

Scenic Drive #5



SOUTH ON THE NACHEZ TRACE

Follow the upper Natchez Trace Parkway from Tennessee to Alabama for homemade biscuits, handmade jewelry, and heaps of Southern hospitality

Day 1

NASHVILLE TO FLY, TN

Near Milepost 444, the northern terminus of the Trace, have breakfast for lunch at **Loveless Café** (*lovelesscafe.com* or 615646-9700), a Nashville institution. Fuel up with country ham and eggs with red-eye gravy, plus extra biscuits for the road.

Head about 15 miles south to **Leipers Fork**, a tiny hamlet teeming with art galleries, specialty stores, and restaurants. Browse through the books, maps, and documents at **Yeoman's in the Fork Rare Books** (*yeomansinthefork.com* or 877936-6261). Then check out the fine leather goods and chic accessories at **West & Company** (*thewestandcompany.com*).

Around dinnertime, order a meat-and-two plate of fresh catfish, fried okra, and green beans at **Puckett's Grocery & Restaurant** (*puckettsgrocery.com* or 615794-1308), a small-town gathering spot where news spreads quickly.

As stars begin to fill the clear sky, end the day in Fly at the **Creekview Farm Retreat Bed & Breakfast** (931446-7993). Here, Gwen Montgomery-Creager; her sister, Cheryl Stewart; her sister-in-law, Gloria Montgomery; and her niece, Misty Montgomery, run the guesthouse on the family's farm just off State 7 near Milepost 420.

Day 2

FLY, TN, TO FLORENCE, AL

After a hearty Creekview breakfast, stop by the **Fly General Store** (931682-2356), run by Wilson Fly's family almost continuously since 1890. It still stocks sundries and snacks on many of the original shelves. About 35 miles south, a monument at the **Meriwether Lewis Site** (near Milepost 386) marks the grave of one of the most famous travelers on this old Indian trail. Pay respects.

Cross the state line into Alabama, and leave the Trace behind by taking a left onto State 20 and following it east to downtown Florence. You can't beat the orange-pineapple ice cream at **Trowbridge's Ice Cream and Sandwich Bar** (256764-1503). Then ramble down Court Street to see how Florence is influencing the fashion world at **Billy Reid** (*billyreid.com* or 256767-4692). An award-winning clothing designer with boutiques in New York, Nashville, Dallas, and Houston, Billy bases the business in his wife's hometown.

Splurge a little at the **Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa** (*marriottshoals.com* or 256246-3600). Have dinner at the hotel's revolving **360 Grille**, set atop a 500-foot-tall tower. Settle into a window seat and—if it's a clear night—you'll swear you can see all the way to Nashville (and maybe even to Natchez).



BILLY REID'S BOUTIQUE IN FLORENCE, ALABAMA

THE LOVELESS CAFÉ IN NASHVILLE

