

discover MISSISSIPPI

HOLLY SPRINGS . . . A town that prospered in the great cotton boom and survived 61 raids during the War Between the States. Some fine antebellum houses are open to visitors each spring during the Garden Pilgrimage, and are attractive to drive past in any season. The white columned Water Place, home of Grant's wife during the Union occupation of 1862, was spared by General Van Dorn's raiders.

Montrose, another historic home, is now the headquarters of the Holly Springs Garden Club.

TUPelo . . . Headquarters for the Natchez Trace Parkway in Mississippi and focal point for the entire parkway system. At the ranger station, parkway naturalists explain the significance of the Trace down through the years. North of Tupelo is Brice's Crossroads National Battlefield. A marker and maps explain the events of June 1864, when Nathan Bedford Forrest scored a tactical victory against superior Union forces.

There is also a National Battlefield site in Tupelo where Federal troops sent by Sherman clashed with Confederate forces under Stephen D. Lee and Forrest.

OXFORD . . . This city was burned during the War Between the States, but distinguished examples of early architecture have survived. The focal point is the beautiful University of Mississippi campus, with the Lyceum Building in its center.

In a secluded cedar grove adjoining the University grounds is the home of the late prize-winning author William Faulkner.

The Mary Bule Museum is well worth visiting for its displays on Faulkner as well as its art gallery.

CLARKSDALE . . . An important distribution center of the Mississippi "Delta" lands. This quaint Delta town is also the site of plantations once belonging to Nathan Bedford Forrest and Andrew Jackson, as well as several other antebellum homes.

An old trail, known as Charley's Trace from across the states of Florida, Georgia, and Alabama, found its way through Mississippi to the Mississippi River near Clarksdale. Research by leading historians has concluded that DeSoto discovered the Mississippi River at this spot in Coahoma County. That spot is appropriately marked, as is the site of Yazoo Pass, a pass through which Grant sent gunboats in a futile attempt to attack Vicksburg from the rear.

GREENWOOD . . . Mississippi's largest cotton market is here with three large cotton compresses and two oil mills. Outside of Greenwood is the site of Fort Pemberton. This Confederate fort halted Grant's gunboats bound for Vicksburg in 1863 with the sinking of the Union gunboat Star of the West, which made the Yazoo River impassable.

GREENVILLE . . . This thriving port city is one of the largest towns in the Delta. Here are many antebellum homes and Indian mounds in the Mississippi Valley. Built by ancestors of the Chickasaw and the Choctaw tribes, Winterville Mounds consist of 17 mounds around a central plaza. There is a museum at the site which contains artifacts and relics that have been uncovered as well as interesting information concerning the early Indians who built them.



OFFICIAL MAP
Mississippi State Highway Department
William L. Waller, Governor
William F. Winter, Lt. Governor
Mississippi Highway Commissioners
Herschel G. Jumper, Northern District
Sam W. Waggoner, Central District
W. H. Poyon, Southern District

Linda South
1973

OFFICIAL HIGHWAY MAP
For Free Distribution

CLINTON . . . It was in the Old Chapel at Mississippi College that General Grant headquartered for two days in 1863. The Union Army used the ground floor of the beautiful old chapel as a stable and the upper floor as a hospital.

VICKSBURG . . . Once the stronghold of the Confederacy, this quaint river port is now the site of a National Military Park. The first stop in the park is the Headquarters and Museum. Here, maps of the park are available. The museum displays many maps, pictures, flags, uniforms and relics, and there is a recorded lecture explaining the Battle of Vicksburg. There are more than 2,000 monuments and markers to point out the locations of various units, and many states have built imposing structures to commemorate their soldiers.

From the park go to the Old Court House museum in downtown Vicksburg.

Next stop is the steamer, "Sargis", tied up at the waterfront. The largest sternwheel riverboat ever to ply the river's waters is now a museum and showboat. "Gold in the Hills" is a real melodrama, is presented regularly, and it is an evening of tossing peanuts at the villain and cheering for the heroine, Little Nell.

On the north edge of Vicksburg is a National Cemetery with an Indian mound in the center; this is also the beginning of the rich Mississippi Delta lands.

RAYMOND . . . The old courthouse, with its wrought iron fence will draw your attention upon first sight. The monument in the yard recalls the arrival of the Union Army. The courthouse once held 10,000 Union soldiers at bay. This battle caused General Grant to change his master plan for the Vicksburg Campaign.

PORT GIBSON . . . This unusual little town was preserved during the Civil War because General Grant said it was too pretty to burn. Be sure to stop at the Presbyterian Church and get a close look at the unique hand painting the way to Heaven at the top of its steeple; the chandeliers inside are from the famed riverboat, the Robert E. Lee.

Several old homes are open to the public and there are trail markers for sites nearby. The Port Gibson Historical Society will guide you eight miles northwest to the Grand Gulf Military Park. Once the scene of Civil War engagements, Grand Gulf is now a state historical site. The town itself has long been deserted and lies mostly in ruins. An interesting museum, an ancient cemetery and other points of interest are touching reminders of the vanished town, once a thriving port in the 1830's.

West of Port Gibson on a well marked county road, 22 Gothic columns stand in stately splendor. Windsor, a five story home with an observatory on top, was spared by Union forces because it was so beautiful, only to burn in 1890 by the carelessness of a house guest.

Only a few miles from Windsor, at Lorman, is Alcorn A & M College, the first state and federally supported Negro college in the country. A road near the campus leads to Rodney, a busy port that became a ghost town when the Mississippi River changed course.

NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY . . . On this beautiful section of national highway, there are several historical and scenic markers. Mt. Locust, one of the oldest inns along the Trace has been preserved. Just off the Lower Trace, you may wish to visit Springfield Plantation, the site of Andrew Jackson's marriage to Rachel Robards.

Another interesting site along this portion of the Trace is Emerald Mound, a fascinating temple mound built by an unknown tribe of Indians over 600 years ago. The mound covers eight acres and provides a majestic view of the countryside from its peak.

WASHINGTON . . . This is one of the oldest towns in the state and the first Mississippi Convention was held here on the campus of Jefferson Military Academy. Also on the campus is an old oak tree under which Aaron Burr was tried.

NATCHEZ . . . Several of the more than 30 antebellum mansions are open to visitors in this city where the Old South still lives. Rosalie is the state headquarters of the DAR.

Longwood mansion, never completed, is a reminder of the days when Natchez had more millionaires than any other town or city in the nation.

Visit to "Natchez Under the Hill" will give you an idea of what the riverbank settlement below the town must have been like in the lawless, boisterous riverboat days.

Each spring, Natchez holds its annual Pilgrimage, with 30 lovely homes of classic design, exquisitely furnished with rare antiques, on tour.



Mississippi State Capitol Building, Jackson

discover MISSISSIPPI

Welcome to Mississippi... "The Hospitality State"

MISSISSIPPI'S HISTORY

Mississippi's past is a romantic one, dating back to 1540, when Hernando DeSoto and his soldiers marched through what is now Mississippi in search for gold. Instead he discovered the mighty Mississippi River.

Since that time seven flags have flown over the State. The flags of Spain, France, England, the United States, the Republic of West Florida, the Confederate States, and the Mississippi State flag have been unfurled overhead.

In 1669, d'Iberville, a Frenchman, founded the first permanent settlement in the lower Mississippi Valley at Old Biloxi. The purpose was to gain control of the Mississippi River which was felt to be the key to the control of the North American continent.

In 1716 the French established Fort Rosalie at Natchez as an outpost of their coastal colony. Mississippi was ceded to the British by the Treaty of Paris in 1763. In 1781 the Spanish returned to Mississippi and set up their government at Natchez.

Mississippi became a territory of the United States in 1798 with Natchez as the capital. Washington, a village near Natchez, was the capital between 1802 and 1817. After the War of 1812, Mississippi petitioned for statehood. On December 10, 1817, Mississippi became the twentieth state of the Union. Natchez again became the capital but in 1820, the seat of government was moved to Columbia and then later to Monticello. In 1821 the legislature selected LeFleur's Bluff on the Pearl River as the state capital and changed the name to Jackson in honor of General Andrew Jackson. Prior to settlement by the white man, the principal Indian tribes inhabiting Mississippi were the Choctaw, Chickasaw and Natchez. After a series of wars and treaties, these tribes scattered or became extinct with the exception of a small band of Choctaws remaining at Philadelphia. From 1830 to 1850 Mississippi grew into a great, wealthy cotton empire bringing new people and commerce to the river cities, the Delta and Jackson.

On January 9, 1861, Mississippi became the second state to secede from the Union. During the War Between the States, Mississippi played a pivotal role in the western campaigns. Grant's campaign for Vicksburg, and important battles at luka, Corinth, Holly Springs, Chickasaw Bayou, Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson and Champion's Hill blazed a trail of death and ruin across the State. Then came Brice's Crossroads and Harrisburg, then surrender—and after the war, "Reconstruction."

In 1890, Mississippi's present constitution was adopted. The State pioneered in school consolidation, moved forward economically, and, in the middle 1930's, constructed a highway system second to none.

During this surge of progress, vast timber and soil resources were recognized, oil was discovered, and industry became the watchword, tourist attractions, historic charm, virgin fishing and hunting lands, and sunny beach resorts, came into their own.

Today, Mississippi says welcome to industry with a vast resource of raw materials and manpower; to the tourist with a year-around variety to appeal to every taste.

A FRIENDLY WELCOME

Visitors are cordially welcomed to Mississippi by its more than 2,000,000 friendly citizens.

Thousands of miles of modern highways have been built to make travel fast, efficient and pleasant to motorists.

The responsibility for building and maintaining this fine system of roads is delegated to the Mississippi State Highway Commission. This Commission is a three-man elective body operating under authority granted by the State Legislature.

Mississippi's present highway administration evolved over the years as highways and highway transportation grew in importance. In the early years, all roads, bridges, and ferries in the State were under the jurisdiction of the County Board of Supervisors. It was under this system that the first concrete highway south of the Ohio River was built in Lee County in 1912.

In 1916, the legislature created the State Highway Commission, authorizing it to work with the County Boards of Supervisors in an advisory capacity in the construction of roads. A 1920 law broadened powers of the Commission, and in 1922, the State's first gasoline tax was levied.

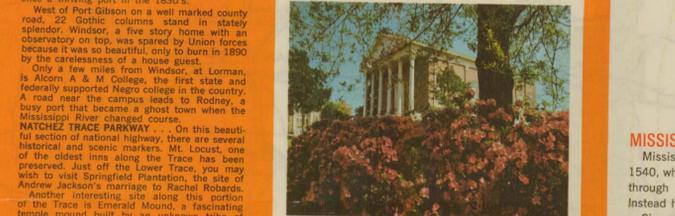
Mississippi's present system of roads and highways began taking shape in 1924 with a constitutional amendment permitting the legislature to designate highways for a state system and placing them under the jurisdiction of the Highway Commission.

In May, 1972, the Mississippi Legislature passed one of the largest public works programs ever to be undertaken in Mississippi.

The program calls for \$600 million in additional funds to construct approximately 1,500 miles of four-lane highways in almost every geographic area of the state.

A bright future lies ahead for Mississippi highways. The state is now nearing the completion of its 682 miles of Interstate.

Mississippi welcomes the countless thousands of visitors who come from every section of the country each year and hopes their visit will be a pleasant one.



discover MISSISSIPPI



PICAYUNE . . . This town is booming because of its proximity to the NASA Mississippi Test Facility. Located south of Picayune, the huge NASA facility is a national center for space shuttle craft and is a center for space/environmental research. The Central Building contains interesting space exhibits and tours may be arranged by appointment.

GULFPORT . . . The Port of Gulfport, with its modern banana terminal, will attract your attention as you arrive in the coastal city. Marine Life, a large sea aquarium, is located nearby and houses a wide variety of undersea creatures. From Gulfport you can board a boat for Ship Island and ride 12 miles out from shore to Fort Massachusetts. The historic Fort, started by the United States before the Civil War, was occupied by the Confederacy for a short time during the War Between the States. The fort was the scene of the first hostile battle between Union and Confederate forces in July, 1861. It was abandoned by the Confederacy in 1861 to save the 13 cannon, and permitted Union Admiral Farragut to seize it along with New Orleans and Biloxi.

Enroute to Biloxi on Highway 90 you will pass golf courses and every type of motel and hotel accommodation imaginable. A stop at Beauvoir will surely be one of the highlights of any trip, for this last home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis has been preserved much as it was in his day. In addition to the house proper and its furnishings, there is a museum in the lower quarters. Outside, in separate buildings are Davis' study and his daughter's playhouse.

Kessler Air Force Base, the Shrimp fleet in Back Bay, the Biloxi Lighthouse built in 1846, and old cemeteries and churches are other Biloxi attractions.

PASCAGOULA . . . From the highway you may observe ocean-going freighters newly built by Litton or the loading of grain at the Pascagoula River Grain Elevator, the tallest building in the state.

Located nearby is the Old Spanish Fort, the oldest building in the Mississippi Valley. The Fort is now a museum and French explorers.

HATTIESBURG/LAUREL . . . John L. Sullivan defeated Jack Kilrain for the heavyweight championship in a 75 round bout in 1889. This was the last official bare-knuckle fight in the United States, and the site, just south of Hattiesburg, is marked.

North of Hattiesburg, at Laurel, is the Rogers Museum and Library, one of the finest small art galleries in the country. There are several originals by master artists as well as an authentic suit of armor.

MERIDIAN . . . Virtually destroyed by Union General William Sherman during the Civil War, who once boasted "Meridian no longer exists", the historic town is now a modern center.

Merryhope, a gracious antebellum home built by the daughter of Meridian's founder, is being restored and is available for tours.

Jimmie Rodgers, the grandfather of today's country music, was native of Meridian and an interesting monument erected in his honor is located at Highland Park.

North of Meridian at Daleville, is the grave of famous Pioneer Indian fighter Sam Dale. A statue of Dale has been erected and a park is maintained in his honor.

McCain Naval Air Station, the Scottish Rite Temple, and Rose Hill cemetery—where the last King and Queen of the Gypsies in the United States are buried, are among other attractions.

