# Natchez Trace Parkway

Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee
National Park Service/U.S. Department of the Interior

Official Map and Guide

This is the story of people on the move, of the age-old need to get from one place to another. It is a story of Natchez, Chickasaw, and Choctaw Indians following traditional ways of life, of French and Spanish people venturing into a world new to them, and of people building a new nation. At first the road was probably a series of hunters' paths that slowly came to form a trail from the Mississippi over the low hills into the valley of the Tennessee. By 1733 the French knew the land well enough to map it and showed an Indian trail running from Natchez to the northeast. By 1785 Ohio River Valley farmers searching for markets had begun floating their produce and products down the rivers to Natchez or New Orleans. Because they sold their flatboats for lumber, returning home meant either riding or walking. The trail from Natchez was the most direct. Growing numbers of travelers trampled the crude trail into a clearly marked path. By 1810 many years of improvements had made the trace an important wilderness road, the most heavily traveled in the Old Southwest. As the road was being improved and other comforts, relatively speaking, were coming to the trace. Many inns—locally called stands—were built. By 1820 more than 20 stands were in use. Others provided no more than shelter and plain food, although the stands at Mount Locust and Red

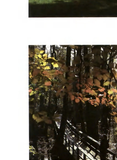
Meriwether Lewis, co-captain with William Clark on the famous expedition from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean, died in 1809 at Grinder's Inn, 66 miles southwest of Nashville, under mysterious circumstances. The monument *(top)* marks his grave at milepost 385.3. Lewis' mother, Jackson, at milepost 122, is the Cypress Swamp self-guiding trail *(bottom)*. For part of the distance the trail goes over the boardwalk.

*Jeff Busby Site* (milepost 193.1) The campground is named for Thomas Jefferson Busby, the U.S. Congressman from Mississippi, who introduced a bill that resulted in the 1934 act authorizing a survey of the Old Natchez Trace. On May 15, 1938 the Natchez Trace Parkway was authorized as a unit of the National Park System. Little Mountain is one of Mississippi's highest points on the parkway, 603 feet. The area includes the 18-site campground, picnic tables, exhibit shelter and overlook atop Little Mountain, phone, and trails. A concessioner operates the service station and camp store.

*Rocky Springs Site* (milepost 54.8) In the 1700s new settlers were attracted to this area by the rich soil and many springs. They cleared the land, built homes, and, in 1837, built an impressive brick church. By 1860 Rocky Springs was a prosperous rural community of 2,616 people. Church property valued at $50,000 to $100,000. The community had a Methodist church, post office, Masonic lodge, and several stores. Between 1860 and 1920 the area was devastated by the Civil War, yellow fever, the boll weevil, and land erosion. Today only the church and cemetery, two rusting safes, and abandoned cisterns mark the site of the town. The area includes the 22-site campground, picnic tables, horseback riding, phone, self-guiding trails through the townsite and to the spring, and a hiking trail on the old trace. Camping and picnicking supplies are available at Port Gibson or Utica, both about 15 miles away.

Bluff were substantial, well-known establishments. Even with these developments the trace was not free of discomforts. Thieves added an element of danger to a catalog of hazards that included swamps, floods, disease-carrying insects, and sometimes unfriendly Indians. A new chapter in transportation dawned in January 1812 when the steamer *New Orleans* arrived in Natchez. Within a few years steamboats were calling regularly at St. Louis, Nashville, and Louisville. Travelers liked the speed and comparative safety of steamboat travel more than the slow pace of going overland. Soon the bustle of the trace had quieted to the peacefulness of a forest lane.

These parklands preserve important examples of our nation's natural and cultural heritage. Since the late 1930s the National Park Service has been constructing a modern parkway that closely follows the original route. Today more than 90 percent of the parkway is completed, giving present-day travelers an unhurried route from Natchez to Nashville.



**Sunlight filters through the trees along a section of the parkway.**

## Milepost Gazetteer

**Mileposts** are located on the east side of the parkway beginning at Natchez. The references for points of interest or visitor services are given to the nearest tenth of a mile. On the map *(see other side of this folder)* the mileposts are noted every fifth mile and labeled every tenth mile in pink.

**0.0 Natchez.**
**8.1 Emerald Mound Overlook.**
**10.3 Mount Locust.** Historic Site.
**16.0 Sunken Trace.**
**16.8 Fork Mountain Overlook.**
**17.7 Overlook.**
**18.4 Pigeon Roost.**
**19.5 Mount Locust Trail.**
**21.2 Overlook.**
**21.8 Overlook.**
**22.1 Overlook.**
**23.1 Overlook.**
**24.5 Overlook.**
**26.0 Overlook.**
**26.7 Overlook.**
**27.2 Overlook.**
**27.6 Overlook.**
**28.2 Overlook.**
**29.2 Overlook.**
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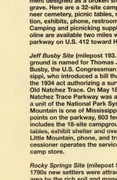
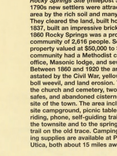
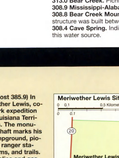
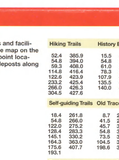
**34.2 Overlook.**
**35.2 Overlook.**
**36.2 Overlook.**
**37.2 Overlook.**
**38.2 Overlook.**
**39.2 Overlook.**
**40.2 Overlook.**
**41.2 Overlook.**
**42.2 Overlook.**
**42.3 Terminus.**
**427.6 Garrison Creek.** Named for a nearby 1801-02 U.S. Army post, this area is a favorite haunt for birdwatchers and hikers.
**42.7 Old Trace.** The U.S. Army cleared this section of the "Natchez Road" in 1801-02 and continued construction under the management of the Chickasaw Nation.
**425.4 Buena Branch.**
**423.9 Tennessee Valley Divide.** When Tennessee joined the Union in 1796, this watershed was the boundary between the United States to the north and the Chickasaw Nation to the south.
**411.8 Water Valley Overlook.**
**407.7 Gordon House Interpretive Site.** From 1801 until traffic on the trace declined, the Gordons ran a ferry across the Tallahatchie here. The house was built about 1818.
**405.1 Baker Bluff Overlook.**
**404.7 Jackson Falls.** Named for Andrew Jackson, the falls are on the intermittent Jackson Branch that empties into Duck River.
**403.7 Old Trace.** Take a pleasant walk on a 2,000-foot section of the original trace.
**401.4 Tobacco Farm.** Exhibits at the farm and barn explain tobacco growing. A two-mile drive along the old trace begins here.
**400.2 Sheboss Place.** A stand (inn) once serving travelers on the trace stood here.
**397.4 Old Trace.** Here the trace marked the boundaries of Chickasaw lands ceded to the United States in 1805 and 1816.
**392.5 Swan View Overlook.**
**385.9 Meriwether Lewis.** Campground, picnic area, restrooms, phone, service station, and grave of Meriwether Lewis of Lewis and Clark fame.
**382.8 Metal Ford.** Travelers crossed the Buffalo River here; an ironworks and Metal Ford Stand were nearby.
**381.8 Napier Mine.** This open pit was worked in the 19th century.
**377.8 Jacks Branch.** Picnic area, restrooms.
**375.8 Old Trace Drive.** The 2.5-mile road follows the original trace route. Several overlooks provide views of the countryside. NOT FOR TRUCKS, TRAILERS.
**367.3 Dogwood Mudhole.** The often impassable mudhole lies nearly a mile to the south.
**364.5 Girocnick Branch.** Picnic area.
**363.0 Sweetwater Branch.** Self-guiding trail. A fast-flowing stream parallels the route of this 20-minute walk; seasonal wildflowers.
**352.9 McGlamerys Stand.** The nearby village still bears the name of the stand that Alexander McGlamery operated here long ago.
**350.5 Sunken Trace.** Three sections of the original road show how the route was relocated to avoid mudholes.
**346.2 Holly.** Picnic area.
**343.5 Cypress Creek.** Picnic area.
**341.8 Alabama-Tennessee state line.**
**339.2 Bear Creek.** Self-guiding trail
**338.7 Lauderdale.** Picnic area.
**336.6 327.0 John Coffee Memorial Bridge.** Span crosses Pickwick Lake formed by Pickwick Landing Dam on the Tennessee River.
**327.3 Colbert Ferry.** George Colbert operated a stand and ferry here and operated a cotton gin.
**317.0 Freedom Hills Overlook.** A steep, ½-mile trail leads to Alabama's highest point on the parkway, 800 feet.
**313.0 Bear Creek.** Picnic area.
**309.9 Mississippi-Alabama state line.**
**308.8 Bear Creek Mound.** This ceremonial structure was built between 1200 and 1400.
**306.4 Cave Spring.** Indians probably used this water source.
**304.5 Tishomingo State Park.** The park is named for a Chickasaw chief. Camping, picnicking, swimming, canoeing, and fishing.
**293.4 Bay Springs Lake.** This is the access for the lake and dam.
**293.2 Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway and Divide.** Completed in 1984, the waterway makes 459 miles navigable between the Gulf of Mexico and the Tennessee River. The waterway's capacity and economy are demonstrated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
**286.7 Pharr Mounds.** This 90-foot complex of eight burial mounds was built from about 1,000 to 2,000 years ago.
**283.3 Donivan Slough.** Self-guiding trail. Allow 20 minutes to walk through an area where occasional flooding influences the variety of plants.
**276.4 Twentymile Bottom Overlook.** The low area along the stream is typical of the landscape through which the old trace passed.
**275.2 Dogwood Valley.** Self-guiding trail. Allow 15 minutes to walk through a large stand of dogwood trees.
**269.4 Confederate Gravesites.** A short walk on the old trace takes you to the graves of 13 unknown Confederate soldiers.
**266.0 Tupelo Visitor Center (parkway headquarters).** Self-guiding trail. Allow 20 minutes to walk through an area of forest regrowth. Restrooms, exhibits, information, and orientation program.
**263.0 Old Town Overlook.** Enjoy views of Old Town Creek and adjacent floodplain.
**261.8 Chickasaw Village.** Exhibits describe Chickasaw daily life and early history at a village site. A self-guiding trail features plants used by the Chickasaw.
**259.7 Tupelo National Battlefield.** The 1864 battle took place one mile east on Miss. 6.
**251.9 Black Belt Overlook.** This once-vast prairie has rich, black soil.
**251.1 Chickasaw Council House.** Here was Pontotoc, capital of the Chickasaw Nation during the 1820s. Picnic area.
**243.3 Hernando de Soto.** Explorer de Soto's encounter of the Mississippi spent the winter of 1540-41 near here.
**243.1 Davis Lake.** This is the access point to the U.S. Forest Service picnicking and summer camping area.
**241.4 Chickasaw Agency.** From 1801 to 1825 the agency for the Chickasaws was located here.
**233.2 Witch Dance.** Picnic area, horse trail access, bike-hike campground, restrooms.
**232.4 Bynum Mounds.** Prehistoric people built these mounds between 2,100 and 1,800 years ago. Exhibits describe their life.
**222.6 Pigeon Roost.** Follow the original trace across the parkway here.
**214.5 Donacy.** Ranger station.
**213.3 Line Creek.** This was the boundary between lands of the Chickasaw and Choctaw tribes.
**203.5 Pigeon Roost.** Folsom's stand and trading post, operated by Nathaniel and David Folsom, stood near here. Millions of passenger pigeons, now extinct, roosted here.
**201.3 Ballard Creek.** Picnic area.
**198.6 Old Trace.** A mile from the parkway roadway leads into the woods.
**193.1 Jeff Busby.** Picnic area, campground, gas station, store, phone, and restrooms. Self-guiding trail. Allow 20 minutes to walk through area that identifies native plants and describes their use by pioneers.The overlook is on one of Mississippi's highest points, 603 feet.
**180.7 French Camp.** Louis LeFleur established a stand here in 1812. It became a school in 1822 and remains one to this day. Sorghum is made here in the fall.

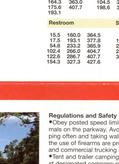
## Campgrounds

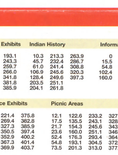


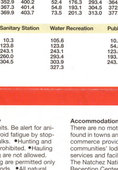


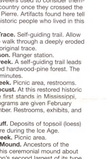


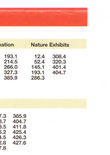












**Meriwether Lewis Site** Milepost 385.9

**Jeff Busby Site** Milepost 193.1

**Rocky Springs Site** Milepost 54.8

**176.3 Bethel Mission.** One of 13 Choctaw missions was one-half mile to the northeast. Picnic area.
**175.6 Cole Creek.** This short self-guiding trail leads through a typical bald-cypress swamp.
**164.3 Hurricane Creek.** Self-guiding trail. Allow 15 minutes to walk in area that identifies plants found in different soil conditions.
**160.0 Information Center.** Kosciusko chamber of commerce volunteers provide travel information. Restrooms, phone, and exhibits.
**159.7 Kosciusko.** Ranger station.
**154.3 Holly Hill.** Picnic area, restrooms.
**145.1 Myrick Creek.** Self-guiding trail. Take 10 minutes to learn about the beavers here.
**140.0 Red Dog Road.** Named for a Choctaw chief, the road was opened in 1834.
**135.5 Robinson Road.** Dating from 1821 this road connected Jackson and Columbus. Miss. Picnic area.
**128.4 Upper Choctaw Boundary.** Self-guiding trail. Allow 10 minutes to walk in area that features southern pines. A line of trees marks this dividing line.
**122.6 River Bend.** Picnic area.
**122.0 Cypress Swamp.** Self-guiding trail. Allow 20 minutes to walk through a water tupelo/baldcypress swamp.
**107.9 West Florida Boundary.** This old boundary that ran from the Yazoo and Mississippi rivers' confluence east to the Chattahoochee crosses here.
**106.9 Boyd Site.** These earthen burial mounds were built from 900 to 1,200 years ago.
**105.6 Reservoir Overlook.** Ross Barnett Reservoir on the Pearl River parallels the parkway for eight miles.
**104.5 Brashear's Stand and Old Trace.** This inn was advertised as "a house of entertainment in the wilderness" to travelers in 1806. Part of the original trace is nearby.
**102.4 Mississippi Crafts Center.** Sales and demonstrations of Mississippi crafts are featured. Exhibits, information, and restrooms.

*The parkway is not completed from milepost 101.5 to 87.0. Use I-55, I-220, and I-20 as connecting routes.*

**78.3 Battle of Raymond.** This Civil War battle of the Vicksburg campaign in 1863 was fought nearby.

**73.5 Deans Stand.** Many farmers ran stands like this to add to their income. Picnic area.
**61.0 Lower Loop.** An abandoned section of the trace is bounded, north and south, lands taken up by new settlers of the Mississippi country and lands of the Choctaw.
**54.8 Rocky Springs.** A short trail from the upper parking area leads to the old townsite. Camping, picnicking, ranger station, restrooms, phone, and part of the old trace.
**52.4 Owens Creek Falls.** Picnic area, hiking.
**51.7 Grindstone Ford/Mangum Mound.** Northbound travelers used to consider themselves in wild country once they crossed the ford on Bayou Pierre. Artifacts found here tell about the prehistoric people who lived in this area.
**41.5 Sunken Trace.** Self-guiding trail. Allow five minutes to walk through a deeply eroded section of the original trace.
**39.2 Port Gibson.** Ranger station.
**16.4 Bullen Creek.** A self-guiding trail leads through a mixed hardwood-pine forest. The walk takes 15 minutes.
**17.5 Coles Creek.** Picnic area, restrooms.
**15.5 Mount Locust.** At this restored historic inn, one of the first stands in Mississippi, interpretive programs are given February through November. Restrooms, exhibits, and ranger station.
**12.4 Loess Bluff.** Deposits of topsoil (loess) were blown here during the Ice Age.
**12.1 Turpin Creek.** Picnic area.
**10.3 Emerald Mound.** Ancestors of the Natchez built this ceremonial mound about 1400. The nation's second largest of its type, it covers nearly eight acres. A trail leads to the top.
**8.7 Old Trace Exhibit Shelter.** Here is a section of the first trace.
**8.1 Temporary Terminus.** The junction with U.S. 61 serves as the parkway's temporary southern terminus.



White-tailed deer *(top)* are so numerous along the parkway they can be traffic hazards. Be alert to avoid colliding with and injuring them. The sound of fading water *(middle)* has a cooling effect even on hot days; several waterfalls are found along the parkway. At milepost 15.5 you will find the restored Mount Locust stand *(bottom)*, one of the earliest and most well-known inns on the trace.

## Facility Reference

Here is a reference to services and facilities along the parkway. Use the map on the other side of this folder to pinpoint locations. Numbers refer to the mileposts along the parkway.

| Hiking Trails | | History Exhibits | | Indian History | | Information | | Nature Exhibits | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 52.4 | 385.9 | 15.5 | 193.1 | 10.3 | 213.3 | 0 | 193.1 | 12.4 | 308.4 |
| 54.8 | 396.0 | 41.5 | 269.4 | 16.0 | 261.8 | 10.3 | 266.0 | 41.5 | 396.0 |
| 58.3 | 408.0 | 61.0 | 359.2 | 41.0 | 341.4 | 266.0 | 385.9 | 145.1 | 401.4 |
| 114.8 | 416.4 | 79.3 | 396.0 | 106.9 | 346.8 | 320.3 | 102.4 | 327.3 | 193.1 | 404.7 |
| 145.1 | 426.0 | 122.6 | 401.4 | 128.4 | 349.5 | 397.3 | 160.0 | 365.9 | 286.3 | |
| 253.3 | 428.4 | 135.5 | 341.8 | 204.5 | 251.1 | | | | | |
| 266.0 | 426.3 | 140.0 | 365.9 | 254.1 | 261.8 | | | | | |
| 304.5 | 427.6 | | | | | | | | | |

| Self-guiding Trails | | Old Trace Exhibits | | Picnic Areas | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 18.4 | 261.8 | 8.7 | 221.4 | 375.8 | 12.1 | 122.6 | 233.2 | 327.3 | 365.9 |
| 54.8 | 266.0 | 41.5 | 269.4 | 382.8 | 17.0 | 135.0 | 243.1 | 337.3 | 404.7 |
| 122.0 | 275.2 | 45.7 | 327.3 | 385.9 | 21.7 | 194.3 | 245.8 | 343.5 | 411.8 |
| 128.4 | 308.4 | 61.0 | 341.8 | 396.0 | 41.5 | 201.3 | 251.1 | 359.2 | 416.4 |
| 145.1 | 330.2 | 73.5 | 352.9 | 400.2 | 52.4 | 176.3 | 255.4 | 364.5 | 426.3 |
| 164.3 | 363.0 | 104.5 | 367.3 | 401.4 | 54.8 | 193.1 | 304.5 | 372.6 | 427.6 |
| 193.1 | 407.7 | 196.6 | 369.9 | 403.7 | 73.5 | 201.3 | 313.0 | 377.8 | |
| 193.1 | | | | | | | | | |

| Restroom | | Sanitary Station | | Water Recreation | | Public Campgrounds | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15.5 | 160.0 | 364.5 | 10.3 | | 105.6 | 10.3 | 293.0 |
| 17.0 | 193.1 | 407.7 | 193.1 | | 123.8 | 54.8 | 304.5 |
| 54.8 | 233.2 | 385.9 | 243.1 | | 243.1 | 123.8 | 372.7 |
| 102.4 | 266.0 | 404.7 | 266.0 | | 293.4 | 193.1 | 385.9 |
| 122.6 | 286.7 | 407.7 | 304.5 | | 303.9 | 243.1 | |
| 194.3 | 327.3 | 427.6 | | | 327.3 | | |

## Visitor Information



For most of its length the parkway runs through rural, agricultural areas.

**Regulations and Safety**
•Obey posted speed limits. Be alert for animals on the parkway. Avoid fatigue by stopping often and taking breaks. •Hunting and the use of firearms are prohibited. •Hauling and commercial trucking are not allowed. •Litter and trailer camping are permitted only at designated campgrounds. •Hunting, historical, and archeological objects are protected by federal law. •Build fires only in fireplaces. •Fire ants can inflict very painful bites; do not disturb their mounds. •Poison ivy grows throughout the park; avoid touching its leaves, stems, and vines. •Copperheads, cottonmouths, and rattlesnakes live in the three-state area through which the parkway passes. Be alert when walking. •The National Trace Parkway is a designated bike route. Watch for bikers. •Report all accidents, fires, and emergencies to the nearest park ranger.

**Accommodations and Services**
There are no motels on the parkway; they are found in towns and cities nearby. Chambers of commerce provide information about their communities' lodging, restaurants, and other services and facilities, including medical care. The Natchez National Historic Site Visitor and Reception Center is the official welcome center for the city of Natchez. The only gas station is at Jeff Busby, milepost 193.1.

**More Information**
Write: Superintendent, 2680 Natchez Trace Parkway, Tupelo, MS 38804-9718. Call: 662-680-4025 or 1-800-305-7417. Internet: www.nps.gov/natr for the parkway and www.nps.gov/natr for Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail.

**In case of an emergency, call 1-800-300-PARK (7275).**

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