

A young girl with long brown hair, wearing a black long-sleeved shirt with a large white flower design, stands in a room with vibrant, colorful murals on the walls and ceiling. She has her arms raised in a joyful gesture. The room features a large window with a wooden frame, and the walls are covered in intricate paintings of butterflies, birds, and floral patterns. The ceiling is also decorated with colorful designs, including a large sunburst pattern.

VISIT  
MISSISSIPPI

Group Tour  
Guide

**Explore. Discover. Sing.  
Read. Eat. Relax.  
Play. Enjoy. Reflect.  
Dance.**



Join The Party!

Vasti Jackson, Bluesman

## Welcome to Mississippi

Dear Friends,

As Governor of The State of Mississippi, it's my pleasure to welcome you to the Magnolia State. Each region of Mississippi offers unique experiences that your group won't find anywhere in America. Our Group Tour Guide is a one-stop resource to help prepare your one-of-a-kind itinerary for your group's trip through Mississippi.

Mississippi offers exciting group travel opportunities for all ages and interests. We feature attractions like beaches, lakes, casinos, antebellum homes, Delta blues music, nature trails, golf courses, and much more. No matter what type of trip you're planning, Mississippi has a host of recommendations for you and the expert professional services you would expect to support your efforts. Whether it's dining on Southern food or fishing off the Gulf Coast, I know your trip will be a success.

On behalf of the people of Mississippi, we look forward to hosting your groups this year. Once you experience our hospitality through music, food, arts and literature we know that you'll be eager to bring others to experience all that Mississippi has to offer.

Sincerely,



Governor Phil Bryant



**Governor Phil Bryant and  
First Lady Deborah Bryant**



## Looking for a real EXPERIENCE?

**THRILLING . . .** Mississippi is the birthplace of America's music. The blues, gospel, country, and rock 'n roll all originated here. B.B. King, Elvis Presley, Marty Stuart, Leontyne Price, Charlie

Pride, Faith Hill, Cassandra Wilson, Lance Bass, Jimmy Buffett, and many more have been inducted into the Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame. The Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and the Mississippi Opera offer a more classical music experience. Stage and screen stars also shine here, including Morgan Freeman, Oprah Winfrey, Sela Ward, and

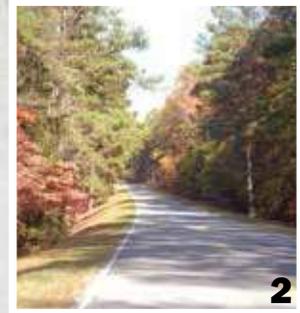
Gerald McRaney. Jackson is host to the USA International Ballet Competition, in which dancers from around the globe compete every four years. Mississippi also has several local and professional theater companies, so there's always something to entertain your culture-seeker clients.

**STORY TELLING . . .** That may explain why writers such as William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Shelby Foote, Richard Wright, Walker Percy, Tennessee Williams, Willie Morris, John Grisham, and others have been so successful. Mississippi's literary community is one of the most impressive found anywhere.



Mississippi has more Grammy® winners and nominees than any other state.

**HISTORY EVERYWHERE . . .** Mississippi is steeped in history and heritage. The Natchez Trace Parkway, which runs 444 miles from Natchez to Nashville, is more than 8,000 years old. Originally "traced out" by buffalo, the road was then traveled by traders, missionaries, early settlers, and American Indians. The original Mississippians were most likely the Choctaw Indians, who date back to the early 1500s. Today, the Choctaw Indian



Reservation covers 35,000 acres of tribal lands in ten Mississippi counties. The annual Choctaw Indian Fair is an opportunity to share customs and culture. Our Civil War history comes alive in Vicksburg, Port Gibson, and Natchez. Stately antebellum homes celebrate the romance of

a bygone era, while Civil War battlefields remind us of the more than 80,000 Mississippians who served as Confederate soldiers. Groups, both large and small, will enjoy the diversity of the state's culture and heritage. Many exceptional artists have their roots in Mississippi. Walter



Anderson had his own unique style of capturing the essence of Mississippi's coastal wildlife. The work of George Ohr, "the mad potter of Biloxi," was only appreciated after his death in 1926. Your clients have the opportunity to see



4 Here, everyplace tells a story.  
Write your own chapter.

Cassandra Wilson  
Cassandra Wilson

the work of contemporary artists. Gail Pittman, a nationally known ceramic artist and entrepreneur; George Berry, a self-taught woodcarver; Susan Ford, who blows glass into sparkling vases and bowls; and Wyatt Waters, who preserves the everyday places in our lives in brilliant watercolor.

**FUN TIMES . . .** Groups from around the country and the world come to explore Mississippi. With two major interstates crossing the state, and accessible state highways, traveling is easy. With an average annual temperature

of 65 degrees, Mississippi's

wonderful climate is mild and pleasant year-round. Groups of all sizes may stay in a historic bed and



breakfast, or enjoy the excitement of a casino resort. Music, arts and crafts, barbecue, and hot air balloons are all cause for festivals. The legacy of the Delta blues is celebrated at music festivals statewide. The Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo in Jackson is the second largest rodeo east of the Mississippi River.

**FLAVORS OF MISSISSIPPI . . .** Fried, broiled, baked, sautéed, or steamed—catfish is king in Mississippi. But catfish isn't the only delicacy your clients will find here. From grits to greens, Mississippi's unique cuisine will make them want to come back for seconds. There's fresh seafood from the Gulf Coast and an abundance of fresh vegetables year-round. Greenwood is the home of Viking, manufacturer of the industry's finest professional kitchen appliances for the home. In addition, the Viking

Cooking School in Greenwood hosts several classes each month featuring top chefs from around the world. To get a real feel of the genuine Mississippi, tour members are invited to sample the many restaurants throughout the state. They won't leave hungry.

**RELAX . . .**

Mississippi has 24 State Parks—visit any of them. There's something for everyone, from primitive campsites to air-conditioned cabins. With over 100 miles of coastline, plus 706,000 acres of recreational water, there are plenty of opportunities for fishing and water sports. Your clients can rock climb or water ski. Easily accessible locations to view birds and nationally acclaimed events make Mississippi a birding paradise. With approximately 140 beautiful golf courses designed by such great names

Mississippi is one of the nation's best golf destinations.

as Pate, Fazio, Palmer, Nicklaus and Irwin, it's no wonder Mississippi is one of the nation's

best golf destinations. The mild climate allows your clients opportunities for golfing year-round. After a day on the links, they'll be ready for dinner, and remember, we offer 24-hour gaming and top name entertainment.



1. Rowan Oak, home of William Faulkner, Oxford
2. Natchez Trace Parkway
3. Walter Anderson Museum, Ocean Springs
4. Dunleith Plantation, Natchez
5. Preserve Golf Club, Biloxi

## Antebellum South and Civil War TOUR

### DAY 1 NATCHEZ

Begin in Natchez, with its more than 500 antebellum homes, churches, and public buildings. Prior to the Civil War, Natchez was home to more millionaires per capita than New York City. More than a dozen of the palatial mansions built by wealthy cotton planters are open for tours all year; many more welcome visitors during annual Spring and Fall Pilgrimages. Arrive in time for lunch, followed by a tour of the spectacular homes and the Natchez City Cemetery. Spend the evening exploring Natchez Under the Hill. Once a haven for riverboat gamblers, thieves, and ladies of the evening, it is now a colorful area of shops, restaurants, and 24-hour casino gaming.



### DAY 2 NATCHEZ TO PORT GIBSON—40 miles PORT GIBSON TO VICKSBURG—29 miles

Spend the morning touring more magnificent mansions, enjoy lunch in one of the tour homes, then browse antique shops or take a carriage ride through historic downtown. Washington, a small community just north of Natchez, was once known as

the “Versailles of the Mississippi Territory.” Jefferson College, the first educational institution chartered in Mississippi, is now a museum. From Washington, take the Natchez Trace Parkway north to Springfield Plantation where president-to-be Andrew Jackson wed Rachel. Stop at Lorman to see Alcorn State University, the first land grant African American college in the United States. Next is Port Gibson, the town Union General U.S. Grant proclaimed “too beautiful to burn.” Most of the antebellum homes and churches that so

Prior to the Civil War, Natchez was home to more millionaires per capita than New York City.

enchanted the Union general are along Highway 61—an easy walking tour. Take a side trip to the Ruins of Windsor, the remains of the largest antebellum mansion ever built in Mississippi. Windsor survived the Civil War only to burn to the ground in 1890 at the hands of a careless smoker. North of Port Gibson, Grand Gulf Military Monument Park encompasses a Civil War fort, cemetery, earthworks, an excellent museum of Civil War artifacts, and several restored antebellum buildings. Continue north to Vicksburg for dinner and Delta Blues music.

### DAY 3 VICKSBURG

View the film *The Vanishing Glory* as an introduction to the siege and fall of Vicksburg. The capture of the city was crucial to the Union victory. After 47 days, Confederate General John C. Pemberton finally surrendered to Grant on July 4, 1863. The Old Court House Museum is packed to the rafters with antebellum and Civil War-era artifacts. The building was a Civil War target until Union prisoners were moved into the upstairs courtroom. After lunch, explore the Vicksburg National Military Park, 1,800 acres of earthworks, cannons, and monuments. Also displayed at the park is the USS Cairo, a Union ironclad sunk by the Confederacy and raised after more than a century underwater.



### DAY 4 VICKSBURG TO EDWARDS—7 miles EDWARDS TO JACKSON—22 miles

Traveling toward Jackson, Mississippi’s capital city, you’ll pass the site of the Battle of Champion Hill in Edwards. The Confederate loss here led to the fall of Vicksburg, and ultimately, to the collapse of the Confederacy. This significant battle

1. Monmouth Plantation, Natchez
2. USS Cairo, Vicksburg Military Park
3. Governor’s Mansion, Jackson
4. Friendship Cemetery, Columbus

is periodically reenacted. During the 1860s, Union troops reduced Jackson to a smoking ruin, earning Jackson the nickname “Chimneyville.” Tour the 1842 Governor’s Mansion, the magnificent Old Capitol Building, the formal gardens outside antebellum City Hall, and the Manship House. After lunch, visit Jackson’s art, natural science, sports or agricultural museums before enjoying the evening in one of the city’s fine restaurants.



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**DAY 5**

**JACKSON TO TUPELO—168 miles**

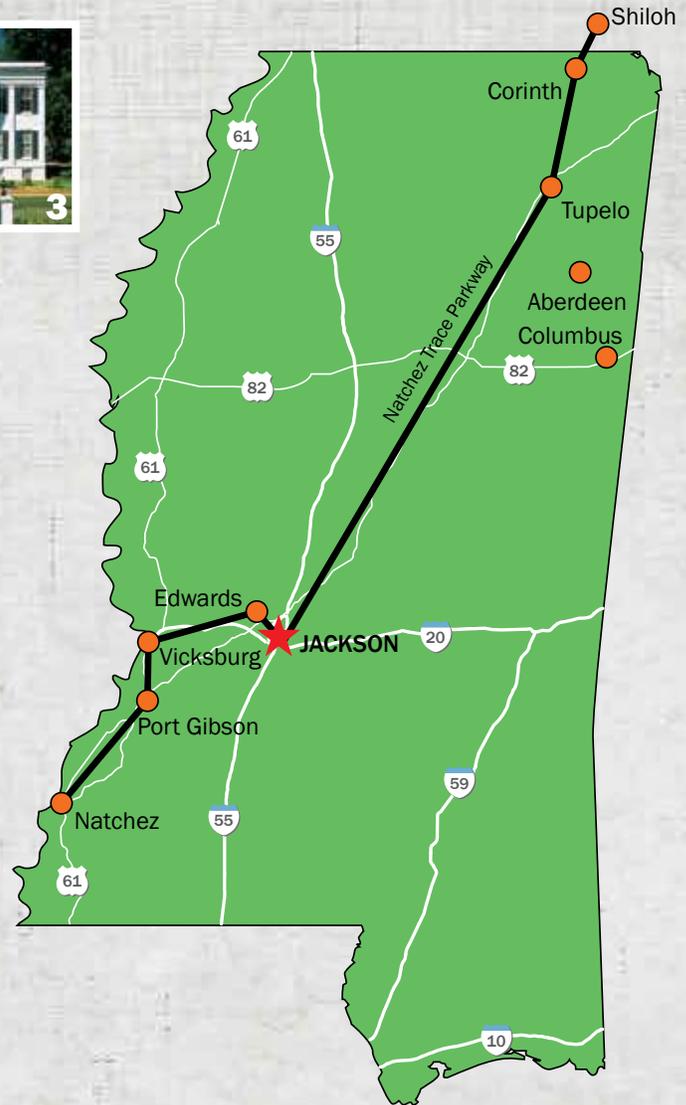
More Civil War history awaits in north Mississippi, where more than 500 of the battles waged on Mississippi soil were fought. Take the famed Natchez Trace Parkway north toward Tupelo and stop at the marked historic sites. The Tupelo National Battlefield features a large memorial, cannons, and interpretive marker recounting the Battle of Tupelo.

**OPTIONAL SIDE TRIPS**

Take a side trip off the Trace to Aberdeen and Columbus. Both feature antebellum tour homes, but Columbus’ most important contribution to Civil War lore actually came in 1866 when a group of war widows decorating graves in Odd Fellows Cemetery decided to honor not only the Confederate dead, but also the Union soldiers buried there. This act of remembrance evolved into America’s annual Memorial Day, and the Columbus cemetery where it all began was renamed “Friendship.” Or head west to Grenada whose location and railroad facilities made the town a key Civil War asset. The walking and driving tour includes forts, a cemetery for “Unknown Confederate Soldiers,” plus other sites and historic homes.



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**DAY 6**

**TUPELO TO CORINTH—51 miles**

**CORINTH TO SHILOH—23 miles**

Continue north to Baldwyn and Brice’s Crossroads Battlefield, site of a major victory for Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest. Continue to Corinth, site of the bloodiest battle in Mississippi history. The Civil War Interpretive Center offers a presentation on the battle and the city’s significance to the conflict. Don’t miss Battery Robinette, the Corinth National Cemetery, the miles of earthworks found throughout the city, and Shiloh National Military Park, across the Tennessee state line.

## History, Heritage and Home Town TOUR

### DAY 1

**TUNICA TO CLARKSDALE—48 miles**

**CLARKSDALE TO CLEVELAND—36 miles**

**CLEVELAND TO GREENWOOD—44 miles**

Begin in the Mississippi Delta, Gateway to the Blues. Here you can explore the new Tunica RiverPark, showcasing the life and history of the Mississippi River. The Tunica Queen, a riverboat that gives you an up close look at the mighty Mississippi is perfect for groups. The Tunica Museum



exhibits depict the region's history from Native Americans to today's lavish gaming palaces. Continue south on U.S. 61 to Clarksdale, home of the Delta Blues Museum where exhibits and recordings tell the story of America's only original music. Enjoy lunch at one of Clarksdale's restaurants, including Ground Zero Blues Club, co-owned by actor Morgan Freeman and local attorney Bill Lockett. Continue to Cleveland, home of Delta State University, and to numerous arts, cultural and archival resources, along with some great shopping. Dockery Farms, a historic cotton plantation on the outskirts of Cleveland, may have been the actual birthplace of the blues. A barn bearing the plantation name and dates of operation is a popular photo opportunity. Arrive in Greenwood to visit the Museum of the Mississippi Delta, where exhibits document the land and people of the Delta, from the Ice Age to today.

### DAY 2

**GREENWOOD TO INDIANOLA—29 miles**

**INDIANOLA TO GREENVILLE—24 miles**

**GREENVILLE TO VICKSBURG—85 miles**

Visit Greenwood's Cotton Row, the second largest cotton exchange in the U.S. and explore the downtown area where Viking Range Corporation has restored several



buildings and established a fabulous cooking school, luxury hotel, sophisticated restaurant, plus a top-notch spa and bakery. Your group can take a class at this culinary hot spot and learn the latest trends and techniques in cooking. Indianola is the "home" of blues great B.B. King (although he was born in nearby Itta Bena) and catfish pâté (invented at The Crown Restaurant), a delicious Mississippi delicacy. A delightful museum in nearby Leland honors Jim Henson, creator of the beloved Muppets®, and his most famous progeny, Kermit the Frog. Enjoy lunch in Greenville, the state's largest city on the Mississippi River. Explore Native American heritage at the Winterville Mounds Museum with artifacts and ceremonial mounds. The Great River Road brings you to Vicksburg, site of one of the most important battles of the Civil War. Upon arrival, view *The Vanishing Glory*, a film introducing the fall of this Confederate stronghold. Enjoy dinner complete with a delicious homemade desert before retiring to your antebellum bed and breakfast inn.

.....  
Jim Henson,  
creator  
of the  
Muppets®  
is from  
Leland.  
.....

### DAY 3

#### VICKSBURG

Explore Vicksburg's Old Court House Museum and tour the many antebellum homes. Learn about life on the mighty Mississippi River at the Lower Mississippi River Museum. Browse the shops and galleries of Washington Street, enjoy lunch downtown, and then spend the afternoon on a guided tour of the Vicksburg National Military Park, 1,800 acres of fortifications, monuments and markers commemorating North and South. During the evening, check out the action at a riverside casino.

1. Delta Queen, Tunica RiverPark, Tunica
2. Cotton Row, Greenwood
3. Dentzel Carousel, Meridian

#### DAY 4

**VICKSBURG TO CANTON—83 miles**

**CANTON TO JACKSON—22 miles**

Hollywood has made Canton the “Movie Capital of Mississippi.” The Movie Museum has props and sets from several motion pictures filmed on location including *A Time to Kill*, *My Dog Skip*, and *The Ponder Heart*. Arrive in Jackson, Mississippi’s capital city, for lunch and tours of the Governor’s Mansion, the Old Capitol State Historical Museum and the New Capitol Building.

#### DAY 5

**JACKSON TO HATTIESBURG—89 miles**

Visit the extraordinary Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry/National Agricultural Aviation Museum, a tribute to the state’s agricultural heritage featuring a complete replica of a 1920s rural town. While you’re in the area, stop by the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science and Mississippi Children’s Museum, all part of the LeFleur Museum District and offering admissions discounts when you visit all four facilities. End your day with dinner and overnight in Hattiesburg, home of the University of Southern Mississippi.

#### DAY 6

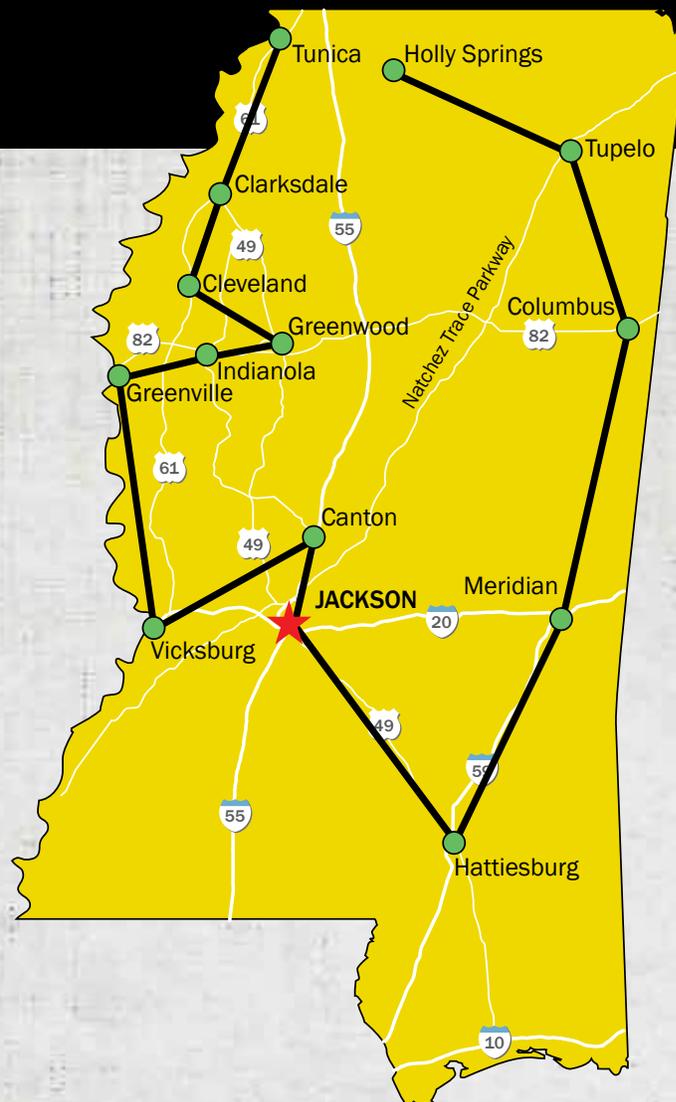
**HATTIESBURG TO MERIDIAN—88 miles**

**MERIDIAN TO COLUMBUS—89 miles**

After breakfast, enjoy the Hattiesburg Historic Neighborhood District which includes the African American Military History Museum. Head northeast to Meridian and visit the Jimmie Rodgers Museum, which honors the Meridian native and “Father of Country Music,” then take a whirl on the Dentzel Carousel. In Columbus is Friendship Cemetery, site of America’s first Memorial Day observance, and



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visit the childhood home of playwright Tennessee Williams. Spend the night in an antebellum bed and breakfast.

#### DAY 7

**COLUMBUS TO TUPELO—62 miles**

**TUPELO TO HOLLY SPRINGS—60 miles**

Continue to Tupelo, the birthplace and boyhood home of Elvis Presley. See the humble house where The King was born and the Tupelo Automobile Museum, including the antique car display with a Lincoln owned by Elvis. Head to Holly Springs and see more than 60 antebellum homes and churches, spared destruction because the ladies of the town pretended to befriend the Union soldiers sent to torch the town.

## African American Heritage TOUR

### DAY 1

**CLARKSDALE TO MOUND BAYOU—24 miles**

**MOUND BAYOU TO CLEVELAND—10 miles**

**CLEVELAND TO GREENVILLE—36 miles**

Start your adventure in Clarksdale, the former home of blues greats W.C. Handy, Muddy Waters, Robert Johnson, and Howlin' Wolf. Head for the Clarksdale Station and Blues Alley, the renovated railroad depot that houses the Delta Blues Museum, to bone up on the blues, take a look at Muddy Waters' modest cabin and purchase a blues CD. Browse the shops along Delta Avenue and take a stroll down Issaquena and Sunflower Avenues, home to many historic blues sites. Continue along Highway 61 South to Mound Bayou, the oldest African American town in the United States and the location of a Mississippi Freedom Trail marker. The Mississippi Freedom Trail is a virtual tour that commemorates the state's Civil Rights heritage and the people and places that played a pivotal role in the Civil Rights Movement. A driving tour and brochure are available to explore Mound Bayou's rich history as a center of African American social life following the Civil War. Pick up a one of a kind collectible from Peter's Pottery, operated by the talented Wood brothers. Stop in Cleveland for shopping at the Historic Cotton Row District, then take a detour to Dockery Farms, the plantation where the first blues tunes may have been played. Continue south to Greenville for dinner, followed by an evening in the blues clubs along Walnut Street or casino gaming along the waterfront.



### DAY 2

**GREENVILLE TO JACKSON—117 miles**

Go to Jackson and begin at the Old Capitol State Historical Museum, featuring exhibits related to slavery, the Civil War, and civil rights. Next stop—the Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center celebrating African American history, heritage and art in the first public school for African American

children in Jackson. Enjoy lunch in the Farish Street Historic District, once a center of African American business and entertainment. Call ahead to reserve a tour of the inspiring Medgar Evers Home, the site of the Civil Rights leader's assassination in 1963. Visit the Medgar Evers Library, where a life-sized, bronze statue of Evers is the centerpiece. Wrap up the day with a tour of the impressive Tougaloo College Art Collection, which contains more than 1,000 pieces. Mississippi Freedom Trail markers throughout Jackson commemorate Evers legacy, Tougaloo's pivotal role in the Civil Rights Movement and other sites associated with the movement.

### DAY 3

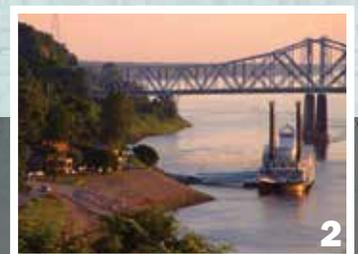
**JACKSON TO PORT GIBSON—50 miles**

**PORT GIBSON TO LORMAN—10 miles**

**LORMAN TO NATCHEZ—30 miles**

Head south on the Natchez Trace Parkway to Port Gibson and the Cultural Crossroads, a workshop and gallery for award-winning quilters. Then travel to the Matt Ross Administrative Building on Main Street for the civil rights photo exhibit, "No Easy Journey." Alcorn State University, the nation's first land grant college for African Americans, is in nearby Lorman and home to several antebellum structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A commemorative statue of alum and Civil Rights icon Medgar Evers has been erected on the campus. Visit the Old Country Store in Lorman to partake of Mr. D's Heavenly Fried Chicken. Continue to Natchez, the oldest settlement on the Mississippi River, and a city rich in African American history. Natchez is home to more than 500 antebellum mansions, churches and public buildings, many designed and built by slave artisans and craftsmen. Other stops include: Forks of the Road, site of one of the antebellum south's two largest slave markets; the Natchez National Historical Park and the historic homes Melrose and the William Johnson House; and the Natchez Museum of African American History and Culture. Browse

Alcorn State University was the nation's first land grant college for African Americans.



the treasures at the Angelety House and Mostly African Market, many of which are imported from Africa. Enjoy an evening at Natchez Under the Hill and its shops, restaurants and casino gaming.

**DAY 4**

**NATCHEZ TO HATTIESBURG-145 miles**

**HATTIESBURG TO MERIDIAN-91 miles**

Leave Natchez for Hattiesburg, home of Osceola McCarty, who gave her life savings to establish a scholarship fund for minority students attending the University of Southern Mississippi. Drive through the Mobile Street Historic District downtown, a cultural resource of Hattiesburg’s African American heritage, developed into a major business district between 1895 and 1910. From Hattiesburg, travel to Meridian to tour Con Sheehan Block, built on Main Street. In 1870, it was a hub for dentists, shop owners, doctors, pharmacists and other businesses owned and operated by African Americans. Visit Wechsler School, built in 1884, as the first brick public school building for African Americans in Mississippi. Tour the E.F. Young Jr., Manufacturing Company, the oldest African American-owned manufacturing company in the U.S. Drive to Okatibbee Cemetery and the grave site memorial to Meridianite James Chaney, a somber reminder of the sacrifices made during Freedom Summer 1964. Overnight in Meridian.

**DAY 5**

**MERIDIAN TO COLUMBUS-119 miles**

Drive north to Columbus and visit “Catfish Alley,” a central meeting and business district for the Columbus African American community in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Tour Union Academy, established in 1877 as the first free African American school in Columbus. After lunch visit Missionary Union Baptist Church, built in 1833- it’s the oldest African American church in northeast Mississippi. See the Bridge Street Bridge, designed by Horace King, an African American bridge builder, and completed in 1844. Have dinner and overnight in Columbus.

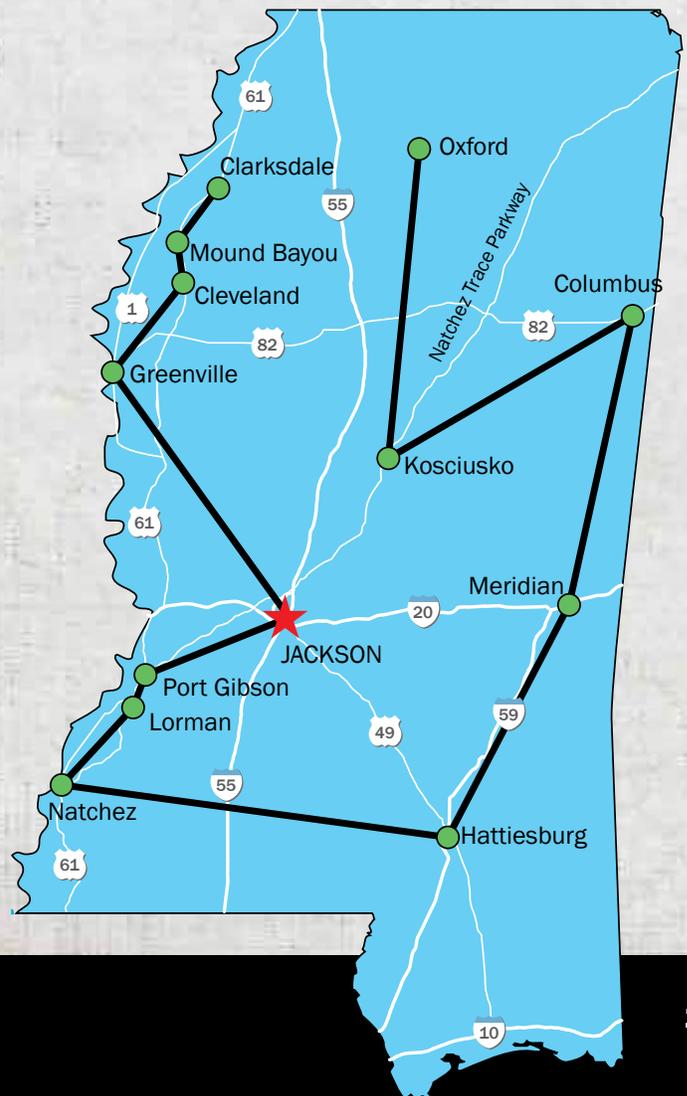
**DAY 6**

**COLUMBUS TO**

**KOSCIUSKO-88 miles**

**KOSCIUSKO TO OXFORD-117 miles**

Travel to Kosciusko and drive by the building where Oprah Winfrey stood before her first audience at the Buffalo Community Center and recited her Easter speech. Then visit Oprah’s original home site. Depart for Oxford to visit the Center for the Study of Southern Culture on the campus of the University of Mississippi. There you will discover the music, literature, and folk life that are the very soul of Mississippi. The Blues Archive includes B.B. King’s personal collection of over 10,000 recordings. Explore the campus where James Meredith was the university’s first African American graduate in 1963. A Mississippi Freedom Trail marker and life-sized statue of Meredith commemorate his Civil Rights legacy.



- 1. Delta Blues Museum, Clarksdale
- 2. Natchez Under The Hill, Natchez
- 3. James Meredith Memorial, Oxford

## The First Mississippians TOUR

### DAY 1 NATCHEZ

Natchez is best known for its collection of antebellum homes, but the city's history reaches further back than the Old South. The Grand Village of the Natchez Indians served as the center of civilization for the Natchez tribe from AD 1200 to 1729. The Natchez nation vanished following hostile encounters with French settlers in the 1730s. Excavated nearly two centuries later, the Grand Village encompasses a ceremonial plaza, burial mounds, and museum. Before leaving Natchez, take time to tour some of the city's antebellum homes and enjoy Natchez Under the Hill, a colorful area of shops, restaurants, and casino gaming.

### DAY 2 NATCHEZ TO JACKSON—103 miles

Travel northeast on the Natchez Trace Parkway, a scenic route first "traced out" by buffalo, then followed by Indians, traders and early pioneers. Historic markers along the way recount the Trace's romantic history. First stop is Emerald Mound, the second largest Indian mound in the United States. This eight-acre, ceremonial

earthen structure was built around 1400 by ancestors of the Creek, Choctaw and Natchez Indians. Artifacts found at nearby Mangum

Mound offer a glimpse into the daily life of the first Mississippians. Follow the Parkway to Jackson, Mississippi's capital city, and enjoy a tour of the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry/National Agricultural Aviation Museum, a tribute to Mississippi's agricultural heritage. The Fitzgerald Collection Building near the gallery houses a large display of ancient arrowheads.



Your next stop is the Old Capitol State Historical Museum, where exhibits recount Mississippi's history from prehistoric days through the Civil Rights movement.

### DAY 3 JACKSON TO RIDGELAND—9 miles RIDGELAND TO CHOCTAW/PHILADELPHIA—72 miles CHOCTAW/PHILADELPHIA TO TUPELO—123 miles

Pick up the Natchez Trace north of Jackson and stop by the Mississippi Crafts Center in Ridgeland, which displays more work by the Craftsmen's Guild, including Choctaw Indian baskets, jewelry, moccasins and clothing. Follow the scenic Trace as it hugs an eight-mile section of the Ross Barnett Reservoir, then leave the Parkway headed east for Philadelphia. The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians have made their home here



since before recorded time. According to Indian legend, the entire Choctaw nation was born at the Nanih Waiya Historic Site, an ancient area marked by ceremonial mounds and a sacred cave 20 miles north of Philadelphia. The 35,000-acre Choctaw Indian reservation is a self-contained city, with schools, hospital, and industries. The reservation's Museum of the Southern Choctaw details the tribe's history. July's annual Choctaw Indian Fair showcases Choctaw culture, with traditional dancing, crafts, food, and stick ball games. The Choctaw's most spectacular venue, the Pearl River Resort, offers two casinos and luxury hotels, gourmet dining, award-winning golf courses, and the beaches, waves and waterfalls of Geyser Falls Water

The Choctaw Indians  
have made Philadelphia  
their home since before  
recorded time.



Theme Park. Return to the Trace via Louisville, exploring historical sites en route to Tupelo, which is headquarters for the Natchez Trace Parkway, but best known as the birthplace of Elvis Presley.

**DAY 4**

**TUPELO TO HOLLY SPRINGS—60 miles**

**HOLLY SPRINGS TO GREENWOOD—110 miles**

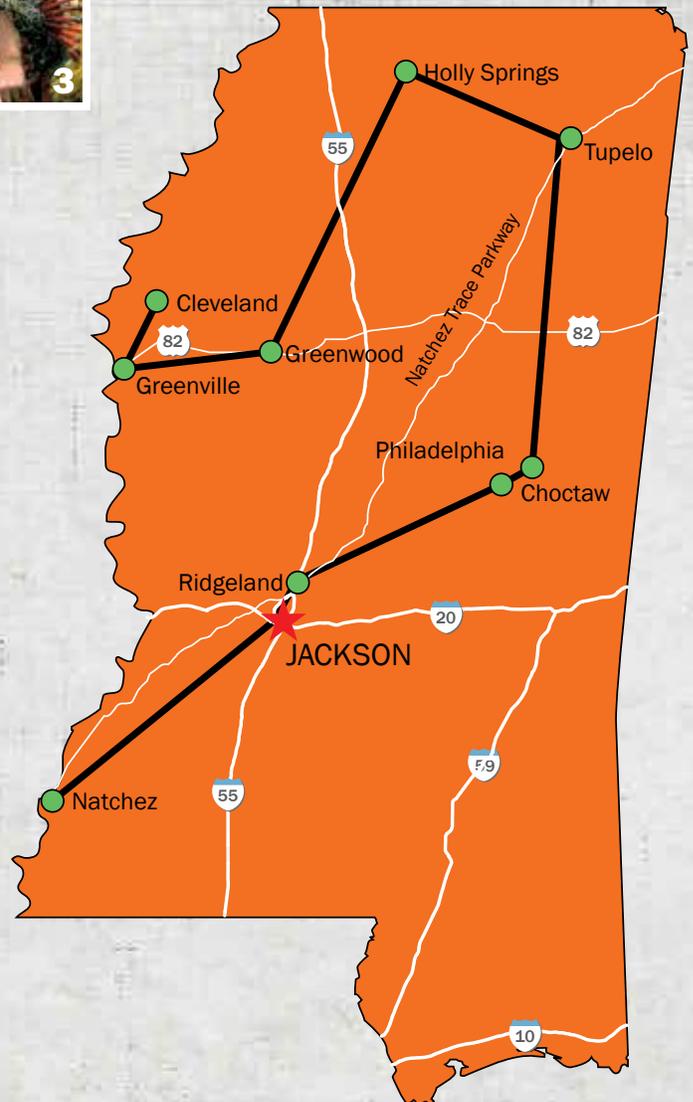
Today, head west to Holly Springs, home to more than 60 antebellum homes and churches. Enjoy a driving tour of the architecture on your way to the Marshall County Historical Museum, where exhibits include Chickasaw artifacts and prehistoric fossils. Onward to Greenwood—the Delta city named in honor of Greenwood Leflore, principal mediator for the Choctaws in the 1830 Treaty of Dancing Rabbit.

**DAY 5**

**GREENWOOD TO GREENVILLE—53 miles**

**GREENVILLE TO CLEVELAND—36 miles**

Begin your day with a tour of the Museum of the Mississippi Delta, which recounts the history of the Mississippi Delta from the Ice Age to today and includes exhibits on Indian pottery and prehistoric fossils. Next stop is the Winterville Mounds and Museum near Greenville, which encompasses 15 earthen structures, including a six-story ceremonial temple mound. Indian women built these enormous earthen structures one basketful of earth at a time. Wrap up your journey with a visit to Delta State University in Cleveland. The campus' University Archives and Museum houses the Humber Native American collection of Indian artifacts.



1. Emerald Mound, Natchez
2. Pearl River Resort, Golden Moon, Choctaw
3. Choctaw Indian basket weaving, Choctaw

## Casino TOUR

### DAY 1

#### TUNICA

South of Memphis is Tunica, also known as the Gateway to the Blues and home of spectacular casinos in the Delta's cotton fields, offering the 24-hour action of slot machines, table games, fine dining, and live entertainment. Many casino



hotels offer refreshing and relaxing spa services including massages, facials, and other treatments.

Take a scenic cruise of the

mighty Mississippi on the Tunica Queen, a replica, 19th century riverboat. Tour Tunica RiverPark, which showcases the rich history of the river and features a four-story outdoor observation deck overlooking the Mississippi River, aquariums with native aquatic life, and a 130-acre riverside forest with walking trail. Visit quaint, downtown Tunica, or play a round of golf at one of the hottest golf destinations in the South. Enjoy a shopping trip to the Casino Factory Shoppes. In the evening, enjoy dinner at one of the casinos' theme restaurants and take in a musical performance, stand-up comedy act, magic show or other live entertainment before retiring to your comfortable accommodations.

### DAY 2

**TUNICA TO CLARKSDALE—48 miles**

**CLARKSDALE TO GREENVILLE—72 miles**

The Delta blues beckon as you follow Highway 61 South to Clarksdale, former home of blues greats W.C. Handy, Muddy Waters, Robert Johnson, and Howlin' Wolf. The Delta Blues Museum pays tribute to blues artists past and present and celebrates the art form recognized as America's only original music. Enjoy a walking

tour of important blues landmarks, or try your luck at the Clarksdale/Lula casino, then head south on Highway 1, the Great River Road. This scenic route takes you through cotton fields to the banks of the Mississippi River and Greenville, Mississippi's largest river city. Snap a photo at the River Road Queen Visitors Center, a replica paddle wheeler, then take in the spectacular view of the majestic Mississippi at Warfield Point Park before heading for the casinos along the levee.

### DAY 3

**GREENVILLE TO LELAND—8 miles**

**LELAND TO VICKSBURG—82 miles**

Make the short drive to Leland, and discover the Birthplace of Kermit the Frog, a whimsical museum honoring Jim Henson, the creator of the Muppets®. Exhibits here chronicle Henson's childhood in Leland and how he came to create the beloved Muppets gang, including Kermit, the world-famous frog named

Visitors try their luck at any of our 30 casinos with 24-hour exciting gaming, upscale shopping and luxurious spas.



after a childhood friend. From Leland take Highway 61 South to Vicksburg, a city rich in Civil War history. Relive the siege and battle with a visit to the Vicksburg National Military Park, then enjoy lunch at a downtown restaurant. Browse the downtown area's quaint shops and galleries or check out the Vicksburg Factory Outlet mall before heading to the casinos along the riverfront. Take a break to enjoy a spectacular sunset on the Mississippi, then head back to the casinos for an excellent meal and live entertainment.



## DAY 4

### VICKSBURG TO NATCHEZ-69 miles

In Natchez, you'll discover Mississippi's most impressive collection of antebellum mansions. Spend the morning touring a few of these magnificent homes, then enjoy lunch in one of Natchez's quaint Southern tea rooms or contemporary restaurants. The games continue at Natchez Under the Hill. Once the notorious lair of riverboat gamblers, thieves, and ladies of the evening, it is now a historical drive with 24-hour casino gaming and entertainment. Roll the dice or spin the wheel as late as you like before retiring to luxurious accommodations in an antebellum bed and breakfast or casino hotel.

## DAY 5

### NATCHEZ TO MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST-224 MILES

The Mississippi Gulf Coast offers exciting casinos, world-class entertainment, luxury hotels, great seafood restaurants, some of the best golf courses in America, and gorgeous views of the Gulf of Mexico. You'll also find cultural attractions including the Walter Anderson Museum of Art and lots of interesting art galleries and shops. Twenty-four hour gaming can be found at one of the many casinos on the coast including the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Biloxi, Island View Casino Resort in Gulfport and the Silver Slipper Casino in Bay St. Louis.

## OPTIONAL SIDE TRIPS

### PHILADELPHIA/CHOCTAW

The Choctaw Indian Reservation located in Choctaw is home to the Pearl River Resort, a casino resort

complex featuring two spectacular casinos and hotels, numerous restaurants, spas, two world-class golf courses at Dancing Rabbit Golf Club, and a 15-acre Geyser Falls Water Theme Park complete with beaches, waves, and waterfalls.



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1. Tunica RiverPark, Tunica
2. Kermit the Frog display at the Birthplace of the Frog Museum, Leland
3. Harlow's Casino, Greenville
4. Gold Strike Casino, Tunica
5. Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, Biloxi

## Crafts and Culture TOUR

### DAY 1

**MEMPHIS TO MOUND BAYOU—100 miles**

**MOUND BAYOU TO MERIGOLD—5 miles**

**MERIGOLD TO KOSCIUSKO—109 miles**

**KOSCIUSKO TO VAUGHAN—45 miles**

**VAUGHAN TO CANTON—15 miles**

**CANTON TO RIDGELAND—17 miles**

Travel south from Memphis to Tunica to begin your crafts and culture tour. Visit the Tunica Museum, where you can view artifacts and exhibits about Tunica from the days of Spanish explorers to the Native Americans, Delta blues musicians and the arrival of Las Vegas-style gaming. Continue on to the tiny Delta town of Mound Bayou and Peter's Pottery. Here the talented Woods brothers mold animals, candlesticks and dinnerware of Mississippi clay and are known for their exclusive glaze, Blue Bayou. Peter's Pottery is a favorite of collectors worldwide; President George W. Bush is the proud owner of a Blue Bayou elephant. Just down the road in Merigold is another famous studio—McCarty Pottery. The McCarty collection includes dinnerware, wind chimes and candlesticks, but the McCartys are best known for their family of Mississippi clay rabbits. Enjoy lunch served on McCarty dinnerware at a local restaurant. From



Kosciusko, travel south to the town of Vaughan to visit Harkins Woodworks. Craftsman Greg Harkins makes rocking chairs and primitive furniture by hand, using techniques passed down from the mid-1800s. Harkins' famous chairs have

graced the homes of Presidents Bill Clinton, the late Ronald Reagan, George Bush and Jimmy Carter. Canton's Allison's Wells School of Arts

and Crafts was the nation's first arts and crafts school with a formal artist/craftsman incubator center. The teaching center today offers workshops and association meetings. Your visit here includes

an opportunity to participate in a crafts seminar or workshop. Canton is also home to the Canton Flea Market, a twice-yearly arts and crafts extravaganza that attracts some 1,000 vendors and 60,000 shoppers. The Canton town square is home to a number of crafts shops and gift boutiques, including The Market Gallery, a year-round showplace for crafts from the Canton Flea Market. Just a short drive from Canton in Ridgeland. You can visit the Mississippi Crafts Center just off the Natchez Trace. In addition to the artwork and crafts for sale on-site, artists offer informal and informative demonstrations in woodcarving, basketry, blacksmithing and much more.

### DAY 2

**RIDGELAND TO JACKSON—9 miles**

Begin the day with a tour of the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry/National Agricultural Aviation Museum and step back in time as you meander through Small Town Mississippi, which includes a church, filling station, blacksmith's shop, doctor's office, cotton gin and schoolhouse. Afternoon activities might include a visit to downtown Jackson attractions, including the Old Capitol State Historical Museum, built in 1839 and one of the country's premier examples of Greek Revival public



The Mississippi Crafts Center is located just off the Natchez Trace in Ridgeland. Artwork and crafts are for sale on-site.

architecture, the Governor’s Mansion, the second oldest continuously occupied governor’s residence in the U.S., and the Mississippi Museum of Art, which is home to a vast collection of American art and regularly draws major visiting exhibitions of artists ranging from Monet to Rembrandt.

Grab lunch or try a little retail therapy in the eclectic Fondren District with its assorted shops and eateries in this walking-friendly neighborhood.

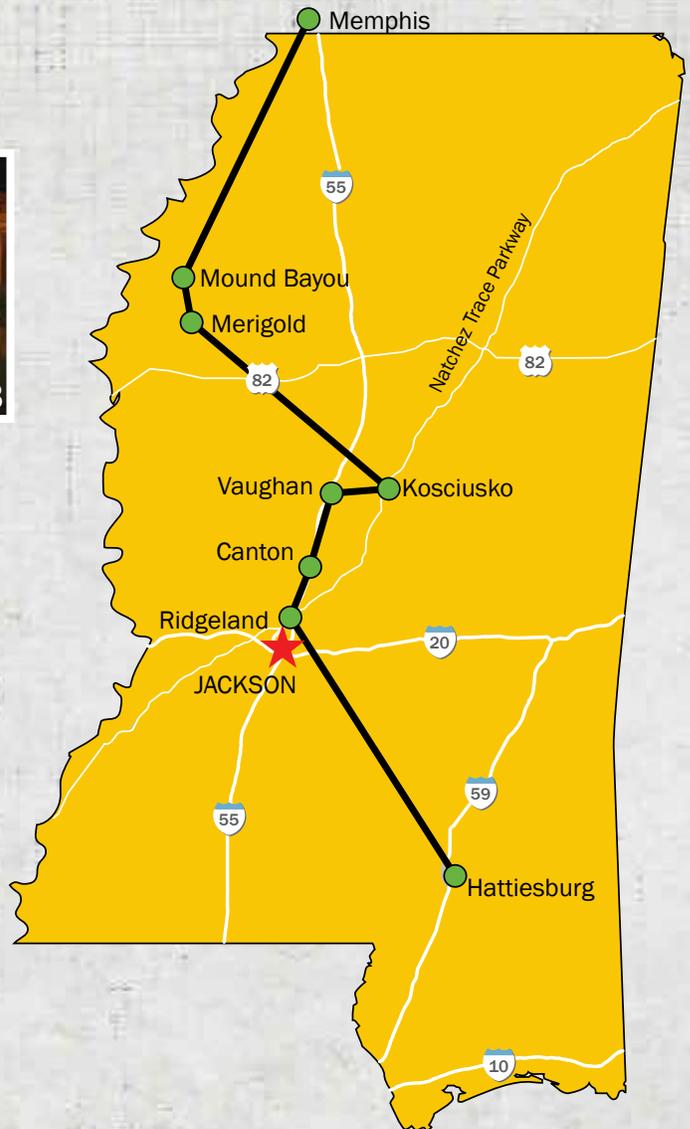


Every four years, the USA International Ballet Competition comes to the capital city and draws dancers from around the world to compete in this Olympics-style dance competition featuring special performances and events. Mississippi Opera, the country’s tenth oldest continuously operating opera company, brings classic productions to the stage in Jackson. The guild’s Opera Underground series also offers cabaret-style shows in a downtown blues club.

**DAY 3**

**JACKSON TO HATTIESBURG—88 miles**

Take Highway 49 South to Hattiesburg, home of the University of Southern Mississippi. If you’re visiting during the summer, take a stroll through the campus’ fragrant All-American Rose Garden, where some 750 patented bushes create a riot of color and fragrance. Hattiesburg’s 115-acre Historic Neighborhood District showcases a number of architectural marvels constructed between 1884 and 1930. One of the South’s hidden art gems, the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art in Laurel, highlights an impressive collection of European and American art, Native American baskets, Japanese woodblock prints and other eclectic works.



1. Greg Harkins, Vaughan
2. Agriculture and Forestry/National Aviation Museum, Jackson
3. Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson

## Musical Heritage TOUR

### DAY 1

#### **MEMPHIS TO TUPELO—104 miles**

On your way from Memphis to Tupelo, travel through picturesque Holly Springs, known for its many antebellum homes and churches. In Tupelo, tour the humble, two-room house where Elvis was born, the church where he sang his first song and a memorial chapel at the Elvis Presley Birthplace and Museum. See the bronze statue of “Elvis at 13” and explore the sites important to his early life—the school where he performed “Old Shepp” in a talent show, the hardware store where he purchased his first guitar, and the fairgrounds where he performed early in his career. Tupelo honors its famous native son every June during the Elvis Presley Festival. The King of Rock ‘n’ Roll also has Mississippi Blues Trail and Country Music Trail markers erected in his honor in Tupelo.



### DAY 2

#### **TUPELO TO OXFORD—47 miles**

#### **OXFORD TO CLARKSDALE—62 miles**

Oxford is a charming college town immortalized in the writings of William Faulkner and the part-time home of blockbuster novelist John Grisham. Begin with a tour of Rowan Oak, Faulkner’s tranquil country home, where the outline of his novel, *A Fable*, is scribbled on the study wall. Next stop is the campus of the University of Mississippi, affectionately known as “Ole Miss.” Tour the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, a research center for Southern music, literature, and folklore housed in an antebellum observatory, then visit the University of Mississippi Blues Archive, the only research facility in the country dedicated to the study of the blues, housing artifacts, photographs, recordings, and the personal collection of blues legend and

Mississippi native B.B. King. From Oxford continue into the fabled Mississippi Delta where the blues was born. Clarksdale is the home of blues greats W. C. Handy, Charlie Patton, Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, Robert Johnson, and Howlin’ Wolf, and a mecca for modern day fans. Head for the Clarksdale Station, Blues Alley, and the Delta Blues Museum—the place to bone up on the blues, take a look at Muddy Waters’ modest cabin, and purchase CDs and souvenirs. Tonight, have a gourmet meal at a white tablecloth restaurant or a down-home catfish dinner served in a plantation commissary-turned-social club. Wrap up with a visit to a new blues club or authentic juke joint for some live music.

### DAY 3

#### **CLARKSDALE TO CLEVELAND—36 miles**

#### **CLEVELAND TO GREENVILLE—36 miles**

#### **GREENVILLE TO LELAND—8 miles**

#### **LELAND TO INDIANOLA—15 miles**

#### **GREENWOOD TO YAZOO CITY—28 miles**

#### **INDIANOLA TO GREENWOOD—28 miles**

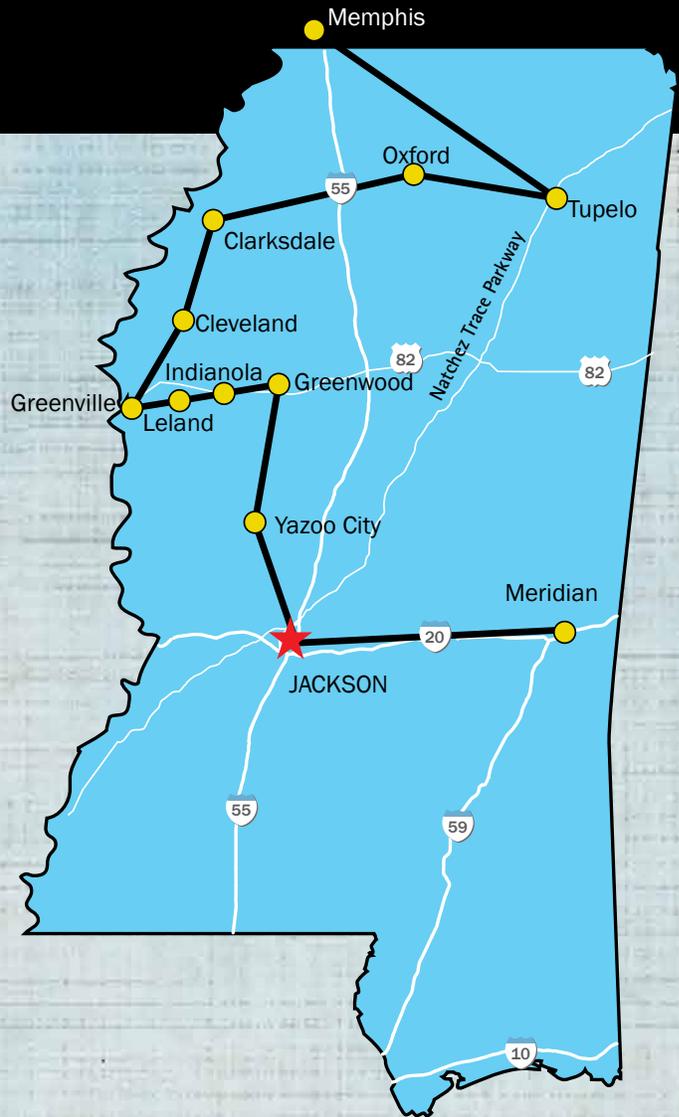
Travel south to Cleveland’s Dockery Farms, a historic plantation listed as the possible birthplace of the blues. A barn bearing the plantation name and dates of operation is a popular photo opportunity. And stop by Po’ Monkey’s Nightclub in Merigold for an authentic blues experience at one of the country’s last remaining juke joints. On to Greenville, where you can try your luck at the casinos along the Mississippi River levee or immerse yourself in Native American culture at Winterville Mounds, one of the largest Indian mound groups in the Mississippi Valley. If you’re visiting on the third Saturday in September, plan to attend the Delta Blues & Heritage Festival, an all-day, outdoor blowout featuring the best in blues entertainment. From Greenville, make a stop in Leland, home of Muppets®



1. Elvis statue and chapel, Tupelo
2. Dockery Farms Blues Trail Marker, Cleveland
3. Jimmie Rodger’s statue, Meridian
4. B.B. King mural, Indianola

The GRAMMY® Museum Mississippi broke ground in Cleveland last June and is slated to open Summer 2015. It is the only official GRAMMY Museum location outside of Los Angeles.

creator Jim Henson. Tour the Highway 61 Blues Museum to learn even more about the Mississippi Delta Blues. Visit the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center in Indianola where the life and music of the renowned musician is shared along with the rich cultural heritage of the Mississippi Delta. Next, follow Highway 82 to Greenwood, home to eight markers on the Mississippi Blues Trail. It's also where you can take a walking tour of historic Cotton Row, the second-largest cotton exchange in the United States, and then shop for souvenirs in the charming downtown area. Tour Greenwood's Blues Heritage Gallery, dedicated to Robert Johnson, the renowned "King of the Delta Blues." Continue through the Delta to Yazoo City, take the Yazoo City Blues Tour, and learn about Bentonia Blues and the Skip James connection. Press on to Jackson, and enjoy blues, rock and country music at one of the local clubs.



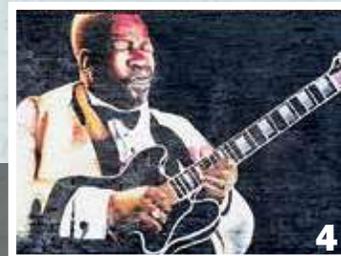
#### DAY 4

##### JACKSON TO MERIDIAN—93 miles

Your next stop is Meridian's Highland Park and the Jimmie Rodgers Museum. Born in Meridian in 1897, Rodgers recorded his first song, "Sleep, Baby, Sleep," in 1927. The record sold more than one million copies and earned Rodgers national fame, but his career was cut short when he died of tuberculosis in 1933. In 1961, Rodgers became the first inductee into the newly-formed Country Music Hall of Fame. Meridian's memorial to the "Father of Country Music" features Rodgers' original guitar,



personal belongings, and other memorabilia from his short but noteworthy career. Rodgers was also the recipient of the first marker on the Mississippi Country Music Trail. Much of today's music is produced on equipment manufactured in Meridian by Peavey Electronics Corporation. In 2013, a blues trail marker was unveiled in honor of Peavey Electronics. This marker acknowledges the contribution made by Hartley Peavey, owner, to the blues movement in Mississippi. It is the only marker for a manufacturer on the Mississippi Blues Trail.



## Agritourism TOUR



### DAY 1

**SOUTHAVEN TO HERNANDO—14 miles**  
**HERNANDO TO OLIVE BRANCH—20 miles**  
**OLIVE BRANCH TO MICHIGAN CITY—40 miles**  
**MICHIGAN CITY TO CORINTH—45 miles**

Just south of Memphis, in Southaven, enjoy year-round farmland fun at Kidz Kountry Petting Farm. Everyone loves the hayrides, pony rides, new playground, fishing, and over 150 friendly animals. A little further south to Hernando,



and you've found Cedar Hill Farm where you can pick blackberries in the summer, visit the pumpkin patch in fall, and enjoy hayrides, pony rides, petting zoo, playground, and picnic area year-round. Olive Branch is home to Brussel's Bonsai Nursery, the largest

importer and grower of fine bonsai in the United States. Tour elaborate display gardens and watch the staff practice this painstaking art. On to Michigan City and Burton's Sugar Farm. This antique heritage village preserves our farming history with working displays including the sorghum mill and resulting sorghum molasses, steam engines, gristmills, blacksmith shop, and threshers. There's also a petting zoo and general store. Continue east to historic Corinth to spend the night.

### DAY 2

**CORINTH TO TUPELO—52 miles**  
**TUPELO TO PONTOTOC—18 miles**  
**PONTOTOC TO STARKVILLE—71 miles**

Get back to nature and the real country life at the Hilltop Peach Farm, a Mississippi agriculture landmark. In season, you can pick peaches, nectarines and apples. Don't miss the view from a 700-ft. high overlook in the Appalachian foothills. Next stop is Tupelo, birth place of Elvis Presley and home to one of the largest buffalo herds each of the Mississippi River. Visit the Tupelo Buffalo Park and Zoo and get on the Monster

Bison Bus for a close-up view. Other attractions include exotic animals and a petting zoo. If you're here in October, be

sure to stop in Pontotoc to catch the craze and get lost in the Wise Farms Corn Maze or the Mini Maw Maze Pyramid. A hayride is always great fun too. Continue to Starkville to spend the night.

### DAY 3

**STARKVILLE TO GREENWOOD—89 miles**

Start your day in Starkville, home of Mississippi State University (MSU). The state's largest university, MSU is a national leader in agricultural research. Visit the MSU Arboretum, where a variety of annuals, perennials, blooming shrubs and trees put on a brilliant show, spring through fall. A tour of the A.B. McKay Food and Enology Laboratory takes wine lovers through the entire process from grapes to glass, concluding with a toast of Mississippi muscadine wine. You can't leave campus without some of Mississippi State's famous Edam cheese, processed and packaged in the Herzer Dairy Science Building, wrapped in red wax and bearing the university seal. Later in the day, drive to Greenwood to spend the night in the Mississippi Delta.

### DAY 4

**GREENWOOD TO YAZOO CITY—52 miles**  
**YAZOO CITY TO JACKSON—49 miles**

Begin with a tour of the Museum of the Mississippi Delta, which recounts the history of the Mississippi Delta from the Ice Age through contemporary times. Exhibits include Indian pottery and prehistoric fossils. Head south through the rich Delta farmlands for Yazoo City Agricultural Tours to take you to see cotton, catfish, or rice farming at its finest; visit a cotton gin and a catfish plant; plus, enjoy some delicious Southern food along the way. Take the short drive to Jackson, our capital city, and enjoy the evening.

## DAY 5

**JACKSON TO MERIDIAN—93 miles**

**MERIDIAN TO LAUREL—58 miles**

**LAUREL TO COLLINS—27 miles**

**COLLINS TO PINEY WOODS—41 miles**

**PINEY WOODS TO JACKSON—28 miles**

Drive east to Meridian and The Bamboo Emu Farm. Arrange a tour and enjoy every minute watching these unusual birds. Emu products including hand-painted eggs, emu oil shampoo and conditioner, body lotion, and creams are also available. Don't leave the area without a visit to the Causeyville General Store. Since 1895, this classic, old-style general store has served the community. Be sure to see the mechanical music museum and the gristmill while you're there. Next stop is Laurel and Landrum's Country Homestead and Village, a 10-acre living history museum that includes a gristmill, water tower, windmill, working blacksmith shop, chapel—a total of 53 buildings and attractions that are favorites with children and adults. Mitchell Farms is a working farm at Collins that offers fresh fruit, vegetables, watermelons, green and dried peanuts (all in season). Year-round attractions include a restored log house, smokehouse, wood shed, outhouse, play house, other farm buildings, and many 1900s antiques. On your way to Jackson, you'll want to take time to tour The Piney Woods School, founded in 1909 by Dr. Laurence Jones as a rural school for African American children. Today, this modern facility sits on 2,000 wooded acres and includes a 500-acre working farm, providing a well-rounded education for students in grades 9 through 12. Spend the night in Jackson, where you can take advantage of great restaurants and nightlife in addition to the well-stocked, indoor-outdoor Mississippi Farmers Market.



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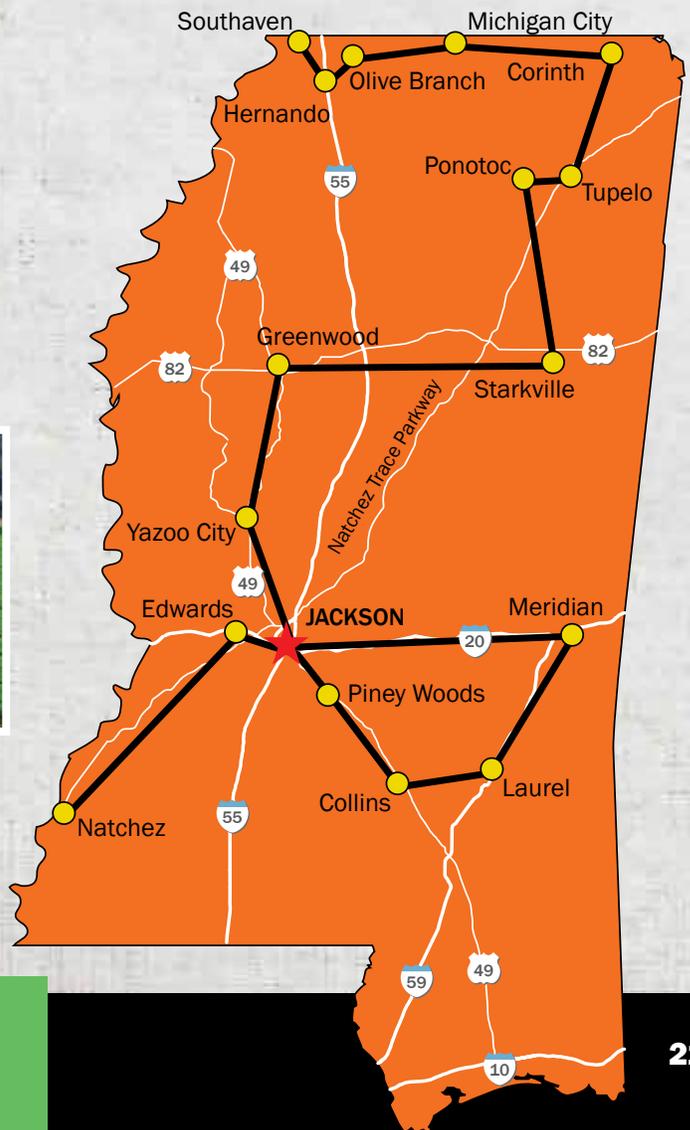
## DAY 6

**JACKSON TO EDWARDS—29 miles**

**EDWARDS TO NATCHEZ—81 miles**

Continue west to Edwards and visit the one and only cactus plantation in the world! The Thomas family grows 3,500 cactus varieties and other succulents. Many varieties are available for purchase. Next, you'll enjoy the fantastic antebellum Mississippi River town of Natchez, home to the only winery in the state. The most popular selection at the Old South Winery is a sweet rosé called Miss Scarlett. All the wines—12 reds, whites, and rosés—are made from native muscadines. Arrange for a tour and tasting.

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Natchez is home to the only winery in the state. The most popular selection at the Old South Winery is a sweet rosé called Miss Scarlett.  
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1. Pumpkin Patch picking in the fall
2. Tupelo Buffalo Park and Zoo, Tupelo
3. Mitchell Farms, Collins

## Student Road Trip TOUR

### DAY 1

#### TUNICA TO CLARKSDALE—37 miles

A great way to start your tour in Tunica, known as the Gateway to the Blues, is by taking a scenic cruise of the mighty Mississippi River on the Tunica Queen, a replica, 19th century riverboat. Tour Tunica RiverPark, which showcases the rich history of the river and features a four-story outdoor observation deck overlooking the Mississippi River, aquariums with native aquatic life, and a 130-acre riverside forest with walking trail. Then, head south to Clarksdale for some



real Delta blues. This is where the blues was turned into an art form by Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, B.B. King, and other talented Delta musicians. Clarksdale Station and Blues Alley, the renovated railroad depot that houses the Delta Blues Museum, showcases original

instruments, recordings, and art. Take a look at Muddy Waters' cabin, and purchase a blues CD. Local musicians and singers work one-on-one to keep the blues alive by teaching area youth and adults the instrument of their choice. After a jam session, tour Clarksdale alongside the Sunflower River. Explore the neighborhood that was the boyhood playground of Tennessee Williams and visit Tennessee Williams Park for a refreshing break or picnic. (Arrangements can be made through Clarksdale/Coahoma County Chamber of Commerce.)

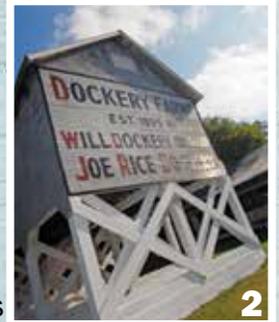
### DAY 2

#### CLARKSDALE TO MOUND BAYOU—27 miles

#### MOUND BAYOU TO CLEVELAND—10 miles

Former slaves founded Mound Bayou, and in its prime, it was the pinnacle of African American culture. Visit historical sites such as one of the only African American-owned banks in Mississippi

and the Taborian Hospital building. Next, you'll come to Cleveland and nearby Dockery Plantation, a historic site some believe to be the birthplace of the blues. Legend has it that Robert Johnson, who was living on a nearby plantation, was told in order to meet his fate he should take his guitar to a crossroad near the Dockery Plantation at midnight. Go to this spot and hear the story of how



he traded his soul for his musical talent. Today this event is commemorated in Clarksdale at the crossroads of U.S. 61 and U.S. 49. Enjoy tales from this era with a Southern-style picnic under the shade of an oak tree at the plantation. (Make arrangements through the Cleveland/Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce.) Afterwards, shop in Cleveland's Historic Cotton Row District. Stop in for an ice cream treat or coffee and dessert at one of the many local restaurants. Experience a true "Delta Night" with live blues music and spicy barbecue or at a session at Delta State University's Delta Center for Culture and Learning.

### DAY 3

#### CLEVELAND TO ROSEDALE—20 miles

#### ROSEDALE TO GREENVILLE—35 miles

#### GREENVILLE TO LELAND—8 miles

#### LELAND TO GREENWOOD—45 miles

In Rosedale, at the Great River Road State Park, learn about the Mississippi River and its many cultural, economic, and agricultural contributions to the world. Head south on Mississippi Hwy. 1, the Great River Road, to Winterville Mounds Museum and explore Mississippi's Native American heritage, artifacts, and one of the largest Indian mound groups in the Mississippi River Valley. In Greenville, the state's largest city on the River, stop at the River Road Queen Welcome Center on U.S. 82 West. This replica

1. The Crossroads, Highways 49 & 61, Clarksdale
2. Dockery Farms, Cleveland
3. Cotton Fields

The Governor's Mansion is the second oldest residence that has been occupied by the governor and his family in the United States.

of an 1800s paddle wheel riverboat offers excellent photo

opportunities. This afternoon, travel to Leland to see the museum celebrating Jim Henson's Delta boyhood and the creation of Kermit the Frog. Or, experience more blues legends through exhibits at the new Highway 61 Blues Museum in downtown Leland. Indianola is home of blues great B.B. King and catfish pâté, an unusual Delta delicacy invented at a local restaurant. Continue into Greenwood, home to America's second-largest cotton exchange, for dinner and overnight.

**DAY 4**

**GREENWOOD TO YAZOO CITY-53 miles**

**YAZOO CITY TO CANTON-32 miles**

**CANTON TO JACKSON-22 miles**

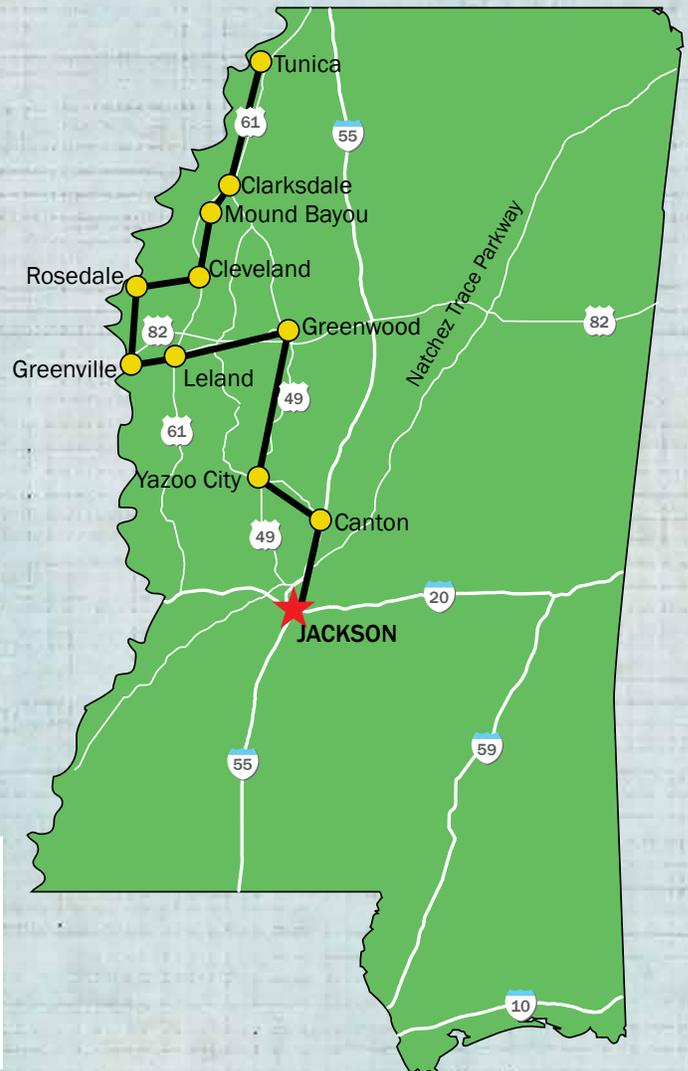
Take time to visit the Museum of the Mississippi Delta where exhibits document the land and the people of the Delta from the Ice Age through today. Or visit Greenwood's newest attraction, the Blues Heritage Museum & Gallery, honoring the life and legend of the great bluesman, Robert Johnson. On your way to Yazoo City, notice the fields of rectangular ponds growing Mississippi farm-raised catfish. Depending on the time of year, you may also see the oceans of white in the Delta's acres of cotton. In Yazoo City, tour native son Willie Morris's stomping grounds and some of his favorite sites highlighted in his writings, such as *My Dog Skip* and *Good Old Boy*. Hollywood has made Canton the "Movie Capital of Mississippi." The Canton Movie Museum at Wohner's Corner offers a look at props and sets from several productions filmed in Canton, including *My Dog Skip*, *A Time To Kill* and *The Ponder Heart*. Arrive in Jackson, Mississippi's capital city,



**DAY 5**

**JACKSON**

A visit to Jackson would not be complete without a visit to the Governor's Mansion, where, in 1863, Union General William T. Sherman hosted a victory dinner following the surrender of Vicksburg. Don't miss the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum with its historical exhibits and reproduction of a 1920s community with a church, gas station, and general store.





**DAY 1**

**TUPELO TO HOLLY SPRINGS—61 miles**

One of the first and most enchanting introductions to Mississippi is the Natchez Trace Parkway. You can drive on this scenic roadway that runs a total of 444 miles from Natchez, Mississippi, to Nashville, Tennessee. The original Natchez Trace was an ancient trail used by Native Americans and was most heavily used from 1785-1820 by boatmen who floated down the Mississippi River to sell their goods in ports like Natchez, then traveled back north along the Natchez Trace. In addition to Elvis' birthplace, other interesting sites include the new Tupelo Automobile Museum which features more than 150 vehicles from every era of the motor industry. To the northeast of Tupelo, Horton Foote's adaptation of William Faulkner's *Tomorrow* was filmed in Corinth and in the historic courthouse at Jacinto. The film stars Robert Duvall, who has said it is one of his favorite roles. One of Hollywood's most respected and popular directors, Robert Altman, chose the scenic town of Holly Springs as the locale for his 1998 comedy of Southern manners, *Cookie's Fortune*. Only a one hour drive northwest of Tupelo, the town of Holly Springs boasts more than 80 antebellum homes, many of which are open for tours. Just due west of Tupelo and south of Holly Springs is Oxford, which has been the setting for many films going back to the adaptation of native son William Faulkner's *Intruder in the Dust* and more recently Arliss Howard's extraordinary adaptation of Oxford writer Larry Brown's *Big Bad Love*, starring Howard, Debra Winger, Michael Parks, Angie Dickinson and Rosanna Arquette.

**DAY 2**

**HOLLY SPRINGS TO TUNICA—70 miles**

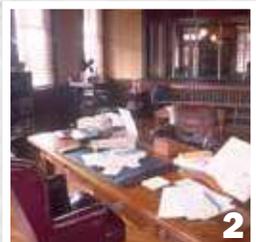
Historic Highway 61 in the Mississippi Delta, known as the Blues Highway, begins in Tunica, known as the Gateway to the Blues. The backdrop of the Delta and the neon towers of Tunica were used to great effect in *Finding Graceland*, a Mississippi movie starring Harvey Keitel. The backroads and vast landscapes of the Delta were also the setting of David Lynch's *Wild at Heart* with Nicolas Cage

and Laura Dern. *The People vs. Larry Flint* with Woody Harrelson and Courtney Love, was filmed in Senatobia. More recently the area was the setting for much of the Johnny and June Carter Cash biopic *Walk the Line*, and the upcoming series, *Quarry*. The casinos and area hotels offer more than 6,000 hotel rooms with luxury rooms, swimming pools, spas, two championship golf courses, 24-hour non-stop gaming and star-studded entertainment nightly.

**DAY 3**

**TUNICA TO VICKSBURG—241 miles**

The Mississippi Delta is known as "the most Southern place on earth." A tour along Highway 61 beginning in Tunica and traveling south through Delta towns such as Clarksdale, Cleveland, Leland and many others bring you through the places known for blues musicians and their heritage. Apart from the numerous musicians, including Bob Dylan, Paul Simon and Robert Johnson, who have sung about this legendary landscape, Hollywood captures its essence in *Crossroads*. Among the many Mississippi movies shot on location in the Delta include Elia Kazan's classic *Baby Doll* with Eli Wallach, Karl Malden, and Carole Baker, Walter Hill's *Crossroads* with Ralph Macchio, *Mississippi Masala* with Denzel Washington, and Robert Altman's *Thieves Like Us*, as well as current titles like *The Dynamiter*, The Coen Brothers *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, and the award winning and evocative *Ballast*. Mississippi author John Grisham has penned several novels set in the Delta which have found locations in the Delta, including *The Chamber*, which starred Gene Hackman, Faye Dunaway, and Chris O'Donnell, and *The Client*. The most successful film ever made in Mississippi, *The Help*, filmed in Greenwood, Clarksdale and Jackson.



1. *O' Brother Where Art Thou?* set, Canton
2. *A Time to Kill* set, Jake Brigance's office, Canton
3. Ruins of Windsor, location of partial filming of *Raintree County* that starred Elizabeth Taylor and Montgomery Clift

## DAY 4

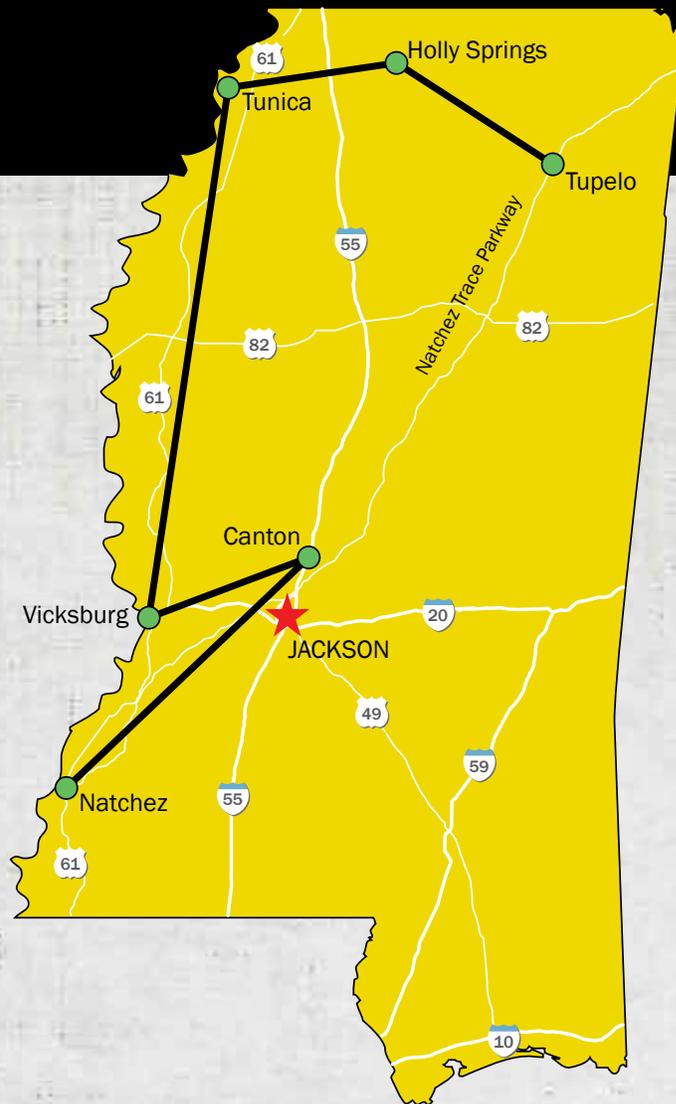
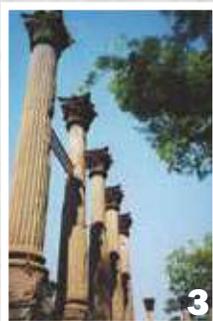
### VICKSBURG TO CANTON—67 miles

Further south along Highway 61, the city of Vicksburg, known as the “Gibraltar of the Confederacy,” is the site of one of the bloodiest sieges of the Civil War and perhaps its most pivotal battle. The National Military Park commemorates this epic battle with an 18-minute film recounting the campaign as well as life-sized exhibits and artifacts from the siege. The first film ever made on location in Mississippi, *The Crisis*, filmed here in 1916. After you’ve explored Vicksburg, head east to the capital city of Jackson, the home of the Mississippi Film Office. (Check out their website at [www.filmMississippi.org](http://www.filmMississippi.org) for a list of all of the films shot in Mississippi.) Since 1973, Jackson has been the location for *The Premonition*, *Mississippi Burning*, *Miss Firecracker*, *Ghosts of Mississippi*, *The Rising Place*, *The Help*, and *Get On Up*. And, just up the road, you must visit Canton, “the Movie Capital of Mississippi.” This charming town was the location for such popular Mississippi movies as *A Time to Kill*, *The Chamber*, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, which featured George Clooney and the soundtrack that singlehandedly revived American Roots music, and *My Dog Skip*, based on the childhood reminiscence by Mississippi’s beloved Willie Morris. Be sure to visit the Canton Movie Museum while you’re there.

## DAY 5

### CANTON TO NATCHEZ—141 miles

Just south of Vicksburg, you’ll find the earliest permanent settlement on the Mississippi River and at one time, home to more millionaires than anywhere else in America in Natchez. With more than 500 pre-Civil War mansions, you’ll feel as if you’ve stepped back in time. Natchez’s history as one of the major cities on the Mississippi River is interwoven with the fiction of Mark Twain, and it is no surprise that several of his stories have been adapted for Mississippi movies in Natchez. The best way



to see Natchez is by horse-drawn carriage. Be sure to overnight in one of the many antebellum mansions now established as luxurious B&Bs. Natchez has a long history as a filming location, reaching all the way back to 1920. *Showboat* filmed there in 1949 and *Raintree County* with Elizabeth Taylor and Montgomery Clift. It hosted productions of *Huckleberry Finn* in 1973 and 1992. Through the 1980s, it was the setting for the television miniseries *Beulah Land*, *The North and South*, *Books I and II*, and *Freedom Road* (with Muhammad Ali). In 2013, it was the primary location for Tate Taylor’s biopic on the life of James Brown, *Get On Up*. Nearby is the charming town of Port Gibson, declared by Union Army General Ulysses S. Grant as “too beautiful to burn.”

Canton has become known as the “Movie Capital of Mississippi.” Popular films—*A Time to Kill*, *My Dog Skip* and *The Chamber* have been filmed here.

## Natchez Trace TOUR

**NOTE:** *The Natchez Trace Parkway does not allow commercial vehicles. Tour buses are allowed with a permit. To obtain a permit, call the Natchez Trace Visitors Center at 800-305-7417.*

The Natchez Trace Parkway is a historic roadway that commemorates an ancient trail that connected southern portions of the Mississippi River to central Tennessee. The Old Natchez Trace trail experienced its heaviest use from 1785 to 1820 by the “Kaintuck” boatmen who floated the Ohio River and Mississippi River southbound to markets in Natchez and New Orleans. They made the trip back north on land along the Old Natchez Trace trail to Nashville and beyond. Over the centuries, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and other American Indians left their marks on the Trace and their influence is evident today.

While the Natchez Trace Parkway extends 444 miles from Natchez, Mississippi, through northwestern Alabama to Nashville, Tennessee, you can travel a long portion of the Trace in Mississippi. Visitors can experience this National Scenic Byway and All-American Road by driving, hiking, biking, horseback riding, and camping. There are many interesting, well-marked historical sites located all along the Trace.

The following is a suggested itinerary for a tour of the Trace in Mississippi that includes several stops in cities that are adjacent to the Trace. For more information about the Natchez Trace Parkway, go to [www.nps.gov/natr](http://www.nps.gov/natr) or [www.scenictrace.com](http://www.scenictrace.com).

### DAY 1

**NATCHEZ TO PORT GIBSON—43 miles**  
**PORT GIBSON TO RAYMOND—43 miles**  
**RAYMOND TO JACKSON—17 miles**

Natchez is one of America’s most charming towns.



Grand antebellum mansions and the scenic Mississippi River offer a setting you won’t soon forget. Before you leave for your trip along the Trace, you’ll want to spend several days in Natchez to take in everything it has to offer. About 40 miles outside of Natchez is the town of Port Gibson, third-oldest city in Mississippi.

With many historic homes and churches, it’s not hard to see why General U.S. Grant declared Port Gibson “too beautiful to burn.” Ironically, one of its most historic sites, the nearby Ruins of Windsor, caught fire at the hands of a careless smoker. Be sure to stop and photograph the Ruins of Windsor with its giant columns that mark what is left of this once stately Greek Revival mansion. In Raymond, you’ll find picturesque charm and Civil War history. An interesting driving tour highlights the historic Hinds County Courthouse (1859) and the Dupree House (1878). The Confederate Cemetery and the Civil War Battlefield with its walking trail offer opportunities to explore where history was made in 1863. Spend the night in Jackson, the state’s capital city, which offers plenty of lodging, dining, and entertainment options.

### DAY 2

**JACKSON TO RIDGELAND—9 miles**  
**RIDGELAND TO KOSCIUSKO—60 miles**

Start your second day in Jackson by taking in some of its historical sites and attractions. The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, located in a 300-

acre natural area, showcases the state’s rich natural heritage through lifelike displays and over



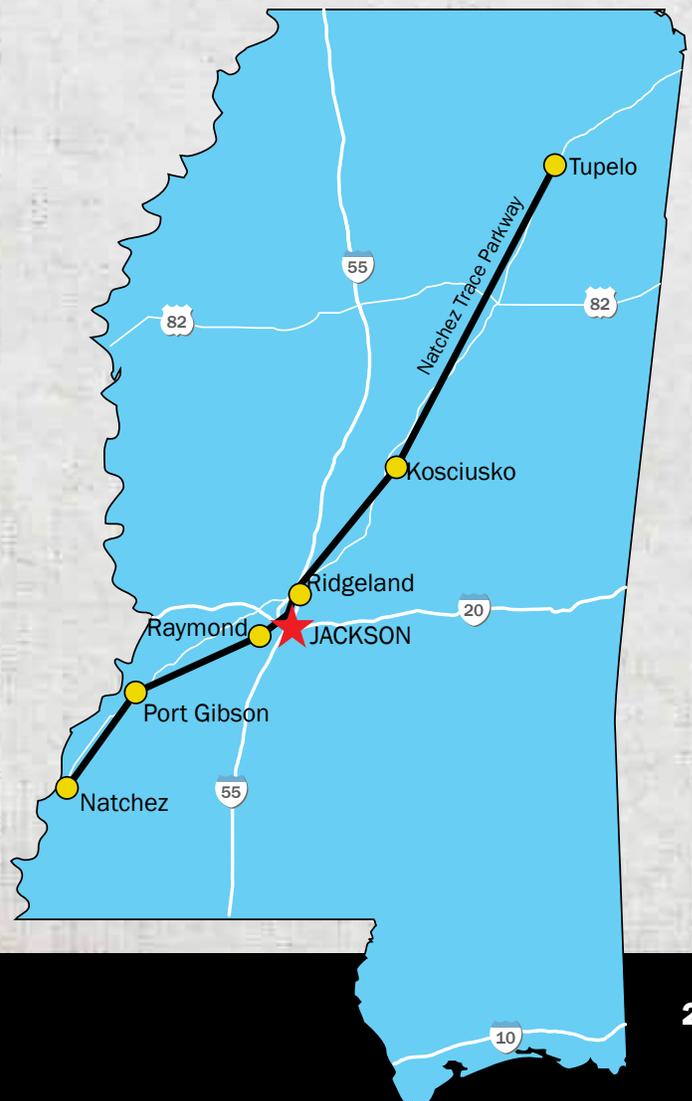
\*\*\*\*\*  
*The Natchez Trace is 444 miles long starting in Natchez, extending through northwest Alabama and ending in Nashville, TN.*  
\*\*\*\*\*

100,000 gallons of aquariums. Just across the street, the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum brings Mississippi's rich agricultural heritage to life. In addition to Mississippi Freedom Trail markers in the area, Jackson's Civil Rights Movement Driving Tour highlights significant sites such as the home of slain civil-rights leader Medgar Evers. After lunch, stop by the Mississippi Governor's Mansion, the official residence of Mississippi's First Families since 1842, and the second oldest continuously occupied governor's residence in the United States. As you depart Jackson, stop at the Mississippi Crafts Center on the Trace in Ridgeland. It features works of over 150 artisans, who are members of the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi. Kosciusko is one of the oldest remaining settlements on the Natchez Trace. With its historic downtown square and 100-year-old Attala County Courthouse, Kosciusko has been designated as one of America's 100 best small towns. Enjoy some of the nationally known antique shops, restaurants, and overnight accommodations as well as the Kosciusko Museum and Information Center. Kosciusko is also the site of the annual Natchez Trace Festival, held the last Saturday in April.

famous landmark of Tupelo's modern history is Elvis Presley's two-room house where he was born on January 8, 1935. The city is also home to the Tupelo Automobile Museum, Tupelo Buffalo Park, two area National Battlefield sites, the Oren Dunn City Museum and the Natchez Trace Parkway headquarters. In addition, guests can enjoy visual and performing arts through ballet, art exhibitions and wonderful productions by the symphony, community concerts, and theatre. Festivals include the Blue Suede Cruise featuring hundreds of classic cars, the Gum Tree Festival showcasing original artwork by regional artists, and the Elvis Presley Festival presenting top-notch live entertainment. Spend all day—or several days—enjoying Tupelo's unique blend of special events, shopping venues and restaurants.

**DAY 3**  
**KOSCIUSKO TO**  
**TUPELO—104**  
**miles**

After staying the night in Kosciusko, start your third day on the Trace with a visit to French Camp Historic District, where you can enjoy a meal at the Council House Café or step back in time with a tour of the Historic Village, featuring a blacksmith's shop and restored post office. Continue on to your next stop, Tupelo, located in the hills of northeast Mississippi. The most



1. Dunleith Plantation, Natchez
2. Medgar Evers home and Freedom Trail Marker, Jackson
3. French Camp on the Natchez Trace

The Mississippi Gulf Coast is the world's largest man-made beach. To experience the laid-back, sandy-side of Mississippi, a visit to the Coastal region is in order.

**DAY 1**

**BILOXI TO GULFPORT-13 miles**

Take a scenic drive along Highway 90, which runs parallel to the beach. You will immediately be enticed to visit the Biloxi Lighthouse and Visitors Center. The signature landmark is one of the most photographed sites on the coast. Highway 90 will lead you to



Casino Row - there you'll find gambling options, concerts, shows, restaurants, spas and nightlife. Make a stop in Gulfport or Biloxi to play on the beach and to rent jet skis, beach chairs and beach bikes. Most are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Long Beach and Gulfport also have free public splash pads that are popular with kids. For more of a beach excursion, pack

a wheeled cooler and take the ferry to Ship Island. As one of the barrier islands, Ship Island protects the coast from the Gulf of Mexico. The water on the Gulf side of Ship Island is clear and blue. While on the island, check out Fort Massachusetts, which is operated by the National Park Service. They offer guided and self-guided tours of the fort. Make sure you check out the roof perches and get a bird's-eye view of the island. The Hurricane Camille



Memorial is located on Highway 90 on the grounds of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer and the Hurricane Katrina Memorial is located on the Biloxi Town Green. Both serve as somber memorials to the lives lost in these two horrific storms. Along Highway 90 are amazing tree sculptures by award-winning artists Dayton Scoggins and Marlin Miller. Trees ravaged by Hurricane Katrina have been transformed into sculpted works of art.

**DAY 2**

**BILOXI TO GULFPORT-13 miles**

**GULFPORT TO GAUTIER-30 miles**

Begin the day at one of the coast's many first-class museums. Beauvoir is notable as the historic post-Civil War home of the former Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Another coastal favorite, especially among children, is the Lynn Meadows Discovery Center, where they can dress up, go shopping in a child-sized grocery store, be a chef and operate a kid-sized crane. Art lovers are certainly not left out on the coast. The Ohr-O'Keefe Art Museum in Biloxi celebrates local potter George E. Ohr. You can experience 300 years of history, culture and heritage on the Mississippi Gulf Coast at the Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum. A short drive away in Gautier is the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge and Visitor Center, which was created for the protection of endangered Mississippi sandhill cranes and their unique habitat. Continue your coastal nature journey with a



\*\*\*\*\*  
Shearwater  
Pottery,  
founded in 1928 by  
Peter Anderson,  
is now owned by  
Anderson's four  
children. Three of  
the four children  
are active in the  
business today.  
\*\*\*\*\*

visit to the Center for Marine Education and Research. This hands-on museum offers aquatic exhibits and the opportunity for guests to get up-close and personal with dolphins.

**DAY 3**

**BILOXI TO OCEAN SPRINGS—7 miles**

**OCEAN SPRINGS TO BAY ST. LOUIS—35 miles**

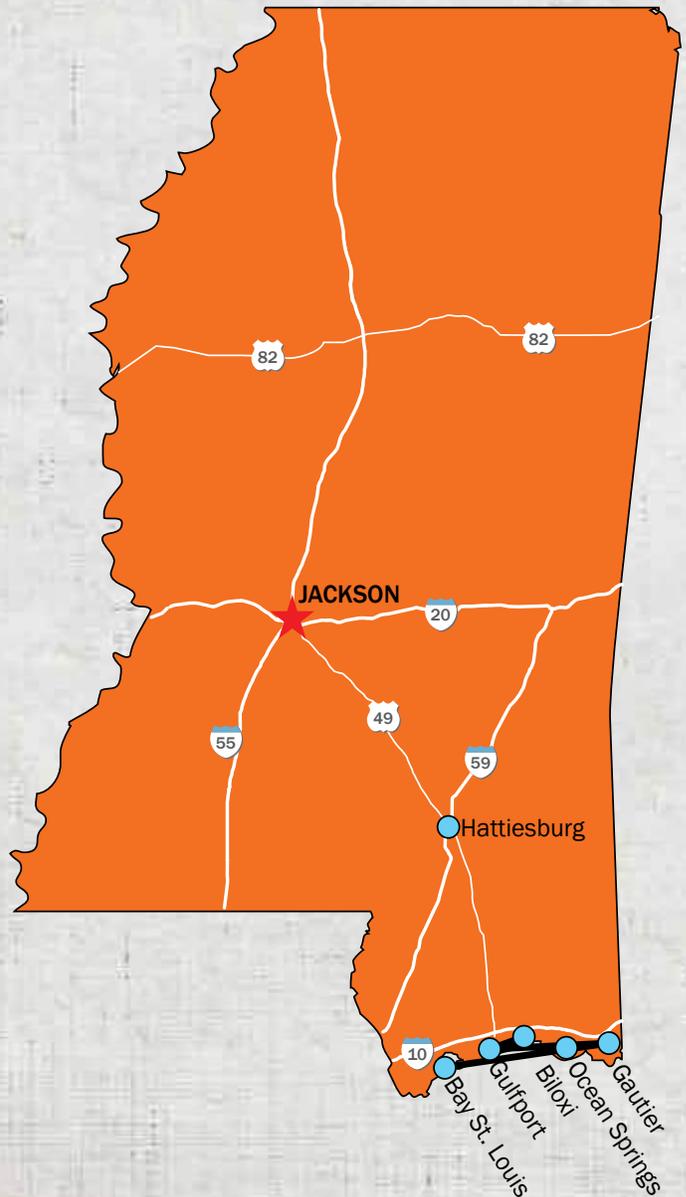
Ocean Springs and Bay St. Louis are both home to a robust arts scene. Ocean Springs hosts the annual Mississippi Songwriters Festival, Downtown ArtWalk and Peter Anderson Arts and Crafts Festival, named for Shearwater Pottery founder Peter Anderson.

Shearwater’s unique beauty and quality of thrown, glazed ware is continued today by his descendants.



The work of Peter’s brother, Walter Anderson, is celebrated at the eponymously named museum in downtown Ocean Springs, which is dedicated to the work of the 20th century American painter who was inspired by nature. Later, head over to “Mississippi’s West Coast” for a stop in Bay St. Louis. In Old Town, be sure to visit the Historic Train Depot, home to the Mardi Gras Museum, which features over a dozen elaborate Mardi Gras costumes, and the Alice Moseley Folk Art and Antique Museum. Moseley’s Little Blue House, where she lived, painted and welcomed guests, is just across the street from the depot. The St. Rose De Lima Catholic Church, one of the most vibrant and integrated churches in South Mississippi and nationally known for its men’s choir, is located in Bay St. Louis where you can visit the

“Christ in the Oaks” mural. You can also find a variety of local shops and specialty boutiques in both Ocean Springs and Bay St. Louis. While in Bay St. Louis, visit Infinity Science Center, where you will have fun exploring the vastness of outer space, the uncharted depths of the oceans and the varied layers of the Earth.



- 1. Lighthouse, Biloxi
- 2. Beach along the Mississippi Gulf
- 3. Ohr-O’Keefe Museum of Art, Biloxi
- 4. Shearwater Pottery, Ocean Springs

**Day 1**

**OLIVE BRANCH TO TUNICA—46 miles**

Morning arrival in Olive Branch. Play Cherokee Valley Golf Club in Olive Branch. Cherokee Valley's 18 holes feature wide Zoysia fairways, but the many lakes and bunkers provide the intimidation factor. Drive to Tunica and check in your choice of Tunica Resorts casino hotels. Explore the Tunica RiverPark showcasing the history and life of the Mississippi River. The RiverPark features the Mississippi River Museum, riverboat cruises, a nature trail, gift shop, and a 48-foot river overlook. The glitz and glamour of casino gambling has transformed the Tunica area into one of the top entertainment venues in the country. During your stay in Tunica, experience exceptional headline entertainment at one of the many casinos.



**Day 2**

Play Tunica National Golf & Tennis Club, designed by Mark McCumber. The course features rolling terrain, wide fairways, generous greens and unspoiled natural surroundings. After golf, tour the Tunica Museum, and follow Tunica's history from its Native American beginnings to the Civil War to the town it is today—and everything in between. You'll even see how the addition of casinos in 1992 made gaming a part of the town's one-of-a-kind culture. Later, enjoy dinner at one of the many restaurants at the



casinos or a local favorite, The Hollywood Café, made famous by Marc Cohn's song, "Walking in Memphis." The Hollywood Café also claims to be the place where the fried dill pickle was born.

**Day 3**

**TUNICA TO CHOCTAW—180 miles**

Travel to Pearl River Resort in Choctaw and play golf at Dancing Rabbit Golf Club. Each of the courses here bears the distinctive touch of golf course architects Tom Fazio and Jerry Pate. Check in at one of the Pearl River Resort hotels or Dancing Rabbit Clubhouse. Visit the historic Williams Brothers General Store, founded in 1907 or Ye Old Drug Store and Deli, where visitors can step back to the early days of the 20th Century with authentic cabinetry/fixtures and enjoy the old drugstore sandwiches and fountain. Enjoy dinner and nightly entertainment at the casino resort. Philip M's, located in the Silver Star Resort & Casino, was the only casino restaurant in Mississippi to be named as one of the 2012 Restaurant Wine List Award Winners.



**Day 4**

**CHOCTAW TO MERIDIAN—40 miles**

**MERIDIAN TO HATTIESBURG—88 miles**

**HATTIESBURG TO GULF COAST—69 miles**

In the morning, play golf at Dancing Rabbit in Choctaw and enjoy lunch at the Clubhouse. Travel on to Meridian to see the MSU Riley Center, a performing arts and conference facility that includes a fully restored 1889 grand opera house that seats



\*\*\*\*\*  
Mississippi has more than 140 courses offering a variety of price points and designs from world-class architects such as Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Jerry Pate and Tom Fazio.  
\*\*\*\*\*

approximately 950, and a 200-seat studio theater. Continue on to Hattiesburg for refreshments and snacks at one of many popular restaurants like The Purple Parrot,

\*To enjoy and play Fallen Oak, you must stay overnight at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino in Biloxi.

Mahogany Bar, or Tabella, all owned and run by famous Mississippi chef Robert St. John. Continue your drive to the Mississippi Gulf Coast and check in to a local bed & breakfast or hotel.

**Day 5**

**MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST**

Play golf at one of the many world-class golf courses like Grand Bear, designed by Jack Nicklaus, The Preserve, designed by Jerry Pate, or Fallen Oak\*, designed by Tom Fazio. After golf, head to Casino Row, where you'll find gambling options, concerts, shows, restaurants, spas and nightlife. If you want to extend your stay in Mississippi and on the beautiful Gulf Coast, a day trip to Ship Island is a must. Pack a cooler and take the ferry to Fort Massachusetts for a guided tour. If you are into the arts and shopping, the quaint towns of Ocean Springs or Bay St. Louis is the place to visit. Enjoy your day shopping and dining on one of Ocean Springs' historical streets, or visit Shearwater Pottery, famous for its thrown, glazed ware continued today by its descendants. Bay St. Louis is well known for water front dining, antiques shops and walkability.



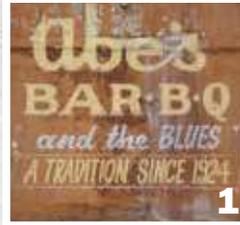
1. Cherokee Valley Golf Club, Olive Branch
2. Tunica National Golf & Tennis Club, Tunica
3. Pearl River Resorts, Dancing Rabbit Golf Club, Oaks Course, Choctaw
4. Mississippi State University Riley Center, Meridian
5. Preserve Golf Club, Biloxi

## Mississippi Menu TOUR

Add these authentic Mississippi food experiences to any of the other tours we've outlined in this guide. Or take your time and eat your way through this land of deliciousness.

### CLARKSDALE

Take the Blues Highway, U.S. Highway 61 South, and you'll arrive in Clarksdale at the legendary Crossroads and Abe's Bar-B-Q. Be sure to try the "Big Abe." Fair warning: come hungry.



### CLARKSDALE TO MERIGOLD—30 miles

Continue on Highway 61 to Merigold, home to big-time food at Crawdad's. January to June is crawfish season, when you'll enjoy the mudbugs—steamy and spicy in 3-lb. platters. Or try the incredible seafood, Cajun and Creole specialties, and steaks.

### MERIGOLD TO CLEVELAND—7 miles

If you're looking for a real Mississippi Catfish dinner, take the short drive to Shaw and check out Fat Baby's—a true "catfish house" with light, crusty filets, hushpuppies, and all the proper trimmings.

### CLEVELAND TO GREENVILLE—38 miles

Come in the front door of the building and go through the kitchen where "Little" Doe Signa is working the broiler. You've officially arrived at Doe's Eat Place. Start with the tamales and salad; then there's the steak—from a gargantuan 4 lb. sirloin to a 2-3 lb. ribeye—perfectly broiled and covered with the pan juices. Pure Delta delight.

### GREENVILLE TO GREENWOOD—56 miles

Greenwood showcases the creations of world-renowned Viking Range Corporation. The centerpiece is the fabulous boutique hotel, The Alluvian, and its restaurant Giardina's, the height of elegance. Across the street, the Mockingbird Bakery serves artisanal breads, cakes, and pastries. You can take a class at the famous Viking Cooking School. Or enjoy the Delta Bistro's unique twist on southern cuisine or try the mile-high pie at The Crystal Grill.

### GREENWOOD TO VICKSBURG—100 miles

Vicksburg's Walnut Hills Restaurant serves bountiful family-style meals on lazy-Susan tables—the fried chicken is outstanding. Roca Restaurant is a must-try for European-influenced, southern cuisine. Or enjoy a fine dining experience at a historic inn such as Anchuca or Cedar Grove.

### VICKSBURG TO NATCHEZ—73 miles

Monmouth Plantation and Dunleith are extraordinary antebellum mansions-turned-B&Bs. Each has a spectacular restaurant with an elegant menu. Fat Mama's is where locals flock to devour tamales by the dozen and margaritas by the pitcher. Or for barbecue aficionados, there's the laid-back Pig Out Inn.

### NATCHEZ TO HATTIESBURG—145 miles

Nationally renowned chef/restaurateur/author Robert St. John holds court with his New South Restaurant Group: Purple Parrot Café, Crescent Branch City Grill, and Mahogany Bar where devotees enjoy modern Southern cooking. Here's a great tip—Leatha's Bar-B-Que Inn is Robert St. John's sauce-covered hands-down favorite place to eat!



### HATTIESBURG TO OCEAN SPRINGS—79 miles

The Shed in Ocean Springs was literally started in a shed built by the Orison family on the Gulf Coast. It has grown into a landmark that has been featured on national television, including a reality show on The Food Network. Visitors from around the world travel to The Shed to eat the BBQ ribs and meet the colorful Orison family. Check out the "Junk-Free" marinades and rubs in the Shed Store, which contain only ingredients that you'd find in your kitchen.

### OCEAN SPRINGS TO BILOXI—11 miles

The famous Mary Mahoney's Old French House has been family owned for more than 50 years. It operates out of what is believed to be the

\*\*\*\*\*  
Robert St.  
John is one of  
Mississippi's  
most talented  
restaurateurs.  
\*\*\*\*\*

oldest home in Biloxi, built in 1737. Try the house specialties: the flounder imperial, a whole flounder stuffed with lump crabmeat, and the St. Patrick, a baked shrimp dish with garlic and butter, topped with lump crabmeat.

### **BILOXI TO GULFPORT—9 miles**

Every dish at the Blow Fly Inn is topped with a quirky signature garnish: a small, plastic fly. The Blow Fly has been featured on Food Network's Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives for its bayou fare, including smoked sausage and gumbo. Lunch specials include jumbo lump crab cakes and Gulf Coast shrimp & catfish.

### **GULFPORT TO JACKSON—90 miles**

For the absolute best in retro bakery treats like petit fours and iced cookies, try Campbell's Bakery. Looking for a little elegance? Char, Shapley's and Table 100 are prime choices. Walker's Drive-In has an eclectic menu and the Mayflower serves some of the best fish anywhere. Two Sisters is just too good for fried chicken and home cooking.

### **JACKSON TO MERIDIAN—93 miles**

Meridian has one of the best New York-style pizza places in Mississippi called Nick and Al's. For a great lunch, try The Deli on Fifth for a chicken salad or pimento cheese sandwich or the "Elvis Special", a banana, peanut butter and honey concoction. Fine dining options include Weidmann's, in downtown Meridian, which has been in existence since 1870.

### **MERIDIAN TO PHILADELPHIA—60 miles**

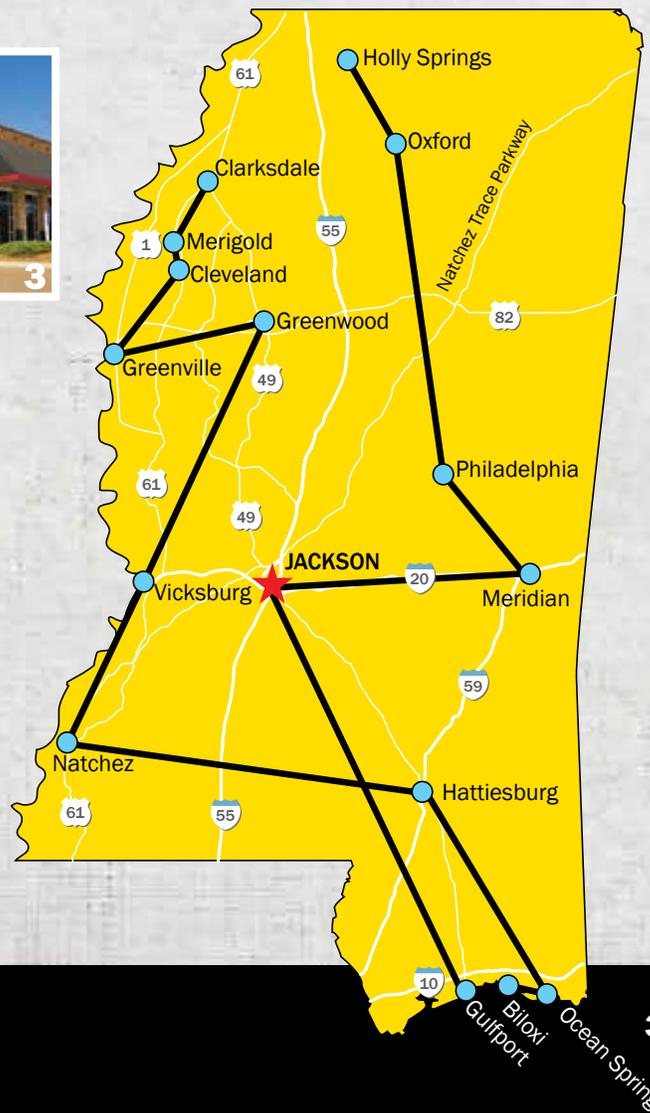
Since 1961, eating at Peggy's has been more like having lunch at your grandmother's house than at a restaurant. The homey buffet includes fried chicken, chicken and dumplings, pork chops, fresh vegetables and lots more—the menu depends on the day. Philip M's is the elegant, creative, award-winning restaurant at Pearl River Resort. Worth the splurge!

### **PHILADELPHIA TO OXFORD—158 miles**

Around Oxford's vibrant, picturesque courthouse square, start at Bottletree Bakery for muffins, sweet rolls and artisanal breads and pastries. City Grocery has built its reputation on eclectic new southern cuisine. Take a short drive to Taylor Grocery for some of the best catfish in the state. Enjoy the fun and make new friends on the front porch.

### **OXFORD TO HOLLY SPRINGS—31 miles**

Phillip's Grocery serves up some serious history when you order their famous hamburger—the burger recipe hasn't changed since 1948. This place first opened as a saloon in 1882. Their hamburgers were voted among the nation's best by USA Today. You'll also enjoy the eclectic décor ranging from hundreds of old bottles to reproductions of classic sculptures.



1. Abe's Bar-B-Q, Clarksdale
2. Purple Parrot and Chef Robert St. John, Hattiesburg
3. Table 100, Flowood

## Mississippi CVBs and Tourism Offices

### Aberdeen Visitors Bureau

P.O. Box 288  
Aberdeen, MS 39730  
662-369-9440  
aberdeenms.org  
info@aberdeenms.org

### Clarksdale/Coahoma County/Tourism Commission

1540 Desoto Ave.  
Clarksdale, MS 38614  
662-627-7337  
visitclarksdale.com  
kappi@visitclarksdale.com

### Covington County Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 1595  
Collins, MS 39428  
601-765-6012  
covingtonchamber.com



### Belzoni/Humphreys Development Foundation

P.O. Box 145  
Belzoni, MS 39038  
662-247-4838  
catfishcapitalonline.com  
catfish@belzonicable.com



### Crystal Springs Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 519  
Crystal Springs, MS 39059  
601-892-2711  
crystalspringsmiss.com  
crystalspringschamber@gmail.com

### Booneville & Prentiss County Main Street Association

100 West Church Street  
Booneville, MS 38829  
662-728-4130  
boonevillemainstreet.com  
bpcmainstreet@gmail.com

### Cleveland/Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 490  
Cleveland, MS 38732  
662-843-2712  
visitclevelandms.com  
cheryl@clevelandmschamber.com

### DeSoto County Tourism Association

4716 Pepper Chase Dr.  
Southaven, MS 38671  
662-393-8770  
sodesoto.com  
kim@sodesoto.com

### Brookhaven/Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce

230 S Whitworth Ave.  
Brookhaven, MS 39601  
601-833-1411  
brookhavenchamber.com  
chb@brookhavenchamber.com

### Clinton Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 143  
Clinton, MS 39060  
601-924-5912  
clintonchamber.org  
info@clintonchamber.org

### Greater Picayune Area Chamber

P.O. Box 448  
Picayune, MS 39466  
601-798-3122  
picayunchamber.org

### Canton Convention & Visitors Bureau

P.O. Box 53  
Canton, MS 39046  
601-859-1307  
cantontourism.com  
jgordon@cantontourism.com

### Columbus-Lowndes Convention & Visitors Bureau

P.O. Box 789  
Columbus, MS 39701  
662-329-1191  
columbus-ms.org  
ccvb@columbus-ms.org

### Greenwood Convention & Visitors Bureau

P.O. Drawer 739  
Greenwood, MS 38935  
662-453-9197  
greenwoodms.org  
info@gcvb.com

### Clarke County Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 172  
Quitman, MS 39355  
601-776-5701  
visitclarkecounty.com  
clarkechamber@att.net

### Corinth Area Convention & Visitor's Bureau

215 North Fillmore St.  
Corinth, MS 38834  
662-287-8300  
corinth.net  
tourism@corinth.net

### Greater Starkville Development Partnership

200 East Main St.  
Starkville, MS 39759  
662-323-3322  
starkville.org  
info@starkville.org



1. Catfish statue, Belzoni
2. Canton Courthouse, Canton
3. Delta Blues Museum, Clarksdale
4. Tallahatchie Flats, Greenwood
5. Walter Place, Holly Springs
6. Quail Hollow Golf Club, McComb

**Greenwood Convention & Visitors Bureau**

P.O. Drawer 739  
Greenwood, MS 38935  
662-453-9197  
greenwoodms.org  
info@gcvb.com



**Grenada Tourism Commission**

P.O. Box 1824  
Grenada, MS 38902  
662-226-2571  
visitgrenadams.com  
grenadamstourism@yahoo.com

**Hancock County Tourism Development Bureau**

P.O. Box 3002  
Bay St. Louis, MS 39521  
228-4673-9222  
mswestcoast.org  
tourism@mswestcoast.org

**Hattiesburg Convention & Visitors Bureau**

5 Convention Center Plz.  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
601-296-7475  
visithattie.com  
kbrock@hattiesburg.org

**Hazlehurst Chamber of Commerce**

P.O. Box 446  
Hazlehurst, MS 39083  
601-894-3752  
hazlehurstchamber.com  
hazlechamber@bellsouth.net



**Holly Springs Tourism Bureau**

148 East College Ave.  
Holly Springs, MS 38635  
662-252-2515  
visithollysprings.com  
info@visithollysprings.com

**Indianola Chamber of Commerce**

P.O. Box 151  
Indianola, MS 38751  
662-887-4454  
icoc@tecinfo.net

**Jackson Convention & Visitors Bureau**

P.O. Box 1450  
Jackson, MS 39215  
601-960-1891  
visitjackson.com  
info@visitjackson.com

**Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce**

P.O. Box 480  
Pascagoula, MS 39568  
228-762-3391  
jcchamber.com  
chamber@jcchamber.com

**Jones County Chamber of Commerce**

P.O. Box 527  
Laurel, MS 39441  
601-649-3031  
jonescounty.com  
info@edajones.com

**Kemper County Economic Development Authority**

14062 Highway 16W  
DeKalb, MS 39328  
601-743-2754  
kempercounty.com

**Kosciusko-Attala Development Corporation**

101 N. Natchez St.  
Kosciusko, MS 39090  
662-289-2981  
kadcorp.org  
info@kadcorp.org

**Leake County Development Association**

P.O. Box 209  
Carthage, MS 39051  
601-267-7161  
leakeiida.com  
director@leakems.com

**Louisville/Winston County Chamber of Commerce**

P.O. Box 551  
Louisville, MS 39339  
662-773-3921  
winstoncounty.com  
info@winstoncounty.com

**Marion County Development Partnership**

P.O. Box 272  
Columbia, MS 39429  
601-736-6385  
mcdp.info  
info@mcdp.info

**McComb Community Relations & Tourism Bureau**

P.O. Box 667  
McComb, MS 39649  
601-684-8664  
mccomb-ms.gov  
mccombvisitorsbureau@  
mccombms.gov



**Mississippi CVBs and  
Tourism Offices**

**Meridian-Lauderdale  
County Tourism Bureau**

212 Constitution Ave.  
Meridian, MS 39301  
601-482-8001  
visitmeridian.com  
tourism@visitmeridian.com

**Mississippi Gulf Coast  
Regional Convention &  
Visitors Bureau**

P.O. Box 8298  
Biloxi, MS 39535  
228-896-6699, Ext. 215  
gulfcoast.org  
conventions@gulfcoast.org

**Natchez Convention  
& Visitor Bureau**

640 South Canal St.  
Natchez, MS 39120  
601-446-6345  
visitnatchez.org  
info@visitnatchez.org

**Newton  
Chamber of Commerce**

128 South Main St.  
Newton, MS 39345  
601-683-2201  
newtonchamberofcommerce.com  
chambernewton@bellsouth.net

**Noxubee Economic &  
Community Development  
Alliance**

P.O. Box 308  
Macon, MS 39341  
662-726-4456  
noxubeecountymys.com  
noxubeems@yahoo.com

**Ocean Springs  
Chamber of Commerce**

1000 Washington Ave.  
Ocean Springs, MS 39564  
228-875-4424  
oceanspringschamber.com  
mail@oceanspringschamber.com

**Okolona Area  
Chamber of Commerce**

P.O. Box 446  
Okolona, MS 38860  
662-447-5913  
okolonams.org

**Visit Oxford MS**

415 S. Lamar Blvd.  
Oxford, MS 38655  
662-323-2367  
visitoxfordms.com  
tourism@visitoxfordms.com



**Panola Partnership**

150-A Public Sq.  
Batesville, MS 38606  
662-563-3126  
panolacounty.com  
partnership@cablone.net

**Pearl Chamber of Commerce**

P.O. Box 54125  
Pearl, MS 39288  
601-939-3388  
pearlms.org  
pearlchamberofcommerce@pearlms.org



**Philadelphia/Neshoba  
Community Development  
Partnership**

P.O. Box 330  
Philadelphia, MS 39350  
601-656-1000  
neshoba.org  
karowell@bellsouth.net

**Poplarville Area  
Chamber of Commerce**

P.O. Box 367  
Poplarville, MS 39470  
601-795-0578  
poplarville.org

**Port Gibson  
Chamber of Commerce**

P.O. Box 491  
Port Gibson, MS 39150  
601-437-4351  
portgibsononthemississippi.com  
judyscruggs@bellsouth.net

**Rankin County  
Chamber of Commerce**

P.O. Box 428  
Brandon, MS 39043  
601-825-2268  
rankinchamber.com  
info@rankinchamber.com

**Ridgeland Tourism  
Commission**

1000 Highland Colony Pkwy,  
Suite 6006  
Ridgeland, MS 39157  
601-605-5252  
visitridgeland.com  
info@visitridgeland.com

**Stone County Economic  
Development Partnership**

P.O. Box 569  
Wiggins, MS 39577  
601-928-5418  
stonecounty.com  
scedp@stonecounty.com



**Tate County Economic Development Foundation**

135 North Front St.  
 Senatobia, MS 38668  
 662-562-8715  
 tatecountymms.com  
 ttclimer@tatecountymms.com

**Tishomingo County Tourism Council**

1001 Battleground Dr.  
 luka, MS 38852  
 662-423-0051  
 tishomingofunhere.org  
 info@tishomingo.org

**Tunica Convention & Visitors Bureau**

13625 Hwy 61 North  
 Tunica Resorts, MS 3866  
 888-488-6422  
 tunicatavel.com  
 bcanter@tunicatravel.com

**Tupelo Convention & Visitors Bureau**

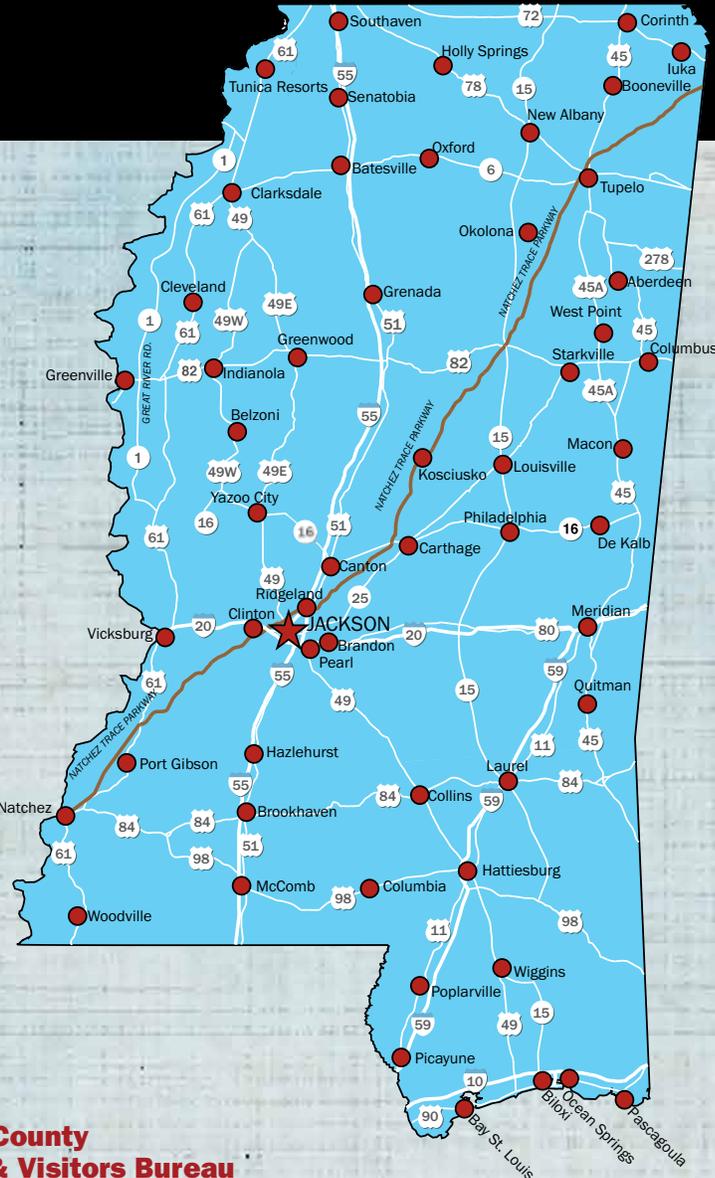
P.O. Drawer 47  
 Tupelo, MS 38802  
 662-841-6521  
 tupelo.net  
 visittupelo@tupelo.net

**Union County Development Association**

P.O. Box 125  
 New Albany, MS 38652  
 662-534-4354  
 ucda-newalbany.com  
 info@ucda-newalbany.com

**Vicksburg Convention & Visitors Bureau**

P.O. Box 110  
 Vicksburg, MS 39181  
 601-636-9421  
 visitvicksburg.com  
 info@visitvicksburg.com



**Washington County Convention & Visitors Bureau**

216 S. Walnut St.  
 Greenville, MS 38701  
 662-334-2711  
 visitgreenville.org  
 info@thedelta.org

**West Point/Clay County Community Growth Alliance**

510 East Broad St.  
 West Point, MS 39773  
 662-494-5121  
 westpointms.org  
 info@westpointms.org

**Woodville/Wilkinson County Main Street Association**

P. O. Box 1546  
 Woodville, MS 39669  
 601-888-3338  
 woodvillemainstreet.com  
 parosen@hotmail.com

**Yazoo County Convention & Visitors Bureau**

P.O. Box 186  
 Yazoo City, MS 39194  
 662-746-1815  
 yazoo.org  
 info@yazoo.org



1. Paddle wheel boat, Natchez
2. Faulkner statue, Oxford
3. First Presbyterian Church, Port Gibson
4. Gateway to the Blues Visitors Center, Tunica
5. No Smoking Smokehouse sign, Yazoo City

## Welcome Centers



1

### Adams County

640 South Canal St.  
Natchez, MS 39120  
601-442-5849  
adams@mississippi.org

### Alcorn County

2028 South Tate St.  
Corinth, MS 38834  
662-287-9145  
alcorn@mississippi.org

### Delma Furniss Hospitality Station

Hwy. 49 and Hwy. 61  
Lula, MS 38644  
662-337-2305  
delma@mississippi.org

### DeSoto County

I-55 South  
Hernando, MS 38632  
662-429-9969  
desoto@mississippi.org

### Hancock County

I-10 and MS Hwy. 607  
Pearlington, MS 39572  
228-533-5554  
hancock@mississippi.org

### Itawamba County

MS Hwy. 78  
Tremont, MS 38876  
662-652-3330  
itawamba@mississippi.org

### Jackson County

I-10, West Bound, Exit 75  
Moss Point, MS 39563  
228-475-3384  
jackson@mississippi.org

### Lauderdale County

I-20 and I-59, West Bound  
Toomsuba, MS 39364  
601-632-1142  
lauderdale@mississippi.org

### Pearl River County

I-59 North  
Picayune, MS 39466  
601-798-8184  
pearl@mississippi.org

### Pike County

I-55 North  
Magnolia, MS 39652  
601-783-5068  
pike@mississippi.org

### Warren County

4210 Washington St.  
Vicksburg, MS 39180  
601-638-4269  
warren@mississippi.org

### Washington County

MS Hwy. 82 and Reed Rd.  
Greenville, MS 38704  
662-332-2378  
washington@mississippi.org

### Woodville Hospitality Station

853 U. S. Hwy. 61 South  
Woodville, MS 39669  
601-888-4463  
woodville@mississippi.org

Welcome Centers are open from 8 a.m.  
until 5 p.m. Closed Easter, Thanksgiving,  
half a day Christmas Eve, Christmas Day  
and New Year's Day.

Free Wi-Fi available at all centers.

The Washington County Welcome Center is a replica of a 19th century paddle wheel boat.



1. Washington County Welcome Center, Greenville
2. Jackson County Welcome Center, Moss Point



2



Ajax Diner, Oxford

VISIT  
MISSISSIPPI

Visit Mississippi  
P.O. Box 849  
Jackson, MS 39205-0849  
Phone: 601-359-3297  
[VisitMississippi.org](http://VisitMississippi.org)