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September 2019

Along the Natchez Trace Parkway

Deep South Specialties, Inc. (Jackson, Miss.)

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Recommended Citation

Deep South Specialties, Inc. (Jackson, Miss.), "Along the Natchez Trace Parkway" (2019). *Postcards, 2-sided*. 278.

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ALONG THE
**NATCHEZ TRACE
PARKWAY**



*Commemorating the Natchez Trace,
an early 19th century road through
the wilderness from Natchez to
Nashville . . . a distance of 450
miles. Picnic grounds available,
gas and food facilities incomplete.*

TRUCKING ON PARKWAY PROHIBITED

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Through
**MISSISSIPPI
ALABAMA
TENNESSEE**

TO _____

HELLO FROM _____

ALONG THE

NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY

Mississippi • Alabama • Tennessee

The Natchez Trace Parkway extends from Natchez, Mississippi to Nashville, Tennessee, a distance of 450 miles, following roughly, crossing, recrossing, and paralleling the Old Natchez Trace through forest, meadows and fields .

Beginning about 1785, travelers to the Southwest would float downstream to Natchez and New Orleans. The return trip was always on foot or horseback along a frontier trail from Natchez to Nashville. In 1800, Congress extended mail service from Nashville to Natchez to facilitate communication with the new territory. The U. S. Army in 1801 was ordered by President Jefferson to clear out a wagon road along the Natchez Trace and in 1806 Congress appropriated funds to convert this old Indian trail into a Post Road. From 1800 to 1820, the Natchez Trace was the most heavily traveled road in the old Southwest, witnessing a colorful procession of frontier characters.

As the newly developed steamboat became popular and the area lost its wilderness nature, use of the Trace began to decline. Some sections were abandoned and other sections were incorporated into the local road system.

Today, the Natchez Trace Parkway offers a rich opportunity for those who like to delve into the past. You can walk or drive on representative sections of the Old Trace and see what a frontier road looked like. You will also find many historic landmarks all associated with the people who traveled this historic thoroughfare. The Natchez Trace Parkway is administered by the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior.

