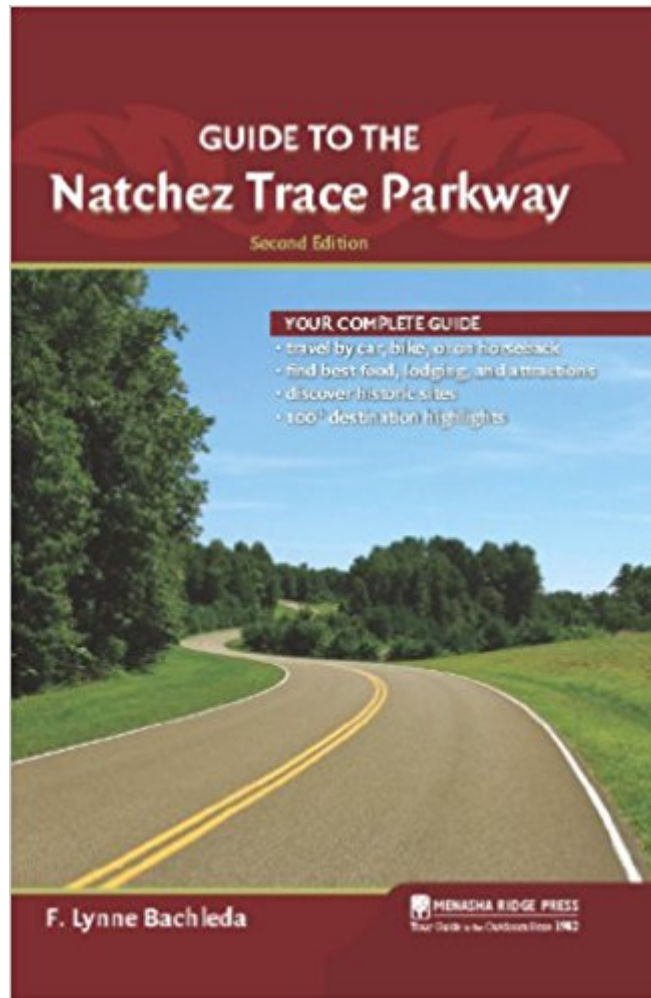




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# Guide To The Natchez Trace Parkway



## Synopsis

A unique journey through the heart of the Deep South, The Natchez Trace Parkway traverses 444 miles from Natchez, Mississippi, across the mighty Tennessee River in northwestern Alabama, to its northern terminus just shy of Nashville, Tennessee. For travelers planning a visit or already on the way, Guide to the Natchez Trace Parkway will help them discover all that the historic byway has to offer. From milepost to milepost, discover an ancient trail blazed hundreds of years ago by Native Americans that, in the early nineteenth century, became a trekking road for river boaters, who had sold their goods and vessels and were now headed back to central Tennessee and beyond. Visitors can drive the entire length, sampling the hundreds of scenic areas, restaurants, inns, exhibits, recreation areas, and other sites along the way. Motorcyclists will want to cruise the entire length as well, but will especially savor the hundreds of miles of meandering road between Natchez and Tupelo. For an even more intimate experience, Guide to the Natchez Trace Parkway shows where to hike on over 60 miles of National Scenic Trail, where to camp, and gives tips on bicycling the parkway's scenic length.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A singular book that has captured the Natchez Trace with beauty and clarity. Bachleda masterfully guides readers through the many twists and turns of this glorious old road." -- Southern Living  
"Lynne Bachleda's fabulous Guide to the Natchez Trace Parkway is an indispensable companion for contemporary travelers on the Trace, from hikers and bikers to history buffs and

practically any driver between Nashville and Natchez." -- John Egerton, award-winning Southern author

Through the heart of the Deep South, The Natchez Trace Parkway traverses 444 miles from Natchez, Mississippi, to its northern terminus near Nashville, Tennessee. Whether you are planning a visit or are already on your way, the Guide to the Natchez Trace Parkway greatly enhances the drive and ensures that you don't miss the many discoveries that await. With the Guide to the Natchez Trace Parkway you can drive the route's entire length amid rolling hills and historic sites while enjoying the best regional food, lodging, and attractions. For those who want to experience the terrain on foot, bicycle, or horseback, this volume offers practical advice and identifies trail locations. Whether exploring a few miles or a few hundred miles, you'll enjoy them most with the Guide to the Natchez Trace Parkway. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Having hiked a few sections of the Natchez Trace, and driven the Natchez Trace Parkway, during different visits (from Seattle) to the South, now that I live here, I want to hike it "all the way through, but in segments. After reading this book, I am more convinced I need to do this! The author put a lot of thought into the organization of this book. Informative maps and photographs highlight the various sections. It covers "The Trace Top Twenty", but goes into detail about the lesser known places to see on and along the Trace. It includes a great introduction to the Trace, How to travel the Trace "all the sights and wonders to see, and the Nuts and Bolts of travelling the Trace "how to use the mileposts, park rules, timing your trip, weather and what to wear, safety, natural dangers, and gas, food and lodging; The many ways to travel the trace "motorized, hiking, bicycling, horseback, kayak/canoe and accessibility for wheelchairs, etc.; Sightseeing by Mileposts, and the Chronology of the Trace. Additional resources are available, including an appendix with even more resources. The size of this book is just the right size to use on the trail. The pages are big enough to be able to see map features without being too big to carry in a cargo pant pocket or backpack. It is fitted with a cool water-resistant cover! Genius! I highly recommend this book if you are simply interested in the history of the Natchez Trace, or you are serious about hiking parts or all of it. It's one of the best guide books in my library.

This is a valuable resource book that I would highly recommend to anyone, especially if you never were on the Parkway before and want to spend a day or two and see the highlights, what ever

interests you the most. There are so many places (over 100) you could stop and look at that it could easily take four days to see all of them. With this book you can narrow it down, during your drive or have it figured out in advance. There are maps of the parkway with mile post (MP) numbers that correspond with the MP numbers throughout the text in the book. There is a list of what they consider the top twenty places to stop at, hiking trails, horseback trails (you supply your own horses), description of a bike trail, Table of Contents, Index, categorized lists, historical facts, some interesting historical stories, lists of best food places, lodging options including camping, etc.

If you are a fan of the Natchez Trace, you are probably gratified (as I am) when a new book becomes available. Based on the favorable reviews I ordered it and was not disappointed. The first physical property you notice about the book is that, though it is a soft-cover, the cover is stiffer than most paperback books and looks to be coated with a material that is water-resistant. This makes it an excellent book to take along with you as you travel, as opposed to a book that may be damaged easily by the elements. The author quotes other works extensively throughout, which I consider a strength for the simple reason that it allows you to sample the works of other authors, therefore appraising what other books you may wish to read. Additionally, the pictures are among the best of those that I have found of any book on the Trace. Finally, I found the organization of the book to be very user-friendly, and it accommodates the reader whether your purpose is to use it on-site as a guide or as a tool to learn more about the Trace. The one flaw that this book has (and it is significant) IMHO, is in the choice of fonts and printing backgrounds. In some areas (Such as the chapter that outlines the chronology of the Trace) you almost have to get out a magnifying glass to read the text. In still other passages (encompassing a significant portion of the book), the text is printed in black on a maroon background; these matching shades are unfortunate as they can cause an unnecessarily difficult time in reading these otherwise interesting sections of the book. All-told, I would buy this book again, but if it is reprinted I hope the above is corrected so that future readers will find this book even more enjoyable than it currently is.

Having just returned with my wife from a fabulous trip along the entire 444-mile-long Natchez Trace Parkway I can highly recommend this book. "Guide to the Natchez Trace Parkway" by F. Lynne Bachleda is an excellent resource both for planning and enjoying your trip. Having traveled widely in all 50 states and many countries, and having read countless guidebooks, I can say that this one is definitely better than most. It is accurate, easy to read, and chock full of information that is both practical and interesting. The descriptions of historical and natural features along the Parkway

greatly enhanced our enjoyment of the trip. Even the printing and binding of the book are superior. I would recommend that those traveling the Parkway do so from South to North if possible. Following the Trace in either direction would be fun, however most travel during the heyday of the Natchez Trace was from South to North and the guidebook also follows it in that direction. A person could drive the entire Parkway in one day, but he/she would miss a lot. We took three days, and five would not have been too much time to fully explore all the many fascinating natural and historical points of interest along the way. Both the Guidebook and the Parkway itself surpassed our high expectations.

We found this guide to be extremely informative during our recent travel of the northern half of the Natchez Trace. It describes each historical location (with only a very few exceptions) and allows you to predetermine your travel plans milepost by milepost along the Trace. It also describes important historical sites which are nearby the Trace which allow you to possibly incorporate these into your travel plans. Reading the book prior to travel enables you to really get the most out of your trip. We highly recommend it for anyone who plans to enjoy this national park.

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