National Historic Site celebrates five centuries of Puerto Rican history. Its rich history includes European discovery in 1493, raids by pirates, English, and Dutch fleets, development of forts, bastions, and powder houses for defense, and the early establishment of municipal government in Spanish America.

Scuba divers and snorkelers can follow the underwater trail through the marine garden that surrounds **Buck Island Reef National Monument** while landlubbers explore the overland nature trail or enjoy the white coral sand beaches.

In addition to being one of the Caribbean's premier diving and snorkeling locations, **Virgin Islands National Park** is a cultural crossroads, celebrating the human history of the islands.

Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve protects the only site where members of Christopher



Great Smoky Mountains National Park

site where Confederate General Simon B. Buckner surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant.

Ancient mountains, rare plants and animals, pioneer log cabins, and rushing streams are only part of the wonder that is **Great Smoky Mountains National Park**. The park is a World Heritage site and an International Biosphere Reserve.

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park preserves an important battle of the Union's 1864 Atlanta Campaign. In addition to exhibits, an orientation film, living history activities, and artillery demonstrations to interpret the battlefield, the park is also popular for bird watching, auto touring, nature walks, hiking, and horseback riding.

Andersonville National Historic Site preserves the site of the largest Confederate military prison and memorializes American prisoners of war throughout history. The site includes the historic prison compound, a National Cemetery, and the National Prisoner of War Museum, which opened in 1998.

Jimmy Carter National Historic Site contains Carter's boyhood farm, high school, and 1976 presidential election campaign headquarters in Plains. The mission of the site is two-fold: to interpret the life and Presidency of the 39th President, and to preserve the history of a small rural southern town.

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site preserves the birthplace, childhood neighborhood, church, and burial place of the most prominent leader of the modern Civil Rights Movement. Tours, exhibits, and special programs help visitors understand major influences that shaped Dr. King's philosophy of nonviolent social change.

At **Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area**, recreational activities abound. A 48-mile stretch of the river and 15 land areas provide opportunities for fishing, hiking, boating, whitewater rafting, kayaking, picnicking, and swimming.

Fort Frederica National Monument commemorates the 1736 establishment of the southernmost post of the British colonies. Located on St. Simon's Island, 60 miles south of Savannah, the fort protected Georgia and South Carolina from the Spanish in Florida. The area, known for its stately oaks and hanging Spanish moss, is a great place to hike and view wildlife while contemplating life in a frontier outpost.



Buck Island Reef National Monument

Columbus' crew set foot on territory that is now the United States. In addition to the Columbus landing site, Salt River Bay includes an underwater chasm, the largest mangrove forest in the Virgin Islands, and archeological evidence of the island's human history.

Christiansend National Historic Site, located on St. Croix Island, provides visitors with a glimpse of Danish colonial development. Visitors can stroll past Fort Christiansvaern, the Old Danish Customs House, the Church of our Lord of Sabaoth, and other buildings reflecting Danish culture.

Visitors to the **Obed Wild and Scenic River** can fill their days with canoeing, kayaking, swimming, camping, hiking, hunting, and fishing. There is a wealth of plant and animal life but very few traces of human habitation in this rugged landscape.

Shiloh National Military Park was established to preserve the site of the first major battle in the western theater of the Civil War. Shiloh National Cemetery and prehistoric Indian mounds are located within the park boundaries.

Stones River National Battlefield commemorates the struggle for control of middle Tennessee that resulted in two days of fighting on December 31, 1862, and January 2, 1863, near Murfreesboro. The headquarters of Confederate General Bragg and Union General Rosecrans, Fortress Rosecrans, and Stones River National Cemetery are stops on the self-guided auto tour of the battlefield.

Alabama

Horseshoe Bend National Military Park commemorates the final battle of the Creek War of 1813–1814. The park preserves the battle site, a bend in the Tallapoosa River, where the Upper Creek Nation fought to defend their homeland against the United States Army, led by General Andrew Jackson.

Within **Russell Cave National Monument** lies evidence of 10,000 years of habitation by prehistoric American Indians who used the cave as a permanent home, winter quarters, or hunting camp. Demonstrations of flintknapping, fire building, food grinding, and spear throwing help people today understand the people who lived in the cave centuries ago.



Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site

Visitors to **Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site** can walk through the Historic Campus District and see twenty-five buildings significant to the Institute, including ones built by the students themselves. Major themes of the historic site include African American history, early industrial development, civil rights, and education.

The Tuskegee Airmen, an all African American pursuit squadron, became one of the most highly respected fighter groups of World War II. **Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site**, located at historic Moton Field, celebrates the contributions of all who were involved in the success of the squadron: pilots, navigators, instructors, and maintenance & support crews.

Alabama is also the home of **Little River Canyon National Preserve**, one of the South's deepest canyons. The Little River is a clean and wild waterway that offers visitors numerous ways to enjoy the preserve: kayaking, canoeing, hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing and rappelling, horseback riding, birdwatching, and sightseeing.

South Carolina

The **Charles Pinckney National Historic Site** interprets Charles Pinckney's role in the development of the United States Constitution and the transition of the thirteen English colonies into a young nation.

On the field that is now **Cowpens National Battlefield**, Daniel Morgan led an army of Continentals and backwoods militia to victory over a larger force of British regulars on January 17, 1781. Cowpens was a link in a chain of British disasters that ultimately led to defeat at Yorktown.

Kings Mountain National Military Park commemorates the October 7, 1780, American Patriot victory that forced Lord Cornwallis to retreat into South Carolina. Visitors can experience a wide variety of activities: portrayals of 18th century artisans and farmers of the Carolina Piedmont,



Congaree National Park

Florida

The slow drainage of the **Big Cypress National Preserve** watershed is important to the health of the Everglades, just south of the preserve. Big Cypress is a place to use your senses: to listen to the sound of woodpeckers; to look for purple morning glories; to touch the bark of a cypress tree; and to smell the freshwater and saltwater mix in the estuaries.

Everglades National Park, the only subtropical preserve in North America, consists of diverse biological communities: saw grass prairies, mangrove and cypress swamps, pineland and hardwood hammocks, and marine and estuarine environments.

Biscayne National Park, the largest marine park in the National Park System, is a paradise for wildlife watching, snorkeling, diving, boating, and fishing. Superimposed over the natural features of the park are 10,000 years of human history. Biscayne protects four primary ecosystems: A mangrove forest, a coral reef, Biscayne Bay, and 40 of the northernmost Florida Keys.

Dry Tortugas National Park is known for its birds and marine life and its legends of pirates and sunken gold. The park protects the least disturbed portion of the Florida Keys coral reef system. Fort Jefferson, the largest of the 19th century American coastal forts, and several lighthouses illustrate the human presence in the Florida Keys.

De Soto National Memorial commemorates the landing of Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto in 1539 and the four-year expedition he led across the southeastern United States to the Mississippi River. Major themes at the park include 16th century Spanish culture and the resulting clash with the native cultures.

On the Atlantic coast, Spanish influence can also be seen at **Castillo de San Marcos National Monument** and **Fort Mantanzas**

encampments of the Over-Mountain Men, camping, hiking, and horse trails.

The first Revolutionary War land battle south of New England was fought at the small community of Ninety-Six, South Carolina in 1775. Colonial settlement, Cherokee conflicts, and American Revolutionary War battles comprise the stories at **Ninety-Six National Historic Site**.

Although named for South Carolina's Revolutionary War patriot, Thomas Sumter, **Fort Sumter National Monument**, located in Charleston harbor, is known primarily as the site where the first shots of the Civil War were fired on April 12, 1861.

Located north of Fort Sumter on Sullivan Island is **Fort Moultrie National Monument**. The first decisive victory of the American Revolution took place at the fort. The fort's architecture and armament trace the evolution of coastal defense over a 171-year period.

Congaree National Park preserves the largest tract of old-growth bottomland hardwood forest in the United States. In addition to walking under one of the highest forest canopies in the world or viewing the broad diversity in this International Biosphere Reserve, visitors learn about human impacts on the area.

National Monument. Visitors at the Castillo can explore the original Castillo fortress and grounds built to protect St. Augustine, the first permanent European settlement in the continental United States. Fort Mantanzas was built to guard the Mantanzas Inlet and warn St. Augustine of enemies approaching from the south.

The Visitor center at Fort Caroline is the principal interpretive center for **Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve**, named for the Timucuan people who lived in the area for over 3,000 years. The preserve protects coastal wetlands and estuarine ecosystems and interprets four centuries of human exploration, colonization, agriculture, and commerce. **Fort Caroline National Memorial**, located near Jacksonville, memorializes the 16th century French effort to establish a permanent colony in Florida.



Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve

The French colony, established in 1564, was eliminated by the Spanish a year later. Nothing remains of the original fort, but the reconstructed fort walls and exhibits help visitors visualize this French colony.

Canaveral National Seashore, a barrier island on the Atlantic Coast, is home to 1,045 species of plants and 310 bird species, including several endangered species. Turtle watches, nature and historical trails, undeveloped beaches, and recreational activities provide many options for the visitor.

Trails Through Time and Place

The Southeast Region provides opportunities to march in the footsteps of the past along several national historic and scenic trails. From early Indian trails to explorers' trails of discovery to the future of space travel, the southeast has had many important corridors for the transfer of goods, people, and ideas.

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail traces the route of Revolutionary War patriots who crossed the Cumberland Gap in the North Carolina mountains and defeated British-led militia at Kings Mountain, South Carolina in 1780.

The 2200-mile **Trail of Tears National Historic Trail** commemorates the forced removal of 16,000 Cherokee from ancestral lands in the southeast to the Indian Territory (Oklahoma) in 1838–1839.

The **Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail** traces the march along U.S. Highway 80 from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, that ultimately led to passage of voting rights legislation in 1965.

Located throughout the southeast are sites, facilities, and programs associated with the Underground Railroad. They tell the stories of the secret routes, way stations, and people who helped enslaved Africans escape from the slavery in the South. These sites are members of the National Park Service **Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program**.

Appalachian National Scenic Trail, winding its way south from Maine, passes through the southeastern states of Tennessee and North Carolina before terminating at Springer



Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail

Mountain, Georgia. The trails and parkways of the Southeast Region provide an opportunity to walk in history's footsteps.