



## Bloom Drive

THE CREPE MYRTLES OF NATCHEZ  
ARE EXTRAORDINARY AND HISTORIC

Begin the drive near Main and Broadway Streets at the **(#1) The Bandstand**, a 20th century replica of a 19th century structure. To set the mood for your drive, take a minute and exit your car to enjoy the panoramic views of the Mississippi River and Louisiana. Enjoy the blooms of over 200 Natchez White Crepe Myrtles planted along the walking trails in the early part of the century. Looking from the bluff toward the town, the visitor sees streets that form a grid. These are the same streets that were laid out by the Spanish when they ruled Natchez in the 18th century. As you go to your car, notice the large crepe myrtle in the front garden of BONTURA, c. 1851. It is the largest crepe myrtle in Mississippi. Drive to State Street, turn left, then turn left again onto Canal Street. At the second light, turn right onto Franklin Street. You are now driving by some of the 150 pink, purple, and white crepe myrtles which were planted by Adams County Master Gardeners in a 2011 project to help beautify Franklin and Main Streets.

Turn left onto Pearl Street and slow down to experience the bowers of branches reaching over the sidewalks covered in showers of pink petals. MYRTLE TERRACE, c. 1844, is on the left. Turn right onto High Street and enjoy the view of **(#2) STANTON HALL**, c. 1857, the most palatial residence in Natchez. You may walk around the grounds to enjoy the magnificent Live Oak trees or purchase a ticket for a tour of the historic property in the gift shop.

Turn right onto Commerce Street. In four blocks, take a left onto State Street which will become John A. Quitman Blvd. As you approach the stop light, look for the driveway into **(#3) MONMOUTH HISTORIC INN**, c. 1818. If you would like you may park in the designated area and stroll through the extensive garden. You may also purchase house tour tickets in the gift shop located off the courtyard.

Exit the drive and turn right, at the light onto Melrose Avenue. In about one half mile, turn left into the driveway for **(#4) MELROSE**, c. 1849, and continue around to the designated parking area. The house and grounds are part of the Natchez National Historical Park and you may stroll the grounds at your leisure or purchase a house tour ticket in the gift shop.

Exit the drive and turn right and then an immediate left onto Ratcliff Place. Continue and turn left onto Auburn Avenue. Now you have two options: the first would be to drive straight into **(#5) DUNCAN PARK** and enjoy the beautifully landscaped golf course with dozens of crepe myrtles and picnic tables under the oak trees. The optional choice would be to turn right at the stop sign onto Duncan Avenue, then left into the driveway of **(#6) AUBURN**, c.1812. This fascinating property is famous for its architecture and is owned by the City of Natchez. You can walk the grounds, admire the beautiful live oak trees and find more crepe myrtles behind the estate. Tours can be arranged in advance.

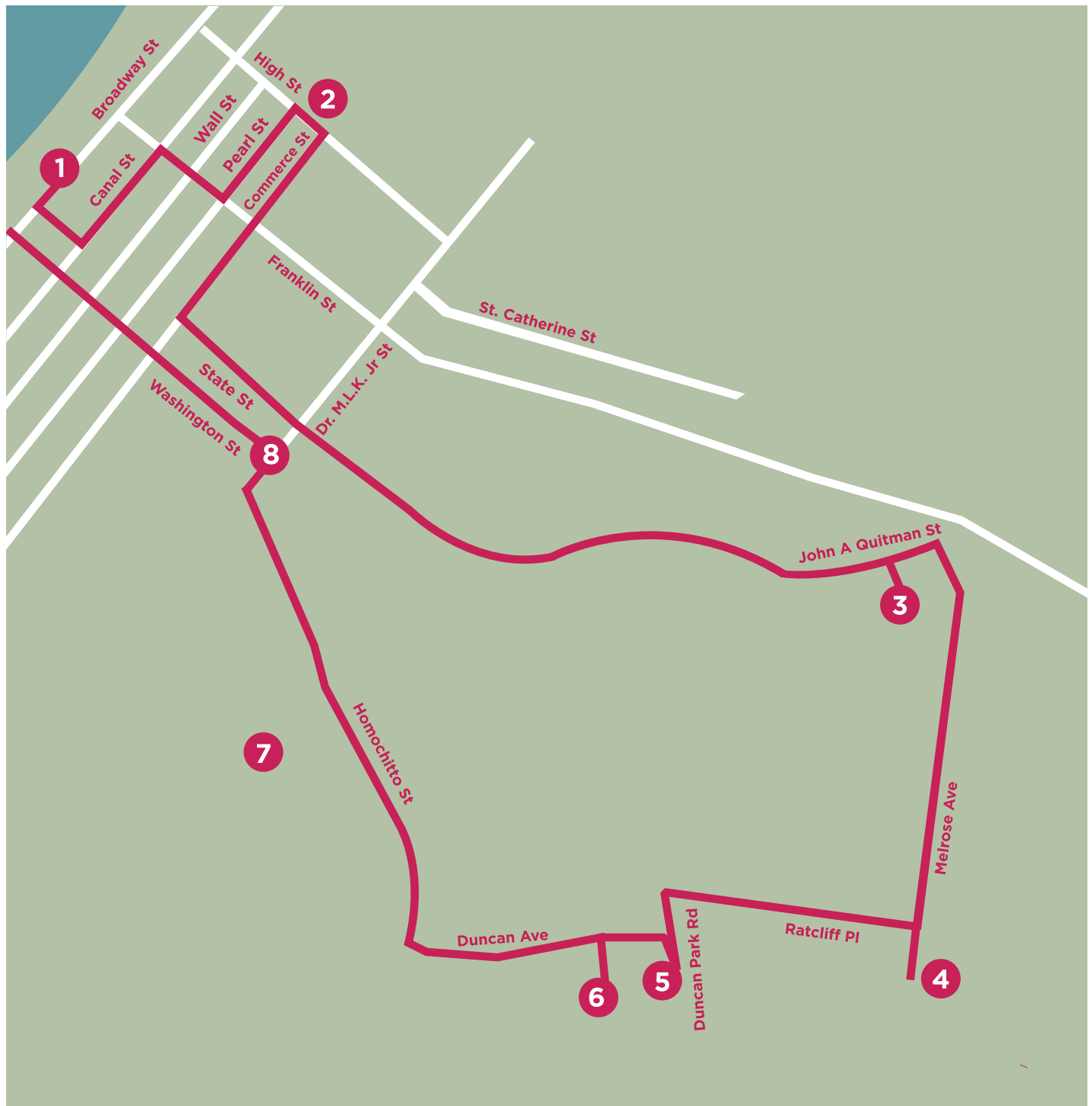
Exit left onto Duncan Avenue. Turn right onto Homochitto Street and find blocks of glorious blooms. On the left will be **(#7) DUNLEITH HISTORIC INN**, C. 1855, with its' fully encircling colonnade of 26 Greek Revival columns. Continue down Homochitto Street, turn right at the light onto Dr. Martin Luther King Street and then take the first left onto **(#8) WASHINGTON STREET**, and drive through a beautiful allée of crepe myrtles in bloom. Many of these trees were planted in the 1940's by a group of local garden club women. Notice the more than 100 year old gnarled tree on the corner by Trinity Episcopal Church. Drive slowly, enjoy, and be sure to look each way on the cross streets - there will be blooms in all directions as you once again approach the river.

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Look for the Natchez International Crepe Myrtle Festival to Return Next Summer!



### Area Map Key

1. The Bandstand at Natchez Bluff Park
2. Stanton Hall
3. Monmouth Historic Inn
4. Melrose
5. Duncan Park (Golf & Tennis)
6. Auburn
7. Dunleith Historic Inn
8. Washington Street