

History and Hometowns Tour



DAY 1



TUNICA RESORTS TO CLARKSDALE 48 Miles
CLARKSDALE TO CLEVELAND 36 Miles
CLEVELAND TO GREENWOOD 44 Miles

Total – 128 Miles

Begin in the Mississippi Delta, birthplace of the blues. Your first stop is Tunica and the Tunica RiverPark, which showcases the life and history of the Mississippi River. The Tunica Queen, a 300-seat paddle wheeler gives you an up-close look at the mighty Mississippi. The Tunica Museum's exhibits depict the region's history from Native Americans to today's lavish gaming palaces. Continue south on U.S. 61 to Clarksdale, home of the Delta Blues Museum where exhibits and recordings tell the story of America's only original music. Enjoy a catfish lunch at one of Clarksdale's restaurants, then tour Hopson Plantation, complete with a mini-museum, an old post office and a barbershop, all salvaged from small towns around Mississippi. The adjacent Shack Up Inn is a collection of old sharecroppers' shacks relocated to the property, renovated and rented to overnight guests as "Mississippi's Oldest B&B (Bed & Beer)." Continue to Cleveland, home of Delta State University, and to numerous arts, cultural and archival resources, along with some great shopping. Dockery Farms, a historic cotton plantation on the outskirts of Cleveland, may have been the actual birthplace of the blues. A barn bearing the plantation name and dates of operation is a popular photo opportunity. Arrive in Greenwood in time to visit Cottonlandia Museum, where exhibits document the land and people of the Delta, from the Ice Age to present day.

DAY 2

GREENWOOD TO INDIANOLA 29 Miles
INDIANOLA TO GREENVILLE 24 Miles
GREENVILLE TO VICKSBURG 85 Miles

Total – 138 Miles

Visit Greenwood's Cotton Row, the second-largest cotton exchange in the United States, and explore the downtown area of Greenwood, where world-renowned Viking Range Corporation and owner Fred Carl have restored several buildings and established a fabulous cooking school, luxury hotel and sophisticated restaurant, plus a top-notch spa and bakery. Indianola is the "home" of blues great B.B. King (although he was born in nearby Itta Bena) and catfish pâté (invented at The Crown In Town Restaurant), a delicious Mississippi delicacy. A delightful museum in nearby Leland honors Jim Henson, creator of the beloved Muppets®, and his most famous progeny, Kermit the Frog. Enjoy lunch in Greenville, the state's largest city on the Mississippi River. Explore our Native American heritage at the Winterville Mounds Museum and its artifacts and ceremonial mounds. The Great River Road brings you to Vicksburg, site of one of the most important battles of the Civil War. Upon arrival, view the film, "The Vanishing Glory," your

introduction to the fall of this Confederate stronghold. Enjoy a dinner cruise on the Mississippi River before retiring to your antebellum bed and breakfast inn.

DAY 3

VICKSBURG

Explore Vicksburg's Old Court House Museum and tour one of the many antebellum homes. Browse the shops and galleries of Washington Street, enjoy lunch downtown, then spend the afternoon on a guided tour of the Vicksburg National Military Park, 1,800 acres of fortifications, monuments and markers commemorating North and South. Spend the evening rolling the dice or playing the slots in a riverside casino.

DAY 4

VICKSBURG TO CANTON 61 Miles

CANTON TO JACKSON 22 Miles

Total – 83 Miles

Hollywood has made Canton the “Movie Capital of Mississippi.” The Movie Museum offers a look at props and sets from several motion pictures filmed on location in Canton, including “A Time to Kill,” “My Dog Skip” and “The Ponder Heart.” Arrive in Jackson, Mississippi’s capital city, in time for lunch, followed by tours of the Governor’s Mansion, the Old Capitol and the Manship House.

DAY 5

JACKSON TO HATTIESBURG 89 Miles

Visit the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry/National Agricultural Aviation Museum, a tribute to the state’s agricultural heritage featuring a complete replica of a 1920s rural town. End your day with dinner and a comfortable night in Hattiesburg, home of the University of Southern Mississippi.

DAY 6

HATTIESBURG TO MERIDIAN 88 Miles

MERIDIAN TO COLUMBUS 89 Miles

Total – 177 Miles

After breakfast, enjoy the Hattiesburg Historic Neighborhood District or the Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby. Head northeast to Meridian and visit the Jimmie Rodgers Museum, which honors the Meridian native and “Father of Country Music.” Then take a whirl on the antique Dentzel carousel. In Columbus, tour one of the greatest diversities of antebellum architecture in the South, Friendship Cemetery, site of America’s first Memorial Day observance, and the childhood home of playwright Tennessee Williams. Spend the night in an antebellum bed and breakfast.

DAY 7

COLUMBUS TO TUPELO 62 Miles
TUPELO TO HOLLY SPRINGS 60 Miles

Total – 122 Miles

Continue to Tupelo, the birthplace and boyhood home of Elvis Presley. See the humble house where The King was born and the Tupelo Automobile Museum, where the antique car display includes a Lincoln once owned by Elvis. Head north to Holly Springs and see its more than 60 antebellum homes and churches, spared destruction because the ladies of the town pretended to befriend the Union soldiers sent to torch the town.