

The Natchez Trace Parkway is a 444-mile drive (71 mil) through exceptional scenery and 10,000 years of North American history. Used by American Indians, "Kaintucks," settlers, and future presidents, the Old Trace played an important role in American history. A road that follows a primitive trail linking Natchez, Mississippi with Nashville, Tennessee. The Parkway is a two lane road that is closed to commercial traffic and has a speed limit of 50 mph/80kmh. The National Park Service oversees the Parkway and maintains three free campgrounds along its length.

Tennessee Highlights

- **438 Bridge at Birdsong Hollow** Birdsong Hollow at milepost 438 provides views of the double-arched bridge which rises 155 feet above the valley below. The bridge received the Presidential Award for Design Excellence in 1995.



- **404.7 Trail to Jackson Falls and Baker Bluff Overlook**

The short but *steep trail* at milepost 404.7 takes visitors to views of Jackson Falls, making it one of the most popular walks along the parkway. After dropping down 900 feet in elevation on a paved trail, you will find yourself in a small gorge. *Your return trip will be a bit more strenuous*, but well worth the effort.

401.4 Tobacco Farm and Old Trace Drive Tobacco Farm - You see here a typical early 1900s tobacco farm. A 10 minute loop walk takes you through a field to the barn where you see tobacco hanging to dry.

Old Trace Drive - From here you may drive north on a narrow two-mile section of the old original Natchez Trace and meet the parkway on the other end. Your slower pace may take you back

in time and let you enjoy views of the valley below.

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- **391.9 Fall Hollow Trail** Fall Hollow is just off the Parkway (you can park your car and walk 10 feet and see and hear some of the action). Fall Hollow is just north of the US 412 intersection.



A path and a set of wooden bridges take you across the small creeks before they begin their tumbling descent. The easy part of the path ends at an observation deck where you can look down at the largest waterfall. *Past this point the path becomes very rocky and steep. As the sign says, 'Proceed with Caution'.*

- **385.9 Meriwether Lewis Monument** Meriwether Lewis is buried in Pioneer Cemetery. His large monument dominates this small, peaceful lawn. Around his grave are buried 120 others in graves that date from the early 1800s to 1925. A surprisingly large number of the stones have the word "infant" rather than a name.

Tennessee to Tupelo Highlights

- **332.2 Witch Dance** The very name conjures visions of eerie midnights, swirling black capes and brooms stacked against a nearby tree. The old folks say the witches gathered here to dance and wherever their feet touched the ground the grass withered and died never to grow again. Impossible? Maybe so, but look around. Look for a hidden spot where no grass grows. (But mostly this is just a picknick area 😊)



- **330.2 The Rock Spring Nature Trail** at milepost 330.2 is a short half mile loop trail that takes you past Colbert Creek and away from the traffic of the parkway. In late summer when the jewelweed is in bloom, visitors may be rewarded with views of the ruby-throated hummingbirds as they migrate south.



- **327.3 Colbert Ferry** Colbert's Stand - George Colbert operated a ferry across the Tennessee River from 1800 to 1819. His stand, or inn, offered travelers a warm meal and shelter during their journey on the Old Trace. Colbert looked after his own well being and once charged Andrew Jackson \$75,000 to ferry his Tennessee Army across the river.

- **286.7 Pharr Mounds** the complex of eight dome shaped Tumulus burial mounds was in use during the Miller 1 phase of the Miller culture and was built between 1 and 200 CE.

- **269.4 Old Trace** will take you to 13 Confederate gravesites. The identity and cause of death of these 13 Confederate soldiers remain a mystery.

- **266 Natchez Trace Parkway Visitor Center**, located at milepost 266, has a twelve-minute orientation film, interpretive



displays about the natural and cultural history of the Natchez Trace, as well as an Eastern National Bookstore. A park ranger is available from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm daily (except Christmas Day) to answer any questions you may have.

Tupelo to Jackson

- **261.8 Chickasaw Village Site** The Chickasaw Village Site is an archeological site at milepost 261.8 that represents the village that once occupied the area. While there are no structures standing today,
- **232.4 Bynum Mounds** is a Middle Woodland period burial mound site located at milepost 232.4. This archeological site consisted of six mounds, five of which were excavated in the 1940's. Two of the largest mounds have been restored, and you can see them today. Interpretive exhibits tell the story of early residents of the Natchez Trace.
- **122.0 Cypress Swamp**, at milepost 122.0, is a self guiding trail through a water tupelo/bald cypress swamp. A lucky visitor may have a chance to see an alligator on this one half mile trail with boardwalks.
- **107.9 West Florida Boundary** this Trace stop is a trailhead to the Ridgeland, MS section of the Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail, a walking and horse trail.



At the end of the French and Indian War in 1763, Great Britain gained control of the territory between the Appalachians and the Mississippi River except for the New Orleans area. The northern boundary of West Florida was first established at 31 degrees north latitude.

It was soon determined that settlement was too restricted. In 1764, Great Britain moved the boundary north to 32 degrees, 28 minutes into the land of the Choctaws and Creeks.

- **105.6 The Ross Barnett Reservoir** parallels the parkway for about eight miles, and provides spectacular scenery from the roadway. (also known as "The Rez") is an impoundment of the Pearl River between Madison and Rankin counties in the U.S. state of Mississippi. The 33,000-acre (130 km²) lake serves as the state's largest drinking water resource.

203.5 Pigeon Roost is a ghost town in Choctaw County, Mississippi. Once home to a Chief of the Choctaw people, and an important stop along the Old Natchez Road, nothing remains of the former settlement.

Jackson to Natchez

- **41.5 The Sunken Trace**, at milepost 41.5 is one of the most photographed sites along the parkway. The trace appears sunken in this spot due to thousands of travelers walking on the easily eroded loess soil. This short trail will allow you to walk on the Natchez Trace just as thousands have before you.

- **30 Windsor Ruins** Built in 1859-61 by Smith Daniell who only lived in the large mansion for a few weeks before he died. The Windsor plantation once sprawled over 2,600 acres. Legend says that from a roof observatory, Mark Twain watched the Mississippi River in the distance.



A Yankee soldier was shot in the front doorway of the home. During the Civil War the mansion was used as a Union hospital and observation post, thus sparing it from being burned by Union troops.

However, after the Civil War, during a house party on February 17, 1890 a guest left a lighted cigar on the upper balcony and Windsor burned to the ground. Everything was destroyed except 23 of the columns, balustrades and iron stairs.

From the Natchez Trace Parkway take Mississippi Highway 552 at milepost 30. Go west and follow the signs.

- **15.5 Mount Locust**, at milepost 15.5, is the only remaining inn, or "stand" on the Parkway. This contact station is open year round, except for December 25, and rangers are available from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm to share information on the historic structure. Mount Locust allows you to see what the "Kaintucks" may have experienced at the road side stands



- **10.3 Emerald Mound**, at milepost 10.3, is the second largest Mississippian period ceremonial mound in the United States