MISSISSIPPI BICYCLING GUIDE

2010 - 2011

With its ever-changing terrain and easily navigated routes, Mississippi has a wealth of variety to offer bicyclists. Ranging from the broad, flat landscapes of the delta to the gently rolling hills, Mississippi's temperate climate is favorable for cycling year-round.

The bicycle, one of the oldest forms of transportation, is recognized as a vehicle by the State of Mississippi. Every person riding a bicycle upon a highway has all of the rights and responsibilities of a driver of a motor vehicle. This includes riding on the right side of the road with the flow of traffic, using hand signals, and obeying stop signs.

Those who wish to bicycle for either transportation or recreation can find excellent county and city maps as well as information on traffic volumes in the "Online Maps" section of GoMDOT.com. Most of the local bicycle clubs have their preferred routes posted to their web sites. These route maps used in conjunction with MDOT maps should provide cyclists with enough information to determine the best routes for traveling to their destination.

Local Clubs:

Gulf Coast Bicycle Club (Biloxi):
www.gulfcoastbicycleclub.com
Jackson Metro Cyclists:
www.jmc.clubexpress.com
Oxford Bike Club:
www.oxfordbikeclub.org
Hub City Cyclists (Hattiesburg):
www.pinebeltpacers.org/HCC/HCC.html
Natchez Bicycle Club:
www.natchezbike.org

Mississippi Groups:

Bike Walk Mississippi:
www.bikewalkmississippi.org
Mississippi Blue's Trail:
www.msbluestrail.org

National Non-Profit Groups:

League of American Bicyclists:
www.bikeleague.org
Adventure Cycling Association:
www.adventurecycling.org

Photo by Ken Lund http://www.flickr.com/photos/kenlund/3931094397/

Mountain Bike Trails

State Parks and Lakes: www.mdwfp.com
Trace State Park - 35 mile multi-use trails • 662-489-2958
Lake Lowndes - 5 mile biking trail • 662-328-2110
Clarkco State Park • 601-776-6651
Elvis Presley Lake - 9 mile biking trail • 662-840-5172

National Forests: www.fs.fed.us/r8/miss/
Homochitto National Forest • 601-384-5876
Clear Springs Trail
Tombigbee National Forest • 662-285-3264
Noxubee Crest Bike Trail
Desoto National Forest • 601-528-6160
Bethel ATV Trail
Delta National Forest • 662-873-6256
50 + miles of multi-use trails

Others
Bonita Lakes • 601-485-1920

Bicycle Touring in Mississippi

The Natchez Trace: www.nps.gov/natr
The oldest and best known touring route in Mississippi is the Natchez Trace Parkway. Over 300 miles of the 444 –mile long Natchez Trace are in Mississippi. This historic roadway has a speed limit of 50 MPH; trucks are not allowed.

The Longleaf Trace: www.mylongleaftrace.org
The Longleaf Trace is Mississippi's longest rail trail with over 40 miles of 10-foot wide asphalt. The trace starts on the campus of The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg and goes through Sumrall, Bassfield, and Carson before reaching the final point in Prentiss.

The Tanglefoot Trail: www.tanglefoottrail.org/index.html
The Tanglefoot Trail is a proposed 40+ mile rail-to-trail conversion to be developed along the abandoned rail corridor that runs from New Albany to Houston, Mississippi in the northeastern part of the state.

The Mississippi River Trail: www.mississippirivertrail.org
The newly developed Mississippi River Trail which goes from Minnesota to Louisiana has approximately 300 miles located in Mississippi. This route uses existing roads to take cyclists through the Mississippi Delta and down a part of the Natchez Trace.

Adventure Cycling Routes: www.adventurecycling.org
Three of the routes on the Adventure Cycling Association's National Bicycle Route Network cross Mississippi. Map 6 of the Southern Tier crosses the southern part of Mississippi. Maps 2 & 3 of the Great River Route bring cyclists through Mississippi on the Natchez Trace from the Tennessee border to Natchez. Maps 1 & 2 of the Underground Railroad crosses the east side of Mississippi going through Columbus, Fulton, and Burnsville before it reaches Tennessee.

Vicksburg Military Park: www.nps.gov/vick
The Vicksburg National Military Park has 15 miles of roads on the historic bluff of Vicksburg. The Park attracts cyclists with the 15 MPH speed limit and the challenging hills.

Photo courtesy of
Allen Richard, Natchez Bicycle Club
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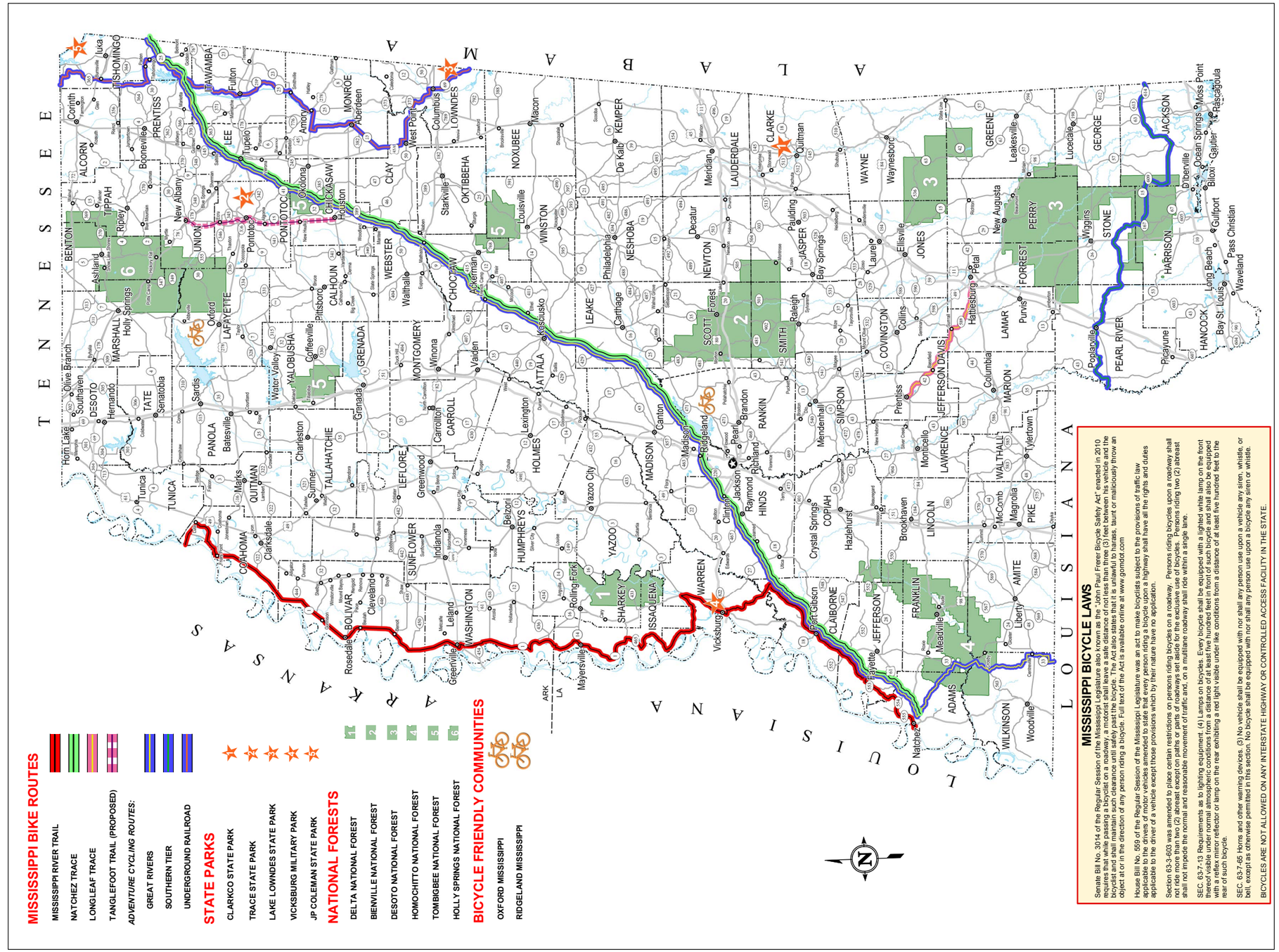
www.gomdot.com/Home/Travel/Bicycling/Home.aspx

Mississippi Development Authority
Division of Tourism Development
P.O. Box 849
Jackson, MS 39205
Ph: (601) 359-3297 • Fax: (601) 359-5757
1-866-SEE-MISS (1-866-733-6477)
www.visitmississippi.org
www.visitmississippi.org/outdoor_rec/outdoor_biking.asp

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks
1505 Eastover Drive
Jackson, MS 39211-6374
Ph: (601) 432-2400
www.mdwfp.com

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www.fs.fed.us/r8/miss/