

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Natchez Trace Parkway  
Tupelo, Mississippi 38801

Chronology of the Natchez Trace

- 1541 DeSoto spends part of winter 1540-41 in Chickasaw villages.
- 1682 LaSalle visits village of the Natchez tribe.
- 1699 South Carolinians begin trade with the Chickasaw Indians.
- 1700 Iberville, Governor of Louisiana, visits Natchez Indians.
- 1710 Unknown French trader sets up business at French Lick, site of Nashville.
- 1713 French trading post at Natchez established by La Loire brothers.
- 1716 Fort Rosalie built at Natchez by Bienville.
- 1718 St. Catherine Concession organized, and French begin to develop several plantations near Natchez.
- 1729 Natchez Massacre; French colony destroyed.
- 1730 Natchez tribe defeated and scattered. Choctaw go to help the French at Natchez. First recorded trip over any part of Natchez Trace.
- 1736 Great French effort to destroy Chickasaw. D'Artaguetto defeated at Ogoula Tchetoka and Bienville at Ackia.
- 1739-40 French expedition against the Chickasaw. 100 French Canadians with Indian allies travel from Montreal to Tupelo.
- 1748-52 Choctaw Civil War. South Carolina attempts to bring Choctaw under British control.
- 1763 France cedes North American possessions east of the Mississippi River, except New Orleans, but including the Natchez District, to Great Britain. Spain cedes Florida to Great Britain.
- 1764 Natchez becomes a part of the British Colony of West Florida.
- 1765-79 English-speaking people colonize the Natchez District; veterans of French and Indian War, and exiled Tories from the 13 Colonies.
- 1770 Tockshish, or McIntoshville, established when John McIntosh, British agent to Chickasaw and Choctaw Indians, established his agency 10 miles south of Pontotoc.
- 1775-83 American Revolution.
- 1779 Spanish Colonial forces occupy Natchez.
- 1780 Nashville established by Richard Henderson, John Donelson, and James Robertson and North Carolina settlers.
- 1781 English-speaking settlers in Natchez revolt against Spain.
- 1782 Alliance between Americans of Cumberland settlement and Chickasaw Indians.
- 1783 Treaty of Paris ends American Revolution. The Mississippi River becomes the western boundary of the United States. East and West Florida ceded to Spain. Beginning of Spanish American boundary quarrel.
- 1783-85 Mount Locust built on Spanish land grant near Natchez.

- 1785 First cargo of American goods reaches Natchez via the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. The first of thousands of boatmen begin their journey over the Natchez Trace to Nashville, and other places in the Ohio Valley.
- 1785 Chachare, a French officer in Spanish service, makes trip, Natchez to Nashville, on the Natchez Trace. The first written report of a journey over the Trace.
- 1790 Tennessee, with tentative name "Territory South West of the Ohio River," organized as a Territory of the United States.
- 1792 Stephen Minor's trip on Natchez Trace. Left a detailed diary.
- 1795 By Pinckney's Treaty, Spain agrees to the 31st parallel as southern boundary of the United States.
- 1795 First cotton gin in Natchez.
- 1796 Tennessee admitted to the Union.
- 1798 Spain withdraws troops, and Natchez District occupied by U. S. forces.
- 1798 Mississippi Territory organized, with Natchez as capital.
- 1800 Congress establishes post route between Nashville and Natchez.
- 1801 Treaty of Fort Adams officially opens Old Natchez District to settlement.
- 1801 Choctaw and Chickasaw agree that U. S. may open a road, the Natchez Trace, through their lands.
- 1801-02 U. S. troops open the Natchez Trace from Davidson-Williamson County line in Tennessee to Grindstone Ford in Mississippi.
- 1802 Capital of Mississippi Territory moved from Natchez to Washington, Mississippi.
- 1802 Ferry across Tennessee River established by George Colbert.
- 1802 That part of Old Trace in Tennessee between Nashville and Duck River Ridge abandoned as a post road.
- 1802 Red Bluff Stand established by William Smith in Mississippi.
- 1802 Gordons Ferry established on Tennessee's Duck River by John Gordon.
- 1803 Port Gibson, Mississippi, established.
- 1803 Regiment of Tennessee Militia marches on Trace to and from Natchez.
- 1804 Mississippi Territorial boundary extended north to the Tennessee line.
- 1804 Wiley "Little" Harpe, notorious outlaw, executed.
- 1805 Treaty of Mt. Dexter. Choctaw cede their lands south of old Three-Chopped Way to the United States.
- 1805 Chickasaw cede Tennessee lands between Duck River Ridge and Buffalo-Duck River watershed to the United States. The Old Trace, from Duck River Ridge to Meriwether Lewis, becomes boundary between the United States and Chickasaw lands.
- 1806 Brashears Stand established by Turner Brashears who, for 15 or 20 years, had lived among the Choctaw Indians in Mississippi as a trader.
- 1806 First Congressional appropriation for the improvement of the Natchez Trace.

- 1807 Aaron Burr arrested near Natchez.
- 1807 Choctaw agency moved to site on the Natchez Trace by Silas Dinsmore.
- 1808 Old Trace between Duck River Ridge and Buffalo River abandoned as a post route.
- 1809 Meriwether Lewis died and was buried at Grinders Inn along the Trace in Tennessee.
- 1810 Settlers in West Florida revolt against Spanish rule.
- 1811 First Mississippi River steamboat reached Natchez from Pittsburg.
- 1812 West Florida added to the Mississippi Territory.
- c.1812 French Camp, Mississippi, or LeFleur's Stand, established by Louis LeFleur.
- c.1812 McLish Stand established in Tennessee by John McLish, a halfbreed Chickasaw.
- 1812 Doaks Stand established in Mississippi by William Doak.
- 1813 General John Coffee marches a brigade of cavalry over the Trace from Nashville to Natchez.
- 1813 Andrew Jackson marches from Natchez to Nashville and is given the nickname, "Old Hickory."
- c.1815 Steele's Iron Works began to produce iron at a site near the Trace in Tennessee.
- 1814-15 The Natchez Trace was a vitally important link between Washington and New Orleans when the latter was threatened by a British army and fleet.
- 1815 Jackson's army returns to Tennessee via the Trace after the Battle of New Orleans.
- 1816 Chickasaw cede all lands north of the Tennessee River to the United States.
- 1817 Mississippi becomes the 20th State.
- 1817 Alabama Territory organized.
- 1818 Choctaw Mission established by American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.
- 1819 Alabama becomes the 22nd State.
- 1819 Gordon House built by John Gordon in Tennessee.
- 1820 Treaty of Doaks Stand. Choctaw cede 5½ million acres of land to the United States.
- 1820 Old Trace, between Buffalo River and Buzzard Roost Stand, abandoned as a post route.
- 1820 Monroe Station of the Chickasaw Mission established, Pontotoc County, Mississippi.
- 1820-30 Steamboat becomes usual method of travel from Natchez to northeast.
- 1821 Bethel, a station of the Choctaw Mission, established.
- 1822 Old Trace between Brashears Stand and Red Bluff Stand abandoned as a post road.

- 1830 Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. Choctaw cede all lands east of the Mississippi River to the United States and agree to move to Oklahoma.
- 1832 Treaty of Pontotoc. Chickasaw cede all lands east of the Mississippi River to the United States and agree to move to Oklahoma.
- 1861-65 Civil War.
- 1863 Grant's army marches over Natchez Trace, Port Gibson to Raymond.
- 1864 Battles of Brices Cross Roads and Tupelo.
- 1864 Parts of Hood's army march over Natchez Trace from Tennessee-Alabama line to Nashville. After the Battles of Nashville and Franklin what was left of Hood's army retreats over the Trace to Tupelo, Mississippi.
- 1909-30 Route of Natchez Trace marked by Daughters of the American Revolution and other patriotic organizations.
- 1938 Natchez Trace Parkway created as a unit of the National Park System by Congressional action.