

Tracing the Civil War

The American Civil War along the Natchez Trace: Mississippi



Finding Civil War Places Along the Natchez Trace

Traveling the Natchez Trace Parkway today provides many opportunities to learn about a wide variety of subjects. If one is interested in Civil War history, you have to look a little harder and travel a few miles off the Parkway to discover those places. This section is intended as a guide for travelers willing to stray from the Parkway and also as a help for teachers looking to incorporate Civil War history into a field trip to the Natchez Trace Parkway.

A Civil War Trek: Tupelo Area

Our journey will begin at the Parkway Visitor Center near Tupelo, Mississippi. Here you can orient yourself, pick up maps, and speak with rangers who can offer advice and information.

Confederate Grave Site at the Old Trace



Travel north from the Visitor Center 3.3 miles to the Old Trace marker. Pullover here and take a short hike up this portion of the historic original trace to find 13 graves of unknown Confederate soldiers.



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Battle of Tupelo/Harrisburg: Site 1



The Natchez Trace Parkway maintains the one acre site that commemorates one of Mississippi's last engagements of the Civil War: the Battle of Tupelo or Harrisburg. The battle was a two day fight (July 14-15, 1864), the Park Service site is placed on the location of the first day.



To get to this site from the Trace: exit the Parkway at Highway 6 and 278. Travel east 1.3 miles to the site. Parking is non-existent and traffic is heavy in this portion of Tupelo so be cautious if attempting to disembark here.

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Battle of Tupelo/Harrisburg: Site 2

A private group has purchased a parcel of land on the site of the second day's fight.



To get to this site from the Parkway: exit the Trace at McCullough Boulevard near mile-marker 262. Turn left on McCullough and proceed west .5 mile to Mt. Vernon Road. Turn right on Mt. Vernon and proceed north 1.6 miles, the site will be on the right.

