



visitmississippi.org

**FITASC 42nd World Sporting Championship, July 2020
Providence Hill Farm – Mississippi, USA**

**Sample Itinerary – New Orleans to Jackson & Ridgeland
*Coastal Mississippi & Hattiesburg***

Day 1 – Coastal Mississippi

Arrive to Mississippi's jazzy neighbor: New Orleans, Louisiana. Drive one hour east to Coastal Mississippi, our 62 miles of scenic coastline comprised of several beach communities. Visit the "Things to Do" page at www.gulfcoast.org to learn about the art, outdoor adventure, gaming, shopping, and nightlife sure to keep you busy on the coast. Enjoy eco-tours of the rivers, marshes, and bayous, a sunset Schooner Sail, or even a Shrimping Trip excursion to dive deep into the region's fascinating maritime heritage. Stay in one of the many bed and breakfasts, casino resorts, or beachfront hotels you can call a home away from home.

Day 2 – Coastal Mississippi

Spend the day exploring coastal communities like Bay St. Louis, Biloxi, and Ocean Springs. Each coastal community across the region has something different to offer; from scenic harbor towns and beautiful walkable downtown areas shaded with live oaks, to world renowned shows and casino headliner entertainment. Be sure to visit the brand-new Mississippi Aquarium in Gulfport, one of the coast's many family friendly attractions. Catch a Biloxi Shuckers baseball game and try lots of fresh seafood along the way. The culinary scene is brimming with an array of offerings, from quaint seafood spots serving the freshest Gulf seafood, to farm-to-table fine dining and fusion cuisine.

Day 3 – Hattiesburg

Drive one hour north of the coast to visit one of Mississippi's hip college towns. Known to locals as the "hub city", Hattiesburg is home to more than the University of Southern Mississippi – in fact, Hattiesburg has a little something to offer everyone. Be sure to add one of Mississippi chef and restaurateur Robert St. John's establishments to your list, listed here at <https://robertstjohn.com/restaurants/>. Then stay at one of Hattiesburg's hotels right in the action, such as the Hotel Indigo. Craft your own adventure by browsing the itineraries and things to do at www.visithburg.org.

Day 4 – Jackson & Ridgeland

Whether you're calling Jackson or Ridgeland home for the FITASC championship, you'll have plenty of options to stay busy in your spare time. Visit www.visitjackson.com and www.visitridgeland.com for more information.



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Sample Itinerary – New Orleans to Jackson & Ridgeland
Natchez & Vicksburg

Day 1 – Natchez

Arrive to Mississippi's jazzy neighbor: New Orleans, Louisiana. Drive three hours northwest to Natchez. With early influences from Native Americans, French, and the Spanish, Natchez tells a unique story as the oldest permanent settlement on the Mississippi River with the most millionaires per capita than anywhere else in America in the 1850's. Natchez still maintains an antebellum atmosphere, abounding in Greek Revival mansions with immaculately maintained gardens. Many of the historic homes are open daily for tours and are even used as bed and breakfasts for many visitors throughout the year. www.visitnatchez.org

Day 2 – Natchez

After a relaxing night in your Natchez B & B, tour the city on the Hop On Hop Off double decker bus and wander downtown – stop often for shopping, southern dining, and lots of historic sights. Perched on a natural bluff above the Mississippi River with 30-mile views of the river both north and south, Natchez has some of the best sunsets, which are best enjoyed while sipping a beverage in a rocking chair on the porch of one of the bars in Natchez-Under-The-Hill.

Day 3 – Vicksburg

A little over an hour up the road, immerse yourself in American history, Mississippi music, Southern charm (and even some haunted homes!) in Vicksburg. The Vicksburg National Military Park stands in commemoration for the 47-day campaign for Vicksburg during the American Civil War and is available for tours. Call ahead to reserve your guide at (601) 636-3827. If you'd like to drive the park by yourself, a self-guided Vicksburg Battle App is available for download. Nearby is McRaven which is reputedly the most haunted home in Mississippi and one of the most haunted in the South. Stroll the brick-paved streets of historic downtown filled with restaurants, boutiques, and art galleries, and stay at one of Vicksburg's nine bed-and-breakfast inns. www.visitvicksburg.com

Day 4 – Jackson & Ridgeland

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Sample Itinerary – Memphis to Jackson & Ridgeland
The Mississippi Delta

Day 1 – Tunica & Clarksdale

Cross the state line just south of Memphis into the Birthplace of America's Music. Begin your Mississippi Delta tour at the Gateway to the Blues Museum and Visitor Center, located on Blues Highway 61 and housed in an original 1895 train depot. It's the perfect start for your journey into the unique blues music heritage of the Delta. The Mississippi Blues Trail starts in Tunica and features six markers on Blues stories. Savor Southern favorites like fried green tomatoes and catfish at the Home of the Fried Dill Pickle, Hollywood Café, made famous in the song 'Walking in Memphis'. Be sure to take in the great views of the Mississippi River and wave at passing barges at the Tunica Riverpark & Museum before venturing on.

Live like a local in Clarksdale, a town famous for its live Blues music 365 nights a year and multiple annual festivals. Clarksdale is home to a multitude of traditional "juke joints", small music venues where the Blues got its start, and several Mississippi Blues Trail markers. Stay the night at one of Clarksdale's unique lodging options ranging from boutique bed and breakfasts all the way to plantation sharecropper shacks that have been restored into hotels that accommodate 21st century expectations. www.visitclarksdale.com

Day 2 – Greenville, Leland, & Cleveland

Just over an hour away is Greenville, where Jim Henson was born and where he dreamed of and created Kermit the Frog. Visit Kermit's charming birthplace museum (also the Washington County welcome center) just outside of Greenville in Leland. It's not hard to find a blues festival or a quirky museum in Greenville. Even try a famous Delta hot tamale – a Mississippi delicacy whose recipes are guarded closely by the families who have prepared them for generations. Visit www.visitgreenville.org to find the right Greenville itinerary for you.

"A hip little town in the Mississippi Delta", Cleveland has a little something for everyone in the family. Home to the GRAMMY Museum of Mississippi, the only GRAMMY museum outside of Los Angeles, Cleveland is a vibrant and charming town with fantastic shopping, dining, and Blues music history. Check out Cleveland's newest full-service hotel, the Cotton House, for a great night's stay after a Mississippi supper at Delta Meat Market. On your way out of town be sure to stop by Dockery Farms for a self-guided tour of the cotton gin that brought Mississippi Blues artists together. www.visitclevelandms.com

Day 3 – Indianola & Greenwood

On your way from Cleveland to Greenwood, stop by the BB King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center in Indianola. Here you'll hear 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.

In Greenwood, you'll find a rich cultural heritage born in fields of cotton. Greenwood charmed Hollywood and became the setting for most scenes filmed in the Oscar-winning movie 'The Help'. Fans can take a self-guided driving tour and see the locations used in the film. Head downtown to visit the Alluvian Hotel & Spa for

luxurious, Delta-inspired spa treatments or try your hand at making classic Southern dishes at the Viking Cooking School for a fun culinary experience. www.visitgreenwood.com

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Sample Itinerary – Memphis to Jackson & Ridgeland
Tupelo, Oxford, & Meridian

Day 1 – Tupelo

Cross the state line just south of Memphis into the Birthplace of America's Music. Make your way less than two hours southeast to Tupelo, the hometown of Elvis Presley. Start your journey at Tupelo's award-winning visitor center and then see Elvis' birthplace which includes the Elvis Presley Museum and Memorial Chapel. Visit the places Elvis sang his first song and the Tupelo Hardware Store where he bought his first guitar. Stroll through picturesque downtown Tupelo and peruse its many unique shops and art galleries. Enjoy delectable Southern cuisine at one of Tupelo's 160 restaurants and hear great live music in the Birthplace of the King of Rock 'n' Roll. www.tupelo.net

Day 2 – Oxford

Travel an hour west to Oxford, a charming Mississippi college town immortalized in the writings of William Faulkner. Begin with a stroll around the town square and stop in Square Books and End of All Music record store. Visit William Faulkner's home Rowan Oak where he worked on many of his novels and short stories. Writers and readers may visit Oxford, but those with a culinary interest will also find Oxford's many eclectic dining options have put it on the map as well. Chef and James Beard winner John Currence owns four unique eateries that have garnered national attention. At the end of the day, rest easy at one of Oxford's brand name hotels or cozy up at a hip bed and breakfast. www.visitoxfordms.com

Day 3 – Meridian

Three hours southeast is Meridian, home of the recently opened, state-of-the-art Mississippi Arts & Entertainment Experience (MAX). From Tupelo's Elvis, to Pascagoula's Jimmy Buffett, to Meridian's own "King of Country Music," Jimmie Rodgers, the stories and works of artists from across Mississippi can be explored. You'll love the sights and sounds of Meridian's charming downtown – complete with National Historic Landmark, the Dentzel Carousel, available for rides daily in July. Overnight at one of Meridian's hotels, bed and breakfasts, or even a campground. www.visitmeridian.com

Day 4 - Jackson & Ridgeland

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Sample Itinerary – Day Trip from Jackson & Ridgeland to Laurel

A one-and-a-half-hour drive southeast of Jackson is Laurel, made famous by the hit Home and Garden Television show *Home Town*. First have the Laurel Main Street experience where you can shop in the Laurel Mercantile, the first of many businesses who played a part in the city's recent revival. At the Mercantile you can find everything from heirloom rolling pins to a candle that smells like a sweet olive blossom. Here you can also pick up an official Downtown Laurel map that will help you navigate from store to store, all the way to the Historic District.

No tour of Laurel is complete without a visit to Mississippi's first art museum, The Lauren Rogers Museum of Art. The museum has an extensive collection of American Indian baskets. It also has a selection of American art by Winslow Homer, Albert Bierstadt, and John Singer Sargent. Admission to the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art is free.

After exploring Laurel's parks, oak-lined streets, and downtown shops, you'll want to stop by one of the town's restaurants and bakeries for a meal. Visit www.downtownlaurel.com for some great dining recommendations. Laurel is as charming as they come and is sure to make for a fun day trip from the Jackson/Ridgeland metro area no matter who is tagging along.



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Sample Itinerary – Day Trip from Jackson & Ridgeland to Vicksburg

A little over an hour west of Jackson, immerse yourself in American history, Mississippi music, Southern charm (and even some haunted homes!) in Vicksburg. The Vicksburg National Military Park stands in commemoration for the 47-day campaign for Vicksburg during the American Civil War. Step-on guides, licensed by the National Park Service, are available for tours of the park and of the city. Call ahead to reserve your guide at (601) 636-3827. If you'd like to drive the park by yourself, a self-guided Vicksburg Battle App is available for download. Nearby is McRaven which is reputedly the most haunted home in Mississippi and one of the most haunted in the South. You can also take a haunted Vicksburg walking tour - if you dare!

Stroll the brick-paved streets of historic downtown filled with restaurants, boutiques, and art galleries. Listen to the sounds of authentic Delta Blues and enjoy sweeping views of the mighty Mississippi River. Downtown Vicksburg has four museums within walking distance. Have a Coca-Cola at the first place it was ever bottled in 1894 at the Biedenharn Coca-Cola Museum. When it comes to dining you can't beat the food of the Deep South. Vicksburg offers everything from elegant Southern suppers at an antebellum home to local barbeque and catfish to fuel you up for your short drive back to the Jackson/Ridgeland metro. www.visitvicksburg.com



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Sample Itinerary – Day Trip from Jackson & Ridgeland to Meridian

1.5 hours east of Jackson is Meridian, home of the recently opened, state-of-the-art Mississippi Arts & Entertainment Experience (MAX). From Tupelo's Elvis, to Pascagoula's Jimmy Buffett, to Meridian's own "King of Country Music," Jimmie Rodgers, the stories and works of artists from across Mississippi can be explored. Visit Meridian's numerous Mississippi trail markers and read about the city that influenced the artists – like why the very first Mississippi Country Music Trail marker was unveiled in Meridian in honor of Jimmie Rodgers.

You'll love the sights and sounds of Meridian's charming downtown – complete with National Historic Landmark, the Dentzel Carousel, available for rides daily in July. Eat at one of Meridian's authentic southern restaurants and shop at antique and flea markets, malls, outdoor & sports stores, and specialty gift shops before heading back to the Jackson/Ridgeland metro. www.visitmeridian.com



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Sample Itinerary – Day Trip from Jackson & Ridgeland to Hattiesburg

Drive about two hours southeast of Jackson to visit one of Mississippi's hip college towns. Known to locals as the "hub city", Hattiesburg is home to more than the University of Southern Mississippi – in fact, Hattiesburg has a little something to offer everyone. Be sure to add one of Mississippi chef and restaurateur Robert St. John's establishments to your list, listed here at <https://robertstjohn.com/restaurants/>.

Plan a family outing visiting the Hattiesburg Zoo to climb high at The High Ropes Adventure Course. Pop into a show in downtown Hattiesburg or revel in the savory scene for a bit at a Midtown Hattiesburg eatery. Bring an extra suitcase because Hattiesburg has everything you need to go on a shopping spree! Craft your own adventure by browsing the itineraries and things to do at www.visitburg.org.



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Sample Itinerary – Day Trip from Jackson & Ridgeland to Natchez

Take your time and drive Mississippi's national scenic byway, the Natchez Trace Parkway, two hours southwest to Natchez. With early influences from Native Americans, French, and the Spanish, Natchez tells a unique story as the oldest permanent settlement on the Mississippi River with the most millionaires per capita than anywhere else in America in the 1850's. Natchez still maintains an antebellum atmosphere, abounding in Greek Revival mansions with immaculately maintained gardens. Many of the historic homes are open daily for tours and are even used as bed and breakfasts for many visitors throughout the year.

Tour the city on the Hop On Hop Off double decker bus and wander downtown – stop often for shopping, southern dining, and lots of historic sights. Perched on a natural bluff above the Mississippi River with 30-mile views of the river both north and south, Natchez has some of the best sunsets, which are best enjoyed while sipping a beverage in a rocking chair on the porch of one of the bars in Natchez-Under-The-Hill. There's something for everyone in Natchez. Make sure to check out www.visitnatchez.org to get the most up-to-date information for your itinerary!