

# Vicksburg Area NATURE GUIDE

Wildlife viewing and nature tourism  
opportunities within 30 miles of Vicksburg



1

TARA WILDLIFE



6

PANTHER SWAMP WMA



16

BIG LAKE WMA



## Icon Legend



Bicycling



Boat launch, boating



Campground



Fishing



Food service



Hiking



Horse riding



Hunting



Lodging



Picnic area



RV campground



Wildlife watching

### **Information on required permits, fees, hunting seasons, etc.**

Most sites described in this brochure are located on public lands. For some areas (especially state lands) it may be necessary to pay an entrance fee or purchase a special entrance stamp allowing non-consumptive use of the site. Also, you should be aware that many areas are open to public hunting during certain times of the year and there may be privately owned land located adjacent to the sites. Respect for both private property and hunters is advised. Information on online or telephone purchase of required Wild Louisiana Stamps may be found at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/licenses/wildlastamp>. Information on required Mississippi Wildlife Management Area User Permits, which may be purchased where hunting licenses are sold in Mississippi, is available at <http://www.mdwfp.com/Level2/Wildlife/pdf/Final/2007/WMA%20Permits.pdf>.



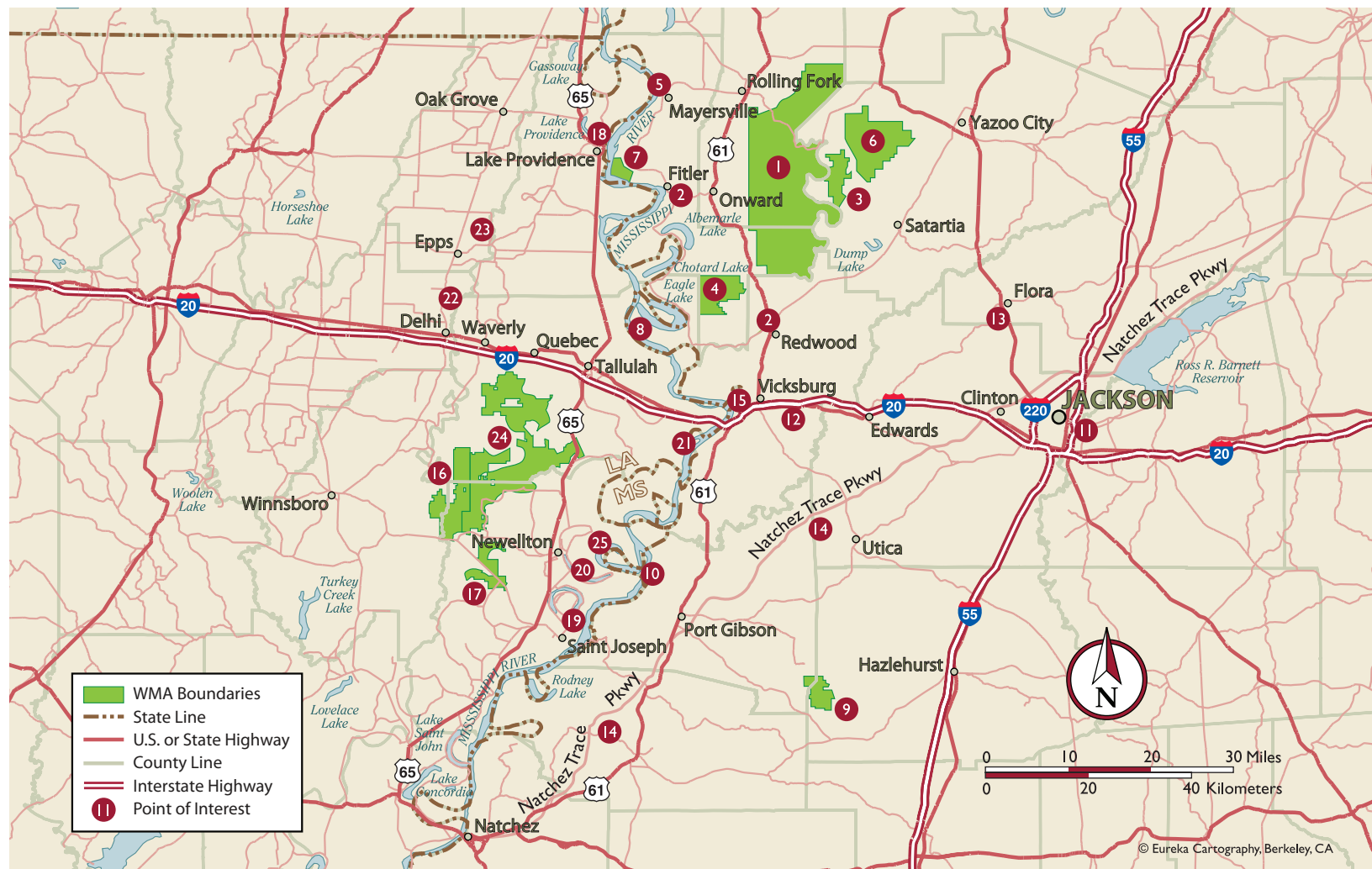


Vicksburg, long known for its Civil War history and more recently, as a mecca for gaming, is also a major gateway to the out-of-doors. Within an hour's drive of downtown, there are many outstanding locations where birds and other wildlife are abundant, accessible, and easily seen from area roadsides and public or private viewing areas. Additionally, there are outstanding opportunities available for bicycling, hiking, canoeing area streams and the Mississippi River, camping, or touring scenic roads such as the Natchez Trace Parkway and the Great River Road. Opportunities to view wildlife occur with great frequency while engaging in any of these activities.

The Vicksburg Area Nature Guide describes and provides directions to many of the more outstanding sites within 30 miles of Vicksburg where wildlife watching opportunities abound. Many of these sites are on the National Audubon Society's Great River Birding Trail which extends the entire length of the Mississippi River

from Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. Additional site details, including printable maps, GPS coordinates, and photos of the sites on the Great River Birding Trail, can be obtained from the internet by accessing [www.greatriverbirding.org](http://www.greatriverbirding.org).

The Vicksburg Area Nature Guide describes sites located in three distinctive geographic locations. In the Vicksburg and the Hill Country section, you will find sites located primarily away from the Mississippi River and in the loess hills east of Vicksburg. The loess hills, in which the Vicksburg National Military Park is located, are a unique physiographic area formed in the aftermath of the most recent Ice Age when windblown soil from areas denuded of vegetation by the glaciers was deposited in massive amounts in a band east of the Mississippi River. Much of this area remains forested with stands of upland hardwood trees. The South Delta section, located just north of Vicksburg and east of the Mississippi River, contains some of the largest contiguous stands of bottomland hardwood



and swamp forests remaining in the nation. Within this area is the Delta National Forest, our nation's only national forest containing primarily stands of bottomland hardwoods. The forests, wetlands, lakes, and open agricultural lands of the south Delta section contain an abundance of wildlife year-round. Then, in the Across the River section in Louisiana, you will find additional bottomland hardwood forests, wetlands, lakes, and open agricultural lands filled with wildlife. This is the area where the famous Singer Tract, the last fully documented home of the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker, is located and an area where you may catch a glimpse of the rare Louisiana Black Bear. You can easily visit the site of the Singer Tract by driving to the refuge headquarters of the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge located southwest of Tallulah, Louisiana. Finally, the Nature Guide also provides information on major trails and scenic highways, river tours, and special nature oriented events that occur annually in the Vicksburg area.

Use the guide to plan your next outdoor adventure along our nation's greatest river, the Mississippi! Here you will find fish and wildlife in abundance, friendly and hospitable people, good places to eat and lodging. Enjoy outstanding year-round opportunities to refresh yourself in the out-of-doors!

## NATURE SITES

- 1 Delta National Forest
- 2 Highway 465: Redwood to Fidler
- 3 Lake George Wildlife Management Area
- 4 Mahannah Wildlife Management Area
- 5 Mayersville Landing on the Mississippi River
- 6 Panther Swamp National Wildlife Refuge
- 7 Shipland Wildlife Management Area
- 8 Tara Wildlife
- 9 Copiah County Wildlife Management Area
- 10 Grand Gulf Military Park
- 11 Lefleur's Bluff State Park
- 12 Linden Plantation and Gardens
- 13 Mississippi Petrified Forest
- 14 Natchez Trace Parkway
- 15 Vicksburg National Military Park
- 16 Big Lake Wildlife Management Area
- 17 Buckhorn Wildlife Management Area
- 18 Grant's Canal Park
- 19 Lake Bruin State Park and Lake Bruin
- 20 Lake St. Joseph
- 21 Mississippi River Levee SW of Vicksburg
- 22 Poverty Point Reservoir State Park
- 23 Poverty Point State Historic Site
- 24 Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge
- 25 Yucatan Landing and Yucatan Lake





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- 2 Highway 465 Redwood to Fitler
- 3 Lake George Wildlife Management Area
- 4 Mahannah Wildlife Management Area
- 5 Mayersville Landing on the Mississippi River
- 6 Panther Swamp National Wildlife Refuge
- 7 Shipland Wildlife Management Area
- 8 Tara Wildlife



## HIGHWAY 465 REDWOOD TO FITLER

2

This uncrowded rural highway extends through the southernmost part of the Mississippi Delta and along sections of the Yazoo and Mississippi Rivers. It passes through numerous tracts of bottomland hardwood and swamp forests, farmland, pastures, floodplain lakes, and wetland habitats. Part of the road is built on top of the mainline Mississippi River levee and borrow pits alongside the levee are good sites for observing wildlife. Wide roadsides (except on the levee) provide good observation sites along most of the road. The highway also provides access to Eagle, Choutard, and Abermarle Lakes (oxbow lakes that were once a part of the main channel of the Mississippi River) and is part of the Great River Road. These lakes (especially in the winter), may be occupied by large numbers of water birds.



## LAKE GEORGE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

3

Lake George consists of about 8,000 acres of former farmland that has been reforested in recent years. Most of the area is covered with young stands of bottomland hardwood trees. Few water bodies occur at the site. Due to the young age of forest stands, the site is a good one for observing open country raptors and sparrows. The Whittington Floodway passes through the area and the graveled roads on the floodway levees provide easy access for viewing.



**LOCATION** 32.50 N and 90.81 W

The highway, which extends west from Highway 61, begins about 10 miles north of Vicksburg

**DIRECTIONS** Go north from Vicksburg on Highway 61 about 10 miles to Redwood. Continue past Redwood on Highway 61 and cross the Yazoo River. Just north of the river bridge, turn left onto Highway 465 and follow it westward.



Red-spotted Purple

**PHONE** 662.828.3449

**WEBSITE** <http://home.mdwfp.com/wildlife.aspx>

**ADDRESS** District Three Field Office, 1999 County Road 145, Greenwood, MS 38930

**LOCATION** 32.75 N and 90.67 W  
About 30 miles NE of Vicksburg just NW of Satartia

**DIRECTIONS** Take Highway 61 N from Vicksburg to Redwood. At Redwood, follow Highway 3 N to Satartia (21 miles). At Satartia, turn left onto Holly Bluff-Satartia Rd. and follow this road northwest to the Will Whittington Floodway (about 10-12 miles). At the floodway, turn left onto the floodway levee and drive southwest into the site.

**PHONE** 662.873.6256

**WEBSITE** [www.fs.fed.us/r8/mississippi/delta](http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/mississippi/delta)

**ADDRESS** 68 Frontage Road, Rolling Fork, MS 39159

**LOCATION** 32.77 N and 90.78 W

About 25 miles due north of Vicksburg and east of Onward, MS

**DIRECTIONS** Take Highway 61 N from Vicksburg to Redwood. Continue north across the Yazoo River for about 15 miles. Just north of the Issaquena/Sharkey County line, look for Omega Rd. (look for the Delta National Forest sign). Turn right onto Omega Rd. and go 0.7 miles to the intersection of Dummy Line Rd. (gravel). Turn right onto Dummy Line Rd. and go two miles to the National Forest Boundary. Follow Dummy Line Rd. into the Forest.

## DELTA NATIONAL FOREST

1

The Delta National Forest, made up of over 60,000 acres of bottomland hardwood forests and forested wetlands, is the nation's only bottomland hardwood national forest. The site is surrounded by slow moving rivers and spreading agricultural fields and serves as important habitat for a long list of wildlife species. Bird watching and wildlife viewing opportunities are abundant and areas are available for picnicking, camping, horseback riding, hiking, boating, bicycling, and nature study. Butterfly enthusiasts enjoy viewing the thousands of butterflies that may be seen during the mid-summer months. Hunting and fishing opportunities are also abundant.





PHONE 601.661.0294

WEBSITE <http://home.mdwfp.com/wildlife.aspx>

ADDRESS District Three Field Office, 1999 County Road 145, Greenwood, MS 38930

LOCATION 32.55 N and 90.87 W  
About 15 miles NW of Vicksburg just west of Highway 61

DIRECTIONS From Vicksburg, take Highway 61 N to Redwood. Continue north for about 2.9 miles to the intersection of Flowerree Road. Turn left and go about 3.5 miles to the intersection of Anderson-Tully Road. Turn left and drive into the area.

LOCATION 32.90 N and 91.06 W  
About 0.5 miles SW of Mayersville, MS

DIRECTIONS From Vicksburg, take Highway 61 N to Rolling Fork, MS. At Rolling Fork, take Highway 14 W to Mayersville. At Mayersville, go west on the street leading to the Mayersville Post Office (look for a Post Office sign). Follow this street past the Post Office to the Mississippi River levee. Go up the levee bearing left where the road forks and travel over the levee to the end of this gravel road.



## MAHANNAH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

4

The area consists of almost 13,000 acres of flat alluvial Mississippi River bottomlands subject to frequent flooding. About half the area is forested and the remainder is divided into parcels that are farmed, impounded for waterfowl, or were formerly farmed but now have been reforested with bottomland hardwood species. Some swamp and bayou habitat also occurs. The site is a good one for observing forest birds, water birds, shorebirds, and various raptors.



## MAYERSVILLE LANDING ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

5

This site is a well maintained boat launch access point into the Mississippi River and is a good place for observing both forest dwelling birds and birds flying along the river. High banks overlooking the launch site provide excellent views of the river. The access road passes through tracts of bottomland hardwood forest.

In winter, sunset over the river may be spectacular.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak

## PANTHER SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

6

The 38,697-acre Panther Swamp Refuge consists of a mix of low-lying bottomland hardwood forests, swamps, other streams and wetlands and former agricultural lands that have been reforested. The leveed Whittington Floodway passes through the area and the graveled roads on the floodway levees provide excellent access and opportunities for wildlife viewing of both forest and open land wildlife. Several side roads and trails provide additional access away from the levees.



## SHIPLAND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

7

This state-owned area consists of about 3,600 acres of mostly bottomland forest adjacent to the Mississippi River as well as portions of dike fields and sandbars within the river channel proper (accessible when the river is low). The area is subject to river overflow and may be partially or totally flooded during the late winter through early summer period. A road alongside the river provides access into the area. The site is an excellent one for observing forest dwelling birds year-round as well as wading birds and shorebirds when the river is low.



PHONE 662.746.5060

WEBSITE [www.fws.gov/pantherswamp](http://www.fws.gov/pantherswamp)

ADDRESS 13695 River Road, Yazoo City, MS 39194

LOCATION 32.84 N and 90.57 W  
About 40 miles NE of Vicksburg near Yazoo City, MS

DIRECTIONS Take Highway 61 north from Vicksburg to Redwood. At Redwood, follow Highway 3 north to Satartia (about 21 miles). At Satartia, turn left onto Holly Bluff-Satartia road and follow this road NW to the Will Whittington Floodway (about 10-12 miles). At the floodway, turn right onto the floodway levee and drive north into the refuge.

PHONE 662.873.9331

WEBSITE <http://home.mdwfp.com/wildlife.aspx>

ADDRESS District Three Field Office 1999 County Road 145, Greenwood, MS 38930

LOCATION 32.76 N and 91.12 W  
Along the Mississippi River about 30 miles NW of Vicksburg between Fitler and Mayersville

DIRECTIONS From Vicksburg, take Highway 61 N to Onward (about 25-30 miles). At Onward, turn left onto Highway 1 and follow it west for about 12 miles. Look for a sign directing you from Highway 1 into the area by means of a local road that leads to the Mississippi River levee and then into the site.



# SOUTH DELTA



PHONE 601.279.4261

WEBSITE [www.tarawildlife.com](http://www.tarawildlife.com)

ADDRESS 6791 Eagle Lake Shore Rd.,  
Vicksburg, MS 39183

LOCATION 32.50 N and 91.07 W  
About 12 miles NW of Vicksburg, MS near  
Eagle Lake

DIRECTIONS Go north on Highway 61 from  
Vicksburg. Just past the Yazoo River near  
Redwood, turn left onto Highway 465 and go  
about 14 miles. Look for a cotton gin on the  
left and just past the gin, turn left onto Eagle  
Lake Shore Road. Follow this road about five  
miles to the end of the pavement and then go  
an additional two miles on a gravel road until  
you reach Tara headquarters.

## TARA WILDLIFE

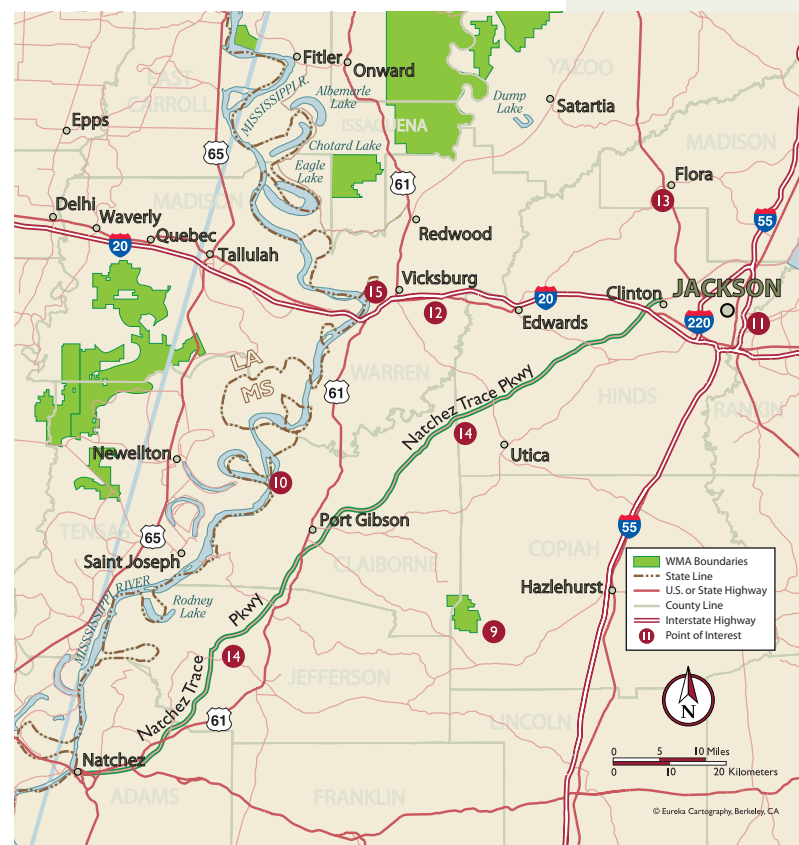
8

Tara consists of about 17,000 acres of mostly  
bottomland hardwood forests, farmland, and  
floodplain lakes that have been placed under  
conservation easements. There are 12 miles of  
Mississippi River frontage. Tara is a privately  
owned foundation that manages its property in an  
ecologically and economically sustainable manner  
to promote conservation awareness and wise use of  
natural resources. All of Tara has been designated  
an Important Bird Area. A 5,700 square foot state-  
of-the-art conference center with lodging available  
next door is available for use by reservation only.  
Bow hunting for deer is permitted during the  
state hunting season and the site holds two annual  
outdoor festivals that are open to the public (see  
information in the Special Events section).



Roseate Spoonbill

# VICKSBURG & THE HILL COUNTRY



- 9 Copiah County Wildlife Management Area
- 10 Grand Gulf Military Park
- 11 Lefleur's Bluff State Park
- 12 Linden Plantation and Gardens
- 13 Mississippi Petrified Forest
- 14 Natchez Trace Parkway
- 15 Vicksburg National Military Park

## COPIAH COUNTY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

9

This out-of-the-way site consists primarily of  
about 6,600 acres of upland hardwood, pine,  
and mixed pine-hardwood forests which vary  
in age from young to mature. Some bottomland  
hardwood forests occur along stream bottoms.  
The area is readily accessible by a network of  
paved and gravel roads which provide abundant  
opportunities for observing wildlife.



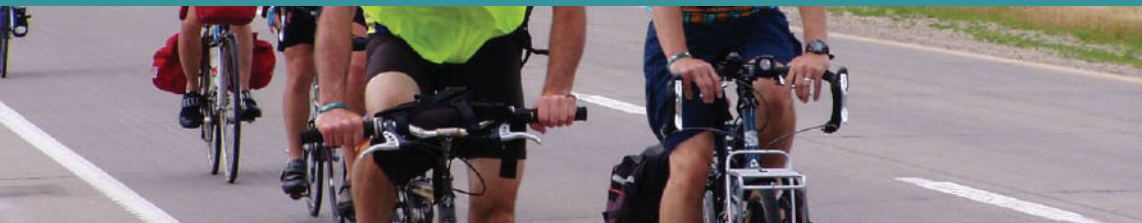
PHONE 601.277.3636

WEBSITE <http://home.mdwfp.com/wildlife.aspx>

LOCATION 31.83 N and 90.69 W  
About 20 miles SE of Port Gibson, MS  
and midway between Port Gibson and  
Hazlehurst, MS

DIRECTIONS Take Highway 61 S from  
Vicksburg to Port Gibson, MS. In Port  
Gibson, take Highway 547 E to the Copiah  
County Line (about 20 miles). Just past the  
county line, look for a paved road leading  
north (left side of road). Follow this paved  
road (Barlow Road) for about two miles to  
the site.

# VICKSBURG & THE HILL COUNTRY



PHONE 601.437.5911

WEBSITE [www.grandgulfpark.state.ms.us](http://www.grandgulfpark.state.ms.us)

ADDRESS 12006 Grand Gulf Road, Port Gibson, MS 39150

LOCATION 32.03 N and 91.05 W  
About eight miles NW of Port Gibson, MS on the banks of the Mississippi River

DIRECTIONS From Vicksburg, take Highway 61 S about 25 miles to just north of Port Gibson. Turn right onto Grand Gulf Road and follow this road to the park.

PHONE 601.987.3923

WEBSITE [http://mississippi.stateparks.reserveamerica.com/ms/Lefleurs\\_Bluff/Campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=MS&parkId=155844](http://mississippi.stateparks.reserveamerica.com/ms/Lefleurs_Bluff/Campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=MS&parkId=155844)

ADDRESS 2140 Riverside Drive, Jackson, MS 39202

LOCATION 32.33 N and 90.15 W  
Just east of Interstate Highway 55 near downtown Jackson, MS

DIRECTIONS Take Interstate Highway 20 E from Vicksburg to Jackson, MS. In Jackson, take Interstate Highway 55 N to Lakeland Drive (Highway 25). Go east on Lakeland Drive for almost a mile to a traffic light at Lakeland Terrace. Turn right and follow this street to the park entrance into the Mayes Lakes area.

## GRAND GULF MILITARY PARK

10

This 400-acre landmark is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and includes Fort Cobun and Fort Wade, the Grand Gulf Cemetery, a museum, campgrounds, picnic areas, hiking trails, an observation tower, and several restored buildings dating back to Grand Gulf's heyday. Located on the banks of the Mississippi River, it provides access to both forested upland and floodplain habitats as well as to the river proper and is an excellent location for observing a wide variety of wildlife typical of Mississippi River habitats.



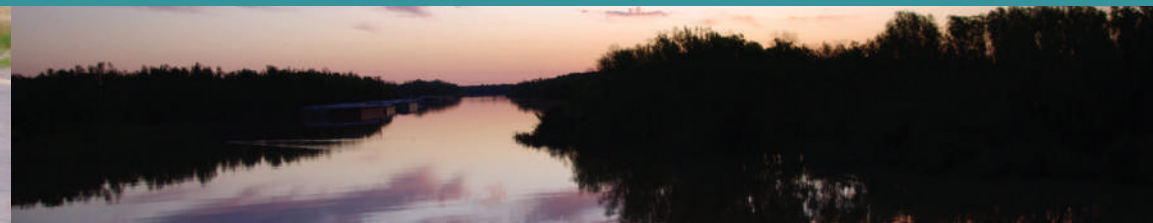
## LEFLEUR'S BLUFF STATE PARK

11

LeFleur's Bluff is a 305-acre park on the banks of the Pearl River and is a lush oasis of green in the heart of Jackson. It provides opportunities for camping, fishing, picnicking, golfing, and wildlife observation. Additionally, it houses the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science.



# VICKSBURG & THE HILL COUNTRY



## LINDEN PLANTATION AND GARDENS

12

Privately owned Linden Plantation (once a thriving 1800's plantation) lies in a very rural part of Warren County. Eight acres of formal and informal gardens and hundreds of acres of adjacent forested and open land habitats allow a variety of forest, open land, and wetland species of wildlife to be observed. In addition to a plantation-style house which may be toured, there is a fully furnished cabin that may be rented overnight and a gourmet breakfast is served.



## MISSISSIPPI PETRIFIED FOREST

13

This privately owned park highlights an ancient petrified forest that dates back some 36 million years. A nature trail leads visitors through this unique geologic attraction. Opportunities for observing forest dwelling wildlife abound along the trail. Additionally, the site has a museum and gift shop, a picnic area, and both primitive and RV campgrounds.



PHONE 601.529.1148

WEBSITE [www.lindenplantationgardens.com](http://www.lindenplantationgardens.com)

ADDRESS 505 Duncan Rd., Vicksburg, MS 39180

LOCATION 32.31 N and 90.77 W  
About 5 miles SE of Vicksburg, MS on Duncan Road

DIRECTIONS From Vicksburg, take Highway 27 S for about 3.1 miles. Turn left on Scott Road and go about 1.2 miles. Then turn left on Mt. Alban Road and go about 0.9 miles. At this point, turn right onto Duncan Road (gravel) and go about 0.5 miles to the site. The entrance lies on the right side of the road.

PHONE 601.879.8189

WEBSITE [www.mspetrifiedforest.com/index.cfm](http://www.mspetrifiedforest.com/index.cfm)

ADDRESS 124 Forest Park Road, P.O. Box 37, Flora, MS 39071

LOCATION 32.52 N and 90.31 W  
About 15 miles NW of Jackson near Flora, MS

DIRECTIONS From Vicksburg, take Interstate Highway 20 E to Edwards, MS. At Edwards, take Highway 22 N to Flora (about 24 miles). Just before Highway 22 intersects with Highway 49 at Flora, look for Petrified Forest Road leading right (south). Follow this road to the site.



# VICKSBURG & THE HILL COUNTRY



PHONE 800.305.7417

WEBSITE [www.nps.gov/natr/](http://www.nps.gov/natr/)

ADDRESS Natchez Trace Parkway, 2680  
Natchez Trace Parkway, Tupelo, MS 38804

LOCATION The Natchez Trace Parkway extends, in SW Mississippi, from Jackson, MS southwestward to Natchez, MS

DIRECTIONS From Vicksburg, take Interstate Highway 20 E to Clinton, MS (about 30 miles) where access to the Trace is provided. Follow the Trace south to go to Natchez. Alternately, you may take Highway 27 E from Vicksburg for about 15 miles to access the Trace near Utica, MS.

## NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY

14

The Trace consists of a two-lane paved highway passing through forested and open land as it leads through the hill country east and southeast of Vicksburg. The entire Trace is an excellent location for viewing native plants and wildlife as well as for bicycling. Several interpretive sites allow the visitor to explore nature trails, Indian mounds, and various historical sites. A major campground and picnic area is located at the Rocky Springs site near Utica, MS and picnicking and hiking opportunities are available at many other locations as well.



PHONE 601.636.0583

WEBSITE [www.nps.gov/vick](http://www.nps.gov/vick)

ADDRESS 3201 Clay St., Vicksburg, MS 39183

LOCATION 32.34 N and 90.85 W  
In Vicksburg near the intersection of Clay Street and Interstate 20

### DIRECTIONS

Take Clay Street west from I-20 and look for the park entrance on the right.



Painted Bunting

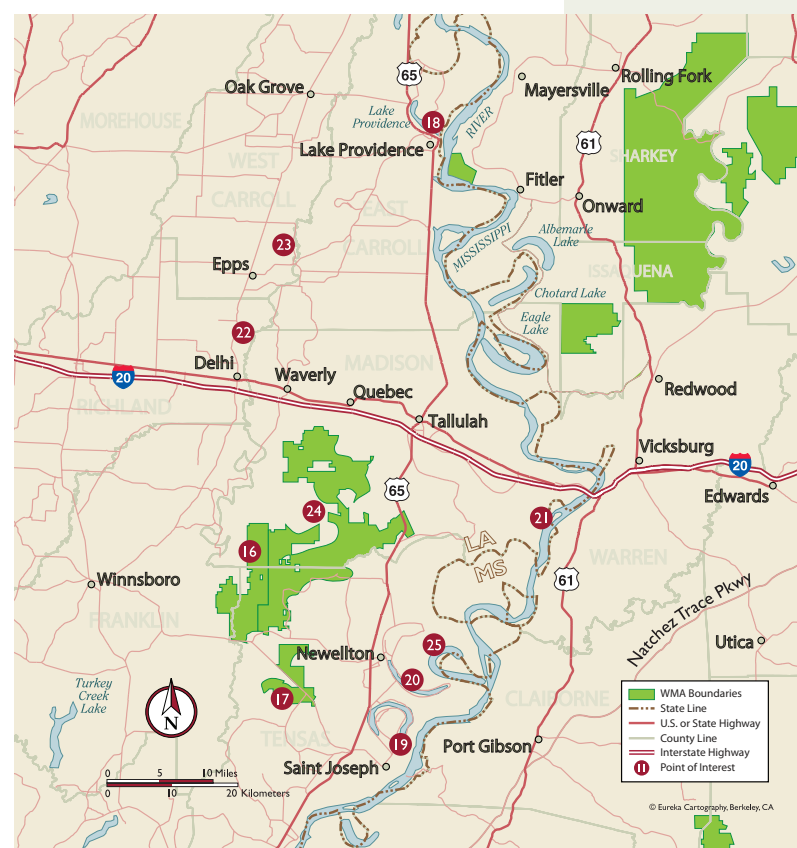
## VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

15

The Vicksburg Military Park is dedicated to interpretation of the Civil War and the Siege of Vicksburg. It also provides an excellent location for engaging in many outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, bicycling, wildlife observation, and nature photography. Miles of park roads and trails provide ready access to many sites where wildlife may be observed in a variety of forested, wetland, and open water habitats.



# JUST ACROSS THE RIVER



- 16 Big Lake Wildlife Management Area
- 17 Buckhorn Wildlife Management
- 18 Grant's Canal Park
- 19 Lake Bruin State Park and Lake Bruin
- 20 Lake St. Joseph
- 21 Mississippi River Levee Southwest of Vicksburg
- 22 Poverty Point Reservoir State Park
- 23 Poverty Point State Historic Site
- 24 Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge
- 25 Yucatan Landing and Yucatan Lake

## BIG LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

16

Big Lake, containing 19,231 acres, is recognized as an Important Bird Area and is adjacent to and very similar to the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge to the north. Habitat is predominately that of bottomland hardwood forest. There is a nature trail three miles north of Highway 4 at Trusler Lake. Opportunities abound for observing wildlife from area roadsides.



PHONE 318.757.4571

WEBSITE [www.wlf.louisiana.gov/hunting/wmas/wmas/list.cfm?wmaid=13](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/hunting/wmas/wmas/list.cfm?wmaid=13)

ADDRESS P.O. Box 1640, Ferriday, LA 71334

LOCATION 32.17 N and 91.49 W  
Midway between Winnsboro and Newellton, LA

DIRECTIONS From Vicksburg, take Interstate 20 W to Tallulah, LA. At Tallulah, take Highway 65 S to Newellton, LA. Then, take Highway 4 W to the intersection of Highway 128. Continue west on Highway 4 for about three miles and look for a sign directing you north into the area.



**PHONE** 318.757.4571

**WEBSITE** [www.wlf.louisiana.gov/hunting/wmas/wmas/list.cfm?wmaid=16](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/hunting/wmas/wmas/list.cfm?wmaid=16)

**ADDRESS** P.O. Box 1640, Ferriday, LA 71334

**LOCATION** 32.05 N and 91.37 W  
About 10 miles west of Newellton, LA  
between Highways 4 and 128

**DIRECTIONS** From Vicksburg, take Interstate 20 W to Tallulah, LA. At Tallulah, take Highway 65 S to near St. Joseph, LA. At St. Joseph go west on Highway 128 to reach the WMA boundary (near Saranac). There are several roads off of Highway 128 that lead into the area. Clydesdale Road to the north leads to the Brush Lake Nature Trail, a good location for observing wildlife.

## BUCKHORN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

17

Consisting of 11,262 acres, this site contains a mix of bottomland hardwood forest, swamp, and related aquatic and wetland habitats. Also present are open areas planted with food for wildlife and some artificial impoundments.



**LOCATION** 32.81 N and 91.17 W  
At the SE corner of Lake Providence adjacent to Highway 65 and across from the Byerley House Visitor's Center in Lake Providence, LA

**DIRECTIONS** From Vicksburg, take Interstate 20 W to Tallulah, LA. At Tallulah, take Highway 65 N to Lake Providence, LA. The park is located at the northern end of the downtown area on Highway 65.

## GRANT'S CANAL PARK

18

This small local park rests on the shore of Lake Providence, a large oxbow lake off the Mississippi River. It contains a beautiful stand of bald cypress trees, a boardwalk leading out into the lake, and picnic facilities. The boardwalk is a good place for observing local or migratory birds and other wildlife.



## LAKE BRUIN STATE PARK AND LAKE BRUIN

19

Lake Bruin State Park consists of 53 acres of bottomland hardwood and cypress stands along the southeast shoreline of Lake Bruin, an old, severed Mississippi River channel. Both are very scenic with Spanish Moss laden trees in abundance. Excellent views of the lake and wildlife on the lake may be obtained from the shoreline and various access boardwalks and piers.



## LAKE ST. JOSEPH

20

Lake St. Joseph is an old and shallow oxbow lake that was once a part of the main channel of the Mississippi River. It no longer receives flow from the river. Much of the shoreline is privately owned but undeveloped and is lined with a fringe of Bald Cypress trees. A road runs along much of the west shoreline and the Winter Quarters State Historic Site lies along this road providing public shoreline access to the lake. There is also a public access point for small boats in downtown Newellton. Good views of the lake and wildlife inhabiting the lake may be had from various points along the road on the west side of the lake.



**PHONE** 318.766.3530

**WEBSITE** [www.crt.state.la.us/parks/iLkbruin.aspx](http://www.crt.state.la.us/parks/iLkbruin.aspx)

**ADDRESS** 201 State Park Road, St. Joseph, LA 71366

**LOCATION** 31.96 N and 91.20 W  
About three miles NE of St. Joseph, LA

**DIRECTIONS** From Vicksburg, take Interstate 20 W to Tallulah, LA. At Tallulah, take Highway 65 S to Newellton, LA. Continue past Newellton about 4.5 miles to Highway 607. Turn left onto Highway 607 and go about 0.25 miles to the intersection of Highway 605. Follow Highway 605 about 0.6 miles to a junction with Highway 604. Follow Highway 604 about eight miles to the park.

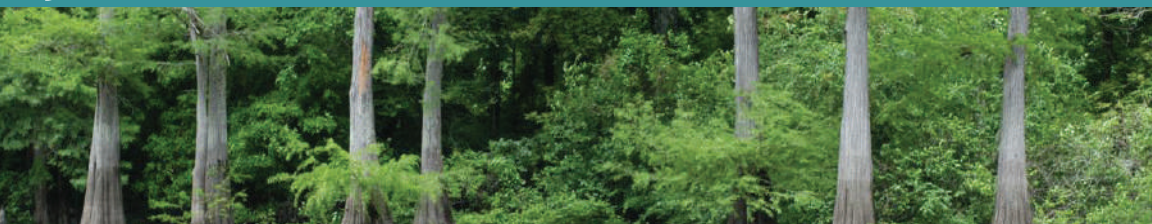
**LOCATION** 32.07 N and 91.23 W  
Adjacent to and east of Newellton, LA

**DIRECTIONS** From Vicksburg, take Interstate 20 W to Tallulah, LA. From Tallulah, take Highway 65 S to Newellton, LA. At Newellton, take Highway 4 to downtown Newellton on the lake. At the lake turn right and follow Highway 605 and later Highway 608 along the lake shore. The Winter Quarters site lies along Highway 608 near the southernmost point of the lake.



American Alligator





**LOCATION** 32.30 N and 90.98 W  
About five miles SW of Vicksburg near the Mississippi River in Louisiana

**DIRECTIONS** From Vicksburg, take Interstate 20 W to the Mississippi River. Cross over the river into Louisiana and go to the first Louisiana exit (exit 186). After exiting, turn left (south) and go about a mile to the levee. At the levee bear right, go up to the top, and follow the gravel road west and south for several miles.

**PHONE** 318.878.7536

**WEBSITE** [www.crt.state.la.us/Parks/ireservoir.aspx](http://www.crt.state.la.us/Parks/ireservoir.aspx)

**ADDRESS** 1500 Poverty Point Parkway, Delhi, LA 71232

**LOCATION** 32.52 N and 91.48 W  
Just north of Delhi, LA between Highway 17 and Bayou Macon

**DIRECTIONS** Take Interstate Highway 20 W from Vicksburg to Delhi, LA. At Delhi, take Highway 17 N. The park is three miles north of I-20 on the east side of the highway.

## MISSISSIPPI RIVER LEVEE SOUTHWEST OF VICKSBURG

21

The Mississippi River Levee provides easy road access for viewing wildlife in borrow pits created by excavation of earth for Mississippi River levee construction. Many of the borrow pits provide aquatic and wetland habitat highly attractive to birds and other wildlife, especially in winter. Adjacent to the borrow pits stands of bottomland hardwood forest may be found while the levees proper are managed as pasture. The levees are privately owned but the public is generally allowed to drive on the gravel roads found on top of the levee.



## POVERTY POINT RESERVOIR STATE PARK

22

Recently built, Poverty Point Reservoir Park consists of a large shallow man-made impoundment (2,700 acres) surrounded by stands of bottomland and upland hardwood forest, large grassy fields, and developed recreational and housing developments. At the south end is a large Indian mound, a RV campground and cabins for rent. Marina facilities are also available. Excellent opportunities exist for wildlife observation throughout the area.



## POVERTY POINT STATE HISTORIC SITE

23

Poverty Point, one of the nation's premier archaeological sites, features ancient Indian mounds and other earthworks and contains a mix of manicured open areas and small to medium sized tracts of hardwood forests. There are some small intermittent streams crossing the area and Bayou Macon borders the east side. Much of the area is easily accessible by walking a paved trail. Opportunities for observing wildlife abound.



## TENSAS RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

24

This 70,000-acre area, an outstanding example of a southern bottomland forest, contains a wide spectrum of forest types as well as swamp, marsh, agricultural lands, various lakes and streams, and early successional habitats. From the refuge headquarters, all the major habitat types can be seen within a half-mile radius. The site encompasses what remains of the famous Singer Tract, once home to the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker. The refuge also contains one of the largest concentrations of the Louisiana Black Bear in the region. A short boardwalk and observation tower located at the headquarters building and a longer hiking trail around nearby Rainey Lake provide excellent opportunities for observing wildlife.



**PHONE** 318.926.5492

**WEBSITE** [www.crt.state.la.us/Parks/ipvertyp.aspx](http://www.crt.state.la.us/Parks/ipvertyp.aspx)

**ADDRESS** P.O. Box 276, Epps, LA 71237

**LOCATION** 32.64 N and 91.41 W  
About 15 miles north of Waverly, LA on the west side of Bayou Macon

**DIRECTIONS** Take Interstate Highway 20 W from Vicksburg to Delhi, LA. At Delhi, follow Highway 17 N to Epps. At Epps, take Highway 134 E for about five miles to the intersection of Highway 577. Turn left (north) and follow Highway 577 about a mile to the park.

**PHONE** 318.574.2664

**WEBSITE** [www.fws.gov/tensasriver](http://www.fws.gov/tensasriver)

**ADDRESS** 2312 Quebec Road, Tallulah, LA 71282

**LOCATION** 32.32 N and 91.37 W  
About 10 miles SW of Tallulah, LA

**DIRECTIONS** From Vicksburg, take Interstate 20 W to Tallulah, LA. Take exit 171 and go north on Highway 65 to the intersection of Highway 80 in downtown Tallulah. Turn left and go west on Highway 80 to Quebec (about seven miles). Turn south onto Quebec Road and follow this road south to the refuge headquarters.



**LOCATION** 32.08 N and 91.15 W  
About three miles east of Newellton, LA

**DIRECTIONS** From Vicksburg, take Interstate 20 W to Tallulah, LA. From Tallulah, take Highway 65 S to Somerset. About 0.8 miles past Somerset turn onto Highway 605 and go south to Highway 608. Turn left (east) on Highway 608 and go east to Hogue Road at a large levee (Hogue Road goes up and over the levee and may not be marked with a sign). Follow Hogue Road east about 0.8 miles to Yucatan Road. Turn onto Yucatan Road and follow it south to the landing on Yucatan Lake. Both Hogue and Yucatan Roads are gravel.

## YUCATAN LANDING AND YUCATAN LAKE

25

Yucatan Lake is a cut off side channel of the Mississippi River that receives river overflow during major high water events on the river. Yucatan Road, leading to the landing on the lake, passes through some excellent examples of privately owned bottomland forest subject to river overflow. The lake proper is lined with willow forests. There is a store and a boat launching ramp on the lake. Opportunities to observe wildlife are abundant on the road leading to the lake and at times, the lake makes an excellent site observing a variety of water birds.



Red-headed Woodpecker

## GREAT RIVER BIRDING TRAIL

The Great River Birding Trail is a 2,000-mile long pathway to hundreds of places where people can enjoy birds, other wildlife and the habitats that support them within the Mississippi River corridor. It links together sites, both publicly and privately owned, that allow visitors to experience the true nature of Mississippi River habitats and affords opportunities for observing wildlife, both commonplace and rare, from the headwaters of the river to the Gulf of Mexico.

## GREAT RIVER ROAD

The Great River Road was established in 1938 as the national parkway of the Mississippi River. Its scenic roads and highways lie on both sides of the river and lead the visitor to a wide variety of cultural, historic, and natural sites as well as to a diverse array of museums that interpret the Mississippi River.

## MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRAIL

This trail consists of a 3,000-mile long system of on-road and bike/pedestrian pathways that was developed for the recreational enjoyment, health, conservation, and tourism development of river communities, river states, and the nation.

**WEBSITE** [www.greatriverbirding.org](http://www.greatriverbirding.org)

**LOCATION** Along the Mississippi River from Minnesota to the Gulf

**DIRECTIONS** Sites along the trail may be found both within the city limits of Vicksburg as well as upriver and downriver. Highway 61 leads to sites on the east side of the river while Interstate 20 will take you across the river where sites in Louisiana may be accessed either from I-20 or from Highway 65 north and south.

**WEBSITE** [www.experiencemississippiriver.com/home.cfm](http://www.experiencemississippiriver.com/home.cfm)

**LOCATION** Along the Mississippi River from Minnesota to the Gulf

**DIRECTIONS** From Vicksburg, the Great River Road in Mississippi may be accessed by taking Highway 61 either north or south from the city. The Louisiana section may be accessed by taking Highway 65 either north or south from Tallulah, LA on I-20.

**WEBSITE** [www.mississippirivertrail.org](http://www.mississippirivertrail.org)

**LOCATION** Along the Mississippi River from Minnesota to the Gulf

**DIRECTIONS** The trail passes through Vicksburg. Cyclists may access the trail north by taking Highway 61 and south by taking Indiana Avenue where it crosses Interstate 20. See the web site for detailed directions.



# REGIONAL TRAILS & SCENIC ROADS



**PHONE** 800.305.7417

**WEBSITE** [www.nps.gov/natr/](http://www.nps.gov/natr/)

**ADDRESS** Natchez Trace Parkway, 2680 Natchez Trace Parkway, Tupelo, MS 38804

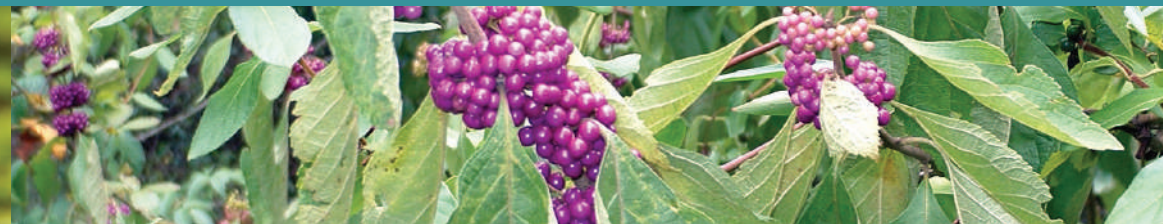
**LOCATION** The Natchez Trace Parkway extends, in SW Mississippi, from Jackson, MS southwestward to Natchez, MS

## NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY

The 444-mile Natchez Trace Parkway commemorates an ancient trail used by animals and people that connected southern portions of the Mississippi River, through Alabama, to salt licks in today's central Tennessee. Today, visitors can experience this National Scenic Byway and All-American Road through driving, hiking, biking, horseback riding, and camping. The Natchez Trace runs through Jackson, Clinton, Vicksburg and other communities covered in this guide. The Trace provides great viewing of migrant birds in the spring, wonderful biking opportunities and a rich experience for history lovers.



# RIVER TOURS & SPECIAL EVENTS



## MISSISSIPPI RIVER TOURS

This tour operation takes small groups of passengers from the downtown Vicksburg Waterfront out on the Yazoo and Mississippi Rivers on board the Sweet Olive, a small enclosed tour boat.

## BLUZCRUZ CANOE AND KAYAK MARATHON

The BluzCruz Marathon is a 22-mile charity race for competitive and recreational canoeists and kayakers along the Mississippi River. The Marathon has multiple canoe and kayak classes for competitive and recreational paddlers and is aimed at families and friends wanting to enjoy a safe paddling experience, as well as camaraderie with others who enjoy the sport of paddling. The event starts 22 miles north of Vicksburg and finishes at the Vicksburg Riverfront downtown. The race is held in conjunction with the Vicksburg Riverfest each April. Vicksburg Riverfest festivities include Friday and Saturday night street parties and a Saturday Arts and Craft Show.

## QUAPAW CANOE COMPANY

Quapaw Canoe Company provides custom-guided excursions on the Lower Mississippi River, by canoe or kayak, from Cairo, Illinois to the Gulf of Mexico.

**PHONE** 601.883.1083

**WEBSITE** [www.msrivertrails.com](http://www.msrivertrails.com)

**LOCATION** Downtown Vicksburg on the waterfront

**DIRECTIONS** The Sweet Olive docks on the Yazoo River at 1208 Levee Street just upstream behind the Vicksburg murals.

**WEBSITE** [www.bluzcruz.com](http://www.bluzcruz.com)

**LOCATION** On the Mississippi River

**DIRECTIONS** See website for details.

**PHONE** 662.627.4070

**WEBSITE** [www.island63.com](http://www.island63.com)

**LOCATION** Headquartered in downtown Clarksdale, Mississippi

**DIRECTIONS** The Clarksdale headquarters is located at 291 Sunflower Avenue in downtown Clarksdale. Arrangements can be made to meet up for trips on any part of the Lower Mississippi River at any suitable location including Vicksburg.

# SPECIAL EVENTS



**WEBSITE** [www.greatdeltabearaffair.org](http://www.greatdeltabearaffair.org)

**LOCATION** Rolling Fork, Mississippi

**DIRECTIONS** Take Highway 61 N from Vicksburg for about 45 miles to the town of Rolling Fork. The festival is held around the courthouse square downtown which lies just west of Highway 61. Turn left onto Race Street from Highway 61 and go west to the downtown area.

**PHONE** 601.279.4261

**WEBSITE** [www.tarawildlife.com/events.htm](http://www.tarawildlife.com/events.htm)

**LOCATION** Tara Wildlife NW of Vicksburg

**DIRECTIONS** From Vicksburg, take Highway 61 N to Redwood. Just past Redwood, turn left onto Highway 465 and go about 14 miles to Eagle Lake Shore Road (look for a cotton gin just before coming to Eagle Lake Shore Road). Turn left onto Eagle Lake Shore Road and follow it seven miles to Tara.

**PHONE** 601.279.4261

**WEBSITE** [www.tarawildlife.com/events.htm](http://www.tarawildlife.com/events.htm)

**LOCATION** Tara Wildlife NW of Vicksburg

**DIRECTIONS** From Vicksburg, take Highway 61 north to Redwood. Just past Redwood, turn left onto Highway 465 and go about 14 miles to Eagle Lake Shore Road (look for a cotton gin just before coming to Eagle Lake Shore Road). Turn left onto Eagle Lake Shore Road and follow it seven miles to Tara.

## GREAT DELTA BEAR AFFAIR

This annual festival is held on the fourth Saturday each October and celebrates President Teddy Roosevelt and his famous hunt that gave birth to the Teddy Bear. Continuous live music, food, games, seminars, wildlife education, wildlife viewing, archaeological tours, and many other activities are featured. Free parking is available.

## MISSISSIPPI RIVER NATURE FESTIVAL

The nature festival weekend event in late April or early May at Tara Wildlife provides opportunities for the public to visit the lush bottomland forests along 12 miles of the Mississippi River, take boat and canoe rides on the river, view rare birds such as Wood Storks and Roseate Spoonbills, and attend educational seminars on a wide variety of nature related topics.

## TARA SPRING BIRDING WEEKEND

Tara's weekend wildlife watching event takes place each April and provides opportunities for the public to view birds during the peak of the spring migration. Participants are taken on guided excursions by open-air bus and by canoe to observe the many species of birds that occur along the Mississippi River at Tara and in the bottomland habitats adjacent to the river.

# MORE INFORMATION



Vicksburg Convention and Visitor's Bureau:  
[www.visitvicksburg.com](http://www.visitvicksburg.com)

Mississippi Delta Tourism Association:  
[www.visitthedelta.com](http://www.visitthedelta.com)

Mississippi Lower Delta Partnership:  
[www.lowerdelta.org](http://www.lowerdelta.org)

Explore Louisiana North:  
[www.explorelouisiananorth.org](http://www.explorelouisiananorth.org)

Audubon Mississippi River Initiative:  
[www.mri.audubon.org](http://www.mri.audubon.org)

Jackson Audubon Society:  
[www.jacksonaudubonsociety.org](http://www.jacksonaudubonsociety.org)

Great River Birding Trail:  
[www.greatriverbirding.org](http://www.greatriverbirding.org)

Photography credits:

Deer photo provided by Tara Wildlife

Several bird photos provided by Bill Stripling

Painted bunting photo by Danny Johnson

Bear cubs photo by Black Bear Conservation Committee

Deer cover photo by Scott Bauer, USDA

Lost Lake cypress by USFS-Delta National Forest

Vicksburg Bridge photo by Bruce Reid

American lotus photo by Kathy Jacobs

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Bald Eagle





*Vicksburg*



Audubon

*Mississippi's*  
Lower Delta  
*Partnership*