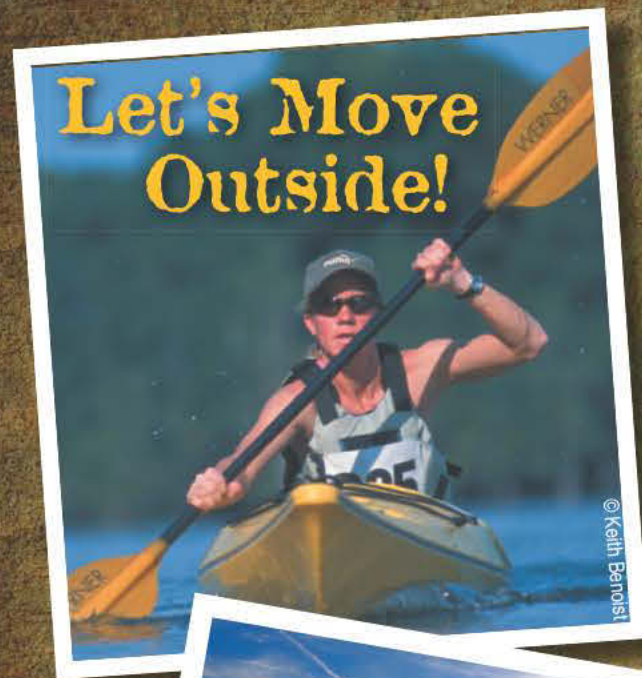


## Let's Move Outside

**Outdoor Recreation** opportunities abound in the Miss-Lou area, including 11 public access areas within an hour drive of the Mississippi River at Natchez/Vidalia (Visitor Center). These areas provide some of the best birding, canoeing, hiking, cycling, fishing and hunting to be found anywhere in the United States. For more information, contact the Natchez Visitor Center at (601) 446-6345 or 1-800-647-6724. Visit the Natchez website: [www.visitnatchez.org](http://www.visitnatchez.org)

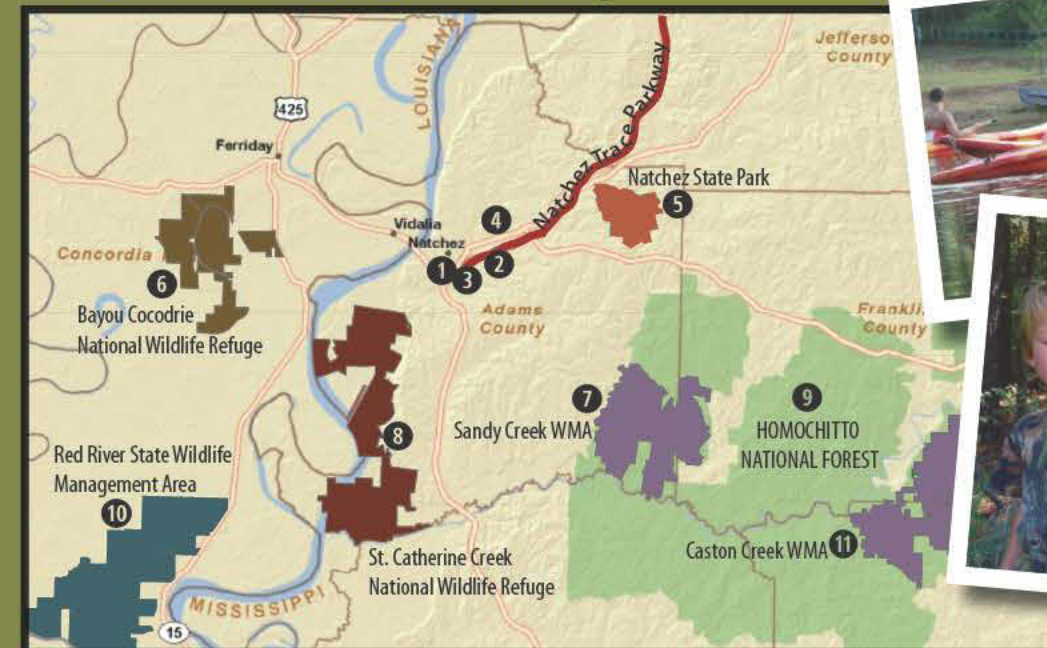
**The Mississippi River Trail** travels through 10 states, offering approximately 3,000 miles of on-road bikeways and pedestrian and bicycle pathways, from Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. It connects 10 national parks, 8 national scenic and historic trails, 32 national wildlife refuges and dozens of state parks. Over 300 species of birds use the river as a migratory flyway, stimulating wildlife-based tourism and recreation. The MRT travels directly through Natchez, offering visitors an opportunity to explore a nationally recognized trail, as well as providing a stopping place for bikers traveling through town. The MRT is a great way to get out, get active and explore the nation's longest river and the communities that line it. Visit the website to learn more: [www.mississippirivertrail.org](http://www.mississippirivertrail.org)



## Ecotourism in and around the Miss-Lou

Destination	Map#	Hunting	Fishing	Hiking/Walking	Photography	Birding/Wildlife	Camping	Canoeing/Boating	Cycling	Other
Natchez National Historical Park	1			X	X	X				Antebellum home tours, garden tours, city walking tours
Natchez Trace Parkway	2		X	X	X	X	X		X	Horseback riding, Emerald Mound, Mt. Locust Inn, Sunken Trace and Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail
Grand Village of the Natchez Indians	3			X	X	X				Historical Indian mounds and museum
Historic Jefferson College	4			X	X	X				Museum, tour historical buildings, interpretive nature trail
Natchez State Park	5	X	X	X	X	X*	X	X	X	Historic sites, disc golf, archery club, swimming, picnic tables
Bayou Cocodrie NWR	6	X	X	X	X	X*		X	X	"Old Growth" bottomland forest
Sandy Creek WMA	7	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Hiking/walking, cycling
St. Catherine Creek NWR	8	X	X	X	X	X*		X		Exceptional birding, hunting, fishing and interpretive nature trail with "Animal Olympics"
Homochitto National Forest	9	X	X	X	X	X*	X	X	X	Swimming, shooting range, horse trail, recreation areas
Red River State WMA	10	X	X	X	X	X*	X	X		Agricultural waterfowl project, greentree reservoir, furbearer trapping, abundant bottomland hardwoods
Caston Creek WMA	11	X	X	X	X	X				Horse trails, camping, canoes/boats, cycling

\*Denotes that this area has a site on [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)



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Public Land		City, State	Approx. Driving Distance/Time from Natchez	Access Area By	Fees
	<b>Natchez National Historical Park</b> ( <a href="http://www.nps.gov/natc/">http://www.nps.gov/natc/</a> ) Located in downtown Natchez, this historical park offers visitors the opportunity to tour the Melrose Estate and the William Johnson House. Visitors can explore antebellum Southern life through its varied inhabitants such as freedman black barber William Johnson, wealthy planter John T. McMurren and the slaves that labored and lived in Natchez. Open 9-5, 7 days per week.	Natchez, MS	2 mi/6 min	Foot	Melrose house tour
	<b>Natchez Trace Parkway</b> ( <a href="http://www.nps.gov/natr/">http://www.nps.gov/natr/</a> ) Established in 1938, this 444-mile (Natchez, MS to Nashville, TN) National Park crosses four ecosystems and eight major watersheds, and provides habitat for nearly 1,500 species of plants, 33 mammal species, 134 bird species and 70 species of reptiles and amphibians. Also designated a National Scenic Byway and All-American Road. 1-800-305-7417.	Natchez, MS	4 mi/9 min	Vehicle, Foot, Bike	None
	<b>Grand Village of the Natchez Indians</b> ( <a href="http://mdah.state.ms.us/hprop/gvni.html">http://mdah.state.ms.us/hprop/gvni.html</a> ) Grand Village of the Natchez Indians is situated on a 128-acre site, which includes a nature trail great for wildlife observation, birding and photography, a reconstructed Natchez Indian house and three ceremonial mounds. The museum, accredited by the American Association of Museums, features a "Touch Table" for children, as well as a visitor center with gift shop.	Natchez, MS	4 mi/9 min	Foot	None
	<b>Historic Jefferson College</b> ( <a href="http://mdah.state.ms.us/hprop/hjc.html">http://mdah.state.ms.us/hprop/hjc.html</a> ) Minutes north of Natchez, the first educational institution of higher learning in Mississippi is preserved at Historic Jefferson College. Visitors can learn the history of the college at the museum, as well as tour the restored outbuildings and other sites. For outdoor enthusiasts, there are three nature trails with plants and trees identified offering opportunities for birding and photography. HJC offers educational events for the public. Buildings open Mon.- Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Grounds open daily.	Washington, MS	7 mi/13 min	Foot	None
	<b>Natchez State Park</b> ( <a href="http://home.mdwfp.com/Parks/ParksInfo.aspx?id=100&amp;lc=626">http://home.mdwfp.com/Parks/ParksInfo.aspx?id=100&amp;lc=626</a> ) This park's claim to fame came in 1992 when a 18.15 lb. bass was caught here — the Mississippi state record. Just outside of Natchez, the park offers hunting, fishing, camping and boating. It also provides a place to picnic, go for a swim, observe nature, play a game of disc golf or try out your skills at the Kanahal Archery Club.	Natchez, MS	15 mi/28 min	Vehicle, Foot, Bike	Day Use, Camping, Hunting/ Fishing
	<b>Bayou Cocodrie National Wildlife Refuge</b> ( <a href="http://www.fws.gov/bayoucocodrie/">http://www.fws.gov/bayoucocodrie/</a> ) Bayou Cocodrie was established in 1992 to protect some of the last remaining, least disturbed bottomland hardwood forests in the Mississippi River Delta, as well as provide a habitat for migratory waterfowl and a variety of other wildlife. Recreational opportunities include hunting, fishing, hiking, canoeing and wildlife observation. Cocodrie Bayou is a designated state scenic river. Area is intensively managed for waterfowl, shorebirds and wading birds.	Ferriday, LA	15 mi/35 min	Vehicle, ATV, Foot, Boat	Hunting/ Fishing Permit
	<b>Sandy Creek Wildlife Management Area</b> ( <a href="http://home.mdwfp.com/WMA/WMAtemplate.aspx?projNum=5369">http://home.mdwfp.com/WMA/WMAtemplate.aspx?projNum=5369</a> ) Sandy Creek WMA sits within Homochitto National Forest on the western edge. It provides visitors with opportunities to hunt, fish and camp. Visitors can also view wildlife, work on their photography skills and brush up on their birding techniques here.	Adams/ Franklin Counties, MS	18 mi/39 min	Vehicle ATV, Foot	WMA User Permit, Camping
	<b>St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge</b> ( <a href="http://www.fws.gov/saintcatherinecreek/">www.fws.gov/saintcatherinecreek/</a> ) Established in 1990, St. Catherine Creek offers a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities just minutes south of Natchez. With almost 25,000 acres of land bordering the Mississippi River, visitors can enjoy hunting, fishing, hiking along an interpretive nature trail, canoeing and wildlife observation. The refuge is a premiere birding area with over 245 recorded species. Children will enjoy the "Animal Olympics" on the Magnolia National Recreation Trail. Cypress-lined lakes offer excellent canoeing and fishing. Deer, duck and small game hunting are popular.	Natchez, MS	18 mi/30 min	Vehicle ATV, Foot, Boat	Hunting/ Fishing Permit
	<b>Homochitto National Forest</b> ( <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/mississippi/Homochitto_RD/">www.fs.fed.us/r8/mississippi/Homochitto_RD/</a> ) Southwest Mississippi's best-kept secret, Homochitto National Forest offers numerous recreational opportunities for the outdoor enthusiast. With more than 190,000 acres of land, the forest offers visitors a chance to reconnect with nature. Four recreation areas allow for hunting, fishing, boating, swimming, mountain biking, hiking and observing undisturbed nature.	Headquarters: Meadville, MS	33 mi/39 min	Vehicle ATV, Foot, Boat, Bike	Day Use, Hunting/ Fishing, Camping
	<b>Red River Wildlife Management Area</b> ( <a href="http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wma/2783">www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wma/2783</a> ) Concordia Parish provides thousands of acres of state wildlife management area for outdoor opportunities including birding, hiking and nature photography, as well as seasonal hunting and fishing. Red River WMA part of the Red River-Three Rivers WMA complex, is accessible from LA Hwy. 15. Visit the LDWF website for a site map providing hiking trail and access road information.	Vidalia, LA	38 mi/45 min	Vehicle ATV, Foot, Boat	Hunting/ Fishing Permit, Wild LA Stamp for non-consumptive activities
	<b>Caston Creek Wildlife Management Area</b> ( <a href="http://home.mdwfp.com/WMA/WMAtemplate.aspx?projNum=5368">http://home.mdwfp.com/WMA/WMAtemplate.aspx?projNum=5368</a> ) Set within the Homochitto National Forest, Caston Creek WMA offers hunting, fishing, hiking and horse trails that provide ample opportunity for photography, wildlife observation and birding.	Amite/ Franklin Counties	43 mi/52 min	Vehicle ATV, Foot	WMA User Permit, Camping



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