



PRESS TRIP REQUIREMENTS

The following guidelines serve to qualify writers, photographers, and production crews for press trips to the state of Mississippi. The following information should improve communications between writers/producers and the staff of the Mississippi Development Authority/Tourism Division.

The Tourism Division offers a wealth of information and staff assistance for planning customized press trips and familiarization tours to qualified media. All press trip requests will be forwarded to the local tourism organizations for their assistance.

First, the Press Trip Request Form must be completed in full and must accompany the professional credentials listed below.

Credentials should include a list of publications, copies of recently published articles, letters of recommendation from legitimate publishers or editors, professional letters of reference and a list of membership in journalistic and writing associations.

The Tourism Division office may be unable to assist all requests and may occasionally decline the opportunity of hosting one on a familiarization tour.

A familiarization tour will be planned no sooner than two months after the Tourism Division receives all the above listed material.

You should be aware that all local areas asked to participate in the visit might not be able to supply complimentary accommodations, meals, or admissions fees. In fact, even if the above criteria are met, it is not guaranteed that the local areas will respond to the request. The local areas are generous and hospitable, but cannot always accommodate needs due to scheduling and staff conflicts, budget deficiencies, and booked lodging properties, for example.

The Tourism Division will forward requests for complimentary items to the local area. Family members traveling with you do not receive complimentary items.

It is most helpful to receive some personal information about you, such as food likes and dislikes, hobby interests, recreational and cultural interests and something about personality and habits. For example, would you like to see a newly released American movie or visit a local "juke joint"? Do you like to retire early or late? Prefer to awaken early or appreciate a later morning agenda? Desire free time in the daytime or nightly schedule for pursuing story ideas? Or prefer artistic and cultural entertainment as opposed to outdoor activity?

If you are unable to drive an automobile, transportation within the state becomes a logistical, financial, and serviceable concern. If no other arrangements are made, you may be asked to assume the cost associated with the travel between cities and sites, i.e., rental car, driver.



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If you do not speak fluent English and an interpreter is needed, the Tourism Division will try to meet this need. But, due to budget restraints or unavailability of interpreters, the writer may be asked to bring his/her own interpreter. The interpreter traveling with the journalist will receive the same complimentary items as the journalist, depending on local response to the press trip request.

Changes in the press tour itinerary cannot be guaranteed with less than seven (7) working days notice prior to the tour date.

You will be required to pay for reservation fees and cancellation fees to the industry suppliers if you cancel the tour with less than seven (7) working days notice. You will be notified before committing to the itinerary what, if any, cancellation fees exist.
