

NATCHEZ



Perched on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, Natchez is a hidden jewel of the South with a rich culture and heritage shaped by people of African, French, British, and Spanish descent. It's first inhabitants, however, were the Natchez Indians, for whom the city was named. Although it is a little out of the way, Natchez is often included in Louisiana tours due to its historic importance.

Before the American Civil War, a large number of wealthy Southern cotton planters came to settle here. Many of these antebellum mansions have survived and form a major part of the city's architecture and identity.



LONGWOOD VILLA

WHAT TO DO

GRAND VILLAGE OF THE NATCHEZ INDIANS

The Grand Village was the main ceremonial center of the Natchez Indians between 1682 and 1729. The 128-acre site features three ceremonial mounds as well as a reconstructed Natchez Indian house and a museum. During the height of power at the Grand Village, the French explored the region and began to make settlements. Relations between the French and the Natchez quickly deteriorated until, in 1729, the Natchez were forced to abandon their homeland. The site was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1964 and a Mississippi Landmark in 1985. Admission is free.

400, JEFFERSON DAVIS BOULEVARD, NATCHEZ

601-446-6502

WWW.NPS.GOV/NR/TRAVEL/MOUNDS/GRA.HTM

LONGWOOD VILLA★★★

This superb octagonal mansion was designed by architect **Samuel Sloan** for **Haller and Julia Nutt**, members of Natchez's planter elite.

Construction began in 1860, but came to a halt in 1861 when the Civil War broke out and the workers left for home. As a result, only 9 rooms on the basement floor were completed. Despite its **unfinished state**, the house is magnificent with its many Corinthian columns. The property was named a National Historic Landmark in 1971. Be sure to visit the **circular observatory** for a panoramic view of the city.

140, LOWER WOODVILLE ROAD, NATCHEZ / 601-446-6631
WWW.VISITNATCHEZ.ORG

STANTON HALL★★

In 1857, **Frederick Stanton**, an Irish immigrant and cotton broker, began construction on the house of his dreams: a Greek Revival style mansion designed by the great **Thomas Rose**. Stanton named the house "**Belfast**" but died just a few months after its completion in 1859. His family lived there until 1894, when it became home to the **Stanton College for Young Ladies** and was renamed **Stanton Hall**. Declared a National Historic Landmark in 1974, the house is furnished with

original Stanton Family pieces and offers a glimpse into the life of a wealthy Natchez family of the time.

401, HIGH STREET, NATCHEZ
601-445-5151

WWW.VISITNATCHEZ.ORG

ROSALIE MANSION★★

In 1716 the French built a fort on the bluffs of Natchez and named it Rosalie in honor of the **Countess of Pontchartrain**. Just over one hundred years later, **Peter Little** purchased a portion of that land on which to build his home, where he lived with his wife Eliza. After Peter's death in 1857, **Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Wilson** acquired the estate at auction. **General Walter Gresham** requisitioned the house in 1863 to use as Union Army headquarters. After the occupation, Fanny, the Wilsons' adopted daughter, lived on the estate with her husband and their 6 children. In 1938 their daughters Annie and Rebecca sold Rosalie to the **Mississippi State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution**, but continued to live there for the rest of their lives. 45 minutes to 1 hour guided tours are offered every

hour, all year round, between 10 am (first tour) to 3 pm (last tour).

100, ORLEANS STREET, NATCHEZ
601-446-5676
ROSALIEMANSION.COM

MELROSE PLANTATION★

This Greek Revival style mansion was built in 1841 for the family of **John T. McMurran**. The Melrose estate features, among others, slaves quarters and other outbuildings such as stables and a kitchen building that provide a glimpse of the pre-Civil War lifestyle in the southern United States. A tour of the house and gardens will help you understand the role played by slaves and their «masters» in an estate setting. Today the 80-hectare estate is owned by the National Park Service. Guided tours are possible regularly.

1, MELROSE-MONTEBELLO PARKWAY, NATCHEZ

601-446-8601

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ROSALIE MANSION



MELROSE PLANTATION



WILLIAM JOHNSON HOUSE

William Johnson, a **free black barber** and former slave, used bricks from buildings destroyed in the tornado of 1840 to construct his house. The family lived in the upper stories of the house, while the first floor was rented out to merchants. The William Johnson House, renovated by the **National Park Service**, allows visitors to learn more about the life of free African Americans in the pre-Civil War South. Surprising fact: though a former slave himself, Johnson owned sixteen slaves at the time of his death. You will also learn about the **extensive diary** kept by William Johnson from 1835-1851 which detailed everyday life in Natchez.

210, STATE STREET, NATCHEZ
 601-445-5345
WWW.NPS.GOV/NATC/LEARN/HISTORYCULTURE/PLACES.HTM

MAGNOLIA HALL

Magnolia Hall was constructed in 1858 by **Thomas Henderson**, a wealthy merchant, planter and cotton broker. The home is one of the finest examples in Natchez of the Greek Revival style. The name of the house was inspired by the plaster magnolia blossoms incorporated into the design of the parlor ceiling. During a bombardment of Natchez during the Civil War, a shell hit the soup tureen in Magnolia Hall's kitchen. The **Natchez Garden Club** now owns Magnolia Hall and has restored it. Rooms on the main floor are filled with mid-nineteenth century antiques, while rooms on the upper floors contain a costume collection complete with crinolines, corsets and mannequins dressed in pre-war clothing.

215, SOUTH PEARL STREET, NATCHEZ
 601-443-9065
NATCHEZGARDENCLUB.ORG/TOURS

ST. MARY BASILICA ★

Recognized as an **architectural masterpiece**, this house of worship, whose construction began in 1842, quickly acquired an important role as the cathedral of the newly established Diocese of Natchez. In 1998, Rome granted St. Mary the elevated status of minor basilica. Notice the magnificent prayerful setting in the midst of colored carvings, painted ceiling, and ribbed vaulting.

105, S. UNION STREET, NATCHEZ
 601-445-5616
WWW.STMARYBASILICA.ORG

NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY

The **Natchez Trace Parkway** is a **444-mile** road that passes through **three states**.

Mileposts run from south to north, beginning in **Natchez, Mississippi (milepost 0)** and ending near **Nashville, Tennessee (milepost 444)**.

Once a **commercial route**, the **Natchez Trace Parkway** is now a **recreational road and scenic drive**. It follows the **Old Natchez Trace**, a historic forest trail created and used by Native Americans for centuries, and later used by early European explorers and settlers, slave traders, soldiers, and even a few future presidents. To fully enjoy this **scenic drive**, don't hesitate to get out of your car. There are **many hiking trails** along the section between Natchez and Lorman.

Sunken Trace, at milepost 41.5, is an interesting place to stop. This preserved portion of the deeply eroded or 'sunken' Old Trace provides one of the iconic images of the **Old Natchez Trace**. Just a short five-minute walk will send you back in time over 200 years!

1-800-305-7417
WWW.NPS.GOV/NATR/INDEX.HTM

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME...

While exploring what's left of the historic port at Natchez Under-The-Hill, be sure to pop in at **Under the Hill Saloon** for a trip back in time. It is said that the best evenings are to be had here, seated at the bar, beer in hand. Have fun and enjoy the view of the Mississippi from this historic establishment, one of the oldest buildings in the area. Open daily from 10 a.m. to midnight.
 25, Silver Street, Natchez / 601-446-8023)



MAGNOLIA HALL

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ST. MARY BASILICA

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WHERE TO EAT

FAT MAMA'S TAMALES (\$)

Tamales are a tradition in the Mississippi Delta. If you've never tried this typical dish, make your way to Fat Mama's. This popular eatery is known for its colourful atmosphere, quick service, good prices, but above all for its famous, award-winning tamales. Be sure to try a Knock-You-Naked Margarita and to leave with a jar of Fire and Ice Pickles, for which they are also famous!

303, SOUTH CANAL STREET,
NATCHEZ
601-442-4548
WWW.FATMAMASTAMALES.COM

CARRIAGE HOUSE RESTAURANT (\$\$)

Before or after a tour of the mansions, stop for lunch at the Carriage House, next to Stanton Hall. Carriage House offers excellent southern cuisine and is famous for its fried chicken and biscuits.

And Sunday Brunch will not disappoint: in addition to fried chicken, it includes specialties such as poached salmon, steamed crawfish and shrimp bisque.

401, HIGH STREET (STANTON HALL),
NATCHEZ
601-445-5151

THE CAMP RESTAURANT (\$\$)

This friendly family restaurant is also a sports bar with more

than 18 local craft beers on tap. The menu offers a wide variety of sandwiches, burgers, tacos, quesadillas, soups and salads. You can dine on the deck and enjoy a glorious view of the Mississippi River.

21, SILVER STREET, NATCHEZ
601-897-0466
WWW.THECAMPRESTAURANT.COM



OLD NATCHEZ TRACE

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