



# Winding its way through American History

Stretching from the Mississippi River in Natchez through the Shoals area in Alabama and across the Tennessee Valley to Nashville, the Old Trace was first used by American Indians. In the early 1800's, it was the main return route for Ohio Valley traders who, rather than fight the Mississippi currents, sold their flatboats for the value of their timber in Natchez and walked home through Choctaw and Chickasaw territory via the Old Trace.

By mid-century, steamboats made the trek unnecessary, and the Old Trace disappeared into the trees. Today, the 444-mile National Scenic Byway and All-American Road has emerged as one of America's most important examples of our nation's natural and cultural heritage. Administered by the National Park Service, the road's non-commercial environment coupled with a wide variety of historic sites, wayside exhibits and beautiful venues make it a memorable destination for an unhurried trip that both reveals and explains a unique time in our country's history.

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| 1. Mississippi River - Natchez | 2. Windsor Ruins - Port Gibson | 3. Historic Courthouse - Raymond | 4. Clinton's Olde Towne - Clinton | 5. Ross Barnett Reservoir - Ridgeland | 6. MS Craft Center - Ridgeland | 7. Historic Downtown - Kosciusko | 8. Little Village - French Camp | 9. Natchez Trace Parkway Visitor Center - Tupelo | 10. Elvis Presley Birthplace - Tupelo | 11. State Park Swinging Bridge - Tishomingo | 12. Spring Park - Tusculum | 13. River Front Park - Sheffield | 14. Alabama Music Hall of Fame - Tusculum | 15. W.C. Handy Birthplace - Florence | 16. Old Train Depot - Collinwood | 17. Lewis County Museum - Hohenwald | 18. Leiper's Creek Gallery - Leiper's Fork | 19. Main Street - Franklin | 20. Country Music Hall of Fame - Nashville |
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## Did you know?

The Natchez Trace Parkway has...

- Over 25 campgrounds along its corridor
- Over 100 wayside exhibits
- Over 300 types of wildlife, including eight federally listed threatened and endangered species
- Over 2,200 types of plants, including dogwoods, live oak, water tupelo and bald cypress



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“This new road, opening the woods, among redbuds and white blossoms of dogwood, curving about under a cool evergreen cover. For miles no power lines or billboards. Just tree, rock, water, brush and road. The new Trace, like a river, following natural contours and giving focus to the land; it so brings out the beauty...to drive the Trace one sees that highway does not have to outrage landscape.”

A passage from Blue Highways about the Natchez Trace

— William Least Heat-Moon

FOR NATCHEZ TRACE VISITOR CENTER & COMMERCIAL PERMITS  
**CONTACT 800.305.7417**

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