

Elvis's Birthplace by Day, Antebellum Bluffs by Night

The Natchez Trace Parkway in three days: a start at Nashville's Loveless Cafe and a first stop at Elvis Presley's two-room birthplace in Tupelo, a break at a restored 1800s log-cabin village in French Camp, a long push south through pine forest and cotton country to the antebellum river bluffs of Natchez, and a final morning inside the largest octagonal house ever built in America — with real hotels, roadside restaurants, and 2026 prices for every stop.

DURATION

3 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

**October–November &
March–April (Fall & Spring)**

Daytime highs sit in the 60s–70s°F (16–24°C) with far less humidity than the July–August stretch through Mississippi, and the Trace's oak canopy is either turning color or leafing out fresh green.

FROM

\$375 USD / person

for 2 people, incl. rental car & gas, 2 nights' lodging & attraction admission

Day 1

Nashville to Tupelo

The Trace begins at the Loveless Cafe just south of Nashville, then unspools south through Tennessee's rolling hills into Mississippi for a first stop at the King of Rock and Roll's two-room birthplace in Tupelo.

Rental Car Pickup — Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Nashville Int'l Airport

~10 minutes · From \$58 USD / day, midsize sedan

Every major agency operates out of BNA's rental car facility; the Trace itself is a well-paved, RV-friendly parkway with a 50 mph limit and no commercial trucks, so a standard sedan or crossover covers all three days comfortably.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car · enterprise.com

Breakfast — The Loveless Cafe

~1 hour · \$14–20 USD / person

A former 1950s motor court just off the Trace's northern terminus, still serving the buttermilk biscuits and preserves that made it a Nashville institution before a single mile of the parkway unrolls south.

The Loveless Cafe · lovelesscafe.com

Drive — Nashville to Tupelo, Mississippi

~4 hours, 210 miles · self-drive via the Natchez Trace Parkway

The Parkway's Tennessee stretch runs past the Meriwether Lewis site and the Tennessee River before crossing into Mississippi, where mile markers count down toward Natchez.

Elvis Presley Birthplace & Museum

~1.5 hours, self-guided · \$12–25 USD / person depending on package

The two-room shotgun house where Elvis Presley was born in 1935 sits on the same plot as a museum, his childhood church, and a bronze statue of him at age 13, with combination tickets covering all three.

Elvis Presley Birthplace & Museum · (662) 841-1245 · elvispresleybirthplace.com

Dinner — Johnnie's Drive-In

~45 minutes · \$8–14 USD / person

A Tupelo institution since the 1940s where a teenage Elvis was a regular; the burgers and barbecue sandwiches haven't changed much, and neither has the drive-in curb service.

Johnnie's Drive-In · (662) 842-6748

Overnight — Hilton Garden Inn Tupelo

From \$109 USD / night, for 2 people

A reliable, business-district base with an indoor pool and free breakfast, about 10 minutes from both the Elvis Presley site and the Trace's Tupelo entrance.

Hilton Garden Inn Tupelo · hilton.com

Day 2

Tupelo to Natchez via French Camp

The Trace's Mississippi stretch runs through pine forest and cotton country, with a break at a century-old log-cabin settlement before a long final push to the antebellum river bluffs of Natchez.

Drive — Tupelo to French Camp

~1.5 hours, 80 miles · self-drive via the Natchez Trace Parkway

A quiet, two-lane stretch of the Parkway threads through longleaf pine forest and past the Pigeon Roost Creek and Line Creek overlooks on the way to French Camp.

French Camp Historic Village

~1 hour, self-guided · Free admission, donations welcome

A cluster of restored 1800s log cabins built around a girls' academy founded on the old Natchez Trace itself, with a working blacksmith shop, a quilt collection, and a scenic overlook trail behind the village.

French Camp Historic Village · (662) 547-6835 · frenchcamphistoricvillage.com

Lunch — Council House Restaurant, French Camp

~45 minutes · \$10–16 USD / person

The Historic Village's own dining room serves a Southern lunch buffet of fried chicken, field peas, and cornbread inside a century-old log building, with the Village's own sorghum syrup for sale next door.

Drive — French Camp to Natchez

~3.5 hours, 190 miles · self-drive via the Natchez Trace Parkway

The Parkway's southernmost stretch runs past the Ridgeland information cabin and Jackson's outer suburbs before the pines thin into the loess bluffs and cotton fields surrounding Natchez.

Dinner — Fat Mama's Tamales

~1 hour · \$12–18 USD / person

An unpretentious tamale counter and margarita bar a few blocks from the Mississippi River bluff, serving the hot tamales that have made it a Natchez institution since 1988.

Fat Mama's Tamales · (601) 442-4548 · fatmamastamales.com

Overnight — Monmouth Historic Inn

From \$259 USD / night, for 2 people

A Greek Revival mansion turned 30-room inn on 26 acres of gardens, built in 1818 for a Mississippi governor and furnished throughout with period antiques.

Monmouth Historic Inn · (601) 442-5852 · monmouthhistoricinn.com

Day 3

Natchez & Departure

A final morning in Natchez tours the largest octagonal house ever built in America before a walk along the bluff where the Mississippi River bends toward Louisiana.

Longwood

~1 hour, guided tours on the hour · \$25 USD / person

The largest octagonal house in the United States, its onion dome and ornate exterior finished in 1861 but its interior abandoned mid-construction when Union gunboats arrived on the Mississippi — the unfinished upper floors still show the workmen's tools where they were dropped.

Longwood · Natchez Pilgrimage Tours · (601) 653-0919 · natchezpilgrimage.com

Natchez Bluff & Historic Downtown

~1 hour, self-guided · Free

A walking path along the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River and the Natchez-Vidalia bridge, a short stroll from Broadway Street's antebellum storefronts and the Under-the-Hill riverfront district.

Departure

Self-guided

Three days that ran the length of the Natchez Trace from a Nashville biscuit institution to a bluff over the Mississippi River, by way of Elvis Presley's birthplace and a governor's Greek Revival mansion.