

Natchez Trace Parkway



Sunlight filters through the trees along a section of the original trace at milepost 41.5.

This is the story of people on the move, of the age-old need to get from one place to another. It is a story of Natchez, Chickasaw, and Choctaw Indians following traditional ways of life, of French and Spanish people venturing into a world new to them, and of people building a new nation. At first the trace was probably a series of hunters' paths that slowly came to form a trail from the Mississippi over the low hills into the valley of the Tennessee. By 1733 the French knew the land well enough to map it and showed an Indian trail running from Natchez to the northeast. By 1785 Ohio River Valley farmers searching for markets had begun floating their crops and products down the rivers to Natchez or New Orleans.

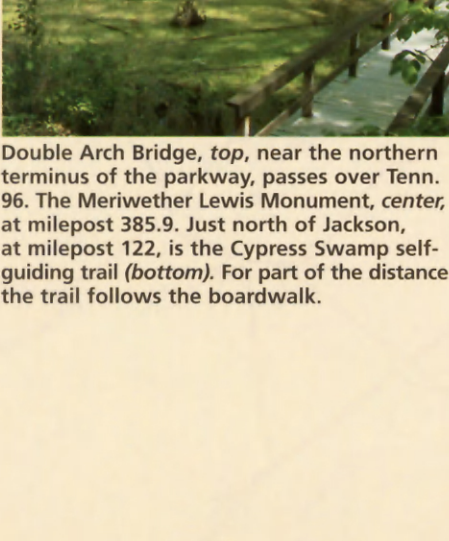
Because they sold their flatboats for lumber, returning home meant either riding or walking. The trail from Natchez was the most direct. Growing numbers of travelers tramped the crude trail into a clearly marked path. By 1810 many years of improvements had made the trace an important wilderness road, the most heavily traveled in the Old Southwest. As the road was being improved other comforts, relatively speaking, were coming to the trace. Many inns—locally called stands—were built. By 1820 more than 20 stands were in operation,

though most provided no more than basic food and shelter. Mount Locust and the Gordon House were substantial, well-known establishments. Even with these developments the trace was not free of discomforts. Thieves added an element of danger to a catalog of hazards that included swamps, floods, disease-carrying insects, and sometimes unfriendly Indians. A new chapter in transportation dawned in January 1812 when the steamer *New Orleans* arrived in Natchez. Within a few years steamboats were calling regularly at St. Louis, Nashville, and Louisville. Travelers liked the speed and comparative safety of steamboat travel more than the slow pace of going overland. Soon the bustle of the trace had quieted to the peacefulness of a forest lane.

These parklands preserve important examples of our nation's natural and cultural heritage. Started in the late 1930s, the modern Natchez Trace Parkway parallels the old trace. In 1995, in recognition of its historic significance and scenic qualities, the National Scenic Byways Program designated the parkway an All-American Road. Today 95 percent of the parkway is complete, giving present-day travelers an unhurried route from Natchez to Nashville.

Milepost Gazetteer

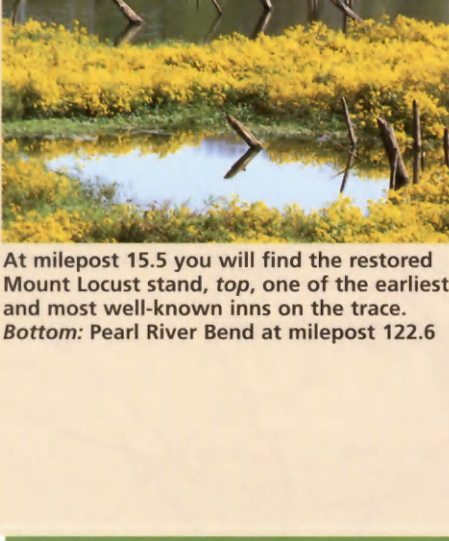
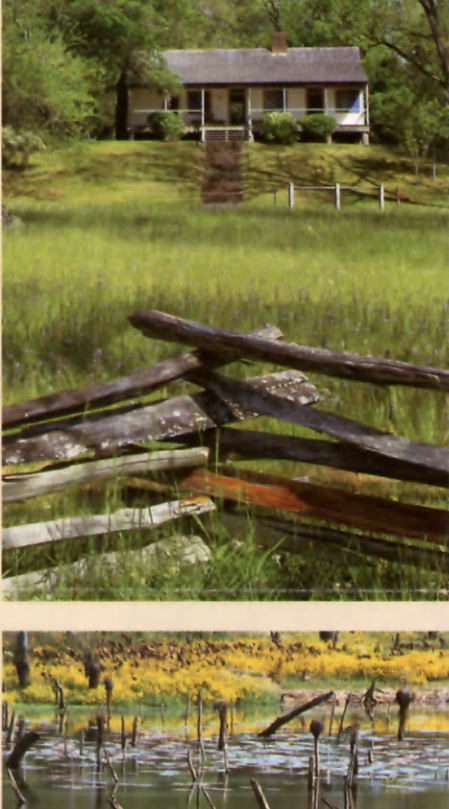
Mileposts are located on the east side of the parkway beginning at Natchez. The references for points of interest or visitor services are given to the nearest tenth of a mile. On the map (see other side of this brochure) the mileposts are noted every fifth mile and labeled every tenth mile in pink.



Double Arch Bridge, top, near the northern terminus of the parkway, passes over Tenn. 96. The Meriwether Lewis Monument, center, at milepost 385.9. Just north of Jackson, at milepost 122, is the Cypress Swamp self-guiding trail (bottom). For part of the distance the trail follows the boardwalk.

- 444.0 Northern Terminus. Intersection with Tenn. 100.
- 438.0 Double Arch Bridge. Completed in 1994; received the Presidential Award for Design Excellence in 1995 for its innovative design that rises 155 above the valley and eliminates the use of spandrel columns.
- 427.6 Garrison Creek. Named for a nearby 1801-02 U.S. Army post, this area is a trail-head for horseback riders and hikers.
- 426.3 Old Trace. The U.S. Army cleared this section of the "Natchez Road" in 1801-02 and continued clearing southward with the consent of the Chickasaw Nation.
- 425.4 Burns Branch.
- 423.9 Tennessee Valley Divide. When Tennessee joined the Union in 1796, this watershed was the boundary between the United States to the north and the Chickasaw Nation to the south.
- 411.8 Water Valley Overlook.
- 407.7 Gordon House and Ferry Site. From 1801 until traffic on the trace declined, the Gordons ran a ferry across the Duck River here. The house was built about 1818.
- 405.1 Baker Bluff Overlook.
- 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. A two-mile drive along the old trace begins here.
- 400.2 Shebass Place. A stand (inn) serving travelers on the trace once stood here.
- 397.4 Old Trace. Here the trace marked the boundaries of Chickasaw lands ceded to the United States in 1805 and 1816.
- 392.5 Swan View Overlook.
- 391.9 Fall Hollow.
- 385.9 Meriwether Lewis. Campground, picnic area, restrooms, ranger station, and grave of Meriwether Lewis of Lewis and Clark fame.
- 382.8 Metal Ford. Travelers crossed the Buffalo River here; an ironworks and McLish's Stand were nearby.
- 381.8 Napier Mine. This open pit was worked in the 19th century.
- 377.8 Jacks Branch. Picnic area, restrooms.
- 375.8 Old Trace Drive. This 2.5-mile route follows the original trace route. Several overlooks provide views of the countryside. NOT FOR TRAVEL TRAILERS.
- 367.3 Dogwood Mudhole. The often impassable mudhole lies nearly a mile to the south.
- 364.5 Glenrock Branch. Picnic area, restrooms.
- 363.0 Sweetwater Branch. Self-guiding trail. A fast-flowing stream parallels the route of this 20-minute walk; seasonal wildflowers.
- 352.9 McGlamerys Stand. The nearby village still bears the name of the stand that disappeared long ago.
- 350.5 Sunken Trace. Three sections of the original road show how the route was relocated to avoid mudholes.
- 346.2 Holly. Picnic area.
- 343.5 Cypress Creek. Picnic area.
- 341.8 Tennessee-Alabama state line.
- 330.2 Rock Spring. The self-guiding trail along Colbert Creek takes 20 minutes to walk.
- 328.7 Lauderdale. Picnic area.
- 328.6-327.8 John Coffee Memorial Bridge. Span crosses Pickwick Lake formed by Pickwick Landing Dam on the Tennessee River.
- 327.3 Colbert Ferry. George Colbert operated a stand and ferry here and reportedly charged Andrew Jackson \$75,000 to ferry his army across the river. Ranger station, phone, restrooms, picnic area, swimming, fishing, boat launch, bike-only campground.
- 320.3 Buzzard Roost Spring. Exhibits tell the story of Chickasaw Chief Levi Colbert, who owned a nearby stand. A short trail leads to Buzzard Roost spring.
- 317.0 Freedom Hills Overlook. A steep, ¼-mile trail leads 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. This ceremonial structure was built between 1200 and 1400.

- 308.4 Cave Spring. Probably used by Indians.
- 304.5 Tishomingo State Park. The park is named for a Chickasaw medicine man and warrior. Camping, picnicking, swimming, canoeing, and fishing.
- 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 makes 459 miles navigable between the Gulf of Mexico and Tennessee River. The waterway and 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 1,800 to 2,000 years ago.
- 283.3 Donivan Slough. Self-guiding trail. Allow 20 minutes to walk 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. Self-guiding trail. Allow 15 minutes to walk through a large stand of dogwood trees.
- 269.4 Confederate Gravesites. A short walk on the old trace takes you to the graves of 13 unknown Confederate soldiers.
- 266.0 Tupelo Visitor Center (parkway headquarters). Self-guiding trail. Allow 20 minutes to walk through an area of forest regrowth. Restrooms, exhibits, information, and orientation program.
- Brices Crossroads National Battlefield Site can be reached from here via Miss. 145 north to Miss. 370 west.
- 263.9 Old Town Overlook. Enjoy views of Old Town Creek and adjacent floodplain.
- 261.8 Chickasaw Village Site. Exhibits describe daily life and early history at a Chickasaw village site. A self-guiding trail features plants used by the Chickasaw.
- 259.7 Tupelo National Battlefield. The 1864 battle took place one mile east on Miss. 6.
- 251.9 Black Belt Overlook. This once-vast prairie has rich, black soil.
- 251.1 Chickasaw Council House. Here was Pontatock, capital of the Chickasaw Nation during the 1820s. Picnic area.
- 249.6 Tockshish. This area was settled in 1770 by John McIntosh. After the Natchez Trace was declared a National Post Road in 1800, the stand became the midway point where post riders from Natchez and Nashville met up, exchanged mailbags, and returned.
- 245.6 Monroe Mission. Chickasaws learned various trades at the mission. Picnic area.
- 243.3 Hernando de Soto. Spanish explorer of the Mississippi spent the winter of 1540-41 near here.
- 243.1 Davis Lake. Access point to U.S. Forest Service picnicking and summer camping area.
- 241.4 Chickasaw Agency. Agency for the Chickasaws was located here, 1801-1825.
- 233.2 Witch Dance. Picnic area, horse trail access, bike-only campground, restrooms.
- 232.4 Bynum Mounds. Prehistoric people built these mounds between 2,100 and 1,800 years ago. Exhibits describe their life.
- 221.4 Old Trace. Part of the original trace crosses the parkway here.
- 214.5 Dancy. Ranger station.
- 213.3 Lane Creek. Boundary between lands of the Chickasaw and Choctaw tribes.
- 203.5 Pigeon Roost. Folsom's stand and trading post, operated by Nathaniel and David Folsom, stood near here. Millions of passenger pigeons, now extinct, 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. Picnic area, campground, gas station, store, phone, and restrooms. Self-guiding trail. Allow 20 minutes to walk through area that identifies native plants and describes their use by pioneers. The overlook is on one of Mississippi's highest points, 603 feet.
- 180.7 French Camp. Louis LeFleur established a stand here in 1812. It became a school in 1822 and remains one to this day. Sorghum is made here in the fall.



At milepost 15.5 you will find the restored Mount Locust stand, top, one of the earliest and most well-known inns on the trace. Bottom: Pearl River Bend at milepost 122.6

- 176.3 Bethel Mission. One of 13 Choctaw missions was one-half mile to the northwest. Picnic area.
- 175.6 Cole Creek. This short self-guiding trail leads through a tupelo/bald-cypress swamp.
- 164.3 Hurricane Creek. Self-guiding trail. Allow 15 minutes to walk in area that identifies plants found in different soil conditions.
- 160.0 Information Center. Kosciusko chamber of commerce volunteers provide travel information for the parkway and local area.
- 159.7 Kosciusko. Ranger station.
- 154.3 Holly Hill. Picnic area, restrooms.
- 145.1 Myrick Creek. Self-guiding trail. Take 10 minutes to learn about the beavers here.
- 140.0 Red Dog Road. Named for a Choctaw chief, the road was opened in 1834.
- 135.5 Robinson Road. Dating from 1821 this road connected Jackson and Columbus, Miss. Picnic area.
- 130.9 Yockanookany. Picnic area.
- 128.4 Upper Choctaw Boundary. Self-guiding trail. Allow 10 minutes to walk in area that features southern pines. A line of trees marks this dividing line.
- 122.6 River Bend. Picnic area, restrooms.
- 122.0 Cypress Swamp. Self-guiding trail. Allow 20 minutes to walk through a water tupelo/bald-cypress swamp.
- 107.9 West Florida Boundary. This old boundary that ran from the Yazoo and Mississippi rivers' confluence east to the Chattahoochee crosses here.
- 106.9 Boyd Site. These earthen burial mounds were built from 900 to 1,200 years ago.
- 105.6 Reservoir Overlook. Ross Barnett Reservoir on the Pearl River parallels the parkway for eight miles.
- 104.5 Brinshear's Stand and Old Trace Site. The inn that stood here was advertised in 1806 as "a house of entertainment in the wilderness." Nearby is part of the original trace.
- 102.4 Mississippi Crafts Center. Sales and demonstrations of Mississippi crafts are featured. Exhibits, information, and restrooms.

The parkway is not completed 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 of the Vicksburg campaign in 1863 was fought nearby.

- 73.5 Deans Stand Site. Served travelers in the 1820s and 30s. Nearby is the site of Dillon's Plantation, headquarters for U.S. generals Grant and Sherman during the Civil War's Vicksburg campaign, May 1863.
- 61.0 Lower Choctaw Boundary. This line bounded, north and south, lands taken up by new settlers of the Mississippi country and lands of the Choctaw.
- 54.8 Rocky Springs. A short trail from the upper parking area leads to the old town-site. Camping, picnicking, ranger station, restrooms, phone, and part of the old trace.
- 52.4 Owens Creek Waterfall. Picnic area, hiking.
- 45.7 Grindstone Ford/Mangum Mound. Northbound travelers used to consider themselves in wild country once they crossed the ford on Bayou Pierre. Artifacts found here tell about the prehistoric people who lived in this area.
- 41.5 Sunken Trace. Self-guiding trail. Allow five minutes to walk through a deeply eroded section of the original trace.
- 39.2 Port Gibson. Ranger station.
- 18.4 Bullen Creek. A self-guiding trail leads through a mixed hardwood-pine forest. The walk takes 15 minutes.
- 17.5 Coles Creek. Picnic area, restrooms.
- 15.5 Mount Locust. At this restored historic inn, one of the first stands in Mississippi, interpretive programs are given February through November. Restrooms, exhibits, and ranger station.
- 12.4 Loess Bluff. Deposits of topsoil (loess) were 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 1400. The nation's second largest of its type, it covers nearly eight acres. A trail leads to the top.
- 8.7 Old Trace Exhibit Shelter. Here is a section of the first trace.
- 8.1 Temporary Terminus. The junction with U.S. 61 serves as the parkway's temporary southern terminus.

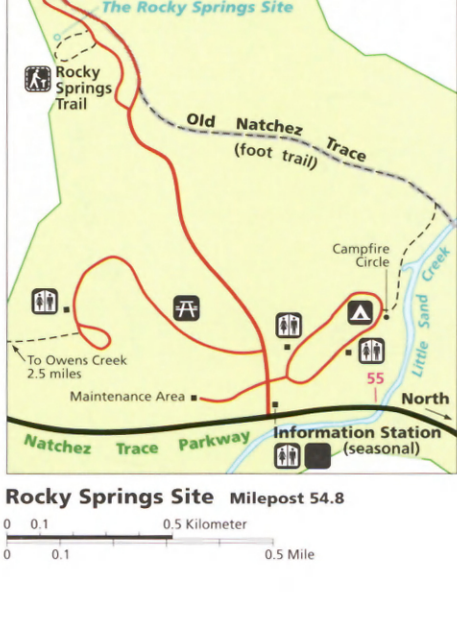
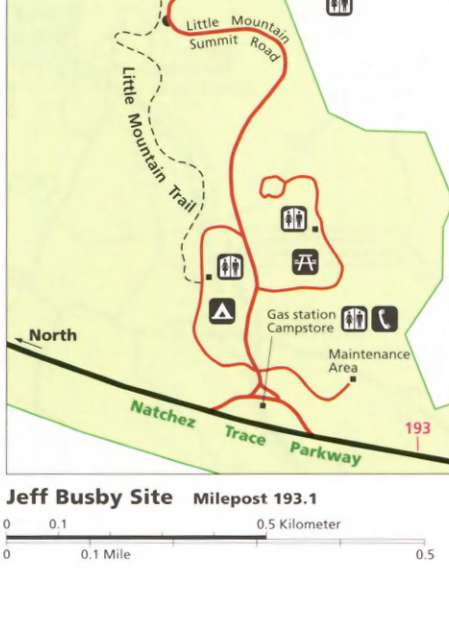
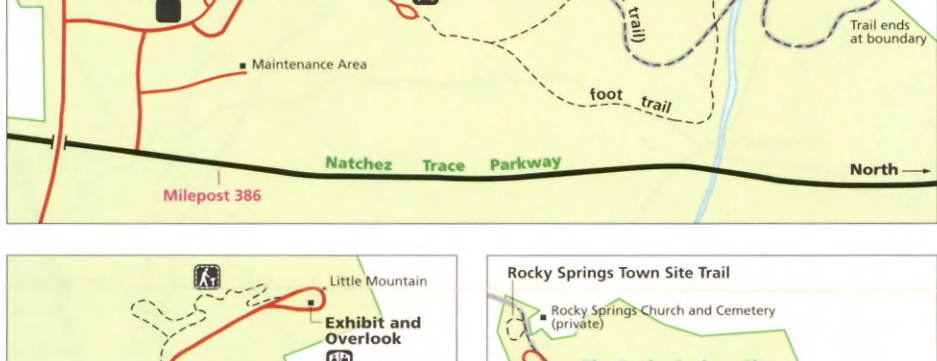


Campgrounds

Meriwether Lewis Site (milepost 385.9) In 1809 at Grinder's Inn Meriwether Lewis, co-captain of the Lewis and Clark expedition and one-time governor of Louisiana Territory, died of gunshot wounds. The monument designed as a broken shaft marks his grave. Here are a 32-site campground, pioneer cemetery, picnic tables, ranger station, exhibits, restrooms, and trails. Camping and picnicking supplies and gasoline are available seven miles west of the parkway on U.S. 412 in Hohenwald.

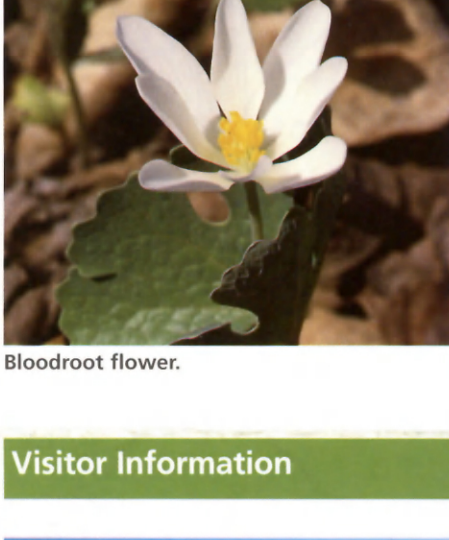
Jeff Busby Site (milepost 193.1) The campground is named for Thomas Jefferson Busby, the U.S. Congressman from Mississippi, who introduced a bill that resulted in the 1934 act authorizing a survey of the Old Natchez Trace. On May 18, 1938 the Natchez Trace Parkway was authorized as a unit of the National Park System. Little Mountain is one of Mississippi's highest points on the parkway, 603 feet. The area includes the 18-site campground, picnic tables, exhibit shelter and overlook atop Little Mountain, phone, and trails. A concessioner operates the service station and a camp store.

Rocky Springs Site (milepost 54.8) In the 1790s new settlers were attracted to this area by the rich soil and many springs. They cleared the land, built homes, and, in 1837, built an impressive brick church. By 1860 Rocky Springs was a prosperous rural community of 2,616 people. Several owned property valued at \$50,000 to \$100,000. The community had a Methodist church, post office, Masonic lodge, and several stores. Between 1860 and 1920 the area was devastated by the Civil War, yellow fever, the boll weevil, and land erosion. Today only the church and cemetery, two rusting safes, and abandoned cisterns mark the site of the town. The area includes the 22-site campground, picnic tables, horseback riding, self-guiding trails through the townsite and to the spring, and a hiking trail on the old trace. Camping and picnicking supplies are available at Port Gibson or Utica, both about 15 miles away.



Facility Reference

Here is a reference to services and facilities along the parkway. Use the map on the other side of this brochure to pinpoint locations. Numbers refer to the mileposts along the parkway.



Bloodroot flower.

Hiking Trails	History Exhibits	Indian History	Information	Nature Exhibits
52.4 385.9	15.5 193.1	10.3 213.3	263.9	0 193.1
54.8 394.0	54.8 243.3	45.7 232.4	286.7	15.5 214.5
59.3 408.0	61.0 259.7	61.0 241.4	308.8	54.8 266.0
114.8 416.4	78.3 266.0	106.9 245.6	320.3	102.4 327.3
122.6 423.9	107.9 341.8	128.4 249.6	397.3	160.0 385.9
233.2 425.4	135.5 381.8	203.5 251.1		
266.0 426.3	140.0 385.9	204.1 261.8		
304.5 427.6				

Self-Guiding Trails	Old Trace Exhibits	Picnic Areas
18.4 261.8	8.7 221.4	375.8 12.1
54.8 266.0	41.5 269.4	382.8 17.5
122.0 275.2	45.7 327.3	385.9 21.7
128.4 283.3	54.8 350.5	397.4 23.6
145.1 330.2	73.5 352.9	400.2 52.4
164.3 363.0	104.5 367.3	401.4 54.8
175.6 407.7	198.6 369.9	403.7 73.5
193.1		

Restroom	Water Station	Water Recreation	Picnic Campgrounds
15.5 160.0	10.3	105.6	10.3 293.0
17.5* 193.1*	123.8	123.8	54.8 304.5
54.8* 233.2*	243.1	243.1	123.8 372.7
102.4 266.0*	404.7	260.0	193.1 385.9
122.6 286.7*	407.7	293.9	243.1
154.3* 327.3*	427.6	327.3	

* Accessible

Visitor Information



Crimson clover along the Natchez Trace Parkway.

Regulations and Safety
Obey posted speed limits. Be alert for animals on the parkway. Avoid fatigue by stopping often and taking walks. • Hunting and the possession of loaded firearms are prohibited. • Special hauling restrictions apply. All business vehicles are prohibited. • Trucks over one-ton-rated capacity are not permitted on the parkway. • Tent and trailer camping are permitted only at designated campgrounds. • All natural, historical, and archeological objects are protected by federal law. • Fire fires only in fireplaces. • Fire ants can inflict very painful bites; do not disturb their mounds. • Poison ivy grows throughout the park; avoid touching its leaves, roots, and vines. • Copperheads, cottonmouths, and rattlesnakes live in the three-state area through which the parkway passes. Be alert when walking. • The Natchez Trace Parkway is a designated bike route. Watch for bikers. • Report all accidents, fires, and emergencies to the nearest park ranger.

Accommodations and Services
There are no motels on the parkway; they are found in towns and cities nearby. Chambers of commerce provide information about their communities' lodging, restaurants, and other services and facilities, including medical care. The Natchez National Historic Site Visitor and Reception Center is the official welcome center for the city of Natchez. The only gas station on the parkway itself is at Jeff Busby, milepost 193.1; gas stations are located in towns near the parkway.

More Information
Natchez Trace Parkway
2680 Natchez Trace Parkway
Tupelo, MS 38804-9718
662-680-4025 or 1-800-305-7417
www.nps.gov/natr (parkway)
www.nps.gov/natt (Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail)

In an emergency, call 1-800-300-PARK (7275).

