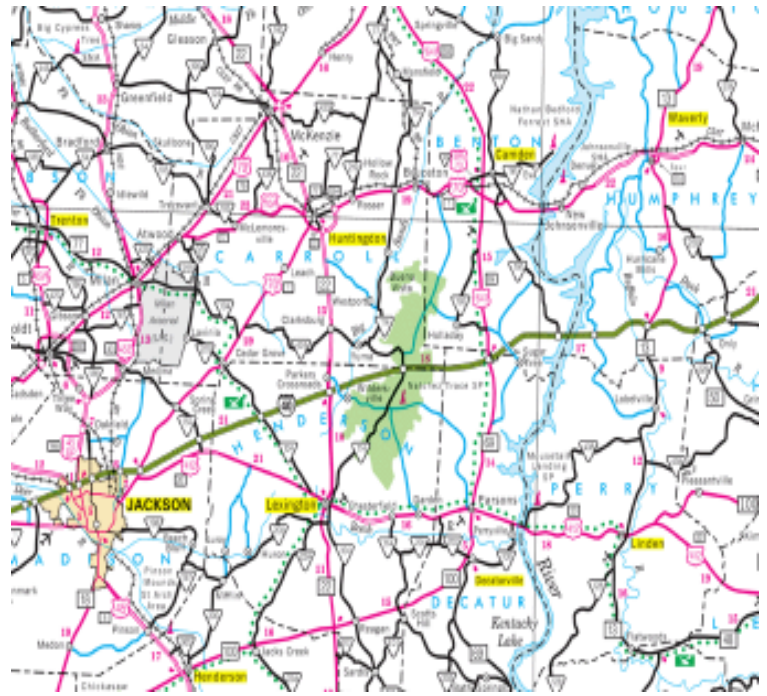


# Natchez Trace

## Background

Natchez Trace State Park is named after a famous wilderness road that traveled from Natchez, Mississippi to Nashville, Tennessee. Early settlers would float down the Mississippi River to put their harvest to market. After reaching Mississippi and selling their harvest, the settlers would return to Tennessee by way of the Natchez Trace Wilderness Road. This famous road was vital to the early success of the farmers of Tennessee.

Natchez Trace Resort State Park is located just off the Natchez Trace Scenic Parkway and provides visitors with historical information as well as outdoor recreation. Natchez Trace is a roughly 48,000 acre forest that has campgrounds, a restaurant, picnicking sites, a ballfield, a regulation pistol firing range, hiking trails, horse trails, four lakes, and a swimming beach.



## Hiking & Camping

There are four “civilized” campgrounds with full hookups, tables, grills, and bathhouses; however, the campgrounds only have twenty tent campsites. There are four backcountry campsites that can hold a maximum of thirty-five people per site. A permit is required for backcountry camping, and campsites are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Natchez Trace has forty-five miles of hiking trails and one overnight backpacking trail, which is the only trail camping is permitted on. The trails are fairly easy with few elevation changes and no major obstacles obstructing the trails. The trails provide opportunities for peace and quiet along the massive lakes that encompass 14,073 acres.

## Side Trips

Natchez Trace State Park also provides troops with a convenient point to stage day trips from. Jackson, Tennessee is only a short drive down I-40. Jackson has several historic attractions such as the Britton Lane Battlefield, where Union and Confederate forces clashed and over 200 Confederate troops were taken prisoner. The historic home of legendary railroad engineer Casey Jones is also located in Jackson, Tennessee. Located outside of Jackson, the Pinson Mounds attract visitors and archeologists alike. Visitors can witness research take place at the archeological site or walk along the trails at Pinson Mounds State Archeological Area. Natchez Trace State Park also provides convenient access to Nathan Bedford Forrest State Historic Area and the Tennessee River Folklife Center.



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