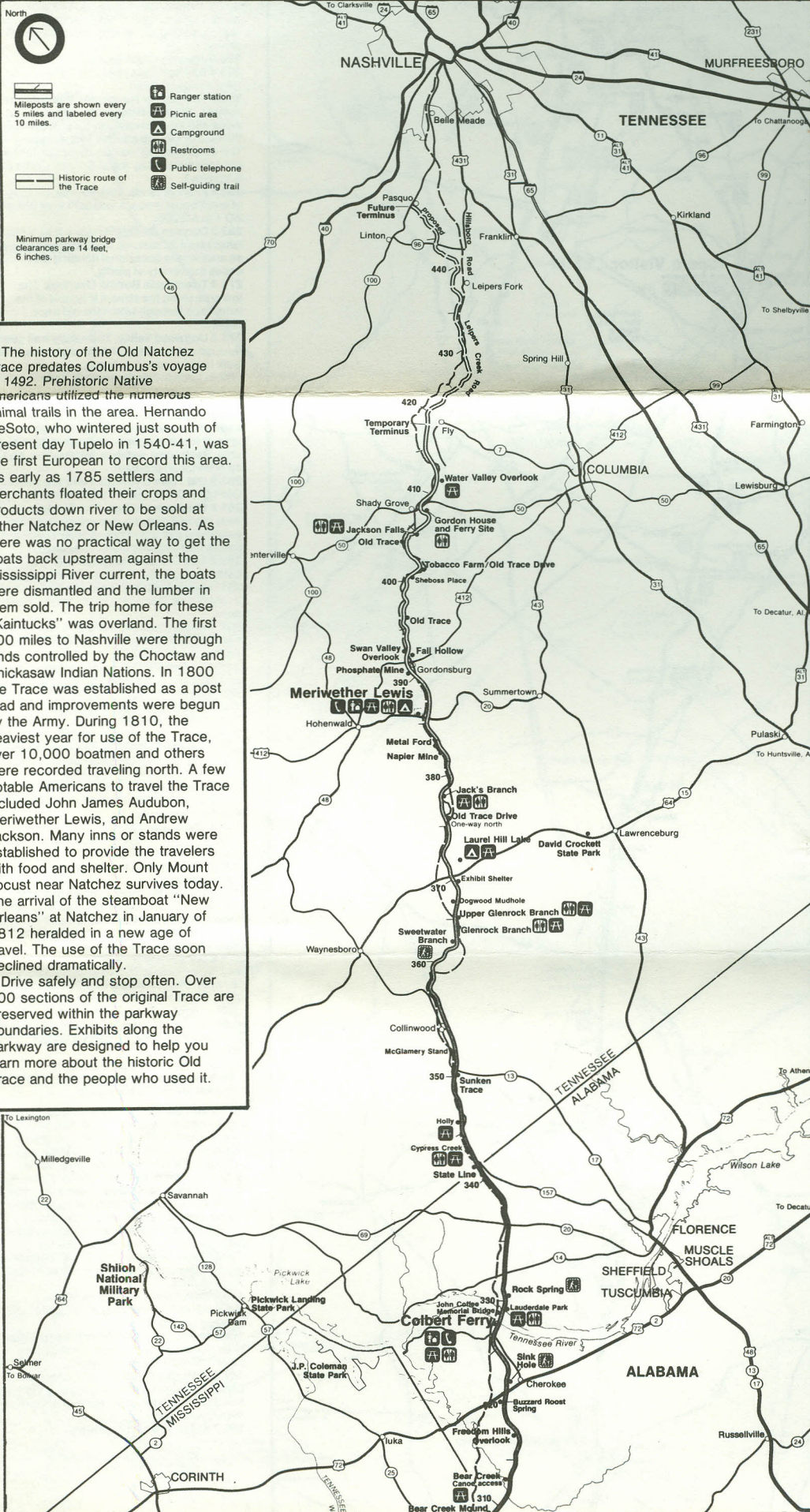


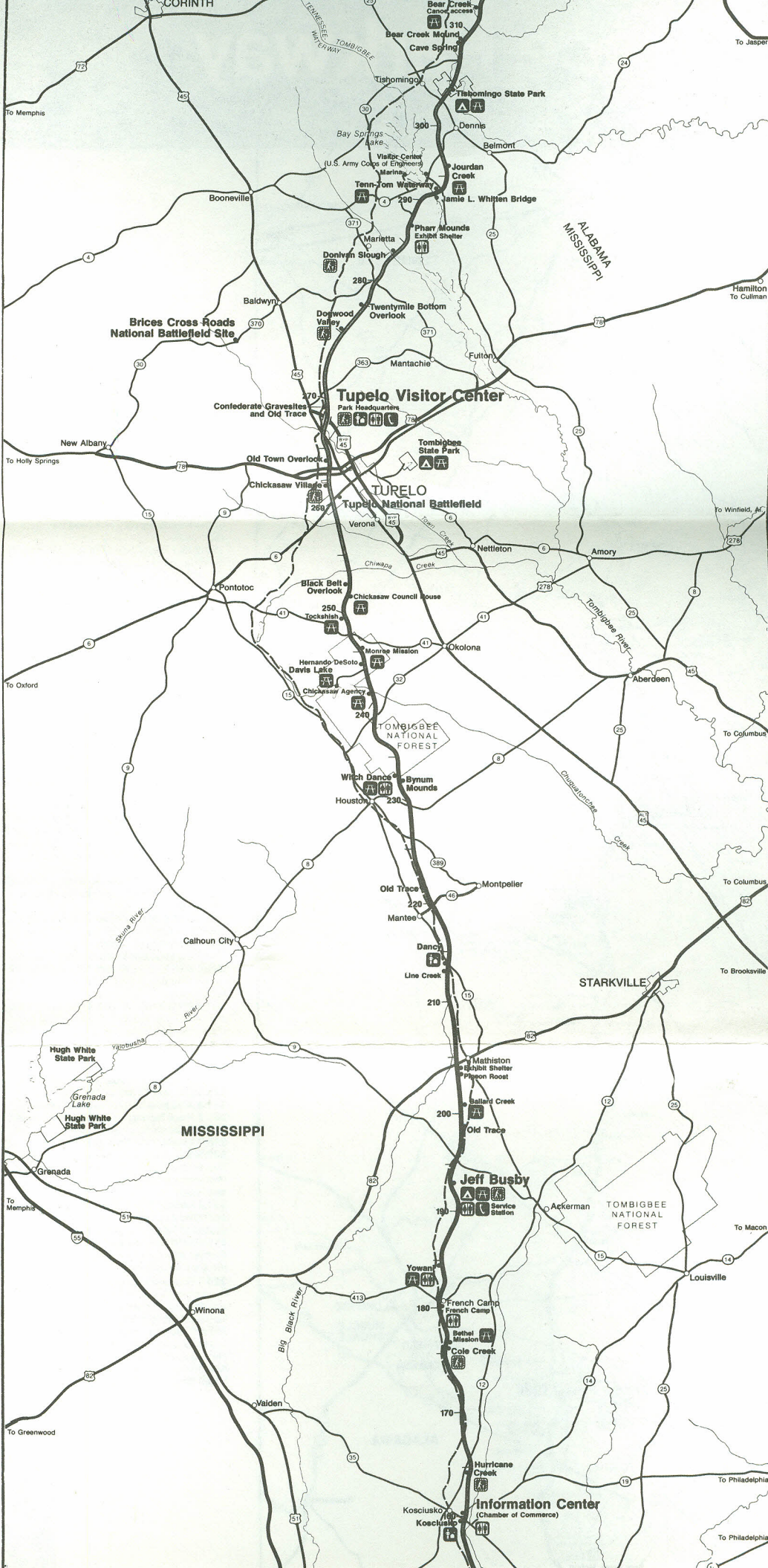
Natchez Trace Parkway

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

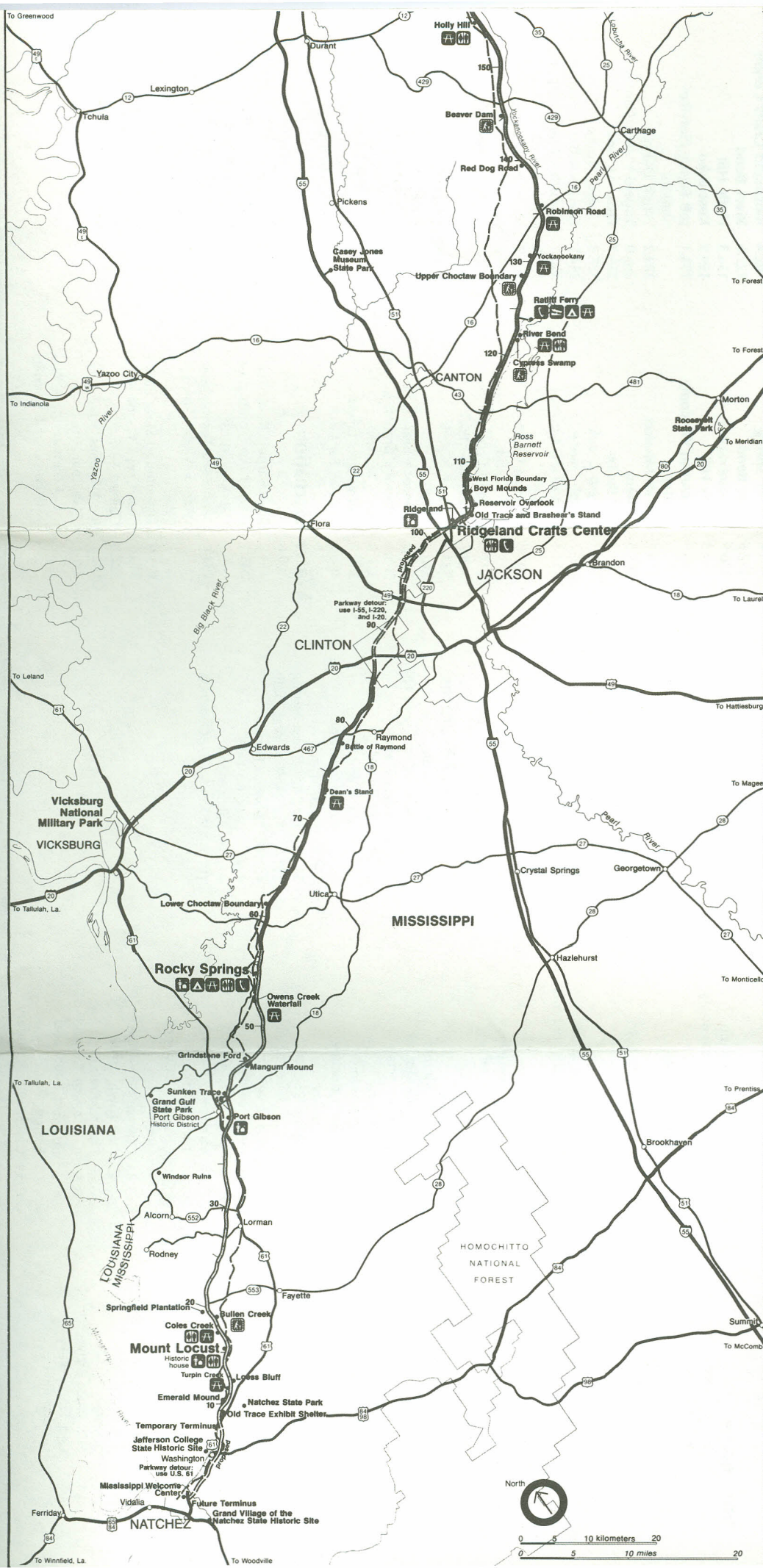


The history of the Old Natchez Trace predates Columbus's voyage of 1492. Prehistoric Native Americans utilized the numerous animal trails in the area. Hernando DeSoto, who wintered just south of present day Tupelo in 1540-41, was the first European to record this area. As early as 1785 settlers and merchants floated their crops and products down river to be sold at either Natchez or New Orleans. As there was no practical way to get the boats back upstream against the Mississippi River current, the boats were dismantled and the lumber in them sold. The trip home for these "Kaintucks" was overland. The first 500 miles to Nashville were through lands controlled by the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indian Nations. In 1800 the Trace was established as a post road and improvements were begun by the Army. During 1810, the heaviest year for use of the Trace, over 10,000 boatmen and others were recorded traveling north. A few notable Americans to travel the Trace included John James Audubon, Meriwether Lewis, and Andrew Jackson. Many inns or stands were established to provide the travelers with food and shelter. Only Mount Locust near Natchez survives today. The arrival of the steamboat "New Orleans" at Natchez in January of 1812 heralded in a new age of travel. The use of the Trace soon declined dramatically. Drive safely and stop often. Over 100 sections of the original Trace are preserved within the parkway boundaries. Exhibits along the parkway are designed to help you learn more about the historic Old Trace and the people who used it.

- Mile 418.0 Temporary Terminus.**
- 411.8 Water Valley Overlook.**
- 407.7 Gordon House and Ferry Site.**
- 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 and curing. A 2-mile drive along the old trace begins here.
- 400.2 Sheboss Place.** This is the site of one of the stands that once served travelers on the trace.
- 397.3 Old Trace.** Here the trace marked the boundaries of the Chickasaw lands ceded to the United States in 1805 and 1816.
- 392.5 Swan Valley Overlook.**
- 391.9 Fall Hollow.** A short paved path leads to an overlook where a stream cascades over a rock ledge before plunging 20 feet into a clear pool.
- 390.7 Phosphate mine.** This was the site of a short-lived local industry in the late 19th century.
- 385.9 Meriwether Lewis.** A campground, picnic area, restrooms, ranger station, and the grave of Meriwether Lewis, of Lewis and Clark fame, are all here.
- 382.8 Metal Ford.** Travelers crossed the Buffalo River here; an ironworks and McLish's Stand were located nearby.
- 381.8 Napier Mine.** This open pit was worked during the 19th century.
- 377.8 Jack's Branch picnic area.**
- 375.8 Old Trace Drive.** This 2.5-mile road follows the route of the original trace. Several overlooks from the ridge provide views of the countryside. **NOT FOR TRAVEL TRAILERS.**
- 367.3 Dogwood Mudhole.** Nearly 1 mile to the south, the mudhole became impassable during rains.
- 364.5 and 365.1 Glenrock Branch picnic area.** A streambank trail through the woods connects these two picnic sites.
- 363.0 Sweetwater Branch nature trail.** A clear, fast-flowing stream parallels the route of this 20-minute walk; wildflowers are brilliant in season.
- 352.9 McGlamery Stand.** The nearby village still bears the name of the stand that has long since disappeared.
- 350.5 Sunken Trace.** Here are three sections of the original road that 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.**
- 330.2 Rock Spring.** The nature trail along Colbert Creek takes 20 minutes.
- 328.7 Lauderdale Park picnic area.**
- 328.6-327.8 John Coffee Memorial Bridge.** The span crosses Pickwick Lake formed by Pickwick Landing Dam across the Tennessee River.
- 327.3 Colbert Ferry.** George Colbert once operated a stand and ferry here. He is reported to have charged Andrew Jackson \$75,000 to ferry his army across the river. Ranger station, telephone, restrooms, picnic area, swimming, fishing, and boat launch.
- 320.3 Buzzard Roost Spring.** Exhibits tell the story of Levi Colbert, a Chickasaw chief who owned a nearby stand. A short trail leads to Buzzard Roost Spring.
- 317.0 Freedom Hills Overlook.** A steep, 1/4-mile trail leads to the highest point—elevation 800 feet—on the parkway in Alabama.
- 313.0 Bear Creek picnic area.** Canoe access.



- 308.9 Mississippi-Alabama state line.**
- 308.8 Bear Creek Mound.** This ceremonial structure was built between AD 1200 and AD 1400.
- 308.4 Cave Spring.** Indians probably used this as a source of water.
- 302.8 Tishomingo State Park.** The park was named for a famous Chickasaw chief. Camping, picnicking, swimming, canoeing, and fishing.
- 296.0 Jourdan Creek picnic area.**
- 293.4 Bay Springs Lake.** This is the access for the lake and dam.
- 293.2 Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway and Jamie L. Whitten Bridge.** The waterway provides 459 miles of navigable water between the Gulf of Mexico and the Tennessee River. The waterway and the nearby visitor center are administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- 286.7 Pharr Mounds.** This 90-acre complex of eight burial mounds was built from about AD 1 to AD 200.
- 283.3 Donovan Slough.** A nature trail, which takes about 20 minutes to walk, goes through an area where occasional flooding influences the variety of plants.
- 278.4 Twentymile Bottom Overlook.** The low area along the stream is typical of the landscape through which the old trace passed.
- 275.2 Dogwood Valley.** The nature trail goes through a large stand of dogwood trees. The walk takes about 15 minutes.
- 269.4 Confederate Gravesites.** A short walk on the old trace goes to the graves of 13 unknown Confederate soldiers.
- 266.0 Tupelo Visitor Center (park headquarters).** A nature trail leads through an area of forest regrowth; walk takes 20 minutes. Restrooms, exhibits, information, and an orientation program.
- 263.9 Old Town Overlook.** Here are views of Old Town Creek and the adjacent floodplain.
- 261.8 Chickasaw Village.** The Chickasaws' daily life and early history are described in exhibits at the site of one of their villages. A nature trail features plants they used.
- 259.7 Tupelo National Battlefield.** The 1864 battle took place 1 mile east on Miss. 6.
- 251.9 Black Belt Overlook.** This remnant of a vast prairie is characterized by rich, black soil.
- 251.1 Chickasaw Council House.** This is the site of Pontatok, the capital of the Chickasaw nation during the 1820s. Picnic tables.
- 249.6 Tockshish.** This area was settled originally in 1770 by John McIntosh. Picnic tables.
- 245.6 Monroe Mission.** The Chickasaws learned various trades at the mission. Picnic tables.
- 243.3 Hernando DeSoto.** The Spanish explorer and discoverer 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. Picnic tables.
- 233.2 Witch Dance.** Picnic area and horse trail access.
- 232.4 Bynum Mounds.** Exhibits describe the life of the prehistoric peoples who built these mounds between 100 BC and AD 200.
- 221.4 Old Trace.** A portion of the original trace crosses the parkway here.
- 214.5 Dancy ranger station.**
- 213.3 Line Creek.** This was the boundary between the Chickasaw and Choctaw tribes.
- 203.5 Pigeon Roost.** Folsom's stand and trading post, operated by Nathaniel and David Folsom, once stood near here. Millions of passenger pigeons, now extinct, once roosted here.
- 201.3 Ballard Creek picnic area.**
- 198.6 Old Trace.** A portion of the original roadway leads into the woods.
- 193.1 Jeff Busby.** Facilities include picnic area, campground, service station, store, and restrooms. The overlook is on one of the highest points (603 feet) in Mississippi. A 20-minute nature trail identifies native plants and describes their use by pioneers.
- 184.8 Yowan picnic area (Closed in winter.)**
- 180.7 French Camp.** Louis LeFleur established a stand here in 1812. It became a school in 1822 and has remained one to this day. Sorghum is made here in the fall.
- 176.3 Bethel Mission.** One of 13 Choctaw missions was one-half mile to the northwest. Picnic tables.
- 175.6 Cole Creek.** The nature trail, a 5-minute walk, leads through a tupelo/bald cypress swamp.
- 164.3 Hurricane Creek.** The nature trail identifies plants found in different soil conditions. The walk takes 15 minutes.
- 159.9 Welcome Center.** Travel information is provided for the parkway and the Kosciusko area by local chamber of commerce volunteers.
- 159.7 Kosciusko ranger station.**



- 154.3 Holly Hill picnic area.
- 145.1 Beaver Dam. The nature trail, a 5- to 10-minute walk, tells the beavers' story.
- 140.0 Red Dog Road. Named for a Choctaw chief, the road was opened in 1834.
- 135.5 Robinson Road. This road, dating from 1821, connected Jackson and Columbus, Miss. Picnic tables.
- 130.9 Yockanookany picnic area.
- 128.4 The Upper Choctaw Boundary. A line of trees marks this dividing line. Southern pines are featured on the nature trail, which takes 5 to 10 minutes to walk.
- 122.6 River Bend picnic area.
- 122.0 Cypress Swamp. The nature trail takes you through a water tupelo/bald cypress swamp. The walk takes about 20 minutes.
- 107.9 West Florida Boundary. This old boundary, which ran from the junction of the Yazoo and Mississippi rivers east to the Chattahoochee, crosses here.
- 106.9 Boyd Mounds. These earthen mound burials were built from AD 500 to AD 900.
- 105.6 Reservoir Overlook. Ross Barnett Reservoir, on the Pearl River, parallels the parkway for 8 miles.
- 104.5 Brashear's Stand. This inn was advertised as "a house of entertainment in the wilderness" to travelers in 1806. A portion of the original trace is nearby.
- 102.4 Ridgeland Crafts Center. Sales and demonstrations of Mississippi crafts are featured. Exhibits, information, and restrooms.

The parkway is uncompleted 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, a part of the Vicksburg campaign in 1863, was fought nearby.
- 73.5 Dean's Stand. Many farmers ran stands such as this one to supplement their meager income. Picnic tables.
- 61.0 Lower-Choctaw Boundary. This was the north-south dividing line between the earliest settled part of Mississippi and the Choctaws' land.
- 54.8 Rocky Springs. The old townsite can be reached by a short trail from the upper parking area. Camping, picnicking, ranger station, restrooms, and a section of the old trace.
- 52.4 Owens Creek Waterfall. Picnic tables.
- 45.7 Grindstone Ford/Mangum Mound. Artifacts found here have revealed much about the prehistoric people who once lived in this area. Early-day travelers heading north considered themselves in wild country once they crossed the ford on Bayou Pierre.
- 41.5 Sunken Trace. A trail, which takes five minutes to walk, follows a deeply eroded section of the original trace.
- 39.2 Port Gibson ranger station.
- 18.4 Bullen Creek. A nature trail, leads through a mixed hardwood-pine forest. The walk takes 15 minutes.
- 17.5 Coles Creek picnic area.
- 15.5 Mount Locust. This restored historic house that was one of the first stands in Mississippi has interpretive programs February through November. Restrooms, exhibits, and a ranger station.
- 12.4 Loess Bluff. A deposit of topsoil (loess) was 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 AD 1400. The second largest of its type in the nation, the mound covers nearly 8 acres. A trail leads to the top.
- 8.7 Old Trace. A section of the original trace can be seen here.
- 8.1 Temporary Terminus. The junction with U.S. 61 serves as the temporary southern terminus of the parkway.

