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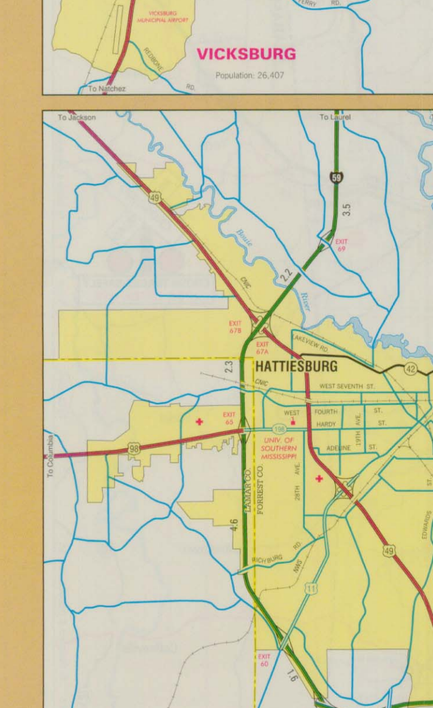

OFFICIAL STATE HIGHWAY MAP 2006

Explore Mississippi's Roadways...

In an attempt to preserve, enhance and protect the state's intrinsic resources for visitors and residents of the state, several Mississippi highways have been designated as scenic byways through both the state and National Scenic Byways Program. The following roadways have been recognized based on their archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic qualities:

Natchez Trace Parkway

(All-American Road) Stretching for 312 miles, the Mississippi portion of the Natchez Trace is the longest portion of this 445-mile-long Byway. Filled with sites that share history with both the Chickasaw that first lived in the area and the remnants of the Civil War that occurred later, each mile along this historic route is well worth the drive. With striking forests such as the Homochitto or the Tombigbee that are well known for recreational opportunities, not only history but outdoor adventure awaits you along the Trace.

To get a taste of this history, visit the Grand Village — the center of activity for the Natchez Indians from 1682-1729; the Chickasaw Council House in Pontotok; or a restored Chickasaw Village which was once the capital of the Chickasaw Nation. On the way, visit many Native American burial mounds including Emerald Mound built in 1400, the second largest of its kind. With the history of these various cultures represented by villages, museums, and monuments, the Natchez Trace promises to be several hundred miles of intriguing towns, beautiful forests and a wealth of history.

Lower Mississippi Great River Road

(National Scenic Byway) Skirting the Mississippi River in the extreme southwest corner of the state, this Highway 61 byway, stretching from Onward to Woodville, covers some of the most historically important terrain in the country, including 26 points of interest designated on the National Historic Registry. Covering over a thousand years of history from Native American civilizations to remnants of the Antebellum South to Civil War-torn battlefields and ruins, the byway takes you to landmarks which represent the nation-shaping events that transpired along the vital shores of the Mississippi.

Visit Vicksburg Military Park, home to one of the most important military actions in the war, the ensuing campaign for Vicksburg in 1863, and walk the hallowed battlefield grounds and the largest Civil War cemetery in the country. Examine the extensive collection of monuments by artists of the day. Stop in at Grand Gulf State Park and walk among the headstones of fallen soldiers and imagine the cacophony of mortar fire that filled the sky during that crucial naval battle.

Mississippi Delta Great River Road

(Mississippi Scenic Byway) A journey along the Great River Road opens the door to Mississippi's history. Often referred to as "Blues Alley," Highway 61 takes you south from Memphis into the Mississippi Delta. Here, centuries of Mississippi River floods have created some of the world's richest farmland. Depending on the time of the year, you'll see cotton, rice and soybeans being planted, grown, or harvested along the way.

Fraught with history, the Great River Road gives you a chance to step into the past to get a taste of the glorious antebellum period. At Vicksburg National Military Park, the 47-day Battle and Siege of Vicksburg is commemorated in 1,800 acres of hills, trenches and bluffs.

You can also get a taste of culture along the way as the the people of the Delta are reflected in some of the world's richest and most soulful music—the blues. Among the most famous blues legends are Mississippi natives B.B. King and Muddy Waters.

Grand Gulf - Raymond Scenic Byway

(Mississippi Scenic Byway) A marvelous drive into Mississippi's past, this virtually pristine and historic road runs 50-miles from Grand Gulf Military Monument on the Mississippi River to the Raymond Military Park. Interpret Mississippi history along Highway 18 as it connects two military parks between the cities of Port Gibson and Raymond, both of which are committed to historic, cultural, and scenic preservation.

Country Music Trail

The trail begins in Meridian, the birthplace of Jimmie Rogers, the "Father of Country Music." Tour the museum that honors this talented individual and stop by the Peavey Electronics Visitor Center and see the world's largest makers of amplifiers, keyboards and guitars in action. Head north on Highway 45 towards Fulton, the birthplace of Tammy Wynette. On the way, hum the tunes of other country music stars that are native Mississippians: Conway Twitty, Charley Pride, Marty Stuart, Faith Hill and LeAnn Rimes.

Rock And Roll Highway

Beginning in Columbus, home of famous playwright Tennessee Williams, head north on Highway 45 to Tupelo and tour the Elvis Presley Birthplace Center, complete with a museum and chapel. On your way up to Graceland along Highway 78, tour the Delta Blues Archive on the campus of the University of Mississippi in Oxford. While there, tour Rowan Oak, the home of William Faulkner.

Rules of the Road

The speed limit on Mississippi interstate highways is 70 mph, unless otherwise posted. The state highway maximum speed limit is 65 mph on four-lane divided highways and 55 mph on two-lane highways. Crash helmets are required for all persons traveling by motorcycle/motor scooter. Mandatory seat belt laws require that drivers and front-seat passengers wear seat belts and children eight years old and under must be placed in an age appropriate restraint or protection device.

Gun Permit Law

Firearms may be carried through the state in your vehicle but cannot be carried on your body. Firearms must be unloaded and outside the immediate reach of the driver or passengers and must be transported separately from ammunition. Special provisions exist for transporting firearms when traveling on the Natchez Trace Parkway.

Recreational Vehicles and Trailers

Recreational vehicle lengths may not exceed 40 feet. The legal length for a travel trailer, including the motor vehicle, is 50 feet. The legal width may not exceed 8.5 feet and the height may not exceed 13.5 feet.

Welcome Centers

Mississippi Welcome Centers, conveniently located on major incoming routes, offer visitors courtesy in-state accommodation reservation services, TDD phones for the hearing impaired, picnic areas and restrooms. Look for this symbol:

For emergency assistance, please call the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol toll-free in Mississippi: 1.800.843.5352, 1.800.843.5354, or Cellular *47 (*HP)

Outside Mississippi: 601.987.1212

Please help us
Keep Mississippi Beautiful
by keeping our roads litter free.
TOLL FREE: 1.800.545.3764

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Welcome

William Minor
Northern District

Wayne Brown
Southern District, Chairman

Dick Hall
Central District

Welcome to Mississippi, the state renowned for its southern hospitality. On behalf of the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), we hope you enjoy your travels.

We are responsible for Mississippi's transportation system, one of the best in the nation. Traveling through our towns and recreational facilities is made easy by a well-connected network of roads, bridges, regional airports, and rail lines.

We invite you to take the road less traveled. Enjoy the nightlife of Jackson — the state's capital, the blues of the Mississippi Delta, the spicy cuisine of south Mississippi and the historic city of Natchez with its beautifully preserved antebellum homes.

Please visit our web site at www.goMDOT.com, where information is available to assist you in your journey. Choose from over 500 city, county and state maps to help you get where you want to go.

Questions? Feel free to e-mail our office at: comments@mdot.state.ms.us. We'd like to hear from you. Have a safe trip, and remember to buckle up!

— Mississippi Transportation Commission

Butch Brown
Executive Director

MDOT
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
www.GoMDOT.com

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