The Ultimate Guide to the Natchez Trace Parkway: A Journey Through History and Nature





Guide to the Natchez Trace Parkway by Taryn Chase Jackson

4.5 out of 5

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The Natchez Trace Parkway is a 444-mile scenic road that winds its way through Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee. It follows the route of the historic Natchez Trace, a trail that was used by Native Americans, European explorers, and settlers for centuries.

Today, the Natchez Trace Parkway is a popular destination for road trippers, hikers, bikers, and nature lovers. It offers a unique opportunity to experience the history and natural beauty of the American South.

History of the Natchez Trace

The Natchez Trace was first established by Native Americans as a trade route between the Ohio River Valley and the Gulf of Mexico. The trail was used by various tribes, including the Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Creek.

In the 1700s, European explorers and traders began using the Natchez Trace. The trail became an important route for the movement of goods and people between the Mississippi River and the East Coast.

During the War of 1812, the Natchez Trace was used by American troops to supply and reinforce their forces. After the war, the trail continued to be used by settlers and travelers moving west.

In the early 1900s, the Natchez Trace was designated as a national parkway. The parkway was completed in 1938 and has been a popular tourist destination ever since.

The Natchez Trace Parkway Today

The Natchez Trace Parkway is a two-lane road that winds through forests, fields, and hills. It offers a variety of scenic views, including rolling hills, lush

forests, and sparkling rivers.

The parkway is also home to a variety of historical and cultural attractions. Visitors can explore old forts, plantations, and cemeteries. They can also learn about the history of the Natchez Trace at the parkway's visitor centers.

In addition to its historical and cultural attractions, the Natchez Trace
Parkway offers a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. Visitors can
hike, bike, and camp along the parkway. They can also go fishing, boating,
and swimming in the parkway's lakes and rivers.

Planning Your Trip

If you're planning a trip to the Natchez Trace Parkway, there are a few things you should keep in mind.

First, the parkway is a long road, so you'll need to plan your trip accordingly. You can drive the entire parkway in one day, but it's best to take your time and explore the attractions along the way.

Second, the parkway is open year-round, but the best time to visit is in the spring or fall. The weather is milder during these seasons, and the wildflowers are in bloom.

Third, there are a number of campgrounds and lodging options along the parkway. You can also find food and gas at various rest stops.

Finally, be sure to bring your camera! The Natchez Trace Parkway is a beautiful place, and you'll want to capture the memories.

Things to See and Do

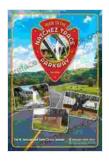
There are many things to see and do along the Natchez Trace Parkway. Here are a few of the most popular attractions:

- Tupelo National Battlefield: This battlefield commemorates the Battle of Tupelo, which was fought in 1864. The battle was a Confederate victory, and it helped to prolong the Civil War.
- Brices Cross Roads National Battlefield: This battlefield commemorates the Battle of Brices Cross Roads, which was fought in 1864. The battle was a Confederate victory, and it helped to prevent Union forces from capturing the city of Mobile, Alabama.
- Natchez Trace Parkway Visitor Center: This visitor center is located in Tupelo, Mississippi. It offers exhibits on the history of the Natchez Trace and the parkway.
- Emerald Mound: This is the largest prehistoric Indian mound in the United States. It is located near the town of Natchez, Mississippi.
- Windsor Ruins: These are the ruins of a plantation that was built in the 1860s. The plantation was destroyed by fire in 1890, and the ruins are now a popular tourist attraction.

The Natchez Trace Parkway is a unique and beautiful road that offers a glimpse into the history and culture of the American South. Whether you're a history buff, a nature lover, or just someone looking for a scenic drive, the Natchez Trace Parkway is sure to have something for you.

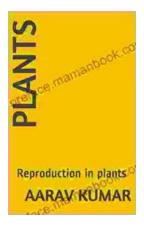
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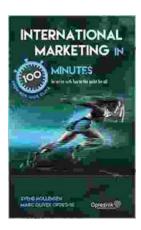
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