



THE MUSIC TRAIL

Memphis changed more than recording history. It changed the world. The way we dressed. The way we talked. The way people related to one another. Memphis music is a magical stew of people from different backgrounds, cultures and beliefs, blended together in an unmistakable sound and still simmering almost a century later. These are but a few of the places still serving it up:

Beale Street

When the blues migrated north from the Delta it found a permanent home in Memphis, and that home is alive and well today on Beale Street. Dance to the many bands and artists that perform in open-air Handy Park or spend a night sliding in and out of any number of nightclubs, like B.B. King's Blues Club, Rum Boogie Café or King's Palace.

Gibson Beale Street Showcase

From the body to the bridge, from the fingerboard to the fret, the pieces have come together for over 100 years from Gibson Guitars. Take an unforgettable tour of the Memphis guitar factory and watch highly skilled luthiers craft the one instrument most associated with pop music and culture, the Gibson guitar.

Graceland

Now that the legendary home to Elvis Presley® and his family is a National Historic Landmark, we can argue that a trip to Memphis that doesn't include a tour of Graceland is an act of treason against the state. Well, maybe just against the city of Memphis. Either way the 14-acre home of the King is a must-do for any visitor. Take in the mansion, the Hall of Gold, "Sincerely Elvis" museum, the vintage automobile collection and his aeroplanes. That's right, there's more than one.

The Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum

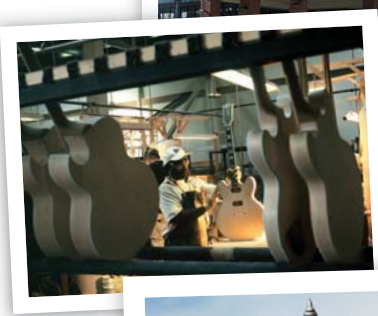
No place better dramatises and organises the cultural and social ramifications of Memphis' musical connection to the world better than this Smithsonian Institution seven-gallery chronicle that is so much more than guitars and drumsticks. It tells the story of musical pioneers who, for the love of music, overcame racial and socio-economic barriers to create the music that shook and shaped the entire world.

Soulsville USA - STAX Museum

From the award-winning introductory documentary film to an authentic 100-year-old Mississippi Delta church that explains the gospel roots of soul music, the Stax Museum of American Soul Music winds and twists through a labyrinth of exhibits that promote and preserve the legacy of American soul music, highlighting musical giants such as Isaac Hayes, Otis Redding, the Staple Singers, the Bar-Kays, Booker T. & the MGs, and hundreds of others.

Sun Studio

Sam Phillips' famous recording studio is ground zero for rock and roll's explosion onto the world stage. Literally packed with memories and memorabilia, the "Birthplace of Rock 'n' Roll" gives visitors a chance to hear historical outtakes and even touch Elvis' first microphone. Experience the stories that put legends like Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis and more on the map, and see why artists like U2, Tom Petty and Maroon Five continue to flock here today.





Mississippi is the home of blues, country and rock 'n roll. It all started right here. And on any given night, it's still going strong. From the Coast to the Delta to the northern hills, singers and musicians make juke joints, clubs and concert halls rock. Fans come from around the world to sit down front and see the real thing live and a-live, as we say. Just look for the neon, listen for the applause, and come on in for the show.

Clarksdale

Located in the heart of the Delta, Clarksdale has a rich blues heritage. Names like W.C. Handy, Charley Patton and Robert Johnson dot the musical landscape here. Their legacies continue to inspire and entertain millions of people worldwide. Clarksdale's historic Blues Alley is home to the Delta Blues Museum, dedicated to both the preservation and interpretation of the blues. Clarksdale has a thriving live music scene with clubs open every weekend and festivals scattered throughout the year.

Cleveland

Visit the Delta State University Archives in Cleveland, Mississippi which include occasional Smithsonian exhibits, historical displays and changing exhibits on the Delta. Here you can also take the Historic Blues Driving Tour, a self guided tour of sites important to the blues music.

Greenwood and Indianola

The Greenwood Blues Heritage Museum and Gallery, in historic downtown, houses an important collection of blues memorabilia. The museum's focus is on Robert Johnson, who allegedly sold his soul to the devil for the ability to play the guitar like no other.

Continue to Indianola for the new B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Centre. He started life as Riley B. King in one of America's most impoverished places, the Mississippi Delta. Now he's an international music icon and music lovers everywhere want to know more about the man who became B.B. King. The B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center tells the story of King's life, his career, and stories of the Delta – its history and music, social mores and race relations, literature and legends, adversities and successes.

Meridian

Visit Highland Park, home of the Jimmie Rodgers Museum. This memorial to "The Father of Country Music" features Rodger's specially made guitar, personal belongings and other memorabilia. The museum is also the first marker on the new Mississippi Country Music Trail. Meridian is home to Peavey Electronics Corporation, the world's largest manufacturer of musical equipment, amplifiers and guitars.

Merigold - Po' Monkey's Juke Joint

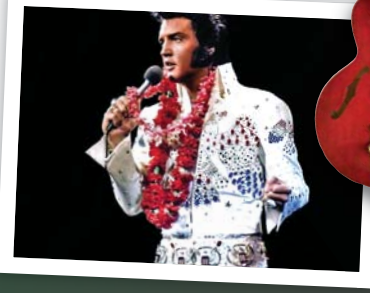
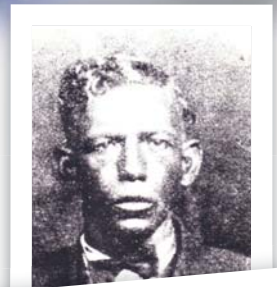
Po' Monkey's is one of the relatively few juke joints to survive into the 21st century. It has become a destination point for blues tourists from around the world.

Mississippi Blues Trail

The Mississippi Blues Trail takes you on a journey through the state that produced the most important root source for popular music and current artists today. The Blues Trail is an ongoing project to place interpretive markers throughout the state that tell stories through words and images at historic sites related to the blues. Today there are more than 100 markers that make up a unique history book on the blues. Visit www.msbluestrail.org

Tupelo

The most significant landmark of Tupelo's modern history is Elvis Presley's two-room house. Elvis fans can tour the home, museum, memorial chapel, fountain of life, story wall, the church Elvis attended as a child complete with a multi-media presentation and enjoy the self-guided tour that leads to some of the most significance locations of Elvis' life in Tupelo. Make time for the Tupelo Hardware Store, a timeless gem where Gladys Presley bought Elvis his first guitar. Elvis wanted a gun but they compromised on the guitar. And music has never been the same since!



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