

MEMPHIS & MISSISSIPPI TRAIL

Memphis

Welcome to the Home of the Blues and Birthplace of Rock 'n' Roll. Visit *Graceland*, Elvis'® beloved mansion, see his two private jets and fantastic *Automobile Museum*. Don't miss the tour of famous **Sun Studio** and be sure to see the **Smithsonian** *Rock 'n' Soul Museum* and the Gibson Guitar Factory. Then dance the night away at any of the clubs on historic *Beale Street*.

Memphis to Tupelo (104 miles)

In Tupelo you can visit the humble two-room *birthplace of Elvis*, the Elvis Presley Memorial Chapel and the Elvis Presley Museum. Experience the gospel service that inspired much of The King's best loved music at a refurbished church Elvis actually attended as a boy. Also worth a visit is the *Tupelo Automobile Museum*, a collection of over 100 antique, classic and collectible automobiles that illustrate the progress of over 100 years of automobile design and engineering.

Tupelo to Jackson (168 miles)

Travel from Tupelo to Jackson, Mississippi's capital city, via the scenic *Natchez Trace Parkway*, an historic trail originally "traced out" by buffalo and later used as a trading route. Along the way, stop at *Kosciusko Visitors Center* to learn about the history of the area that TV star Oprah Winfrey called home. Take a driving tour of downtown Jackson and visit *Mississippi Governor's Mansion* and the Old Capitol Historical Museum. Visit the *home of Medgar Evers*, Mississippi's field secretary of the NAACP, slain in his own driveway as a casualty of the American civil rights movement. Also tour *Jim Buck Ross Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum*, which features a re-creation of "small town Mississippi" as it would have existed in the 1920s.

Jackson to Mississippi's Gulf Coast (157 miles)

Head south to the Mississippi Gulf Coast for relaxation in an area combining small-town friendliness, antique shops, history and coastal cuisine with casino gaming and entertainment, golf courses and 26 miles of white sandy beaches. Tour *Beauvoir*, the final home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, or take a ferry to *Ship Island* and *Fort Massachusetts*, located 12 miles out in the Gulf of Mexico and the site of a beautiful pristine beach. If you're still not ready for dry land, experience the *Biloxi Shrimping Trip*, a true fishing expedition that brings you up close and personal with a variety of local marine life. Discover the unique surrounding towns and great antique shops of *Pass Christian*, *Bay St. Louis* and *Waveland*, or visit the quaint town of *Ocean Springs*, a haven for local artists.

Mississippi's Gulf Coast to New Orleans (73 miles)

Welcome to New Orleans. The heart and soul of the Crescent City is the picturesque **French Quarter,** known originally as the Vieux Carré. Enjoy its decorative balconied buildings, antique shops, great restaurants and, of course, the jazz clubs. Ride the famed streetcars and see the charming **Garden District.**





Natchez is the oldest permanent settlement on the Mississippi River, and when cotton was king, this small river town was once home to more millionaires than anywhere in the USA. Dig even deeper into Mississippi's remarkable past when you visit the **Grand Village of the Natchez Indians** and discover the long history of this once-great civilisation. Take a horse-drawn carriage ride through romantic downtown Natchez and travel back in time to the elegance of the "Old South" as you tour the beautiful plantation homes, impeccably decorated to reflect the era of their original grandeur. The impressive Natchez in Historic Photographs collection in the **Stratton Chapel** offers a unique glimpse into the people and lifestyle of 1800s Natchez. For a special treat, you might want to stay overnight in one of the antebellum mansions and experience first-hand their distinctive comfort and charm. Enjoy a Mississippi sunset over Ol' Man River and experience Natchez-Under-The-Hill, a grittier side of Natchez once known for its saloons and gambling, now offering bars, restaurants and gift shops.

Natchez to Vicksburg (69 miles)

Discover rural Mississippi and the warm hospitality of the quaint and historic town of **Port Gibson**, the town Civil War General Ulysses S. Grant declared "too beautiful to burn." Nearby is Vicksburg, a turning point in the Civil War and home of the conflict's bloodiest battle. Learn about the battle of Vicksburg as you tour the vast *Military Park*, 116 acres of tangible history decorated by over 1300 stunning monuments, markers, tablets and plaques. Immerse yourself in the historic downtown and enjoy an authentic "Coke float" at the *Biedenharn Coca-Cola Museum*, where the world's favourite soft drink was first bottled. Experience the mighty Mississippi River for yourself as you end your day relaxing on an evening boating excursion.

Vicksburg to Clarksdale (157 miles)

Today journey north on Highway 61, "America's blues Highway," into the Mississippi Delta, the birthplace of the Blues and Mississippi's agricultural area. From Vicksburg travel to Greenville and Washington County, home of Jim Henson's *Kermit the Frog* and the striking murals of the *Leland Blues Project* that depict the great musical history of the area. Just a few miles from Leland is Indianola and the world-class *B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center*, dedicated to not only one of the world's most famous performers, but to the land that inspired his music. Continue on to enjoy the history of the blues with memorabilia from such Mississippi greats at Muddy Waters and B.B. King at the *Delta Blues Museum* in Clarksdale. Across the street enjoy live real-deal Blues entertainment at *Ground Zero Blues Club*, actor Morgan Freeman's juke joint. Or head a little further north to the fastest-growing gambling destination in the USA - *Tunica* - where 9 casinos offer all the excitement, top-name entertainment, fabulous food and lodging of Las Vegas. Don't miss the *Tunica River Park*, a fully interactive facility dedicated to the Mississippi River and the land it inhabits.

Clarksdale to Memphis (74 miles)

