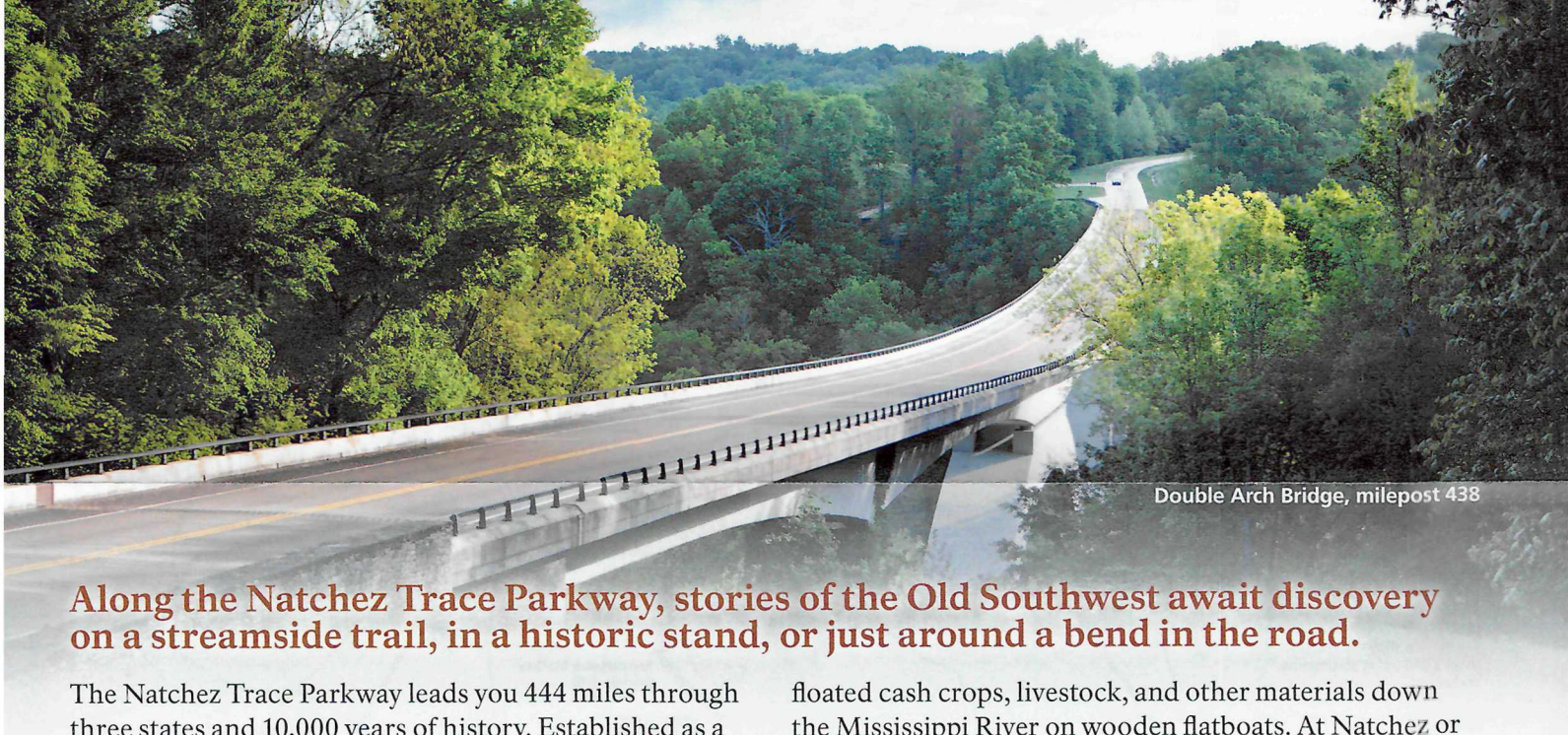


Natchez Trace Parkway

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Natchez Trace Parkway
Alabama/Mississippi/Tennessee



Double Arch Bridge, milepost 438

Along the Natchez Trace Parkway, stories of the Old Southwest await discovery on a streamside trail, in a historic stand, or just around a bend in the road.

The Natchez Trace Parkway leads you 444 miles through three states and 10,000 years of history. Established as a unit of the National Park System in 1938 and officially completed in 2005, the Parkway commemorates the most significant highway of the Old Southwest.

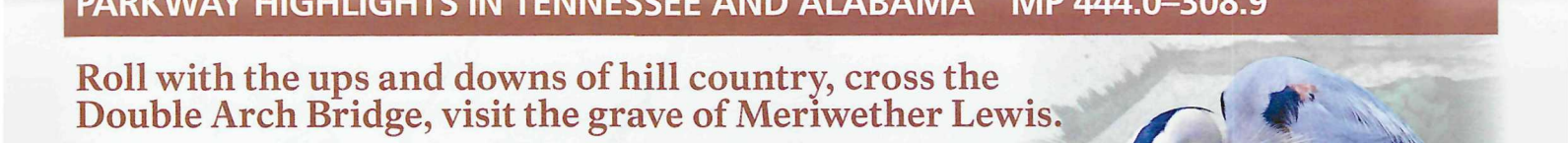
The natural travel corridor that became the Natchez Trace dates back many centuries. It bisected the traditional homelands of the Natchez, Chickasaw, and Choctaw nations. As the United States expanded westward in the late 1700s and early 1800s, growing numbers of travelers tramped the rough trail into a clearly marked path. Where the ground was relatively soft, walkers, riders, and wagons wore down the “sunken” sections you see today. In 1801 President Thomas Jefferson designated the Trace a national post road for mail delivery between Nashville and Natchez.

Gen. Andrew Jackson, Meriwether Lewis (who died on the Trace in 1809), John James Audubon, Jefferson Davis, and Ulysses S. Grant are some of the famous Americans to have traveled the Natchez Trace. Most travelers, though, were anonymous working folks. In the early 1800s through the mid-1820s, “Kaintucks” from the Ohio River Valley

floated cash crops, livestock, and other materials down the Mississippi River on wooden flatboats. At Natchez or New Orleans, they sold their goods, sold their boats for lumber, and walked or rode horseback toward home via the Old Trace. As the road was improved, stands (inns) provided lodging, food, and drink to Trace travelers.

Today the Natchez Trace Parkway creates a greenway from the southern Appalachian foothills of Tennessee to the bluffs of the lower Mississippi River. Along the way are sites like Emerald Mound, a national historic landmark and one of the largest American Indian mounds in the United States, and Mount Locust, one of only two surviving stands from the old traveling days.

The Trace also crosses four distinct ecosystems and eight major watersheds. It is habitat for nearly 1,500 species of plants, 33 mammal species, 134 bird species, and 70 species of reptiles and amphibians. Also designated a National Scenic Byway and All-American Road, the Parkway is the ideal route for modern travelers to experience historic and scenic landscapes at a leisurely pace.

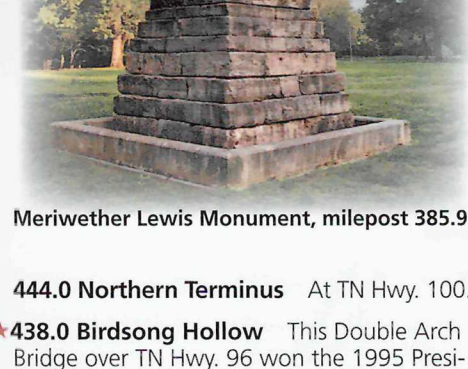


Sunken Trace section, milepost 41.5

PARKWAY HIGHLIGHTS IN TENNESSEE AND ALABAMA MP 444.0–308.9

Roll with the ups and downs of hill country, cross the Double Arch Bridge, visit the grave of Meriwether Lewis.

Mileposts are on the parkway's east side. The milepost numbering system begins at the southern terminus in Natchez, MS, milepost 0. The northern terminus, milepost 444, is near Nashville, TN. Points of interest and visitor services are noted below to the nearest tenth of a mile. On the map (*other side of this brochure*) mileposts are noted every five miles and labeled in pink every 10 miles. Some side roads are not accessible to RVs or low-clearance vehicles. “NST” denotes a trailhead for the Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail. “Don't Miss” sites are highlighted with this ★ symbol.



Meriwether Lewis Monument, milepost 385.9

★ **407.7 Gordon House Historic Site** Site of early 1800s trading post and ferry. Gordon family home dates from 1818.

★ **405.1 Baker Bluff Overlook** Scenic view.

★ **404.7 Jackson Falls** Steep trail to falls.

★ **403.7 Old Trace** 2,000-foot section.

★ **401.4 Tobacco Farm/Old Trace Drive** Exhibits on tobacco growing. One-way, two-mile drive along Old Trace begins here; no RVs on drive.

★ **400.2 Sheboss Place** A stand (inn for travelers) operated nearby in the 1800s.

★ **397.4 Old Trace** Boundary of Chickasaw lands ceded to US in 1805 and 1816.

★ **394 Devil's Backbone State Natural Area** No RVs.

★ **392.5 Swan View Overlook** Scenic view.

★ **391.9 Fall Hollow** Short walk to falls.

★ **390.7 Phosphate Mine** Short walk by a historic phosphate mining site.

★ **385.9 Meriwether Lewis** Gravesite of explorer Meriwether Lewis, who died here in 1809. Campground, hiking trails, exhibits, picnic area, restrooms. (See map below.)

★ **382.8 Metal Ford** Old Trace crossing for Buffalo River. Short trail.

★ **381.8 Napier Mine** Historic iron mine.

★ **377.8 Jacks Branch** Picnic area, restrooms.

★ **375.8 Old Trace Drive** One-way, 2.5-mile drive along Old Trace begins here. No RVs.

★ **367.3 Dogwood Mudhole** This mudhole on the Old Trace (a mile to the south) was impassable to wagons after heavy rain.

★ **364.5 Glenrock Branch** Picnic area, restrooms.

★ **363.0 Sweetwater Branch** 20-minute walk along stream; seasonal wildflowers.

★ **352.9 McGlamery Stand** Site of historic stand from the mid-1800s.

★ **350.5 Sunken Trace** Shows how Trace was rerouted to bypass mudholes.

★ **327.3 Colbert Ferry** Chickasaw George Colbert operated a stand and ferry in the early 1800s. Fishing, boat launch, bike-only campground, restrooms.

★ **320.3 Buzzard Roost Spring** Site of historic stand. Short trail to spring.

★ **317.0 Freedom Hills Overlook** Steep, quarter-mile trail climbs to Alabama's highest point on the parkway, 800 feet.

★ **313.0 Bear Creek** Picnic area.

★ **308.9 Alabama-Mississippi state line**

★ **308.8 Bear Creek Mound.** Ceremonial structure built between 1400 and 1600.

★ **308.4 Cave Spring** Natural cave, probably used by American Indians for water and stone.

★ **304.5 Tishomingo State Park** Access road.

★ **293.4 Bay Springs Lake** Access road.

★ **293.2 Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway and Jamie L. Whitten Bridge** The waterway opens a navigable route between the Gulf of Mexico and Tennessee River.

★ **286.7 Pharr Mounds** Eight burial mounds built 1,800 to 2,000 years ago. Restrooms.

★ **286.3 Browns Bottom** Fishing, picnic area.

★ **283.3 Donivan Slough** Short walk through habitat influenced by occasional flooding.

★ **278.4 Twentymile Bottom Overlook** View of Old Trace crossing. No RVs.

★ **275.2 Dogwood Valley** Short walk among dogwood trees.

★ **269.4 Confederate Gravesites and Old Trace** Short walk to graves of 13 unidentified Confederate soldiers.

★ **266.0 Parkway Visitor Center and Headquarters** Information, exhibits, film, restrooms, bike-only campground, NST.

★ **263.9 Old Town Overlook** Views of Old Town Creek and its floodplain. NST.

★ **261.8 Chickasaw Village Site** Exhibits on Chickasaw village that stood here. NST.

★ **259.7 Tupelo National Battlefield** The 1864 battlefield is a mile east on MS Hwy. 6 (Main St.).

★ **251.9 Black Belt Overlook** Named for a once-vast prairie with rich, black soil.

★ **251.1 Chickasaw Council House** Site of Pontatock, Chickasaw Nation capital in the 1820s. Picnic area.

★ **249.6 Tockshish** Site of stand and midway point on early-1800s National Post Road, where post riders transferred mailbags.

★ **245.6 Monroe Mission** Chickasaw people learned trades at the mission. Picnic area.

★ **243.3 Hernandez de Soto** The Spanish explorer spent the 1540–41 winter nearby.

★ **243.1 Davis Lake** Access road to US Forest Service picnic and summer camping area.

★ **241.4 Chickasaw Agency** Agency for the Chickasaw was located here 1801–25.

★ **233.2 Witch Dance** Horse trail access, bike-only campground, picnic area, restrooms.

★ **232.0 Bynum Mounds** Built between 2,050 and 1,800 years ago. Exhibits.

★ **221.4 Old Trace** Section of the original Trace.

★ **213.3 Line Creek** Historic boundary between Chickasaw and Choctaw lands.

★ **203.5 Pigeon Passer** Former roosting area for millions of passenger pigeons, now extinct. Folsom's stand stood nearby.

★ **201.3 Ballard Creek** Picnic area.

★ **198.6 Old Trace** Section of the original Trace.

★ **193.1 Jeff Busby** Short drive or 20-minute walk to one of Mississippi's highest points, 603 feet. Picnic area, campground, restrooms. (See map below.)

★ **180.7 French Camp** Louis LeFleur's stand opened in 1812.

★ **176.3 Bethel Mission** Choctaw mission stood a half mile to the northwest. Picnic area.

★ **175.6 Cole Creek** Short trail through a water tupelo/bald-cypress swamp.

★ **164.3 Hurricane Creek** Short walk among plants found in different soil conditions.

★ **160.0 Kosciusko Welcome Center** Travel information for local area.

★ **154.3 Holly Hill** Picnic area, restrooms.

★ **145.1 Myrick Creek** Short trail.

★ **140.0 Red Dog Road** Named for a Choctaw chief, the road opened in 1834.

★ **135.5 Robinson Road** Historic road from Jackson to Columbus, MS. Picnic area.

★ **130.9 Yockanookany** NST.

★ **128.4 Upper Choctaw Boundary** Short trail. NST.

★ **122.6 River Bend** Picnic area, restrooms.

★ **122.0 Cypress Swamp** Half-mile walk through water tupelo/cypress swamp. For NST, cross to west side of parkway.

★ **107.9 West Florida Boundary** The old boundary ran from the confluence of the Yazoo and Mississippi rivers to the Chattahoochee River. NST.

★ **106.9 Boyd Site** Burial mounds built between 750 to 1,250 years ago.

★ **105.6 Reservoir Overlook** Ross R. Barnett Reservoir on the Pearl River.

★ **104.5 Old Trace and Brashears Stand Site** The stand was advertised in 1806 as “a house of entertainment in the wilderness.”

★ **102.4 Parkway Information Cabin** Exhibits, restrooms, and access to multi-use trail.

★ **100.7 Choctaw Agency** Site of the liaison office between the US government and the Choctaw Nation, early 1800s.

★ **93.1 Osburn Stand** Site of Noble Osburn's stand, 1811 to early 1820s.

★ **88.1 Cowles Mead Cemetery** Cowles Mead owned a stand along the Old Trace and was acting territorial governor (1806).

★ **87.1 Turpin Creek** Picnic area.

★ **80.3 Emerald Mound** Eight-acre ceremonial mound built between 1200 and 1730; now a national historic landmark.

★ **8.7 Old Trace Exhibit Shelter**

★ **5.1 Elizabeth Female Academy Site** Founded in 1818, first school for women chartered by the state of Mississippi.

★ **12.4 Loess Bluff** Windblown soil (loess) was deposited here during the ice ages.

★ **18.4 Bullen Creek** Short trail through hardwood-pine forest.

★ **17.5 Coles Creek** Picnic area, restrooms.

★ **17.0 NST Trailhead** Trailhead off Geohegan Rd. No RVs.

★ **15.5 Mount Locust** Restored plantation and historic stand. House tours, exhibits, restrooms.

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