

# MEMPHIS TO MISSISSIPPI

## *Savor the Flavors of the Deep South*

This is your invitation to plan a real, authentic Memphis and Mississippi Culinary experience. There's so much to see and do, plus this part of the south is the absolute best place on earth to celebrate food and eat 'til you can't eat any more. Memphis and Mississippi make up one of the most exciting areas in America – full of music, history, culture and of course- great food! Some of our country's most celebrated chefs call this part of the South home, and you'll soon taste why. From upscale to down-home, Memphis and Mississippi will move you to dance and dine on our famous dishes served up with a heaping side of Southern Hospitality.

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### **Day 1:**

- 3:00 pm Group arrives in Memphis and checks in at **Elvis Presley's Heartbreak Hotel**.
- 4:30 pm Have a refreshing Southern cocktail (may we suggest a sweet iced tea and vodka?) and enjoy the March of the famous **Duck March** at the Peabody Hotel!
- 6:00 pm Dinner at **Neely's Bar-B-Que**, owned by Food Network Stars (and local Memphians), Pat and Gina Neely. Enjoy a variety of Southern favorites including Bar-B-Que pork shoulder, ribs, chicken and Sock It To Me Cake! You might even see Pat working in the kitchen!
- 8:00 pm Enjoy live music at one of the many group friendly restaurants and clubs on **Beale Street** where you'll hear authentic live blues nightly.

### **Day 2:**

Continental breakfast on own and check out of hotel.



- 9:00 am Meet in the hotel lobby. Walk to **Graceland** where you will take the Platinum tour and lunch at **Rockabilly's** where you can try a peanut butter & banana sandwich- one of Elvis' favorites. The Platinum tour includes the mansion where Elvis lived and the Meditation Gardens where Elvis and his mother and father are buried, his two custom jets, the Auto Museum along with the two new displays featuring both of Elvis' Roll Royce sedans and his 6-door Mercedes Benz limousine, the King and Pop Culture Exhibit and a self-guided tour of "The 68 Special."



- 1:15 pm      **Soulsville: STAX Museum of American Soul Music**- This fascinating museum is built on the original site of the famous recording studio and contains artifacts and memorabilia from the 1960s and 1970s era. If the group is still hungry, check out some genuine soul food close by at the Four Way Grill.
- 3:00 pm      **Sun Studio**- take a guided tour throughout the Birthplace of Rock n Roll. Experience outtakes from sessions, touch Elvis first microphone and hear the real history of the studio that launched Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, B.B. King and many more! Enjoy an old-fashioned milk shake at their 50's style soda fountain.

### Other Memphis Touring and Dining Options:

**Kooky Kanuck's**- the restaurant known for menu items to be larger than usual. Featuring on the show, *Man Vs. Food*, this fun place serves up a 4 lb. Hamburger, BL and fried green tomato (T) and sweet potato fries, just to name a few.

**Arcade Restaurant**- Opened in 1919 and "back in the family again", the Arcade is known for its home cooked breakfast. Featured as a location in the Films- *The Client*, *Mystery Train* and *Great Balls of Fire*.

- 4:00 pm      Depart Memphis for **Tupelo, MS**



Check into your hotel for a rest before dinner at 6:30 pm in one of our unique restaurants such as **Harvey's Restaurant** or **Nautical Whimsey Italian Bistro and Wine Bar**: Excellent food in a casual setting.

### Day 3:

- 9:00 am      **Elvis Presley Birthplace, Museum & Chapel** – Walk through the two room dwelling where Elvis was born; watch the video of the rag to riches story; read the story wall of quotes from people who knew Elvis; have your picture taken with the statue of Elvis at 13; visit the chapel and pick out Elvis in the stained glass window; sit in the church that Elvis attended as a boy and watch a short film of a gospel meeting. Be sure to take the driving tour that includes the two schools that Elvis attended, the fairgrounds where he performed in 1956 and 1957, and the hardware store where he bought his first guitar.
- 11:00      **Tupelo Automobile Museum** - Tour the fabulous collection of vintage cars that includes a car that Elvis owned and gave away. All are originals except for a replica of the 1886 Mercedes Benz.
- 12:00 to 1:15pm Have lunch at one of our hip restaurants from

**Fairpark Grill** - Tupelo's newest restaurant. Every dish from hamburgers to pasta to salad to steak is delicious.

**Va ne lli' s** - A Greek-Italian style restaurant. Order from the menu or from the pasta buffet with salad bar included. Take a walk around the restaurant and view the original art work by many well-known artists.

- 1:15 pm      **Tupelo Veterans Museum** – This is a moving collection of memorabilia honoring our men and women who dedicated their lives to ensuring freedom for all Americans. This collection includes items from every country that participated in WWII. Among the items on display is a functioning clock from a Japanese Kamikaze plane, and the flag that



flew over the US Capitol the hour the D-Day invasion began.

- 1:45 pm **Tupelo Buffalo Park & Zoo** - Ride the trolley or Monster Bison Bus and gain a close up view of these massive animals grazing throughout the park. You will also see camels, giraffes, and other animals roaming the park.
- 3:00 pm Depart Tupelo for **Greenwood, MS**



- 5:30 pm Arrive **Greenwood, MS** where you will spend the night. Greenwood, gorgeous Delta sunsets, fresh crispy-fried, farm-raised catfish and hand-battered hushpuppies. The only place in the world where parallel rivers less than two miles apart flow in opposite directions.
- 7:00 pm Dine in one of Greenwood's world-renowned restaurants, like **Lusco's** that opened in 1933 as a grocery store by Italian immigrants or **Giardinias** connected to the **Alluvian Hotel**, owned by the Viking Corporation.

#### **Day 4:**

- 9:30 am Start your day with a brunch cooking class at **Viking Cooking School**. Take a walking tour of historic Cotton Row, the second largest cotton exchange in the United States, then shop for souvenirs in the charming downtown area.

#### **Greenwood Area touring Options:**

**Cottonlandia Museum** – While it chronicles the history of Leflore County and The Mississippi Delta with an emphasis on cotton agriculture, this museum also house and eclectic collection of item that weave a fascinating history of the area's past.

**Viking Cooking School** – Enjoy cooking demonstrations and hands-on lessons about everything from pizza to sushi from expert instructors and notable chefs in a complete Viking kitchen.

- 2:00 pm Depart Greenwood for **Jackson, MS.**



- 2:30 pm Arrive in **Jackson** and head to the historic **Fondren District** just north of Downtown. Here you'll find quaint shops, art galleries, antique shops, lots of fun restaurants. Grab a quick snack at **Rainbow Whole Foods Cooperative Grocery**, or a fresh-squeezed lemonade or hand dipped malt at **Brent's Drug**.

Drive down **Historic Farish Street**, now under development as Jackson's newest entertainment district. Where you will see Blues Markers one in front of the **Alamo Theatre** that once hosted movies, touring jazz acts and performers like Nat King Cole and Dorothy Moore. The second marker is in front of the building that was once home to **Trumpet Records and Diamond Recording Studio**. Then drive by the site of the **Summers Hotel and Subway Lounge** which also has been recognized with a Blues Trail Marker. Established in 1944 many African American musicians and entertainers stayed at the Summers Hotel when performing in the Jackson area. The Subway Lounge was later opened in the basement and was the subject of the film "Last of the Mississippi Juke's."



If you're looking for the truly unique experience, stop in at **Big Apple Inn** and try a Pig Ear Sandwich. Yes, it really is a pig's ear.

7:00 pm      Some dinner options  
**Hal & Mal's Restaurant & Brewery**, Sample Aunt Myrtis' Bayou Gumbo, reputed to be the best gumbo in town, tops the list of Southern-funky, where Soul Food meets Country Cooking. Live music most nights

For a taste of elegance, try **Sophia's** at the historic **Fairview Inn** featuring an impressive menu of Southern Eclectic favorites. Named one of America's most romantic inns by Historic Inns of America, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### **Day 5**

8:00 am      Begin your day with a delicious southern-style breakfast.

### **Jackson Touring Options:**

**Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum** - featuring a "Small Town Mississippi" circa 1920's, an 1860's farm and cotton gin, and prize winning rose gardens. Stop by the General Store for a treat of old fashioned -used to be penny- candy, or take home a Mississippi Specialty Food treat.

**Mississippi Museum of Natural Science** – Catch an alligator napping in The Swamp, arrange to see the fish, turtles and other water creatures in the aquariums at feeding time. Then wander through the gardens featuring all native Mississippi plants or find the Paw-Paw patch along the Nature Trail.

**Tour one of Mississippi's two capitol buildings** – the Old Capitol restoration, circa 1839, or the working seat of state government, the New Capitol, built in 1903.

1:00 pm      Depart Jackson for MS Gulf Coast.



Enjoy the serenity of the beachfront or the exciting nightlife of the casinos. Old towns with tree lined streets neighboring new towns with Vegas style gaming and headline entertainment, ancient live oaks and hand-carved tree sculptures, Deep South culture and history, southern cuisine and fresh seafood, world-class golf and championship fishing, the longest manmade beach, barrier islands and a Civil War fort to explore. Where can you find all of these, the Mississippi Gulf Coast, of course.

4:00 pm      Arrive on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and check into one of our many hotels or resorts. Get ready to delight in a variety of activities, sights and sensations.

5:00 pm      The Gulf of Mexico beckons. Relax on an afternoon sail aboard the **Biloxi Schooners**, replicas of the oyster schooners used from the late 1800's to the early 1900's when the Gulf Coast was established as the **Seafood Capitol of the world**. Learn about history of the coast and how important the waters of the Gulf and the oyster and shrimping industries were to the development of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Add on a cocktail reception for a little extra Lagniappe.



7:00 pm Now that your taste buds are primed for some fresh seafood, dine at **Mary Mahoney's Old French House** Restaurant, one of John Grisham's favorite local eateries, described in several of his novels. Listen to stories from Miss Mary's son, Bobby about his mother's rise to fame and her visits to the White House to serve some of her recipes to presidents and dignitaries. Don't miss their Wall of Fame, explore the courtyard and marvel at the 2000 year old "Patriarch", one of the oldest live oaks on the Coast.

After dining, cross the street and get your picture taken at the **Largest Guitar in the World** at the **Hard Rock Hotel and Casino**, Biloxi.

The rest of the evening is your own. Our casino resorts are open all night with headline entertainment, night clubs and many of the newest table and slot games available.

## **Day 6**

9:00 am After a delicious breakfast begin by visiting the new **Biloxi Visitors Center** at Lighthouse Park. The center houses a free multi-media museum dedicated to the history of Biloxi and the Mississippi Gulf Coast as well as the film titled "We are Biloxi" in the second floor theatre. Open 7 days a week, this new attraction is a great way to start any visit to the coast. The **Lighthouse** is open in the morning for tours.

10:00 am Curious about those strange shiny silver structures on Beach Boulevard? World renowned architect **Frank Gehry**, designed and put his own twist on the new **Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art Complex**. Here you can experience the creations of **George Ohr**, our very own "Mad Potter" and other exhibits. On the museum property explore the **Pleasant Reed Interpretive Center**, a replica of the original house that former slave Pleasant Reed built in 1887.

Lunch: Any number of eclectic eateries will satisfy your cravings. From the Greek fare at **Phoenicia**; oysters 4 ways at **Half Shell Oyster House**; Cajun cuisine at **200 North Beach**, to the plethora of choices at the casino **buffets**, you won't go hungry.

2:30 pm Visit historic **Beauvoir** reopened after being restored to pristine condition. Aptly named for the *beautiful view*, The **Jefferson Davis** House circa 1852, was last home of the only President of the Confederacy and the place where he penned his memoirs. Not only was Jefferson Davis the only president of the confederacy, he also served as a U.S. Senator and Secretary of War before the Civil War. Tidbit: During a tour to the United States, Irish playwright Oscar Wilde visited Beauvoir to speak with Jefferson Davis about his wartime experiences.

Afternoon Wander the Biloxi Town Green home to the **Hurricane Katrina Memorial** built by *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* in 2006. Explore the collage of memorabilia and relax in an authentic Shoofly resting under the oaks.

## **Mississippi Gulf Coast Touring Options:**

**Old Town Bay St. Louis:** home to more than 200 resident artists who create fine and folk pieces exhibited in galleries that will take your breath away. Rent bikes and enjoy the serene streets of town.

**Infinity Science Center:** a place where you can lose yourself in the depths of the ocean and the farthest reaches of space.



**Biloxi Shrimp Trip:** experience actual shrimping technique, Biloxi folklore and interact with visiting coastal birds and very likely a few playful dolphins.

**Unique culinary programs:** shrimp boil dockside, locally brewed craft beer tasting, wine and food pairing, cooking demonstrations or a southern tea offered by one of our local chefs.

