



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

LAFAYETTE SCIENCE MUSEUM

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**Archaeoastronomy Sites in and around the Southeastern United States:
A Tourist's guide**

Contacting the facility regarding hours, fees, etc., before planning a trip is highly recommended.

Alabama

Moundville Archaeological Park

(205) 371-2234

<http://moundville.ua.edu/>

Site: Over a dozen mounds, with a Museum. Free self-guided tour information is available.

Dates to about 1000 – 1450 CE. Possible solstice and equinox alignments.

Directions: From Interstate 20/59 take exit 71A and go about 13 miles south of Tuscaloosa on AL 69 South. The park entrance is located on the right on Highway 69, and the mounds are about a half mile down the Park road just beyond an active railroad crossing.

Arkansas

Toltec Mounds State Park

490 Toltec Mounds Road

Scott, AR 72142

Telephone: (501) 961-9442

<http://gorp.away.com/gorp/location/ar/parks/toltec.htm>

Site: Visitor Center with several mounds and portions of an embankment, none of which were actually built by Toltecs. The site dates to about 600 – 950 CE. Interpretive programs are available, as are both guided and self-guided walking tours. Possible alignments include the summer solstice sunrise and sunset points, the equinox sunrise, and a north-south line. There is some evidence that the site was designed using a unit of measurement slightly larger than 150 feet.

Directions: From Interstate 40 near Little Rock, take Exit 169. Go about 14 miles south on AR 15, then turn right and go northwest on US 165 for 4 miles. From Interstate 440, take Exit 7, going southeast on US Hwy. 165 for 10 miles to the park.

Florida

Crystal River Archaeological State Park

3400 N. Museum Point

Crystal River, FL 34428

Telephone: 352-795-3817

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/crystalriver/>

Site: National Historic Landmark. Visitor Center and park with six mounds on a 61 acre site.

Dates from about 300 BCE to 1200 CE. Possible alignments include a north-south line, both solstice sunrises, and the equinox sunrise. Some of the alignments use stone pillars that are unique in the southeast.

Directions: From the town of Crystal River travel north on US 19 for two miles. Turn west on State Park Street; travel for one mile, turn left on Museum Pointe and follow it into the park.

Georgia

Kolomoki Mounds State Park

205 Indian Mounds Rd.

Blakely, GA 39823-4460

Telephone: (229) 724-2150

<http://gastateparks.org/net/go/parks.aspx?locationid=59&s=59.0.1.5>

Site: The Museum covers a partly excavated mound, and seven mounds are on the site. Dates to about 250 – 950 CE. Possible alignments include the equinox and summer solstice sunrise, and some pottery designs from the site are interpreted as being related to the motions of Mercury or Venus.

Directions: Blakely is located in southwest Georgia between Dothan, Alabama, and Albany, Georgia. The mounds are about 6 miles north of town. From the Blakely town square, go north on Main Street (Business Rt. 27) about 2.3 miles, then turn left on Rt. 1940. If on US 27 east of town, about 2.5 miles north of GA 62 turn west on N. Main Street (Business 27). Go about 0.3 miles around a curve to the left, then turn right on Rt. 1940. Once on Rt. 1940, go about 4.5 miles to find the Park on the right.

Ocmulgee National Monument

1207 Emery Highway

Macon, GA 31217

Telephone: (478) 752-8257

<http://www.nps.gov/ocmu>

Site: Museum and park with mounds dating to about 900 – 1100 CE. The reconstructed Earth Lodge is supported by interior poles oriented to the cardinal points. The rising sun illuminates the center of the interior of the Earth Lodge twice a year on around February 22 and October 22, dates that may indicate the length of the growing season.

Directions: From Interstate 16 East in Macon, take Exit 2 (Coliseum Drive) and turn left under the Interstate. From Interstate 16 West, take exit 2 and turn right onto Coliseum Drive. Follow Coliseum Drive until it ends at the Emory Highway, then turn right and go to the third traffic light. The park entrance will be to the right.

Illinois

Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site

30 Ramey Street

Collinsville, IL 62234

Telephone: 618-346-5160

<http://www.cahokiamounds.com/>

Site: World Heritage Site. Interpretive Center, guided and self-guided walking tours, and numerous mounds dating to about 700 – 1400 CE. A reconstructed woodhenge indicates alignments to the solstice and equinox sunrises, with possible alignments with one of the mounds.

Directions: From Interstate 55/70, take Exit 6 onto IL 111 South. At a stoplight turn left onto Collinsville Road. The Interpretive Center is about 1.5 miles on the right. From Interstate 255 take Exit 24 to Collinsville Road, turning west. The Interpretive Center is about 1.5 miles on the left.

Indiana

Mounds State Park

4306 Mounds Road

Anderson, Indiana

Telephone: 765-642-6627

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2977.htm>

Site: A set of mounds with possible archaeoastronomy alignments to the sunsets at the equinoxes and solstices, and possibly to the rising points of certain bright stars. The park has trails, a campground, a Visitor Center, and a Nature Center.

Directions: From Interstate 69, exit at Main Street in Anderson (IN 32) heading west. Go about 1/3 mile and turn left on Anderson Road (Rt. 232). Go past the airport (where the street name changes to Mounds Road) and look for the Park on the right.

Louisiana

Marksville State Historic Site

837 Martin Luther King Drive, Marksville, LA 71351

Telephone: 318-253-8954 or 888-253-8954 toll free

<http://www.crt.state.la.us/parks/iMarksvle.aspx>

Site: National Historic Landmark. Interpretive Center and 42 acre site several mounds of various sizes. Dated to approximately 200 BCE to 400 CE. Possible alignments to the solstices and equinoxes as well as the Milky Way, and some mounds may represent the sun, earth, and moon. *Only open by appointment due to budget cuts; call ahead to arrange a visit.*

Directions: From Interstate-49 South, take the LA 1 exit near Alexandria and follow LA 1 to Marksville. From Interstate 49 North, take Exit 46 to LA 106 East, then left on LA 29 North toward Bunkie, LA. Follow LA 29 as it jogs through Bunkie and bear right as it merges with LA 115 West. Follow LA 115 about 15 miles to Marksville. Entering Marksville, turn right on LA 1 (Tunica Drive). Once in Marksville on LA 1, turn left onto LA 452 (Preston Drive), travel less than a mile and turn right on Martin Luther King, Jr., Drive. Follow that until it ends at the mound site.

Poverty Point

6859 Highway 577

Pioneer, Louisiana 71266

Telephone: 318-926-5492 or 888-926-5492

<http://www.crt.state.la.us/parks/ipvertypt.aspx>

Site: National Monument. Visitor Center and 400 acre mound complex, many heavily eroded but some mounds still visible. Dated to approximately 1650–700 BCE. Possible alignments to the winter solstice sunrise and sunset, the lunar minor standstill moonrise point, a north-south line, and the rising point of stars transiting the location's zenith.

Directions: From Interstate 20, take the Delhi exit and travel north on LA 17, then east on LA 134 and north on LA 577.

Mississippi**Winterville Mounds**

2415 Highway 1 North

Greenville, MS 38701

Telephone: (662) 334-4684

<http://www.mdah.state.ms.us/hprop/winterville.html>

Site: National Historic Landmark. Museum and several mounds, including the 55 foot high Temple Mound, dating to 1000 –1450 CE. Possible solstice and equinox alignments.

Directions: From Interstate 55 take US 82 West to Greenville. Turn right on MS 1 North, traveling about 6 miles to the mounds.

Ohio

Octagon Earthworks

c/o Newark Earthworks

99 Cooper Avenue

Newark, OH 43055

Telephone: 740-872-3143 or 1-800-752-2602

<http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/places/c08/octagon.shtml>

Site: National Historic Landmark. This 100 acre site features a 20 acre circle mound connected by parallels to a 50 acre octagon mound, and associated other mounds. Dating to about 100 BCE – 500 CE, this is one of three portions remaining of what was once the largest mound complex in the country. Although managed by the Ohio Historical Society (OHS), the site is used as a private golf club. A small viewing platform is open every day during daylight hours, and the golf club suspends play four days a year for OHS activities (on other days the public has no direct access to the site unless previously arranged with the OHS). Suspected alignments include a general orientation to the lunar major standstill moonrise, several other lunar alignments, and possible alignments involving mounds now destroyed.

Directions: The Octagon Earthworks are at North 33rd Street and Parkview Road on the west side of Newark. They are on the grounds of the Moundbuilders Country Club, 125 North 33rd Street. From Interstate 70, exit to OH 79 North, go about 7 miles, and turn left on 30th Street. Follow 30th Street about 1.4 miles, turn left on West Main Street, go about a quarter mile, and turn right on North 33rd Street. Follow North 33rd Street about a quarter mile to the entrance to the golf club on the left. The viewing platform is at the right side of the parking lot overlooking one of the Octagon's sides.

Great Circle Earthworks

99 Cooper Avenue

Newark, OH 43055

(Museum is located at 455 Hebron Road (OH 79), Heath, Ohio, 43056)

Telephone: 740-872-3143 or 1-800-752-2602

<http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/places/c08/greatcircle.shtml>

Site: National Historic Landmark. Museum open from April 15 through October 15 with the park open year-round. The park contains a circle mound over 1000 feet in diameter with an effigy mound at the center, both dating to about 200 BCE – 400 CE. There is a possible alignment to the May 4 cross-quarter sunrise.

Directions: From Interstate 70, exit to OH 79 North and go about 8 miles into town. The Museum is located on the left just past the intersection with Parkview Drive/Hopewell Drive.

Great Serpent Mound

3850 State Route 73

Peebles, OH 45660

Telephone: 937-587-2796 or 1-800-752-2757

<http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/places/sw16/>

Site: Museum and a park with several burial mounds and an effigy mound of a snake swallowing an egg. The museum is open only on weekends and holidays, and budget cuts may affect that after June, 2009. The park itself is open daily. It is uncertain if the site's mounds were built by the same culture, as radiometric dating indicates that some of the site dates to about 800 BCE – 100 CE and other parts to about 1000 — 1550 CE. The egg and the head of the snake appear to be aligned with the summer solstice sunset, and many other alignments and astronomical connections have been suggested.

Directions: From Interstate 275 around Cincinnati, exit onto US 32 East. Go about 50 miles, then turn left onto OH 41. After about 5 miles, turn left onto OH 73. The Great Serpent Mound will be about 6 miles down the road on the right. From Columbus or Portsmouth, take US 23 to US 32 and turn west. Go about 20 miles, turn right onto OH 73, and go about 9 miles to find the Great Serpent Mound on the right.

SunWatch Indian Village/Archaeological Park

2301 W. River Road

Dayton, OH 45418

Telephone: (937) 268-8199

<http://www.sunwatch.org/>

Site: Interpretive Center and reconstructed 12th to 13th Century village. The professional literature often refers to this site as the Incinerator site — before it was well known, as it was threatened with destruction by a proposed expansion of a sewerage treatment plant. Posts near the center of the village appear to have defined solstice and equinox alignments.

Directions: Take Exit 51 on Interstate 75 and go west on Edwin C. Moses Boulevard. After about a half mile, the road's name will change to Nicholas Road at an intersection. A short distance later, turn left on West River Road. SunWatch is one mile south on West River Road.

Fort Ancient

6123 St. Rt. 350

Oregonia, Ohio 45054

Telephone: 513-932-4421 or 1-800-283-8904

<http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/places/sw04/index.shtml>

Site: National Historic Landmark. Museum and a 100 acre park with mounds and earthen walls dating to about 100 BCE to 500 CE. The entire site has very limited hours and is closed from November through March (although appointments are possible). Possible astronomical alignments to the solstices and equinoxes may be present, and some mounds may have had calendrical significance.

Directions: Fort Ancient is located about 30 miles northeast of Cincinnati. From Interstate 71, take Exit 36 to Wilmington Road and turn east. Almost immediately turn right on Middleboro Road. Follow it south to OH 350 and turn right to the park.