

People of the Macon Plateau

OCMULGEE National Monument

Ocmulgee National Monument
Macon, Georgia
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Ocmulgee is a memorial to the antiquity of people in North America. From Ice Age big game hunters to the Muscogee (Creek) Indians of historic times, the War Between the States, and the nation's Great Depression, the site preserves a 17,000-year record of human life in the Southeastern United States.

Between the years 900 and 1200, an elite society supported by skillful farmers lived here. They were part of a distinctive culture, which appears to have crystallized in the middle Mississippi Valley. Still-visible remnants of their large town include temple, domiciliary and burial mounds, prehistoric ditches, terraces, and a unique ceremonial earthlodge.

Later, the Lamar Mounds and Village, also located within the park, may have been visited by Hernando DeSoto's expedition in 1540. In the late 1600's and early 1700's, a Muscogee (Creek) town and British trading post flourished here. The Creeks refused to give up the area, which became known as the Ocmulgee Old Fields, until shortly before their version of the Trail of Tears.

While traveling through the area in 1774, naturalist William Bartram wrote of the "wonderful remains of the power and grandeur of the ancients in this part of America. The great mounds continue to evoke admiration and awe.

Today, Ocmulgee National Monument consists of the 702-acres, including the Lamar Unit. The two are separated by an ecologically rich stretch of river bottom wetlands along the Ocmulgee River adjacent to the city of Macon.

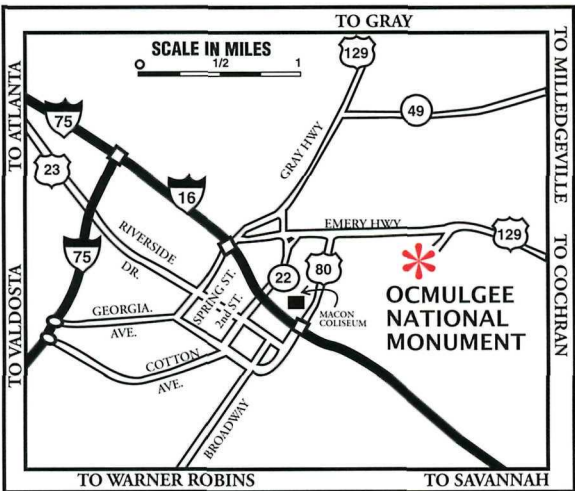


ABOUT YOUR VISIT: Ocmulgee's visitor center houses an archeological museum interpreting the cultures of Southeastern American Indians who inhabited the site. An orientation film and gift shop are also available in the visitor center.

The park has 5-1/2 miles of walking trails, which meander through open fields, wooded hills, and swampy lowlands along Walnut Creek. Near the visitor center is a Ceremonial Earthlodge reconstructed over the original 1,000-year-old floor. Visitors can reach the Great and Lesser Temple Mounds via a 1/2-mile walk or the park road. Other features in the park include a burial mound, temple mounds, prehistoric trenches, the site of a colonial British trading post, and civil war earthworks.

HOURS: The National Monument is open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily, except Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

DIRECTIONS: Ocmulgee National Monument is located on the eastern edge of Macon, GA. Travelers on I-75 should exit onto I-16; at Exit 2, turn left on U.S. 80 East (Coliseum Drive); then turn right and follow U.S. 80 East (Emery Highway) a mile to the park.



CONTACT:



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