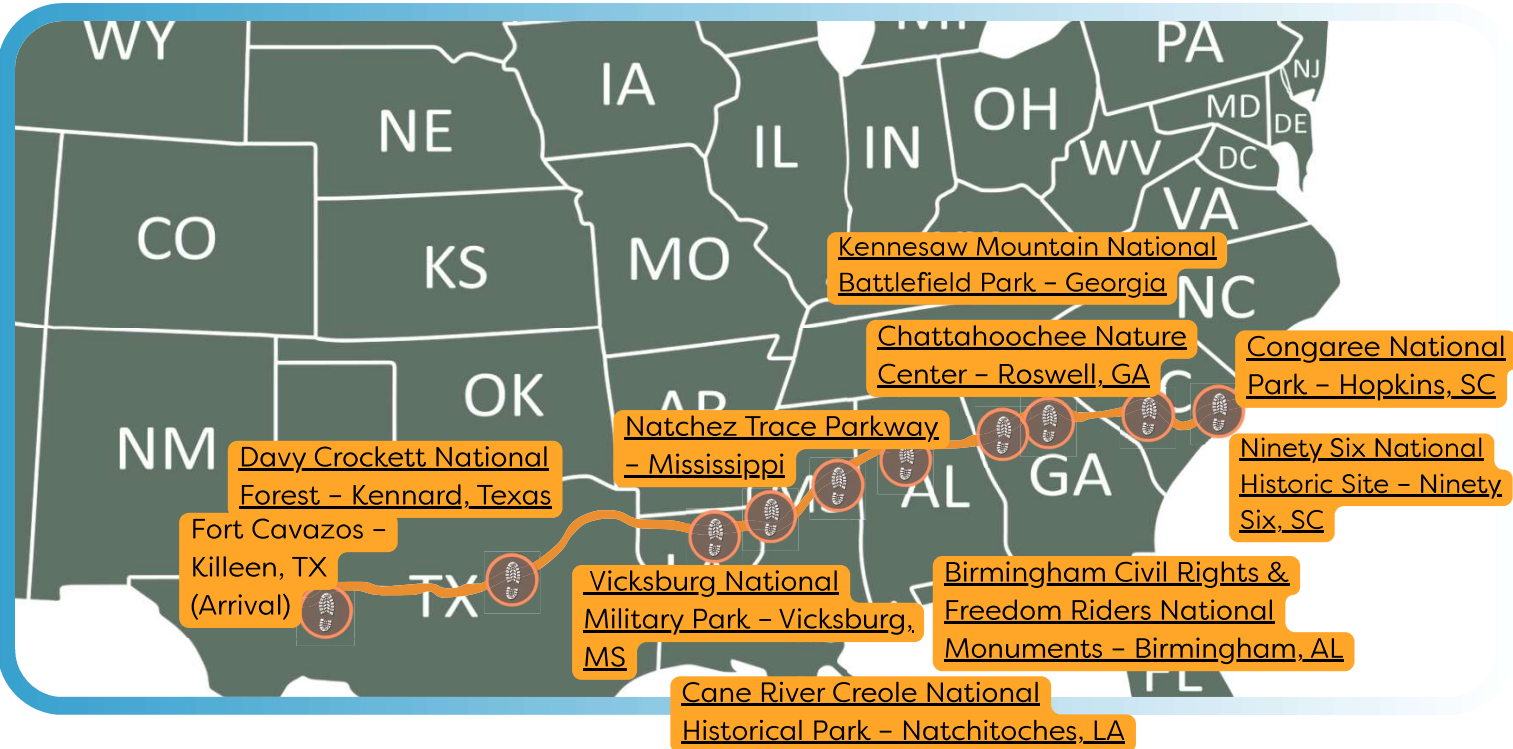




Fort Bragg NC ↔ Fort Cavazos TX

A PCS road trip through the South is a chance to pause, connect, and soak in the naturally slower rhythm of the region. It is also an amazing chance to explore the outdoors together. These nature-based stops turn your journey into an adventure filled with fresh air, history, and peaceful family moments.



Congaree National Park - Hopkins, SC

Just outside Columbia, Congaree's towering bald cypress and rich green canopy offer a quiet and shaded (pfew) escape from highway noise. You can walk the accessible boardwalk loop, or if you have time, rent a canoe to paddle through the flooded forest. Just 30 minutes in nature is guaranteed to calm nerves and reset moods.

Pro Tip: Active duty military, Veteran, and Gold Star families enjoy special benefits, including a free America The Beautiful Pass, which can be obtained at most national parks that collect fees using a military ID.



Ninety Six National Historic Site - Ninety Six, SC

Wide open fields and an old earthen star fort invite exploration and imagination. You can let the kids run ahead while you enjoy the quiet hum of the South Carolina countryside. Snap a family photo by the log cabin and pause for deep breaths under the hardwoods.



Chattahoochee Nature Center – Roswell, GA

Woodland trails, river views, and native gardens make this nature center just north of Atlanta a perfect family stop. Spot turtles, explore the butterfly house, or stroll boardwalks through peaceful wetlands. It's a gentle place to connect with Georgia's wild side and with each other.



Family Tip: This site participates in [Blue Star Museums](#), so military families enjoy free summer admission—don't forget to take advantage!

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park – Georgia

Rolling trails, sweeping views, and Civil War history come together at this Georgia landmark. Hike or drive to the summit for panoramic vistas, then wander leafy paths where stories of resilience still echo. It's a peaceful spot to stretch your legs, reflect as a family, and take in the beauty that surrounds old battle lines.



Birmingham Civil Rights & Freedom Riders National Monuments – Birmingham, AL

Journey through Alabama's living history with stops that honor the brave souls who fought for equality. In Birmingham, stand on streets where peaceful marches changed the nation, then visit Anniston to see the Freedom Riders site where a bus was attacked yet hope rolled on. These powerful places invite meaningful family conversations about courage, justice, and building a kinder future. Take a quiet moment together to reflect on how small acts of bravery can ripple through generations.

Vicksburg National Military Park – Vicksburg, MS

Drive through history at your own pace along this scenic battlefield loop. With shaded walking paths, cannon-lined hills, and powerful memorials, Vicksburg offers space for both movement and quiet reflection. Make a point to stretch your legs at the Illinois Memorial as it's worth the climb.





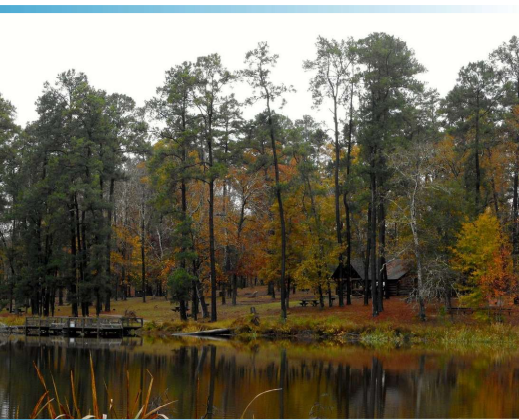
Natchez Trace Parkway – Mississippi

Cruise this peaceful 444-mile route steeped in centuries of travel and trade. Gentle curves, shaded pull-offs, and short trails invite you to slow down and explore. You can also take a walk along a sun-dappled section of the old Trace itself to stretch your legs and share a quiet family moment.

Download [CornellLab's Merlin app](#) to identify wild bird species. The kids will love identifying and learning about the many songbird species in the park.

Cane River Creole National Historical Park – Natchitoches, LA

Set along a scenic river, this site tells the story of Creole culture and rural life. The grounds are expansive and quiet, which is perfect for an afternoon picnic or a reflective walk among the buildings. Savor the Spanish moss and stillness.



Davy Crockett National Forest – Kennard, Texas

Towering pines, peaceful lakes, and shady trails make this East Texas forest a perfect family stop. Let the kids skip rocks, spot wildlife, or just run beneath the trees. It's a gentle place to stretch your legs and share a picnic, reconnecting with nature and each other before the final leg of your journey.

Fort Cavazos – Killeen, TX (Arrival)

You made it! But don't forget to plan a local nature day to decompress from the journey. Check out [Stillhouse Hollow Lake](#) or [Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area](#) for easy hikes, shaded play areas, and space to spread out.



Don't forget to share your PCS journey with [#MilitaryFamiliesOutdoors](#), and visit [MilitaryFamiliesOutdoors.com](#) for more ideas and wellness stops to make your move a little less stressful—and a lot more memorable.

