Ready for a Tennessee Road Trip? We've got you covered on the new, self-guided driving tour of the Discover Tennessee Trails & Byways. On Nashville's Trace, you'll take the scenic route — literally — on the Natchez Trace Parkway, a beautiful National Park and National Scenic Byway.

Start where Confederate General John Bell Hood watched his troops march to the dramatic Battle of Franklin; run your camera, and spend some time exploring Tennessee's history. What we can't promise is steady cell phone service or a steady stream of gas stations between the points of interest along the trail. Many stands are cash-only, so always be a "next town" on the route, but it may not be within the next few miles.

This is a drive that promises an off-the-beaten-path Tennessee experience. What we can't promise is steady cell phone service. Don't be surprised if you don't always have a signal.

Many historic buildings open their doors to visitors, but many properties remain as they have for over a century: private residences. Please be respectful of the private land and homeowners on our tour.

During the summer and early fall, you'll find opportunities to stock up on local produce at farms and farm stands between the points of interest along the trail. Many stands are cash-only, so visit the ATM or both to experience our history.

Symbol Key:
- Agriculture Land Trust
- National Register of Historic Places
- Picture Spot
- State-Owned Historic Site
- Tennessee Main Street Program
- Land Trust for Tennessee
- Live Music Venue
- Lodging
- Motorcycle Route
- Take advantage of true farm-to-table goodness.

Don't forget to visit your favorite online review sites (like tripadvisor.com or yelp.com) and help us blaze a trail to these wonderful hidden gems.

Welcome to the Old Tennessee Trail. See the driving tour map on page 12.

Read the story behind the trail on page 22.

This trail begins just a few minutes from Nashville, the state capital of Tennessee. Nashville draws visitors and music lovers from all over the world, and it’s full of hidden gems on its own — little known restaurants, venues, and sites with cultural and historical significance, including The Hermitage (home of Andrew Jackson), Fort Nashborough, and several Antebellum mansions. While you’re in the area, make plans to explore Nashville’s fascinating history and enjoy the unique energy of Music City.

The Old Tennessee Trail is waiting for you: a scenic drive as rich in history as it is in fresh air, gently rolling hills, and DOWN-HOME CHARM. This trail begins just outside of Nashville in historic Franklin, where you’ll set off through our gorgeous countryside and explore some of our favorite small towns, built from early settlers’ homesteads and farmlands.

Stop in the historic markets that help anchor our communities, and feel right at home at some of our best-kept secrets.

SECRET DINING SPOTS

If you’ve never read the words “frog legs” on a menu in your life.

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DOWNTOWN FRANKLIN

Founded in 1799, Franklin's historic downtown has made a successful and eloquent effort to preserve the history of the original square and surrounding businesses and homes. This charming 16-block historic district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The square is surrounded by beautiful Victorian architecture, giving visitors a glimpse of history, along with unique shopping and one-of-a-kind restaurants to explore. The Old Tennessee Trail ends right here where it begins, so you’ll have another chance to discover downtown Franklin (including the historic Visitor Center) point 1) after you’ve finished the trail. Points 1-8, 86-98 are located in Franklin.

ON THE TRAIL

1. Williamson County Visitor Center

(Start at this historic landmark on the Franklin Cliffe-Cliffe Office, for maps, brochures and info on self-guided walking tours including the Franklin iPad Tour App, Nashvilles Trail: Backstage to Backroads and The Jack Trail. Sippin’ to Saddle’s self-guided driving tour brochures are also available here. See page 21 to learn more.

2. Franklin Town Square & Monument – Erected in 1899, this downtown landmark honors the state’s Civil War Confederate soldiers.

3. Harvey McMeeon House – (This house was built by a former slave and remained in the family for over a century. Today, the historic home is a museum, and one of the few Freedmen’s residents still standing in the area. Open by appointment.

4. Boyd Mill Avenue Historic District – (Private Residences) The district features six buildings: Tool, Folk Victorian, Bungalow and Cottages residences constructed during the early to mid-19th century. Magnolia Hall (B) pictured is the exception; an 1840 residence in the Italianate style, built by Irish immigrant and banker William S. Campbell, who started the first national bank to open in Middle Tennessee after the Civil War. It features a cupola and widow’s walk, uncommon architecture for the mid-South.

5. Centennial Hall – (Private Residence) Originally the home of Pythias Pavilin, this glass-domed and wooden structure was constructed by the fraternal organization for the Tennessee Centennial Exposition in 1897, for which Nashville’s famous Parthenon was also constructed. Also known as Carlisle Hall, the building was actually dismantled and moved from the exhibition building, the McNeal’s Centennial Park in 1900 by Joseph Parks, supposedly to impress a woman he was courting. Perched on its rocky knoll, this property has witnessed over a century of change.

6. Animalia – (This site, in the heart of the Westhaven Community, encompasses several historic farmsteads and their family cemeteries, including that of William White, White, cousin of Franklin founder Abram Maury, bought the property in 1869 from plantation land grant from pioneer settler James Robertson, the founder of Nashville. Three generations of the White family are buried in the William White Cemetery. If you are an animal lover, Animalia Gifts offers designer collars, fresh homemade treats and additional trail information.

Prehistoric artifacts found in the area suggest that Native Americans lived here 15,000 years ago. Nearby glass mounds are remnants of the mound-builders’ culture from the Mississippian period (900-1500 A.D.)

7. Gentry’s Farm – (In the 1700s, this was a small farm and in the 1800s a home for children. George and Ellen Gentry bought the farm in 1987 and it is now being used as a country inn, which offers chickens, eggs, and bantams. The Gentry family has owned the property since 1849, and its 400 acres remain a working farm with three Civil War-era homes (Private Residences). Open weekends, end of Sept.-Oct.

8. You’re crossing the West Harpeth River, which flows into the Harpeth. You’ll soon pass the historic Byington Mill, a one-lane-rising rural area with churches, businesses, schools, and Boyd’s Mill.

9. Gray-Lemke House – (Private Residence) Originally the home of John Leiper, Built in 1856, this Greek Revival-style house was the home of Byington’s store owner. Point 20. 4080 Old Hillsboro Rd.

Follow on TN-96W for 2.8 miles, turn onto 204-Old Hillsboro Rd.

• Continue on Hwy 46W for 1.3 miles to view pt. 5 on N. 1211 Carlisle Ln. Franklin

Continued from 204-Old Hillsboro Rd.

10. Leiper’s Fork – This is the only historic village on the Tennessee portion of the Natchez Trace Parkway. Originally named “Bentonville,” it was founded by Thomas Leiper’s parents and mother and grew around the store, a log school and church. Stop here and experience historic architecture and modern charm, where a fine art gallery is a neighbor to a grocery store that moonlights as a music venue. This special place is home to farmers, talented artists and musicians (yes, very famous) who appreciate its down-home feel and peaceful rolling hills.

Leiper’s Fork was named in the top 17 “Best Small-Town Getaways” by Southern Living magazine in 2020.

Southern Living

400-year-old relics found in this area indicate that Leiper’s Fork served as an important hunting ground for prehistoric Native Americans who later evolved into the tribes we know as the Cherokee, Chickasaw, and Shawnee. Leiper’s Fork was settled in the late 1790s by pioneering Revolutionary War veterans from North Carolina and Virginia who were given land grants as payments for their service. The village got its first post office in 1818 and began to be known as Leiper’s fork, after Hugh Leiper, an early surveyor. The early 1900s was also a time for the little village, with general stores, the Middle Tennessee Railroad, lumber mills, MacKissick, churches and a school. Today, it is a thriving community of artists, farmers, and musicians living a rural life just outside of Nashville. Leiper’s Fork is the historic town on the Tennessee portion of the Natchez Trace Parkway.

Please note: Shops in Leiper’s Fork are closed Mon., unless noted. Restaurants are open daily.

4142 Old Hillsboro Rd. Leiper’s Fork 615-591-4245

4136 Old Hillsboro Rd. Leiper’s Fork 615-591-4416

4126 Old Hillsboro Rd. Leiper’s Fork 615-591-1058

4150 Old Hillsboro Rd. Leiper’s Fork 615-591-4043

4144 Old Hillsboro Rd. Leiper’s Fork 615-591-1438

4130 Old Hillsboro Rd. Leiper’s Fork 615-591-2210

4128 Old Hillsboro Rd. Leiper’s Fork 615-591-3341

3105 Boyd Mill Pk. Leiper’s Fork 615-591-7888

Do not hallucinate.

11. David Arms – (Visit this gallery to view the work of this nationally known artist, and browse original paintings, giclees, signed posters, prints, note cards and more featuring his signature style of inspired symbolism, texture, color and composition.

12. Country Boy Restaurant – (Serving daily since 1968, you can order breakfast anytime, plus a variety of full-flavored country fare. Breakfast & lunch, daily; dinner, Tues-Sat.

Points 11-25 are highlights to explore as you travel Hwy 46W through Leiper’s Fork.

13. Puckette’s Grocery – (Happily serving Leiper’s Fork as a restaurant, grocery and meeting place since the 1950s, locals and celebrities alike take the stage and enjoy the famous burgers.

Favorite place to eat along the Old Tennessee Trail? Puckette’s Grocery! Just went there for breakfast.

Restaurants offering Southern comfort food are often termed a “meat and three” because diners select one meat and three vegetables from the daily menu.

14. Lawnchair Theatre – (Located in the heart of downtown, local artists gather here for family-oriented movies, music and community events.

15. Leiper’s Creek Gallery – (This gallery showcases fine art by local talents, ranging from the undiscovered to the internationally known.

14. Lawnchair Theatre – (Located in the heart of downtown, local artists gather here for family-oriented movies, music and community events.

15. Leiper’s Creek Gallery – (This gallery showcases fine art by local talents, ranging from the undiscovered to the internationally known.

16. Laurel Leaf Gallery – (Shop for expertly crafted items like jewelry, fiber art, and pottery, created by gifted artists who make their home in the undiscovered to the internationally known.

17. Joe Natural’s Farm Store & Café – (Enjoy organically grown food inside the 1882 Thomas Carl House. Where Joe offers everything from vegetables to juicy grass-fed burgers. stroll through the Farm Store for vegetables, baked goods and more.

See Old Tennessee Trail map on page 12.

Find more information at OldTnTrailAndByway.com.
After pt. 27, continue straight on Leipers Creek Rd. for 0.8 mi to pt. 28.

28. Hunter-Preston Farm – (L) (Private Residence) This farm sits on the southernmost preserved acres, thanks to one of the first conservation easements of The Land Trust for Tennessee. The area stretches from Leiper’s Fork’s north entrance to this point, and was donated by the Preston family, in order to preserve a piece of Tennessee’s original beauty and the village’s way of life.

29. Garrison Road – (R) The road takes its name after Maj. Thomas Jackson, the military post established here to enforce the 1785 Indian Treaty’s Tennessee Valley Divide boundary, allotting the Cherokee stipends. Today, the 500-acre farm is protected by a conservation easement.

30. St. James Episcopal Church – (L) (Private Residence) The original settlers’ home still stands in this small church, which houses offices and the Sam Sweeney family.

31. Sweeney-Rosebrook House – (L) (Private Residence) Named after a store in Leiper’s Fork, this timber frame structure contains salvaged materials from an 1890 schoolhouse and an 1882 former home. It’s an award-winning example of redwood and historical preservation.

32. Deveraux Schoolhouse – (R) (Private Residence) This 1882 home, originally built for the Sam Sweeney family, now houses offices and Brigadoon Antiques; shop for antiques and antiques with American and British influences.

33. Nett’s Country Store – (L) This slight turn onto Skelley Road brings you to this down-home country store and restaurant serving delicious homemade pies, great cooking, and live music from time to time.

34. Bethel Baptist Church – (L) (Methodist-Episcopal Church) Join the locals for an authentic service with live music from time to time.

35. Bethel Community Center – (L) (Church, House of Worship) This former school (1914) is now home to live music and dancing on the third Saturday of the month. Join the locals for an authentic pickin’ & grinnin’ experience.

36. McKnight Station Train Depot – (R) (Train Station) A reminder of the railroad, which played a major role in bringing settlers to this area of Middle Tennessee, and served as part of the boundary set for the Cherokee in the 1806 Land Treaty. It continues to serve as the sole water source for 200,000 people in the area, including GM’s manufacturing plant in Spring Hill. Maintaining the river’s water quality is equally essential to wildlife, human residents, and the local economy. This river is home to more species of fish than all of Europe. It is home to 50 species of freshwater mussels and 151 species of fish, making it one of the most biologically diverse rivers in North America.

37. Nettles State Wildlife Management Area – (R) Emergent marshy wetlands, including many species of birds, make this a great place to observe wildlife, with a bountiful variety of birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. Keep an eye out for bald eagles, blue herons, and great blue herons. You will also be able to see a variety of deer and turkey.

38. Leiper’s Fork Market & Visitor Information Kiosk – (R) Stop for a snack and view history through old photos on the walls.
6

See Old Tennessee Trail map on page 12.

Find more information at OldTnTrailAndByway.com.

The Natchez Trace Parkway saw plenty of foot traffic before settlers came to the area — foot from buffalo, then Native Americans. When flatboats began to expand trade from this area further south, this network of prehistoric paths became convenient routes for the boat operators, having delivered their goods in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Natchez, Mississippi. The route was a dangerous one, and boatmen traveling on foot were often robbed or murdered on their way back north. The advent of the steam engine in 1811 ended the foot route obsolete. Formally established as a U.S. Postal Route in 1801, this 444-mile scenic route connects Natchez, Mississippi, to Nashville, Tennessee, with plenty to see, do, and experience along the way. The phrase “the journey is the destination” certainly applies to today’s Parkway, protected by the National Park Service, the landscape along the Trace is unspoiled by modern development. You won’t find any billboards, travel plazas or businesses along the Trace. There are no marinas, natural beauty, fresh air, and a few historical and historical markers along the way. The only homes you’ll find along the Trace belong to wildlife, and the 50 mph speed limit allows plenty of time to take in the stunning scenery along your journey. Though the Trace is beautiful year-round, autumn is a special time to experience the brilliant foliage of the Parkway. Though the Trace is beautiful year-round, autumn is a special time to experience the brilliant foliage of the Parkway.

48. Goshen United Methodist Church & Cemetery Turn 0.4 miles on SN 97-R to SR 97. The church began as a Brush Arbor — a place of worship where no formal church existed — in the early 1800s. In 1835, a log structure was erected, replaced in 1882 with the current building. Unique to this site is a “mounting rock,” used to assist ladies in mounting and dismounting their horses.

49. Papa Boudreaux’s Cajun Café – (R) Straight from New Orleans, “Papa” relocated to Tennessee and at the urging of friends who love his authentic recipes, opened a Cajun restaurant on this beautiful property. This colorful gem is going to surprise you!

50. Fly Nazarene Church Turn 1 mile on SR 50 to 1 mile on SN 97-R to SR 97. The church was born in protest against slavery. The AME Church was born in protest against slavery. It was the first denomination to reject the practice of slavery and the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church was born in protest against slavery. The African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church was born in protest against slavery. It was the first denomination to reject the practice of slavery.

51. Pigg Schoolhouse Village – The schoolhouse, built in 1815, was used until 1920, was moved here in 2004 from Pigg Schoolhouse Road. It has been joined by another cabin, a smokehouse, an outhouse, and a new-old-fashioned general store replica to create a little “village” on a private farm. In this guide, this symbol designates a protected area.

52. Water Valley Community – This one of Maury County’s first settlements, and a marked grave (Sarah Fly, 1808) is still here. In 1824, Water Valley had 61 voters and paid taxes on 14 farms and lands. It was a major county drive, with stunning colors in the fall.

42. Water Valley Community – This was one of Maury County’s first settlements, and a marked grave (Sarah Fly, 1808) in the county lies here. In 1824, Water Valley had 61 voters and paid taxes on 14 farms and lands. It was a major county drive, with stunning colors in the fall.

43. At this corner, find the Water Valley Community Center, (R), where are dances are held throughout the year.

44. Beautiful scenery marks this stretch of the Old Tennessee Trail. Note the historic churches (L) as you stay with the byway. The picturesque, hardwood forests of the Land TrustAMS For Tennessee, the Land Trust has protected over 7,400 acres for small game hunting and four lakes popular for bass fishing.

47. Pigg Schoolhouse Village – The schoolhouse, built in 1815, was used until 1920, was moved here in 2004 from Pigg Schoolhouse Road. It has been joined by another cabin, a smokehouse, an outhouse, and a new-old-fashioned general store replica to create a little “village” on a private farm.

45. Williamsport Wildlife Management Area – (R) Managed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, this site offers 8,800 acres for small game hunting and four lakes popular for bass fishing.

48. Continue on Hwy 50 to the Natchez Trace. In this guide, this symbol designates a protected area.

49. Ferries on the Duck River were in operation here as early as 1807, and the Williamsport ferry is a thriving trading center. Notice the quaint, historic homes and churches as you pass through.

In the early 1800s, flat-boating was a lucrative business. People goods down the Duck River, to the Tennessee and Mississippi Rivers. Ferries on the Duck River were in operation here as early as 1807, and the Williamsport ferry is a thriving trading center. Notice the quaint, historic homes and churches as you pass through.

In this guide, this symbol designates a protected area.

The African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church was born in protest against slavery. It was the first denomination to reject the practice of slavery. These unique churches and historic sites are second-class citizens.

In this guide, this symbol designates a protected area.

The Natchez Trace Parkway is a statewide, private nonprofit organization managed by local communities to preserve the unique characters of Tennessee’s natural historical landscapes and sites for future generations. The Land Trust for Tennessee is rich with beauty and history and has been active in this area since its inception in 1999. From preservation of historic sites, like the Franklin Battlefield at Carston, to iconic farms, like the Preston Farms outside of Leipers Fork, and scenic vistas, like the protected properties visible from the Water Valley Overlook of the Natchez Trace Parkway, the Land Trust has protected over 7,400 acres of land in Williamson County and Maury County. The Land Trust for Tennessee works with communities and local governments to create conservation plans and with landowners to permanently protect their land. For more information, visit LandTrusts.org or call 615-244-LAND.

Turn 1 mile on SR 50. Turn R on SN 97-R to SR 97. Turn R on SN 97-R to SR 97. Continue on SR 50.

The Water Valley Community gets its name from the devastating flood of 1874, when Leipers Creek swelled over its banks and caused a great deal of damage.

46. Your scenic drive continues on Snow Creek Road near the Duck River bottomland. You’ll pass a Pre-Civil War Greek Revival home and other historic structures as you approach the river and cross the bridge.
African-American communities

ALONG THE TRAIL

The rapid growth of agricultural wealth in Antebellum Williamson and Maury Counties in the 1820s depended on a large slave population. By 1860, approximately one half of the residents in Williamson and Maury Counties were slaves. After the Civil War ended in 1865, the Freedmen’s Bureau was established by the U.S. Government to help establish schools for newly freed slaves and negotiate labor contracts between ex-slaves and farmers/owners.

African-American communities like Natchez Street in downtown Franklin and the Canaan Community in Maury County began to grow around new schools, churches and fraternal organizations, many of which endured intimidation and violence from the post-war Ku Klux Klan and continue to serve the Williamson and Maury County area today.

50. Clayborne AME Church (L) pictured, ca. 1923, housed a congregation that began to gather immediately following the Civil War. Along this route, you’ll also pass Williamson United Methodist Church (0.3 mile on L), built ca. 1813.

51. Williamson Market & Deli – (R) Stop here for gas, food and restrooms. The market also features live music.

52. Vine Hill – (R) Private Residence

This large, columned house is only visible from the road in winter months. Originally owned by James Webster, this first child born in Maury County, it is now a home again after serving as the Maury County Historical Society’s meeting place from the 1970s-90s.

53. Lipscomb Place – (L) Private Residence

This well-kept estate and 1830 mansion once belonged to George Lipscomb, a veteran of Andrew Jackson’s Seminole campaign.

54. Liberty Hall – (R) Private Residence

Built by George Pope Webster in 1844, this is generally considered the grandest Antebellum home in western Maury County. Captain Henry J. Webster, the older son of the builder, was the first captain of the famed Company Aytch (Company H), First Tennessee Regiment, the most highly decorated Union regiment in the Army of Tennessee during the Civil War.

55. Originally the property of Revolutionary War veteran Jonathan Webster, the Clayborne AME Church Community came to be known as such thanks to the four toll bridges that used to exist in the area. You’ll pass Cross Bridges Baptist Church (R).

56. Jonathan Webster Home – (0.9 mile on R) (Private Residence) The historic 1808 homestead of the Revolutionary War veteran mentioned above.

57. Hampshire Museum – (5.2 miles on R) Learn the history of the church inside this former local bank building. Open Thurs.-Sun.

58. Zionsville Presbyterian Church – (L) Turn into town on N. Main Street, you’ll come to the Zionsville Presbyterian Church (L) pictured, the first building in Zionsville with a bell. The current building was erected in 1849.

59. Canaan AME Church (R) & Community – Located at the corners of the Zion lands and Polk plantations, this area became a natural settlement for former slaves. For 100 years after the end of the Civil War, the Canaan Community was a vibrant, crowded, African-American neighborhood.

The old Canaan Schoolhouse, restored by the community, is a testament to that period. Also notice the historic cemetery.

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LEIPER'S FORK
C. Joe Natural's Farm Store & Café – (See pg. 3, pt. 17) 4150 Old Hillsboro Rd. 615-595-2233.
D. Moonshine Hill – Where elegance meets country charm. 5450 Old Hwy 96. 615-500-1234. (pictured)
VRBO.COM: My wife and I frequently recommend Moonshine Hill to anyone and everyone who is looking for somewhere sweet to get away.
E. Brigadoon Inn – Post-Civil War home. Two 100-year-old houses were rescued, moved to Franklin from Leiper's Fork and combined to create a cozy inn. 4254 Old Hillsboro Rd. 615-440-7799.
H. Nett's Country Store, where they sell good food, good people and real atmosphere. 5380 Leipers Creek Rd. 931-682-2775. (pictured)

SANTE FE
I. Papa Boureiraux's Cajun Café – (See pg. 6, pt. 39) 3419 Fly Rd. 613-882-0040.
J. Creekview Farm Bed & Breakfast – Near Natchez Trace Parkway. 5177 Leipers Creek Rd. 931-682-2775. (pictured)

HAMPSTEAD
M. Keg Springs Winery – (See pg. 13) Ongoing events; free tastings. 361 Keg Springs Rd. 931-285-0588.

Directions to wineries from Hampshire Museum (pg. 8, pt. 57): Exit museum, turn L on Hampshire Pk. Go 2.9 miles, turn R onto Ridgetop Rd. Go 1 mile, turn L on Keg Springs Rd./Ridgetop Rd. Go 1.3 miles, turn L to stay on Ridgetop Rd. Go 1.1 mile to Amber Falls.
To continue to Keg Springs, exit Amber Falls, turn L on Ridgetop Rd. Go 0.5 mile, turn R on Cathey's Creek Rd. Go 4.8 miles, turn L on Keg Springs Rd. Go 1 mile to Keg Springs.
To rejoin main trail at pt. 58: Exit Keg Springs by turning R on Keg Springs Rd. Go 1 mile, turn L on Cathey's Creek Rd. Go 1.8 miles, turn R onto Highway Ln. Go 2.3 miles, turn L on Dry Fork Rd. Go 0.9 mile, turn L on US-412/Amber Falls Pk. Go 5.7 miles to N. Cross Bridges Rd.

MOUNT PLEASANT
N. The Pizza Place – Family run for 17 years. Great pizza. Expect it! 707 N. Main St. 931-379-3725.

O. Mt. Pleasant Grille – (See pg. 9, pt. 63) On the square in historic downtown Mount Pleasant. 100 S. Main St. 931-799-2728.

Did You KNOW?

The information in this brochure represents just a few of the treasures along Tennessee backroads. Check out OldTennesseeTrail.com for complete travel planning along this entire trail. While there, you'll see a link to Facebook where you can share your experiences on the Old Tennessee Trail. You can also post reviews on sites like Yelp.com or TripAdvisor.com. Be a trail beazer — help us build our trails and keep them updated.

LODGING, FOOD & WINE ALONG THE OLD TENNESSEE TRAIL

Did You KNOW?

Here are just some of the many places to eat and stay along the Old Tennessee Trail. Find more options at OldTennesseeTrail.com. Accommodations (in brown) and restaurants & wineries (in red) are listed here in the order they appear on the trail, beginning in Leiper's Fork. Call ahead for most lodging reservations.

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The information in this brochure represents just a few of the treasures along Tennessee backroads. Check out OldTennesseeTrail.com for complete travel planning along this entire trail. While there, you’ll see a link to Facebook where you can share your experiences on the Old Tennessee Trail. You can also post reviews on sites like Yelp.com or TripAdvisor.com. Be a trail beazer — help us build our trails and keep them updated.

COLUMBIA
R. Buckhead Coffee House – Fresh coffee, pastries, scones and specialty salads. 1173 Forrest Ave. 931-388-0814.

Did You KNOW?

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TENNESSEE CIVIL WAR TRAILS

Between 1861-1865, Tennessee was a hotbed of Civil War activity. Forming the northern border of the Confederate States of America, Tennessee was the last state to secede from the Union and the first to rejoin after the war’s end. Many of the war’s important sites are preserved and marked as a part of the American Civil War Trails program, part of a five-state trails system that helps visitors explore the Civil War through the places that tell its story. The battlefield in this area held some of the bloodiest conflicts of the war; look for markers throughout the Old Tennessee Trail, and pick up trail brochures at any of the information centers and many of the museums on the route. Learn more at tnvacation.com.

Tennessee's Civil War Sesquicentennial commemorates the 150th anniversary of the state’s participation in the American Civil War. Tennessee ranks second in the country number of battle fields, and presents a unique and powerful history to Civil War enthusiasts and curious visitors.

FF. McCreary's Irish Pub – A taste of Ireland on Franklin's Main Street: Fish 'n' chips, soups, burgers and shepherd's pie. 414 Main St. 615-807-8417.
GG. MarciA's Patisserie – Elegant French tea salon offering world's best teas to accompany delicious pastries. Breakfast, lunch and dinner; closed Sun. 98 E. Main St. 615-790-2309.
HH. Dottori's – Classic “meat and three” Southern comfort food. 99 E. Main St. 615-794-2055.
II. The Factory at Franklin – (See pg. 21, pt. 98) A vibrant dining, shopping and entertainment complex. 320 Franklin Rd. 615-791-1777.

Did You KNOW?

In the tradition of the logs, or “stands,” once found along the Old Trace, the Natchez Trace B&B Reservation Service specializes in helping guests find an overnight spot to enhance their journey. Call Randy Brought at 800-371-2770/ 615-522-4865 or visit NatchezTraceTravel.com.

Did You KNOW?

In the tradition of the logs, or “stands,” once found along the Old Trace, the Natchez Trace B&B Reservation Service specializes in helping guests find an overnight spot to enhance their journey. Call Randy Brought at 800-371-2770/ 615-522-4865 or visit NatchezTraceTravel.com.
Numbers in green circles correspond to numbered Points of Interest throughout this guide. Letters in red circles correspond to Food & Wine sites listed on pages 10 & 11. Letters in brown circles correspond to Lodging sites listed on pages 10 & 11. See the THE STORY BEHIND THE OLD TENNESSEE TRAIL on pages 22 & 23 for expanded history.

Land Trust for Tennessee
Protected Property
All locations on map are approximate.

Find out more at OldTnTrailAndByways.com

Main Trail

Point of Interest
Visitor Information

Food & Wine

Lodging

Off-Trail Highlight

see the story behind the old tennessee trail on pages 22 & 23 for expanded history.
LEARN MORE ABOUT HISTORY IN THE OLD TENNESSEE TRAIL AREA

For Cause and for Country: A Study of the Affair at Spring Hill and the Battle of Franklin by Eric A. Jacobson

Historic Maury County — Places and People by Alice algood,

Touring the Middle Tennessee Backroads by Rick Warwick

Country Ham Festival — Spring Hill — 1st Sat.

SOUTHERN FESTIVALS & EVENTS IN THE AREA

SEPTEMBER

Jailbreak Triathlon — Columbia — Last Sat.

Southern Fried Festival — Columbia — Last weekend

Sweet Tea Festival — Thompson's Station — Last weekend

OCTOBER

Benton Town — Leiper’s Fork — 1st weekend

Country Ham Festival — Spring Hill — 1st Sat.

Old Tennessee Trail Yard Sale — Communities along the Old Tennessee Trail — 2nd weekend

Chill Cook-offs — Leiper’s Fork — 3rd weekend

Columbia — 3rd Sat.

Scarceowl Festival — Downtown Mount Pleasant — 4th weekend

Battle of the BBQ — Franklin — Sat., before Halloween

Pumpkin Fest — Franklin — Sat., before Halloween

Vintage Affair Grape Stomp at Animalia — Franklin

DECEMBER

Christmas on the Square — Downtown Mount Pleasant — 1st weekend

Christmas Parade — Leiper’s Fork — 1st weekend

Dickens of a Christmas and The Carter House Candlelight Tour — Franklin — 2nd full weekend

See OldTnTrailAndByway.com for a complete event listing.

ADVENTURE


Southport Saltwater Cave is one of Middle Tennessee’s largest. During the Civil War it was mined for nitrate for use in making gun powder.

Did You Know?

Williamsville Wildlife Management Area — (See pg. 7, pt. 47)

Hunting and Fishing. Entrance off Hwy 50, Williamson. 931-583-2477.

Did You Know?

BIXING

Chicksaw Trace County Park & Mountain Bike Trail — 300-acre park on the banks of the Duck River and Knob Creek; 8.5-mile trail loop. 1417 Hwy 5, Columbia. 931-375-6103.

Trace Bikes — Bike rental at Lovelace Cafe, off Natchez Trace, 8400 Hwy 100, Nashville. 615-646-2485.

Did You Know?

CANOETING & KAYAKING

Higher Pursuits — Reconnect to the heart of Columbia on the Duck River; guided canoe and kayak trips, rentals and primitive camping. 3114 Cheeks Bend Rd., Columbia. 931-840-8579.

Foggy Bottom Canoe & Kayak Rentals — Take a easy float down the Harpeth River through historic areas; primitive camping available. 1270 Hwy 70, near Nashville. 615-952-4062.

Franklin Canoe & Kayak Company — Choose from five Harpeth River paddle trips; swim, fish or picnic along the way. Box lunches available upon request. 615-400-9847.

River Rat Canoe Rental — Canoe and kayak rentals on Duck River; self-guided, class 1 trips range from 5-29 miles. 4361 Hwy 431, Columbia. 931-381-2278.

Did You Know?

The only place in the entire world that you can find Pygmy Mallodin (endangered species) is in Tennessee, in the Duck and Clinch rivers. This truly tells the river’s conditions, as this type of catfish is very sensitive to toxic chemicals and increased sedimentation.

TIP-A-CONE — Offering one-hour trips to five-day excursions and everything in between. The oldest canoe and kayak rental company in Tennessee under the same management; family owned and operated. On Harpeth River, Hwy 70, near Nashville. 800-550-5810.

Did You Know?

FARMs

Gentry’s Farm — (See pg. 2, pt. 7) Thousands visit this Century Farm each year and make an annual tradition of playing on the tire swing, picking pumpkins, navigating corn mazes and learning about beef cattle. This is a beautiful farm owned by the Gentry family since before the Civil War. Enjoy simple down-home fun and create lifelong memories. Seasonal, 1974 New Hwy 98W, Franklin. 615-794-4368.

Did You Know?

A Century Farm is a farm that has been continuously owned by a family for 100 years or more. There are 48 certified Century Farms in Williamson and Maury Counties.

High Meadows Alpacas — This 15-acre farm is owned by the Goldston family who fulfilled their life-long passion of loving animals by raising and breeding alpacas to go along with their horses, geese, or any other friendly creature that arrives. Go in early May or on the last weekend in September, to attend a farm days celebration with traditional artisan crafts. Call for scheduled tours. 3440 Floyd Rd., Franklin. 615-381-9546.

Noble Springs Dairy — This beautiful 230-acre goat dairy and cheese processing facility is family owned. It’s home to 70 Alpine goats, 10 Soay Pyrnesses, 12 chickens, two horses and Bubbles — a little rat terrier. Trained by a Dutch cheese maker, this dairy produces some of the most delicious goat cheeses in Middle Tennessee. Call for appointment. 3144 Blazer Rd., Leiper’s Fork. 615-483-9546.

Ring Farm — A premier country playground for family and friends with enough entertainment to fill an entire day. Get lost in the corn maze, try the high-powered corn cannon, see the sights on the wagon ride and make s’mores over a blazing bonfire. Seasonal. 2628 Greensmill Rd., Columbia. 931-486-2395.

Rippavilla Plantation — (See pg. 17, pt. 78) In the fall, stop in for hot chocolate around a bonfire and figure out the challenging corn maze. Maze open mid-Sept. – Oct.; Rippavilla home tours. Early Farm Museum and gift shop open daily, year-round, 5700 Main St., Spring Hill. 931-486-9037.

See Old Tennessee Trail map on page 12.

Find more information at OldTnTrailAndByway.com.

Tennessee is filled with outdoor adventures, and Old Tennessee has opportunities at every turn. This guide provides you with several options, but for more, go to OldTnTrailAndByway.com.
65. Rattle and Snap – (R) William Polk, original owner of the property, won 5,648 acres of land from a government land office called “Rattle and Snap” and divided it between his four sons. George Polk built this mansion, named after the game and known as one of the best examples of Greek Revival residential architecture in the country. The Carriage House on the property is available for overnight stays. Tours by advance reservation.

66. Hamilton Place – (Q) (Private Residence) and 931-379-1700. This excellent 1832 example of Palladian-style architecture was the first of the four homes to be built on William Polk’s original tract. The wealth required to build these magnificent homes was tied directly to the fertile soil, as the Polks became very successful plantation owners. Hamilton Place was built by Lucius Polk for his wife, Mary Ann Eartin, shortly after they were married in the White House during Andrew Jackson’s presidency. It is one of the two remaining homes on the original land, the other being Leonidas Polk's and Ashwood Hall (Leonidas Polk) no longer stand.

67. St. John’s Church – (R) This 1842 church was built where the Polk sons’ properties met. Leonidas, an Episcopal priest, convinced the other brothers to build a church on the land. As the Confederates passed by on their way to the Battle of Franklin, General Patrick Cleburne remarked that it was “almost worth dying for to be buried in such a beautiful spot.” When General Cleburne was killed in the Battle of Franklin, his body was interred here temporarily, along with two other generals (Strahl and Granbury). The cemetery also serves as the final burial ground for Episcopal Bishops of Tennessee.

68. Clifton Place – (R) (Private Residence) This was the 1832 home of politician and Confederate General James K. Polk, a prominent lawyer, major landowner, and friend and advisor to James K. Polk. Pillow played a major role in Southern agriculture, encouraging diversification of crops and production of more livestock in a time when rice and cotton dominated the area. He was instrumental in President Polk’s nomination and election, and served as a general in the Civil War as the Civil War surrender of Fort Donelson to Ulysses S. Grant in 1862.

69. Historic Elm Springs – (R) Constructed in 1835 as a 2-story, 12 room Greek Revival mansion, it is the most intact and well-preserved example of its kind for former slaves in Tennessee. This 1837 Greek Revival mansion now houses the General Headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Explore the wonderful Civil War gift shop.

70. The Athenaeum – (Q) Constructed in 1835 as the first female boarding school in the South, the Athenaeum served many historical figures; including the recitory of the Athenaeum, one of the most highly regarded girls’ schools in the South, it was also where 125 female boarding students enrolled at a time, until its closing in 1864. The architecture is a blend of styles, from Gothic and Greek Revival to Victorian and Moorish. Tours available.

71. APTA Historic Homes (Q) (Private Residences) In just a short drive around W. 6th Street, you’ll find 12 restored homes recognized by the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities.

72. James K. Polk Home – (Q) This is the only surviving home (excluding the White House) of James Knox Polk, 11th president of the United States. This Federal-style structure was built by his father, Samuel, and James K. Polk lived here between 1818 and 1824, continuing to visit his mother here frequently until his own death in 1849. Today, this 1.2 acre lot is known as Polk Home Campus is housed in a restored 1853 mansion built by Nathaniel Cheaves IV, a Civil War colonel and descendant of the Cheaves family. A school for African-Americans was established in 1843, the first of its kind for former slaves in Tennessee. The school continued to be in operation until 1862, when the Ku Klux Klan finally disbanded. The surrounding area evolved into an African-American business district, known as “Mink Slide” after World War II.

73. Polk Presbyterian Church – This addition to the Polk Home campus is housed in a restored 1852 vernacular Gothic Christian church building. Here you will see more personal artifacts from Polk’s life, and occasionally, traveling exhibits from the Smithsonian Institute.

74. Maury County Visitor Center

COLUMBIA

U.S. This Federal-style structure was built by his father, Samuel, and James K. Polk lived here between 1818 and 1824, continuing to visit his mother here frequently until his own death in 1849. Today, this 1.2 acre lot is known as Polk Home Campus is housed in a restored 1853 mansion built by Nathaniel Cheaves IV, a Civil War colonel and descendant of the Cheaves family. A school for African-Americans was established in 1843, the first of its kind for former slaves in Tennessee. The school continued to be in operation until 1862, when the Ku Klux Klan finally disbanded. The surrounding area evolved into an African-American business district, known as “Mink Slide” after World War II.

77. In about 6.3 miles, you’ll pass the historic site of Polk’s boyhood home (R), which no longer stands. In another 2 miles, you’ll pass the University of Tennessee Agriculture Research & Education Center (Q). Since 1937, this 1,250-acre facility has conducted research in crops and trees, production efficiency, and beef and dairy cattle.

78. Rippavilla Plantation – (R) This magnificent 87-acre plantation site was built by Nathaniel Francis Cheaves IV, a Civil War colonel and descendant of the Cheaves family. A school for African-Americans was established in 1843, the first of its kind for former slaves in Tennessee. The school continued to be in operation until 1862, when the Ku Klux Klan finally disbanded. The surrounding area evolved into an African-American business district, known as “Mink Slide” after World War II.

16

Find more information at OldTennesseeTrailByWay.com.
1. Spring Hill Battlefield – (R) On November 29, 1864, this farmland became a Civil War battlefield. Confederates led by Generals Hood, Forrest, Cleburne, and Brown fought the Federals here, but Union General Schofield and his army of 25,000 men managed to slip away and retreat to Franklin over-night, where a bloody battle would take place the next day. It is estimated that 15,000 soldiers fought that day and 850 men lost their lives. Stop and walk through part of the 110-acre battlefield, preserved and protected by the Civil War Preservation Trust and maintained as farmland since the war.

2. Ferguson Hall – (R) This 1854 home provides architectural inspiration for Rippavilla (point 27). Ferguson Hall was a private residence until 1905. Ferguson Hall and its 5.7 acres then became a part of the Brannham & Hughes Campus, and eventually housed the Tennessee Orphan’s Home. Today, the office of the Tennessee Children’s Home sits on the grounds. Tours by reservation.

3. As you continue to drive into Thompson’s Station, the Battle of Thompson’s Station unfolds. During a quiet period following the Battle of Nashville, River Union soldiers ventured to the area north of Spring Hill to collect food and hay. On March 5, 1863, Generals Nelson, Murfreesboro, Forrest’s cavalry awaited them, and launched the second largest Civil War battle in Williamson County, ending with the capture of Union Colonel John Gum and 1,800 casualties. The road ends at the replica of Thompson’s Station’s railroad depot. Look up the hill behind the depot to see the Heron Farm, Landmark protected in 2007.

4. Homestead Manor – (L) Much of the land in the Battle of Thompson’s Station took place on this property. The 1880 home sheltered many local women and children in its cellar as the battle took place. While watching the action from the cellar window, 17-year-old Alice Thompson saw the Confederate color-bearer shot down, and bolted from the house to lift up the flag. Her courage inspired the Confederate soldiers to rally and defeat the Union. The property is managed by The Land Trust for Tennessee and a foundation has been started for Thompson’s Station Battlefield Park.

5. Roderick Place – (R) On March 5, 1863, portions of the Battle of Franklin awaited them, and launched the second day. It is estimated that 10,000 soldiers fought that day and 1,000 men lost their lives. Stop and walk through part of the 110-acre battlefield, preserved and protected by the Civil War Preservation Trust and maintained as farmland since the war.


7. Harrison House – (L) This 1848 home became General Hood’s headquarters during the Battle of Franklin. Outlining the plan of attack on November 30, Generals Hood and Forrest engaged in an argument here about military tactics, leaving Forrest in a rage and sending the Confederacy’s fate with Hood’s decision. The house is a place where wounded soldiers were brought and some buried. See Old Tennessee Trail map on page 12.

8. This open ground is known as the Eastern Flank Battlefield Park. (L) Formerly the Country Club of Franklin, the 112-acre site was purchased through a public-private partnership and is the largest battlefield reclamation in the nation.

9. Carnton Plantation and McGavock Cemetery – This Antebellum mansion dates back to 1826, built by former Nashville Mayor McCagg. During the Civil War, it was the home of Colonel John and Carrie McGavock, featured in the best-selling novel Widow of the South. Just a few hundred yards from the line of battle, the home served as a hospital during the Battle of Franklin, and its wood floors still show blood stains from the more than 300 soldiers brought back to 1880. The home is a detail of the conflict and several memorials honoring fallen Confederates established in 1918.

10. From Winfield Dunn, you can view the landscape from General Hood’s vantage point as he watched his men march north to meet the Union. Park, walk to the top of the hill, and imagine the battle unfolding.

11. See Old Tennessee Trail map on page 12.

Find more information at OldTnTrailsAndByways.com.
BATTLE OF FRANKLIN

The Battle of Franklin is known as the “Five Tragic Hours,” as Confederate General John Bell Hood launched a desperate attempt to keep the Union troops south of the road, having escaped Hood’s army at Spring Hill the day before and fortified their post at Franklin. Injured and angered by the previous day’s events, and against the counsel of his subordinates, Hood marched his army north from Spring Hill and launched 13 separate frontal assaults on the Federal forces here. At night’s end, General John Schofield and his troops withdrew in the darkness and moved on toward Nashville, leaving the Confederate Army with broken spirit and enormous losses. The opposing forces would soon meet again in Nashville, but the Battle of Franklin is known as the death knell of the Confederacy.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY RESIDENT ROBERT BICKS was inspired by the Battle of Franklin. The 1830 house and its outbuildings were well-preserved remnants of the Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864, in fact, the farm office on the property is known to be the most bullet-damaged building still standing from the Civil War. Some of the bloodiest hand-to-hand combat took place right here, as the Carter family hid in the barn for safety. Today, the Carter House, its buildings, and eight acres of its property are preserved and open to the public, including a fascinating museum, gift shop, and art center. It is one of the oldest and best-preserved antebellum buildings in the state. Carter house home during the bloody battle, emerging to find bodies “so thick you couldn’t take a step without walking on one of them.” Picketts from the Lots family’s fence were used by the soldiers to build barricades, and blood from both sides still stains the floors, as the house was used as a military hospital for several months following the battle. “Battlefield Walking Tours” are led here by Thomas Cartwright, a leading authority on the Battle of Franklin.

Matilda Lotz celebrated her sixtieth birthday on the Battle of Franklin. Witnessing a scene that left 10,000 wounded or dead must have contributed to her baldness for a female of that era, as she later turned the world as an artist and became the first woman honored by the Paris Academy of Painting.

Carter house was “Old Blizzard” for his battle cry, “Give them blizzards, boys!”

191 W. Main St.
Franklin
615-791-6400

114 E. Main St.
Franklin
615-791-5400

69. Franklin Theatre – Back in downtown Franklin, the Old Tennessee Trail ends where it began. This town square holds dozens of unique shopping and dining experiences, but remains true to its Main Street identity, with brick sidewalks and beautifully restored buildings in the 16-block historic district. Today, it’s an upscale suburb of Nashville, named to Southern Living’s “Best Small Town” top 10 list. Now that you have explored the area’s rich history, take in the town square with a new perspective. Walk these streets and imagine the events, people and culture that have shaped it for hundreds of years.

Franklin is a “Great American Main Street,” designated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, it is one of the only recipient in Tennessee and among the first in the U.S. A visit to Franklin is an unforgettable experience. Choose from themes like Classic Franklin, Civil War and Ghost Tours, Reservations required; fire-capped.

No matter how you choose to explore downtown, don’t miss these historic highlights:

96. Franklin Theatre – This state-of-the-art renovated 1937 Art Deco theatre offers world-class live music, movies and community events.

97. Landmark Bookellers – This building is one of the oldest in Franklin and the earliest example of Greek Revival architecture in Tennessee. Originally, this was the factory store for a large cotton manufacturer on Main Street. During the Civil War, the building was used as a field hospital for Union and Confederate soldiers.

98. The Factory at Franklin – (R) Make plans to spend some time exploring this 12-building complex. It’s a welcome break from local chain stores and malls, while still offering a variety of restaurants and activities for everyone in the family.

Visiting our region helps us preserve and tell our stories, so thanks for visiting, and no matter where your travels take you next, keep exploring!

Find more information at OldTnTrailAndByway.com.
Civil War history dominates the second half of the Old Tennessee Trail. General John Bell Hood was the youngest general in the Confederacy, a reactive strategist, and known for his temper and aggressive decision-making that shaped the outcome of the war. Following General William T. Sherman's capture of Atlanta, Hood moved his troops to Mount Pleasant and set out to organize a risky strategy taking Union-occupied Nashville and Franklin in order to capture supplies, march on to Virginia, and reinforce General Robert E. Lee's struggling forces. On November 28, General John Schofield's Union troops beat Hood to Columbia. That night, Hood's troops occupied Columbia south of the Duck. The next day, Hood brilliantly circled his troops to the southeast and on to Leiper's Fork. Schofield and his troops were still stationed near Columbia.

During the night, General Schofield moved 25,000 men and 600 wagons right past Hood's troops and got his men heading north to Franklin, where they began building trenches and breastworks surrounding the Carter House. When Hood woke and realized he had lost his best chance to isolate and defeat the Union Army, he was enraged with his troops and vowed to show them some discipline.

Hood hurried his men to Franklin, staging his troops at Winstead Hill and meeting with his officers at Harrison House. He predicted that the Union would abandon Franklin and head to Nashville if his men attacked, and planned to do so against the counsel of his advisors. Hood's men had no artillery for the mission, but that didn't stop him. He ordered his troops to march across two miles of open field, directly into cannon and artillery fire, with no ability to return fire. In just five hours of continued frontal assault, 10,000 men were dead, wounded or missing. Most were Confederates. But most of the Union forces were off to Nashville with Hood and his remaining men following the next day. The local residents were left to bury the dead and tend the wounded in their own homes. The recorded accounts of that afternoon are graphic, with stories of Confederate soldiers bodies piled so deep that some of the dead were left standing among the stacks. November 16 in Nashville, Hood's struggling army was defeated decisively by Union forces. Hood retreated to Mississippi, where he surrendered. The Confederate forces never recovered from the heavy losses suffered under his leadership. The Civil War officially ended on April 9, 1865, but General Lee's surrender in Appomattox Court House, Virginia. Out of 2.4 million fighting soldiers, 630,000 were killed.

This is the story behind the stops: watch it unfold behind the country stores and rolling hills. As you travel along the Old Tennessee Trail, you follow the path of history in this area, beginning with prehistoric hunters and ending with famous generals.

Find more information at OldTnTrailAndByway.com. See tour points 46, 48-50, 52-54, 56-60, 65-73, 75, 76 for related subjects.