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TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



# Tanglefoot Trail

*Mississippi*



## Tanglefoot Trail

Mississippi

*The Tanglefoot Trail wanders 43.6 miles through the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in the Mississippi Hills National Heritage*



The Tanglefoot Trail wanders 43.6 miles through the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area.

### About the Route

As the trail winds through three counties—Chickasaw, Pontotoc, and Union—it offers views of mature hardwood forests; trees draped in the vines of kudzu; fields of cotton and soybeans; pastures; and wetlands. Dotted with spots to take refuge from the heat, the trail takes riders over wooden bridges that offer views of waterways and wildlife.

Four “whistle stops”—reminiscent of train depots—serve as trail entrances and tributes to the pathway’s rich

history as a railroad. Located in New Houlika, Algoma, Ecu and Ingomar, these trailheads provide parking, restrooms, water fountains, bike racks and picnic tables.

Along the way, the asphalt pathway connects six communities—New Albany, Ecu, Pontotoc, Algoma, New Houlika, and Houston—which offer pleasant places to rest, eat, and shop. Visit the Union County Heritage Museum in quaint New Albany, and just south of town, check out the Ingomar Mounds—a burial area from 100 B.C. to 400 A.D. In Pontotoc, drop by the Town Square Post Office and Museum to learn more about the lives of settlers during the construction of the railroad.

The trail also sits between two historical sites from the life of an iconic American: Elvis Presley. His birthplace of Tupelo is about 20 miles east of the trail, and his Graceland estate is 70 miles northwest in Memphis. The rags-to-riches contrast between the two homes will be of interest to history buffs and rock-n-roll lovers who visit the rail-trail and want to explore the surrounding area.

### Trail History

The rail-trail follows the former railroad line once led by Col. William C. Falkner—the great-grandfather of Nobel-Prize-winning author William Faulkner—in the late 1800s.

Established by Native Americans, the trail was traced by famed explorers Hernando de Soto and Meriwether Lewis and called the King’s Highway after the last Chickasaw King Ishtehotopah, who made his home near the creek where the trail crosses. The route was renamed the Tanglefoot—after one of the train engines—and opened as a rail-trail in 2013.



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**States:** Mississippi

**Counties:** Chickasaw, Pontotoc, Union

Length: 43.6 miles

**Trail end points:** W Bankhead St & N Railroad Ave (New Albany) to W Church St (Houston)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

## Parking & Trail Access

The Tanglefoot Trail runs between the intersection of W Bankhead St & N Railroad Ave (New Albany) and W Church St (Houston), both of which offer parking.

Parking is also available at:

- 121 South College St (Pontotoc)

Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.

