

VISIT MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi 14 Day Itinerary

DAY 1

Memphis-Southaven-Tupelo (99 miles)

Welcome to Mississippi! Begin just 20 miles south of Memphis at Tanger Outlets in **Southaven**, located just off Interstate 55. After shopping, travel through picturesque **Holly Springs**, known for its historic homes, churches, and museums. Located in the foothills of Northeast Mississippi, **Tupelo** is a must-see along the Natchez Trace Parkway. Live like a King in the city where the world's greatest entertainer was born in a two-room shotgun shack. Visit the hardware store where in 1946 Gladys Presley bought her son, Elvis, his first guitar, and discover lots of small-town charm along Tupelo's Elvis Driving Tour.



DAY 2

Tupelo-Oxford (56 miles)

Oxford is renowned for its deep-rooted history, charm and culture. The historic Courthouse Square has been the cultural and economic hub of Oxford since the town's founding in 1837. It thrives with businesses such as Neilson's, the oldest continuously operating department store in the South, and nationally famous independent bookstore Square Books. Oxford is a charming college town immortalized in the writings of Nobel Prize laureate William Faulkner. Visit 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 University of Mississippi's campus, known as "Ole Miss." The University of Mississippi and Oxford played a significant part in the American Civil Rights movement during the integration of the university. Oxford's monument and historic marker on the Mississippi Freedom Trail paint a picture of the events that took place during a challenging and significant time in American history.



DAY 3

Oxford to Tunica (75 miles) to Clarksdale (37 miles)

Discover where the Blues began!

In **Tunica**, visit the Gateway to the Blues Museum and Visitor Center. This is an excellent starting point for your Mississippi Delta Blues adventure. This one-of-a-kind destination is housed in an original 1895 train depot and offers a unique view into Mississippi's rich musical history.

Clarksdale is a place where muddy waters can refer to the Mississippi River that creates our western border, as well as the blues singer who lived and recorded at the nearby Stovall plantation. If you follow the Mississippi Blues Trail, you will see markers for influential artists such as John Lee Hooker, Son House and Ike Turner. Clarksdale's Delta Blues Museum houses exhibits that focus on the musical legacy that bluesmen have left for the world to enjoy. The Crossroads are where Highway 49 intersects with Highway 61, the fabled spot where legendary bluesman Robert Johnson is said to have sold his soul to the devil in exchange for unexplainable guitar talent. Ground Zero Blues Club has been named one of the "top 100 bars and nightclubs in America" and is co-owned by actor Morgan Freeman. Red's Blues Club is the real deal authentic Juke Joint and a Blues must-see.



DAY 4

Clarksdale to Cleveland (48 miles)

Travel south to **Cleveland**, the hip little town recognized as "one of the 100 best small towns in America." Cleveland is home to a charming downtown Main Street area complete with locally owned boutiques, cafés, restaurants, art galleries and museums. While there, visit Dockery Farms, often called the Birthplace of the Blues. Dockery Farms tells of a storied past where many blues greats lived and worked. A must-see is the state-of-the-art GRAMMY® Museum Mississippi, the only one of its kind outside of Los Angeles. The GRAMMY® Museum covers all genres of music and tells of story of the GRAMMY and its winning artists through interactive exhibits.



DAY 5

Cleveland to Greenville (43 miles) to Indianola (23 miles) to Greenwood (30 miles)

On to **Greenville**, a city that has more museums than anywhere else in the Delta. You will find artifacts from Delta Bluesmen and the world's most famous frog, Kermit, whose creator, Jim Henson, was born in Greenville. Immerse yourself in Native American culture at Winterville Mounds, one of the largest Indian mound groups in the Mississippi Valley. Continue to **Indianola** and visit the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center 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 and a welcoming downtown. Greenwood has several milestone locations integral to the Civil Rights Movement crusade, such as Money Road, where the brutal murder of teenager Emmett Till in 1955 shocked the nation.



DAYS 6 - 7

Greenwood to Jackson (98 miles)

Mississippi's "City with Soul" and state capital of **Jackson** tells a story that is uniquely southern and entirely American. Visit the home of celebrated author Eudora Welty and groove to the rhythms and beats of authentic blues at Hal and Mal's. Learn more about the Civil Rights Movement at the home of Medgar Evers and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, part of the Two Mississippi Museums. Visit other downtown Jackson attractions, including the old Capitol State Historical Museum, one of the country's premier examples of Greek revival public architecture, and the Mississippi Governor's Mansion, the second oldest continuously occupied governor's residence in the U.S. A visit to the Mississippi Museum of Art is a must, as is the new Capitol. Try a little retail therapy in the eclectic Fondren District with its assorted shops and eateries. Travel 12 miles to **Ridgeland**, where just off the scenic Natchez Trace Parkway you can visit the Bill Waller Craft Center, home to the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi.



DAY 8

Jackson to Vicksburg (70 miles)

Immerse yourself in American history, Mississippi music, and southern charm in **Vicksburg**, the Key to the South. President Abraham Lincoln stated that Vicksburg was the "key to winning the war" and that the Civil War would not end until the "key" was in his pocket. The Vicksburg National Military Park stands in commemoration of the campaign for Vicksburg and to those who served as well as to thousands who lost their lives. Today Vicksburg is alive with music, arts, and entertainment. Stroll the brick-paved streets of historic downtown before turning in at one of Vicksburg's nine elegant bed-and-breakfast inns.



DAY 9

Vicksburg to Natchez (69 miles)

Small town allure and over three centuries of rich history collide on the banks of the Mississippi River in Natchez. Natchez has one of the largest collections of historic buildings in the country, many of which are open daily for tours. Visitors can explore this history along Natchez's five downtown walking trails or hop on a bus tour for a unique look at the historic homes and landmarks. Discover the stories at the Natchez Museum of African American History & Culture and sites like Forks of the Road or the Rhythm Night Club. Sip a beverage on the porch of an old Mississippi River tavern as you watch the sun set on Old Man River.



DAYS 10 - 11

Natchez to Coastal Mississippi (210 miles)

Coastal Mississippi's 62 miles of scenic coastline offer an incredible variety of attractions, excursions, and activities, from outdoor adventures to museums, festivals, world-class gaming, and championship golf courses. Explore the Mississippi Sound on a charter fishing boat or hop aboard the ferry to Ship Island. Indulge at one of the many quaint or fine-dining restaurants serving the freshest Gulf seafood. Each coastal community across the region has something different to offer; from scenic harbor towns and walkable downtown areas shaded with Live oaks, to world-renowned shows and casino headliner entertainment.



DAY 12

Coastal Mississippi to Laurel (109 Miles) to Meridian (58 miles)

One of the South's hidden art gems, **Laurel's** Lauren Rogers Museum of Art highlights an impressive collection of European and American art, including Native American baskets, Japanese woodblock prints, and other eclectic works. Admission to the museum is free.

Continue to **Meridian** to visit Mississippi's Arts + Entertainment Experience, known as the MAX. The MAX showcases Mississippi's arts and entertainment legacy and honors our creative legends. Enjoy Meridian's historic attractions, live music scenes, and beautiful outdoor sites. Don't forget to stop by for a ride on the Dentzel Carousel while you're here.



DAYS 13 - 14

Meridian to Columbus (93 miles) to Memphis (180 miles)

Spend your last night in **Columbus** and make your first stop the Tennessee Williams Home & Welcome Center. The former childhood home of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tennessee Williams offers a complimentary tour and cup of gourmet coffee. Visit "Catfish Alley," a central meeting and business district for the Columbus African American community in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Nestled on the banks of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, Columbus welcomes you with a vibrant history and classic Southern architecture, food, and hospitality.



On day 14, depart Columbus for Memphis, Tennessee. Thank you for visiting Mississippi!