


MISSISSIPPI



OUTDOOR FACTS

FISHING FACTS

- State records as follows:
 - Largemouth bass weighing 18.15 lbs. was caught by Anthony Denny at Natchez State Park Lake on December 31, 1992.
 - Smallmouth bass weighing 7.15 lbs. was caught by Thomas Wilbanks at the Yellow Creek Arm of Pickwick Lake on January 24, 1987.
 - White crappie weighing 5.3 lbs. was caught by Fred Bright at Enid Reservoir on July 31, 2002.
THIS IS ALSO THE WORLD RECORD!
 - Black crappie weighing 4.4 lbs. was caught by Gerald Conlee at Arkabutla Reservoir on March 19, 1991.
 - Bluegill weighing 3.45 lbs. was caught by Gerald Thurmond at a farm pond in Blue Mountain on February 2, 1993.
 - Redear weighing 3.33 lbs. was caught by James Martin at Tippah County Lake on November 5, 1991.
 - Channel catfish weighing 51.12 lbs. was caught Tom Edwards at Lake Tom Bailey on May 31, 1997.
 - Blue catfish weighing 93.0 lbs. was caught by Carrol Pearson on the Mississippi River near Rosedale on February 12, 1997.
 - Flathead catfish weighing 65.8 lbs. was caught by Wade Arnold at Pickwick Lake on March 21, 1987.
 - Walleye, a Deep South rarity, can be caught in the lakes of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.
 - The lakes of the national forests in Mississippi offer great fishing and great scenery.
 - Mississippi offers 14,000 miles of streams and 600,000 acres of lakes teeming with bass, crappie, bream, and catfish among others.
 - 175 species of freshwater fish inhabit Mississippi's waters.
 - 100 miles of shoreline and a number of charter boats await deep sea fishermen on Mississippi's Gulf Coast.
 - Redfish, billfish, red snapper, cobia, shark, dauphin, speckled trout, yellow fin tuna, and mackerel can be pulled from the waters of the Gulf Coast.
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- Major river systems in the state include the Mississippi, Yazoo, Pascagoula, Tombigbee, Pearl, and Big Black Rivers. Each of these river systems includes hundreds of smaller tributaries, oxbow lakes and reservoirs, which offer excellent year round fishing.
- Six major U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recreational areas include Arkabutla Lake, Enid Lake, Grenada Lake, Okatibbee Lake, Sardis Lake, and the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.
- Over 148,000 people participate in saltwater fishing in Mississippi.
- 26% of anglers in Mississippi are non-residents.
- Anglers spend around \$210 million a year in Mississippi and generate a total economic impact near \$1.3 billion.
- 379,260 licensed anglers in 2004 included 63,650 non-residents.
- 85% of licensed anglers fish only in freshwater.
- 62% of the resident anglers live in rural areas, 28% are female.
- 119 public lakes are available.

HUNTING FACTS

- Sportsmen have access to more than 2.3 million acres of public recreation areas in Mississippi that include 48 state-owned wildlife management Areas, 14 national wildlife refuges, and six national forests.
 - Popular game species found in Mississippi include whitetail deer, Eastern wild turkey, bobwhite quail, migratory waterfowl and mourning dove.
 - Mississippi has a deer population of approximately 2 million, the highest per acre of all states.
 - Buckmaster World record non-typical whitetail came from Mississippi. Taken in 1996 with a score of 321-7/8 points, it has more antler mass than any other buck ever taken.
 - Mississippi has a wild turkey population of approximately 350,000.
 - 21% of hunters in Mississippi are non-residents.
 - There are more than 125,000 acres of natural wetlands and managed impoundments throughout Mississippi, offering some of the finest duck hunting in America.
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- The Mississippi River is a major flyway for migratory birds. It is used by up to 40% of North America's duck, goose, swan and eagle population. Mississippi offers some of the best waterfowl hunting in the nation.
- International visitors spend an estimated \$2.6 billion each year throughout the ten river states, generating more than 53,000 jobs.
- Mississippi offers visitors the services of many commercial outfitters and guides.

NATURE TOURISM (NON-CONSUMPTIVE) FACTS

- The Mississippi Coastal Birding Trail is now complete, offering excellent birding sites on the Gulf Coast. A coastal birding map can be ordered from Mississippi Audubon, Mississippi office.
 - The Great River Road Birding Trail along the lower Mississippi is in the process of development, and maps should be available in the near future. Visit www.greatriverbirding.org for amazing birding information.
 - Mississippi has a national Audubon Society, with headquarters located in Holly Springs. Each year in September, this location is host to the annual Hummingbird Migration Festival, the largest of its type in the nation, drawing around 6,000 visitors.
 - The Pascagoula River Basin has developed a growing ecotourism industry and is becoming a model for other areas in the state. Beautiful, biodiverse habitats and wildlife along this river basin, and on the coastal islands, are providing a mecca for ecotourism. This region is now host to the annual ecotourism festival, the Pascagoula River Nature Festival, offering a broad array of ecotourism activities throughout George and Jackson counties.
 - The North Mississippi Natural Resource Initiative helps sponsor nature tourism events and promotion in north Mississippi, contributing to the statewide local momentum to develop a thriving nature tourism industry.
 - The Lower Mississippi Delta is rich in culture, history and nature. With this combination, a growing nature tourism movement is occurring. The Delta National Forest is home to several natural and botanical areas and old growth forests that offer the opportunity to explore what the Delta bottomland forests were like in the days of President Teddy Roosevelt and his famous bear hunt. Add to that the nearby Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Complex (comprised of seven separate refuges), which includes the addition of the Holt Collier National Wildlife Refuge just dedicated in 2005, and we have tremendous offerings there for nature tourism activities such as birding and wildlife viewing, hiking, canoeing, photography, driving tours, etc. The Great Delta Bear Affair Festival is held annually in Rolling Fork and brings thousands to celebrate the history and legacy of the area along with nature tourism events.
 - The Mississippi Adventure Guide is a comprehensive guide for outdoor offerings in Mississippi.
 - From the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, to the river-carved Delta, to the beautiful Gulf Coast, Mississippi offers a variety of geographical treasures to explore and hike. Trails that range in distance from one
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mile to 28 miles in diverse topography, are there to explore. It is estimated that a single hiker brings \$100.00 per day into an area.

- 380 species of birds call Mississippi home for a time as they migrate from Canadian nesting grounds en route to their tropical winter homes. Since Mississippi is at the center of the Mississippi River Flyway, many unusual neotropical species are here during spring and fall migrations.
 - There are three federally-designated wilderness areas in Mississippi, where the age-old natural beauty and integrity of these locations are protected and preserved for posterity. The Black Creek Recreation Area and trail in DeSoto National Forest and the Leaf River Wilderness Area are beautiful, pristine recreational areas that attract hikers, canoers and horseback riders. Horn and Petite Bois Islands in the Gulf Islands National Seashore Park are very unique federally-designated wilderness areas. Expect an abundance of unusual wildlife, plant life and seascapes with white sand beaches. These wilderness areas are beautiful, popular, well known and attract many visitors yearly.
 - Wildlife viewing is available on the Mississippi River by large craft or canoe.
 - Recreational use and tourism associated with the entire Mississippi River account for more than \$10 billion in annual revenues.
 - According to the 2006 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Survey, over 1,138,000 Mississippians and non-residents participated in wildlife-associated types of recreation.
 - Equestrian activities in Mississippi are big business. There are 75,000 horses in Mississippi and the horse industry contributes approximately \$400,000,000 to the state's economy each year. Mississippi offers numerous trails on public lands and along the scenic Natchez Trace Parkway. The federally-designated Shockaloe Horse Trail, in Bienville National Forest and the Long Leaf Trace trail near Hattiesburg are also premier trails. Many people are saddling up and enjoying the numerous equestrian trails in Mississippi.
 - Arkabutla Reservoir has earned the reputation as the best sailing lake east of the Mississippi River and is home to one of the most active sailing groups in the United States. Arkabutla ranks at the top in the nation for sailing conditions.
 - Mississippi is home to the only petrified forest east of the Mississippi River.
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