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
- Vicksburg Bicycle Club: www.vicksburgbicycleclub.org

Mississippi Groups:
- Bike Walk Mississippi: www.bikelinksmississippi.org
- Mississippi Blue’s Trail: www.missbluestrail.org

National Non-Profit Groups:
- League of American Bicyclists: www.bikeleague.org
- Adventure Cycling Association: www.adventurecycling.org

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

National Forests:
- 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
- Berkel ATV Trail
- Delta National Forest • 662-873-6256

Mountain Bike Trails

Stateline Trail:
- 50+ miles of multi-use trails

Others:
- Ronita 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 500 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: 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, Basfield, 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 its 15 MPH speed limit and the challenging hills.
MISSISSIPPI BICYCLE LAWS

Senate Bill No. 3014 of the Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature also known as the “John Paul Frerer Bicycle Safety Act” enacted in 2010 requires that while passing a bicyclist on a roadway, a motorist shall leave a safe distance of not less than three (3) feet between his vehicle and the bicyclist and shall maintain such clearance until safely past the bicycle. The Act also states that it is unlawful to harass, taunt or maliciously throw an object at or in the direction of any person riding a bicycle. Full text of the Act is available online at www.gomdot.com.

House Bill No. 559 of the Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature was an act to make bicyclists subject to the provisions of traffic law applicable to the drivers of motor vehicles amended to state that every person riding a bicycle upon a highway shall have all the rights and duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle except those provisions which by their nature have no application.

Section 63-3-603 was amended to place certain restrictions on persons riding bicycles on a roadway. Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two (2) abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles. Persons riding two (2) abreast shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic and, on a multilane roadway shall ride within a single lane.

SEC. 63-7-13 Requirements as to lighting equipment. (4) Lamps on bicycles. Every bicycle shall be equipped with a lighted white lamp on the front thereof visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of at least five hundred feet in front of such bicycle and shall also be equipped with a reflex mirror reflector or lamp on the rear exhibiting a red light visible under like conditions from a distance of at least five hundred feet to the rear of such bicycle.

SEC. 63-7-65 Horns and other warning devices. (3) No vehicle shall be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a vehicle any siren, whistle, or bell, except as otherwise permitted in this section. No bicycle shall be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a bicycle any siren or whistle.

BICYCLES ARE NOT ALLOWED ON ANY INTERSTATE HIGHWAY OR CONTROLLED ACCESS FACILITY IN THE STATE.

BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

OXFORD MISSISSIPPI
RIDGELAND MISSISSIPPI

STATE PARKS
CLARKCO STATE PARK
TRACE STATE PARK
LAKE LOWNDES STATE PARK
VICKSBURG MILITARY PARK
JP COLEMAN STATE PARK

MISSISSIPPI BIKE ROUTES
MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRAIL
NATCHEZ TRACE
LONGLEAF TRACE
TANGLEFOOT TRAIL (PROPOSED)

ADVENTURE CYCLING ROUTES:
GREAT RIVERS
SOUTHERN TIER
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

NATIONAL FORESTS
DELTA NATIONAL FOREST
BIENVILLE NATIONAL FOREST
DESMO NATIONAL FOREST
HOMOCHITTO NATIONAL FOREST
TOMBIGBEE NATIONAL FOREST
HOLLY SPRINGS NATIONAL FOREST

Mississippi Contacts
Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator
State Planning Engineer
P.O. Box 1850
Jackson, MS 39215-1850
Ph: (601)359-7685
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

National Forests in Mississippi
100 West Capitol Street, Suite 1141
Jackson, MS 39269
Ph: (601) 965-1600
www.fs.fed.us/r8/miss/