



Nomination Guidelines

Mississippi River Geotourism Program

10 States, 12 Million People, 1 River

Nomination Guidelines

The Mississippi River Geotourism Council is working with the National Geographic Society to create a Geotourism website MapGuide. National Geographic defines Geotourism as “*Tourism that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place – its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage and the well-being of its residents.*”

An Opportunity for You!

Residents, visitors, community organizations, tourism stakeholders and local businesses are asked to nominate sites for potential inclusion in a co-branded National Geographic Society website MapGuide, of the Mississippi River.

Complete an online or print *Nomination Form* and help identify destinations and experiences most distinctive to the people, places and things that capture the region’s unique character and beauty. These nominations will provide the basis for a website that will tell the story of the region and its attractions.

What are the Guidelines for a Geotourism Site?

A test for inclusion on the MapGuide: Is the spot, attraction, business, activity or experience distinctive to our town, area or region, and is it authentic to the Mississippi River? Examples may include:

- Remarkable natural areas and geologic features such as creeks, lakes, bluffs, beaches, wetlands, bayous and forests, rivers or wetlands
- Distinctive wildlife habitats and notable species of birds, mammals, flowers or trees
- Places featuring local cuisine or agricultural products: farmers markets, shops and restaurants, agri-tourism sites
- Events, ceremonies, festivals that highlight the community’s heritage, food, music and traditions
- Cultural experiences: heritage sites, museums, theaters, music, literature and performing arts
- Artist studios and galleries, craft workshop, shops featuring handmade items from the region
- Outdoor experiences such as rafting, hiking, biking, hunting, horseback riding, beaches, swamp tours, water activities and parks, or heritage areas
- Historic places such as trails, plantation homes, civil war sites, civil rights sites, distinctive local architecture or Native American sites
- Scenic routes including hiking trails, bike routes, water ways, birding trails and scenic byways
- Community stewardship projects, land trusts, conservation or restoration initiatives
- Locally owned and family businesses like a café, pub, craft shop, winery, unique lodging
- Local artist or artisan, storyteller, outdoor guide or historian
- Legends, stories or other unique aspects of the region

Once you identify a potential site, consider what makes the site unique:

- What story does this site or experience help tell?
- Are there significant historic, cultural or natural features associated with the site?
- Is it under-appreciated by local residents and visitors, or is it already crowded or at capacity?
- Does the site offer a unique experience? Is there local awareness and pride in this place?
- Do the community and local businesses benefit from and support visitation at the site?
- Is interpretative or educational information available at the site?

Nominating a Site

To nominate a site online, fill out an electronic site nomination form at:

<http://edit.mississippiriver.geoconsensus.com/8080/>

To nominate a site offline, fill out a printed nomination form and submit via mail to the contact listed on the form:

Mississippi River Geotourism Program
858 N. Jackson, Fayetteville, AR 72701

For more information contact:

Terry Eastin

terryeastin@att.net

Tel: 479-236-0938

The National Geographic Society will work closely with the Mississippi River Geotourism Council to select the sites and themes that will appear on the map. The National Geographic Society will make the final determination on wording and site selection.

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