



United Express to Launch Daily Service Connecting Houston and Natchez in 2026
New route to boost tourism, economic growth and accessibility for Mississippi's river city

NATCHEZ, Miss. – October 31, 2025 – [Natchez, Mississippi](#) is excited to announce that beginning July 1, 2026, visitors will have an all-new way to access the destination's charm and hospitality with the launch of daily United Express jet service between [Natchez–Adams County Airport](#) (Hardy–Anders Field) and [Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport](#) (IAH), operated by SkyWest and United Airlines. The announcement marks a major milestone for regional connectivity and tourism development, restoring commercial air service to Natchez for the first time in more than three decades.

"We're thrilled that this new flight service will open the door for even more travelers to experience Natchez," said Lynsey Gilbert, interim director of Visit Natchez. "This expansion marks an exciting step forward for our community, and we look forward to welcoming new visitors to discover our rich history, vibrant culture, and signature Southern hospitality along the Mississippi River."

The new route will operate daily using a 50-passenger CRJ200 aircraft with a flight time of less than 45 minutes to Houston. Passengers will experience full TSA screening in Natchez, allowing for seamless single-ticket connections to United's global network from Houston without additional security checks.

An independent study projects more than 10,000 passengers within the first 12 to 18 months, underscoring significant travel demand from the Miss-Lou region. The return of commercial air service is also expected to further strengthen Natchez's growing tourism economy, which in 2024 generated \$129 million in direct visitor spending and a total economic impact of \$193.9 million, according to Visit Mississippi's 2024 Economic Contribution Report by Tourism Economics. Tourism in Adams County supports more than 1,300 local jobs and contributed \$10.3 million in state and local taxes last year, figures that are expected to rise as visitor access and connectivity expand.

This achievement is a game-changer for Natchez," said Mayor Dan M. Gibson. "For the first time in over thirty years, we will not only have commercial air service again, but we will have the best. SkyWest and United are the premier partners for airports all over the world. Natchez will now be connected by air to those markets."

About Natchez

Natchez, Mississippi, located 80 miles north of Baton Rouge, is quickly becoming a sought-after cultural tourism destination. Attracting over 670,000 visitors annually from around the world, Natchez is known

for its culture and history, offering more historic structures than any other location in the United States. It is also the “Bed and Breakfast Capital of the South,” and “The Biscuit Capital of the World.” Natchez is one of the oldest continuous settlements on the Mississippi River and its evolution over 300 years has provided an astounding array of ways to discover and enjoy southwest Mississippi. For more information about Natchez, visit www.visitnatchez.org or call 800-647-6724.

Media Contact

Hartley Inge / Vivian Hodges

Lou Hammond Group

843.647.7389 / 843.647.6395

hartleyi@louhammond.com / vivianh@louhammond.com