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# TRAVEL SOUTH REGION USA



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- George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH)
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- Lambert-St. Louis International Airport (STL)
- Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU)
- Nashville International Airport (BNA)
- Memphis International Airport (MEM)
- Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY)
- Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG)

\*Top 50 International Airports -  
U.S. Dept. of Transportation (2012)

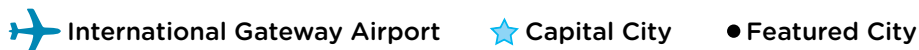


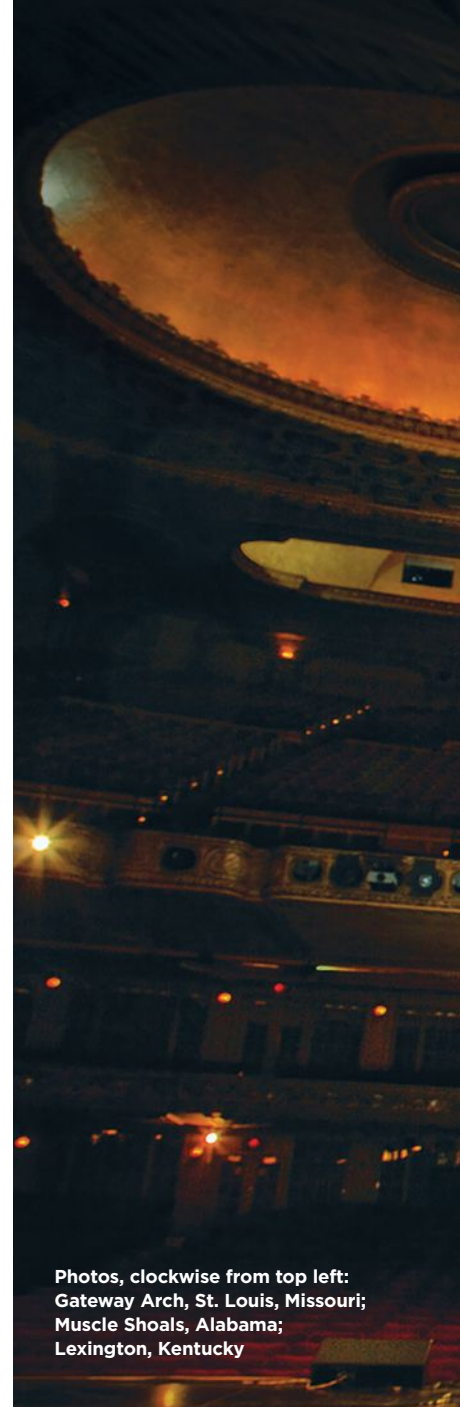
TRAVEL SOUTH  USA

Travel South USA  
3500 Piedmont Rd. NE, Ste. 210  
Atlanta, GA 30305  
Phone: 404.231.1790  
info@TravelSouthUSA.com  
TravelSouthUSA.com









Photos, clockwise from top left:  
Gateway Arch, St. Louis, Missouri;  
Muscle Shoals, Alabama;  
Lexington, Kentucky

# AUTHENTIC SOUTH

The South welcomes travelers to explore pristine beaches, mountain views, lively music, historic sites and delicious regional dishes.

The 12 Southern states each have their own distinctive charms. In **Alabama**, learn about space research in high-tech Huntsville, enjoy sunny beaches and fresh seafood along the Gulf of Mexico and get a window into the past at Civil Rights museums. In **Arkansas**, dig for gems at Crater of Diamonds State Park and soak in hot springs. Pay a visit to the library of former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Stroll among Savannah, **Georgia's** charming squares

and fountains. Dress up for a night out in Atlanta, hike on the Appalachian Trail and eat juicy peaches, Georgia's signature fruit. Explore **Kentucky's** Bourbon Country, listen to Bluegrass music and visit Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby horse race.

In **Louisiana**, tap your toes to Jazz or Zydeco music, and taste Cajun and Creole dishes in plantation-era small towns and the lively streets of New Orleans. Visit **Mississippi's** lush forests and historic sites, then head to venues





Learn more about the region's year-round music and food festivals, uniquely Southern food and famous hospitality at [TravelSouthUSA.com](http://TravelSouthUSA.com).

playing the state's signature Blues music, especially in the Delta region near the mighty Mississippi River.

**Missouri's** Kansas City barbecue is famous, as are the views from the top of the Gateway Arch in St. Louis. In **North Carolina**, explore the Great Smoky Mountains, tour the Biltmore mansion and get an adrenaline rush at a NASCAR race. Enjoy fine dining in Charleston, **South Carolina**, kayak through salt marshes in

Hilton Head Island and stroll Myrtle Beach's boardwalk.

In **Tennessee**, tour Elvis Presley's Graceland estate in Memphis, then head to Nashville, known as "Music City." **Virginia** is steeped in history, with battlefields, presidential estates and monuments. Indulge in seafood from the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean. In the Appalachian Mountains of **West Virginia**, explore charming towns and set aside time to go skiing and visit historic sites.



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Route distance:  
1,141 km

Suggested time:  
5 days

# BARBECUE AND BREWS FROM MISSOURI TO KENTUCKY

On a quest for the best flavors in the Southeast

While Texas, the Carolinas and Tennessee may all claim to have the nation's best barbecue, it's hard to beat the smoky flavors and mouth-watering meats served in tasty spots in Missouri and Kentucky. You'll likely have your first taste of mutton (sheep meat), and, if you're lucky, perhaps a big snoot (pig snout) or two. Wash it all down with a cold brew and you'll understand why this area is a go-to destination for beers and barbecue.



for over 60 years. For a more upscale barbecue experience, visit one of three locations of Jack Stack Barbecue, where you can enjoy Denver-cut lamb ribs prepared in hickory-fired brick ovens. But save room in your stomach for your next stop, which takes barbecue to the next level.

16 km 30 minutes by car



Your next destination, Springfield, promises even more deliciousness.

01

## THE FINGER-LICKIN' FINEST OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

You can practically smell the barbecue sauce as you fly into Kansas City International Airport, the starting point of this delicious trip. This metropolitan gem is known for its jazz, famous fountains and, of course, its barbecue. KC (short for Kansas City) has its own unique barbecue style, courtesy of Arthur Bryant, who almost a century ago introduced the sweet tomato- and molasses-based sauce that can be smothered atop pork ribs, smoked turkey, pulled pork and other meats. Try it at his flagship two-story brick restaurant, Arthur Bryant's. Another essential stop is Gates Bar-B-Q, where folks have been enjoying smoked barbecue topped with an array of sauces

02

## INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI: A SMALL TOWN WITH BIG FLAVORS

It may only be 16 kilometers east of Kansas City, but the historic city of Independence is worth a lunch stop on your way to St. Louis. It's absolutely packed with outstanding barbecue joints. Here you can linger over smoked meatloaf or southern pulled pork at A Little BBQ Joint, or the sweet corn nuggets, potato skins, beef ribs, pork spare ribs, bone-in chicken and burnt ends at KC Smokehouse Bar-B-Que, a popular Kansas City-area spot which has an outpost here. Over at Bandana's Bar-B-Q they cook their pork, beef, chicken and ribs up to 14 hours over real wood smokers, with select hardwoods that create a signature smoked flavor.



273 km 3 hours by car



03

### ALL-AMERICAN BARBECUE IN SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

Here in the heartland, Springfield is the Queen City of the Ozarks, the Birthplace of Route 66, home to the massive flagship Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World – and a city that loves good barbecue. You might be tempted to write off Pappy's Place, a tiny building with the simple promise of "Good Food" in the window. But this local favorite serves up tasty pulled pork, best washed down with a cold Budweiser. Heisman Trophy winner Billy Sims has his own restaurant, Billy Sims Barbecue, where you can order platters inspired by American football nomenclature such as the Running Back rib dinner, the Triple 20 pulled pork or the Heisman sandwich. City Butcher and

Barbecue has made a name for itself with a Texas-style barbecue menu. The brisket, burnt ends and pork belly have a near cult-like following. There's also a pickle bar, and you can order charcuterie including hand-made sausages, pâté, duck pastrami and other delicacies. Get there early – it's first come, first served and once the meat is gone, it's gone! If you seek a variety of sauces and sides with your 'cue, award-winning Whole Hog Café fits the bill with six different sauces (seven, if you count the Volcano Sauce available only at the counter) and its famous cheesy corn or potato salad. Your next stop, St. Louis, is a few hours away – plenty of time to get hungry again.

348 km 4 hours by car



04

### SAVORY MEETS SWEET IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Known for its iconic Gateway Arch and Route 66 roots, St. Louis will surprise you with its breadth and depth of barbecue flavors. Your taste buds will be dazzled at places like Pappy's Smokehouse, known throughout the USA for its dry-rubbed ribs, smoked for 14 hours over sweet apple and cherry wood. Lines run out the door with folks eager to try dishes like Pappy's Frito Pie – Fritos corn chips topped with your choice of barbecued meat plus baked beans, cheddar cheese and onion. Sister store Bogart's Smokehouse also offers a variety of delicious meats and sides with original sauces like the sweet and smoky Kansas City-style Sweet Maegan Ann. For great smoked meats and tasty sides with no

frills, visit Adam's Smokehouse, a sister restaurant to Pappy's and Bogart's. You can't leave St. Louis without trying the city's namesake dish, St. Louis-style ribs, which are pork spareribs trimmed into small rectangles. Get some of the best ones at Ms. Piggies' Smokehouse, a laid-back, easy-order spot. Then get your palate ready to see how Kentucky puts its own spin on barbecue.

330 km 3 hours by car



05

### MUTTON, BURGOO AND MORE IN OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY

Known as the mutton capital of the world, the family-friendly, bluegrass music mecca of Owensboro is the place to try mutton served sliced or pulled, accompanied by a soupy meat stew known as "burgoo." For a taste, stop in at Old Hickory Bar-B-Q, where they process their own meat and cut it into slices before letting it cook for anywhere from 18 to 22 hours. Order your mutton "off the pit" and don't forget the homemade cobblers or banana pudding for dessert. Across town is Moonlite Bar-B-Que Inn, where the mutton is cooked in custom-designed smokers for up to 18 hours after the finest Kentucky tradition. Other delicious offerings

include beef brisket and Boston butt. They're open as early as 9 a.m., so perhaps stop here for an unconventional breakfast before setting off on your drive to Louisville.

174 km 2 hours by car



06

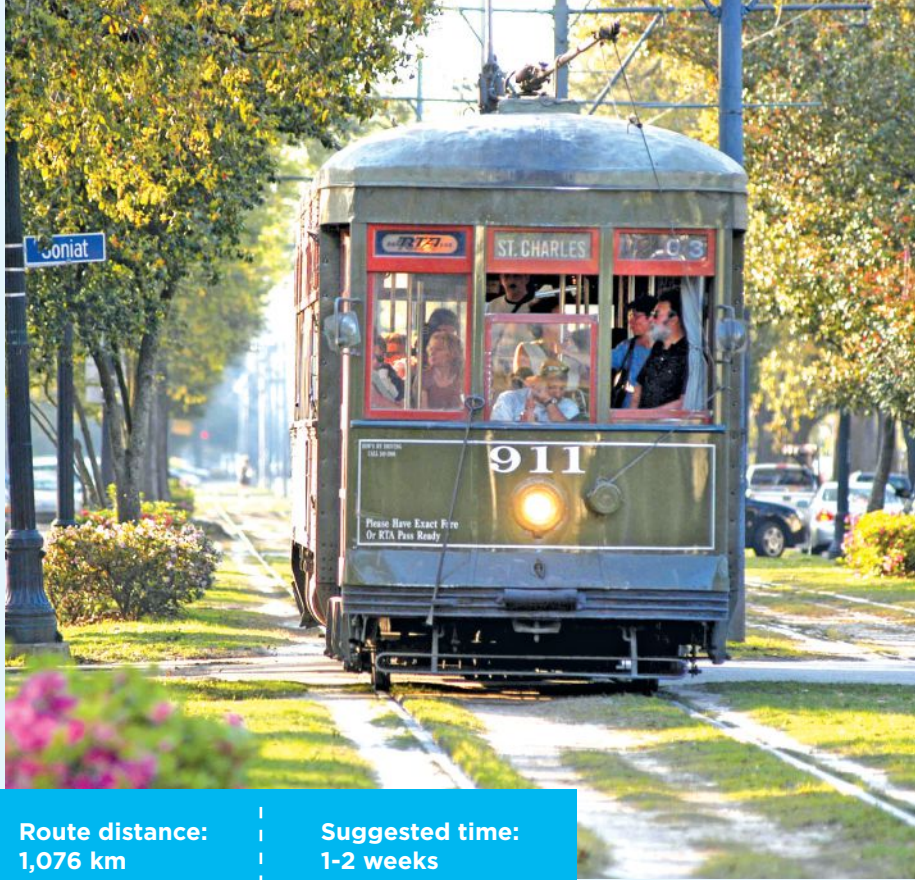
### BOURBON, BEER AND BRISKET IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

When you enter Louisville, you'll find that barbecue is not the only "B" in town: This festive home of the Kentucky Derby is also famous for its bourbon, beer and brisket. Combine all of them at places like Down One Bourbon Bar & Restaurant, where you can sip on one of the 160 available bourbons while enjoying bacon-wrapped gorgonzola stuffed dates or the famous Three Little Pigs sandwich, recognized as one of the best barbecue sandwiches in the country. For great beer and meats in a casual environment, stop in at the Frankfort Avenue Beer Depot, where ribs, sandwiches, sides and scrumptious flavors abound, and you can play

mini-golf for free. Over at Momma's Mustard, Pickles & BBQ, Kansas City-style barbecue is on the menu, as is, of course, mustard and pickles made from the owner's mother's recipe. If you're eager to depart from barbecue, head over to Hammerheads for chicken and waffles, duck fat fries, pork belly baked beans and smoked cheddar grit cakes. Some of the best locally brewed beer in Louisville can be found at the Bluegrass Brewing Company or Against the Grain, but make sure you leave plenty of time for it to digest before driving! Head out from Louisville International Airport. It'll be a long time before you get hungry again! ■

# DIAMONDS, PLANTATIONS, BAYOUS AND BREWS: GEMS OF THE SOUTHEAST

Heritage and natural history in Louisiana and Arkansas



Route distance:  
1,076 km

Suggested time:  
1-2 weeks

**J**ump from car to airboat to riverboat to carriage as you make your way through this wide-ranging road trip, which will catapult you through the cultural and natural heritage of Louisiana and Arkansas. Distinctly Southern and stunningly scenic, the bayous, springs, festivals and plantations in these two states bear the imprint of hundreds of years of cultural and geological change. Discover the attractions that make each destination unique.

01

## STARTING POINT: NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

As soon as you land at New Orleans' Louis Armstrong International Airport, you'll realize that this city is unlike any other in the USA. It's a kaleidoscope of food, music, architecture and celebrations that honor its distinct mélange of ethnic heritages, from Cajun and African American to Creole, European and Caribbean. Evidence of this melting pot surrounds you as you stroll from street to street and neighborhood to neighborhood: in the Gothic and Victorian-style buildings; in the wedding parties that fill Jackson Square; or in the quirky parades that meander slowly through the French Quarter. It can be tasted in unique dishes like the turtle soup at The Court of Two Sisters, or in the gumbo, beignets and jambalaya served at every corner restaurant. It can be heard in the sounds that spill from a hundred jazz clubs, blues joints and zydeco festivals, and seen on the specialty tours that let you explore topics like voodoo, antiques and cemeteries. Before you head out of town, immerse yourself in New Orleans nature at spots like the Audubon Nature Institute or on a paddlewheel steamboat tour on the Mississippi River.

92 km 1 hour by car

02

## HISTORY AND HERITAGE IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Louisiana's capital city trends Cajun/Creole-cosmopolitan at its center, but is surrounded by sprawling historic plantations that offer a glimpse into the 18th century, and bayous filled with wildlife. Start in downtown Baton Rouge, where you'll find plenty to keep you occupied, from the Shaw Center for the Arts, to the 400-plus restaurants, food trucks and farmers markets. Of course you should tour both the old and new capitol buildings: the Old Capitol features a museum inside a Gothic stunner overlooking the Mississippi River, while the new Capitol wows with a sky-high view of the city and gorgeous gardens. As you proceed toward Francisville, make a stop at one of the many graceful plantation houses along Route 61, or hit up Teddy's Juke Joint, a real-deal haunt for alternating DJs and live music.

50 km 1 hour by car

03

## ADMIRING ARCHITECTURE IN ST. FRANCISVILLE, LOUISIANA

Architecture enthusiasts and nature lovers can both find something to admire in St. Francisville, home to plantations, a historic district and numerous outdoor pursuits. Start at the West Feliciana Historical Society Museum for an overview of the

history of the parish, then try a walking tour of the churches, private homes, Georgian Revival courthouse, restaurants and shops downtown. Note the Gothic stylings of Grace Episcopal Church and the traditional cottage structure of many of the district's houses. When you've had enough of the city, hike or bike the green areas of the parish, or try bird-watching on Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge. It'll help you burn off some energy before you get back in the car and continue north to the Alexandria and Pineville area.

158 km 2 hours by car

04

## REVISIT THE 18TH CENTURY IN ALEXANDRIA AND PINEVILLE, LOUISIANA

The two sides of early Louisiana society are evident in Alexandria and Pineville: the splendor of wealthy plantation dwellers, and the Spartan circumstances of poor Creole farmers. Kent House, a beautiful French colonial-style plantation that dates back to 1796, offers a glimpse of the French, Spanish and American cultures that influenced Louisiana. On the other side of town you can visit Epps House, an 1852 Creole cottage that was built in part by Solomon Northup, a kidnapped free man whose story was told in the 2013 film "12 Years a Slave." On your way out of Alexandria, get an eyeful of Louisiana and Southern art at the Alexandria Museum of Art. Then continue up Interstate 49 to one of the oldest places in Louisiana.



93 km 1 hour by car

## 05 NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA: DISTINCTIVELY, DEFINITELY HISTORIC



As you enter Natchitoches (pronounced "nack-a-tish"), it might not seem extraordinary, but it is in fact Louisiana's oldest settlement, dating back to 1714. If you look closely, you can see that it has a distinct European flavor, owing to its founding during the days when Louisiana was still part of France. Tour the extensive National Historic District by horse-drawn carriage, and make stops at the general store and cemetery. Other early sites include plantation houses and Fort St. Jean Baptiste, which tells of Natchitoches' beginnings. In winter, the Natchitoches Christmas Festival illuminates the city, and in warmer months, watch the sun set over the Red River as you head out of town.

121 km 1.5 hours by car

## 06 SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY, LOUISIANA: RIPE FOR SIGHTSEEING



Follow the Red River right into the restaurants, cruises and entertainment that are hallmarks of Shreveport and Bossier. Most of the action is centered on the water, where six riverboat casinos offer Las Vegas-style entertainment, nightclubs, bars and live music. On land you can shop til you drop at the Louisiana Boardwalk Outlets, or dine and drink at one of the many craft brew pubs and eateries specializing in Shreveport-style stuffed shrimp. Outdoor activities including golf, fishing and zip lining are also popular, earning Shreveport a reputation as a sportsman's destination. But the abundance of ways to entertain yourself does not mean there's nothing of historic or artistic value in town – before you head toward Arkansas, take a drive through the historic downtown. Keep an eye out for statues of blues legend Huddie "Leadbelly" Ledbetter and Elvis Presley, and the "Once in a Millennium Moon" mural.

116 km 1 hour by car

## 07 HISTORIC BORDER TOWN OF TEXARKANA, ARKANSAS

The quirky town border town of Texarkana, Arkansas blends seamlessly with its twin, Texarkana, Texas, and is imbued with the flavors, sounds and history of both states. Ragtime music has roots here: Acclaimed composer Scott Joplin was a Texarkana native and there's a mural on the Texas side of downtown that celebrates him. Just a few blocks away is a remnant of the city's colorful past, the Ace of Clubs House. This 1885 Italianate Victorian home built in the shape of a club was, according to legend, financed by a winning poker hand. The Arkansas Municipal Auditorium, which once hosted Elvis, Johnny Cash and Mae West, may no longer be around, but the restored 1924-era Perot Theatre is worth visiting. Of course before you leave you'll need to walk the Arkansas-Texas divide along State Line Avenue, and behold the only post office that sits in two states. It's even equitably made from both Texas granite and Arkansas limestone. Plant your feet back on the Arkansas side and start your journey to the birthplace of a very famous American.

55 km 1 hour by car

## 08 HOPE, ARKANSAS: A PRESIDENTIAL DESTINATION

Hope was nothing more than a nondescript southern town until Bill Clinton became the governor of Arkansas, then the 42nd president of the United States. Hope, his birthplace, instantly earned its place on the map. You can tour the house where he was born and view supporting exhibits in the adjacent visitor center. If you want to learn more about the former President, you'll need to take a detour to the Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock, the capital of Arkansas. If you're not interested in Clintonia, move on to Murfreesboro, and make sure to bring a shovel.

55 km 1 hour by car

## 09 DIGGING FOR DIAMONDS IN MURFREESBORO, ARKANSAS

Arkansas is alternately referred to as The Natural State and The Diamond State because of attractions like Crater of Diamonds State Park, Murfreesboro's main claim to fame. It's the only place in the U.S. where you can dig for – and keep – any diamonds you find. This eroded crater yielded its first find in 1906 and is still turning out sparklers today. You have to admit that there's something enticing about the concept: For less than \$10 (plus a bit extra to rent digging tools), you can go into the search area, and potentially come out a few hours later with something

worth much more than the price of admission. If you come up empty-handed, no worries – soothe your aching muscles in Hot Springs, the next stop on the itinerary.

66 km 1 hour by car

## 10 NATURAL WONDERS IN HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

Despite its name, the hot springs are not the only attraction in this central Arkansas town, which is an all-around great place for a relaxing getaway filled with food, fun and history. An ideal itinerary starts in the Central Avenue historic district, where it's easy to park and walk to places like the Gangster Museum of America, which tells of Hot Springs' rowdiest era, and to legendary pubs like The Ohio Club. Make an appointment at any of the bathhouses along Central Avenue, which are fed by waters bubbling up from the natural springs deep in the earth below. In the middle of it all sits the Hot Springs National Park Visitor Center, repurposed from the gorgeous, and thoroughly preserved, Fordyce Bathhouse. Learn about the springs and baths here before heading out of town into the park, where hiking trails lead to mountain vistas and the fall foliage is not to be missed. On your way to your last destination, stop at Garvan Woodland Gardens for a well-curated series of landscapes, including a wildflower overlook along Lake Hamilton.

90 km 1 hour by car

## 11 PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS: END WITH HISTORY ON THE BAYOU



The final stop on your journey is a place that evokes the era of cotton plantations, steam railroads and the Civil War. In the heart of downtown Pine Bluff, murals illustrate the town's past, 19th century homes line the streets, and a Confederate monument sits near the town courthouse. The Arkansas Railroad Museum offers a peek at Steam Locomotive 819, built onsite in 1942 when the museum was a machine shop. Nearby, the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Historical Museum explores the town's ties to the cotton trade and role in the war. For something a little different, learn about the bottomland ecology of Arkansas' waterways at the Delta Rivers Nature Center, where you can see displays and take short walks through bayou, lake and prairie habitats. For a deeper immersion in nature, rent a kayak and enjoy the easy trail at Cane Creek State Park for a last bit of tranquility before heading home from Little Rock, Arkansas' Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport or Memphis International Airport in Tennessee. ■



# DISTILLING IN THE HILLS AND RACING

## Where Moonshine History and NASCAR Come Together

**E**ven before the American Revolution, people were making unaged corn whiskey in North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia using a recipe distilled from their European roots, abundant corn crop and spring water running from the Appalachian Mountains. During Prohibition, as the law hunted stills, the stills crept further into the mountains. Moonshine runners turbo-charged car engines, removed seats and modified rear suspensions to bear heavy loads. For fun, runners often raced each other, eventually leading to the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) in 1948. Today, stock cars, drag racers, trucks and other vehicles compete on certified tracks. Follow this itinerary to team shops, halls of fame and fabled routes run by the bootleggers. Between speedways, stop at distilleries, restaurants and bars that honor the craft.

Route distance:  
1,065 km

Suggested time:  
6 days

01

### FIRST PIT STOP: CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Fly into the cosmopolitan and friendly city of Charlotte via Charlotte Douglas International Airport to plunge straight into the capital of racing, with its events, team shops and the NASCAR Hall of Fame. Devote at least half a day to the Hall in uptown Charlotte, where you can pump a jack, change a tire, fuel a race car against the clock in the pit stop simulator and peek at Junior Johnson's moonshine still. Time your visit to catch a race at Charlotte Motor Speedway just north of Charlotte in Concord. The big ones are the Coca-Cola 600 in late May and the Bank of America 500 in early October. Main events are rivaled by pre- and post-race festivities like the 600 Festival. Try the NASCAR Racing Experience that puts you on the track and in the driver's seat of a real race car. A kilometer-and-a-half away from the track, drop by Hendrick Motorsports, where you can see cars being prepped for race day before heading northeast to Raleigh.



02

### CAPITAL CULTURE IN RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

A trip to modern-meets-historic Raleigh is well worth the slight detour to enjoy its booming music and beverage scenes. This energetic destination, innovation center and capital of North Carolina is also home to more than 25 breweries. Get your fill at the Raleigh Beer Garden, known as the world's largest and perfect for sampling a more modern addition to the Southeast's beverage-production heritage (though, small-batch distilleries can be found here as well). Bluegrass and rock are just two of the live music genres that can be enjoyed nightly in Raleigh, which touts itself as having "the most music in North Carolina." Before getting back on track to Virginia, round out your trip with a stop in a local restaurant or coffee shop. Don't be afraid to ask a friendly local for a recommendation. Raleigh may be a growing metropolis, but it's still full of small-town charm.

269 km

3 hours by car

03

### SMALL-TOWN REVELRY IN WYTHEVILLE, VIRGINIA

With your need for speed and spirits satisfied (at least momentarily), slow down in Wytheville. This historic mountain town at the crossroads of two major interstates is an ideal hub for exploring. Wind along Big Walker Mountain Scenic Byway to Big Walker Lookout, a 30-meter tower surveying farms and forests. Hike Monster Rock – the name refers to the craggy outcrop's killer view, not its level of difficulty – then linger at BW Country Store for ice cream or fudge, souvenirs by local artisans and live music on the porch on weekends during warmer months. Rev up the night at Wythe Raceway. There's live action on this dirt track most Saturday nights; arrive by 5 p.m. to claim a seat in the wooden grandstand or a hillside spot for your lawn chair. Qualifying laps begin around 7 p.m. for 8 p.m. races, but there's plenty to do while you wait: Hit the concession for fried bologna, send children to the arcade and revel in the small-town Saturday night. "The same 2,000 or 3,000 people every week pack the place," reports driver Caleb Holman, who got his start here. Enjoy the immersion in local culture and the mountain views; there's even more of it to come at your next stop.

309 km

4 hours by car





04

### ABINGDON, VIRGINIA: TAPESTRY OF CARS, MUSIC AND VISUAL ARTS

Head about an hour southwest to Abingdon, a lively small town surrounded by the wilderness of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Caleb Holman is now based here as a driver with Henderson Motorsports. "If the gate's open, come on in," he says. If Holman's not out racing, chances are you'll find him onsite, along with his boss' collection of vintage Corvettes, Thunderbirds and the like, set against a faux 1950s-style diner. Abingdon is a gateway to Southwest Virginia's cultural tapestry of visual art and American roots music. Visit Heartwood to shop local artisans' wares or hear live music, and to pick up a brochure to help you discover The Crooked Road, Virginia's Music Heritage Trail. Running past wayside exhibits and music venues, the Trail meanders through Franklin County, where a history of moonshining lives on.

90 km 1 hour by car

27 km 30 minutes by car

05

### BRISTOL, TENNESSEE: HOME OF THE FASTEST HALF-MILE

After your cultural tour, discover a place where peaceful mountains, rolling hills and tranquil lakes converge. In Bristol, hear the soft strains of music history at the new Birthplace of Country Music or the hard-driving sounds of one of the country's most popular NASCAR venues, Bristol Motor Speedway. Legendary and known as the "world's fastest half-mile," the speedway is one of the largest sporting venues in the world with seating for 160,000. Tours include a lap around the track and a trip down Thunder Valley, the .4-kilometer dragstrip. Make time to tour the magnificent Bristol Caverns and walk along the banks of the ancient Underground River that carved these vaulted chambers millions of years ago. Explore downtown Bristol, whose State Street is actually the state line between Tennessee and Virginia. Pop in and out of boutiques and antique shops. Hike or paddle boat year round at the beautiful 890-hectare Steele Creek Park. Bonus: About half-an-hour west of Bristol – en route to your next destination, Knoxville – Kingsport Speedway hosts near-weekly races from late March through late September.



183 km 2 hours by car

06

### MIXING HISTORY AND FUN IN KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

Knoxville is often called the capital of Appalachia. Its quirky blend of art and music, nature, sports and history creates a vibrant city. In and around Knoxville, the White Lightning Trail (one of the state's 16 culturally inspired touring trails) connects bootlegging and racing via interpretive and historic stops. You might take a break at Calhoun's Bearden Hill along the original Thunder Road, the legendary bootlegger run that inspired a ballad and film in the late 1950s. Order the Thunder Road pilsner micro-brewed onsite, then tiptoe through Old Gray Cemetery in search of the hollowed-out monument that served as a moonshine drop-off point. As you follow the trail, explore the historic Old City district northeast of downtown. This turn-of-the-20th-century formerly raucous area of town is now a mix of retail, restaurants, bars and events retrofitted into yesteryear architecture. Enjoy music, food and shopping at Market Square, Krutch Park, Gay Street's shops and bars and rest a bit before returning back east to North Carolina.



187 km 2 hours by car

07

### ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA: THE FINISH LINE

Finish strong in Asheville, known for its vibrant arts scene, independent restaurants, myriad breweries, and the famed estate of George Vanderbilt, The Biltmore. Plan a scenic drive from the Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center. Maneuvering the Parkway's twists and turns as you eye its forested, mountainous scenery, it's easy to imagine when bootleggers lived here. In an ode to that craft, two distilleries operate in and near the city today: Troy & Sons and Howling Moon. Troy & Sons tours are complimentary, brief and followed by tastings. Depending on what's available, the tasting might feature their Oak Reserve, a moonshine-style whiskey mellowed in bourbon barrels for a golden color and caramel notes. Once you've taken it all in, Asheville Regional Airport is just 14 kilometers south of the city, or drive two hours back to Charlotte to catch an international flight. ■





# FOR THE LOVE OF SOUTHERN FOOD

Let your appetite guide you along this tour of the Southeast's famed culinary landmarks

George Bernard Shaw once said, "There is no sincerer love than the love of food." One of the best ways to experience that love is through the savory, delectable flavors of the South. Some of the world's best-known chefs and sommeliers live in Georgia and South Carolina, offering cuisine at festivals and restaurants that can't be missed.

Route distance:  
1,279 km

Suggested time:  
6 days

01

## KICK OFF YOUR TRIP WITH A FOOD FESTIVAL IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Whatever you're in the mood for, Atlanta's mix of international cuisine, Southern techniques and farm-fresh, locally sourced food will deliver it, so prepare to chow down, especially in late May or early June. You'll drive from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport to the Loews Atlanta Hotel, the base for the Atlanta Food & Wine Festival in Midtown. Here, the South's best chefs and sommeliers offer a bevy of tastings, seminars and classes on everything from the wines of Chile to the secrets of Southern cooking. Try tastings ranging from the South's finest fried chicken to Ole Smoky's Apple Pie Moonshine. You can buy a day pass, a three-day pass or tickets for individual events. Eat as little as possible before the festival to save your appetite for the savory Southern flavors that await you. Find a way to clear your palate before moving on to Columbia, South Carolina.

345 km 4 hours by car

02

## INTERNATIONAL FLAVORS AND LOCAL FAVORITES IN COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

It's a college town, it's a melting pot, it's an outdoor lover's dream – South Carolina's capital city of Columbia has a little bit of everything, including a wide-ranging dining scene. Like many cities around the U.S., Columbia is seeing a surge in the popularity of food trucks. These restaurants on wheels offer something for every palate: sweet (sugar-infused Liege waffles at the Belgian Waffle Truck), savory (German sausages at the Wurst Wagen), south of the border (authentic Mexican flavors at Tacos Nayarit) and stuffed (2 Fat 2 Fly Stuffed Chicken Wings).

On the brick-and-mortar side, the upscale Motor Supply Company Bistro has been at the forefront of Columbia's localvore movement since 1989, featuring a farm-to-table menu that changes twice daily. Of course, let's not forget that we're in the South; barbecue is a must, with Southern Belly BBQ lauded as some of the best in the country. Order a sandwich with the Carolina-style Midas mustard sauce, and finish it with a locally brewed beer. For an updated take on Southern

comfort food, head over to Mr. Friendly's New Southern Café. The menu is regularly updated with fresh seafood and meats, as well as an award-winning wine list, small-batch bourbon and local microbrews. It's plenty to keep you satisfied while you make your way to Charleston.

193 km

2 hours by car

03

## WINING, DINING AND DOUGHNUTS IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Known for its seafood, home cooking traditions and love of pork, Charleston's food scene has been revving up in recent years. If you have a sweet tooth, start your day with a gourmet, made-from-scratch doughnut from Glazed. Flavors like chocolate-orange-ginger and strawberry-champagne make it hard to stop at just one. Do a proper brunch to sample a menu full of Southern favorites like chicken and andouille gumbo, sweet potato hash, fried green tomatoes and buttermilk biscuits. Visit The Glass Onion for all that and more. There's a little something upscale and well-





styled about Charleston culture, and that extends to its food and drink. Cocktails count as much as manners do. It's only right to have a pre-dinner drink at a place like Bin 152, which offers over 30 wines by the glass and more than 130 by the bottle. A standard Charleston dinner might include bouillabaisse, buttermilk fried chicken, or shrimp and grits. Find them all at Hank's Seafood, named Best Seafood Restaurant for 16 consecutive years by the locals. For a nightcap, settle in downtown at charming FIG (short for Food is Good), where the bourbon and rye whiskey menu is short and sweet. Wake up ready to take on Beaufort.

111 km 2 hours by car

#### 04 HOME COOKING AND FANCY DINING IN BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA

A coastal Lowcountry community, Beaufort has a romantic seaside village feel, where every meal is enjoyed with a view. Waterfront restaurants, gracious inns and charming downtown eateries make up the scene here. Letting your meal unfold in a leisurely way is key, so go for starters at a place like Emily's Restaurant & Tapas Bar, where the 46 items on the menu will warm up your appetite before dinner. Urban sophisticates, take advantage of the range of upmarket dishes available here at restaurants like Saltus River Grill or Breakwater Restaurant and Bar, where sushi and steak are represented alongside fare like house-made pimiento cheese and Southern sampler platters. You can't do Beaufort without getting a down-home Southern food fix. In early June, head to the High on the Hog BBQ Festival, where Friday night is all about shrimp and chicken, and Saturday is devoted to barbecue. Lick your fingers clean before cruising south to Hilton Head.

66 km 1 hour by car

#### 05 IN HILTON HEAD, SOUTH CAROLINA, SEASIDE DINING AND LOCAL FAVORITES

As a resort town steeped in Southern hospitality, Hilton Head Island celebrates the coast in its menus, which offer skillfully prepared seafood and all of the staples of Lowcountry cooking. Sit on the dock and feast on steam pots, a mixed boil with corn, clams, mussels and shrimp. Mouthwatering hush puppies, cornbread, fried okra and alligator are on menus throughout the island. Sample daily fish specials, which you'll find paired with Southern sides like collards, cheese grits and green beans. Try the unpretentious Sea Shack for down-home cooking. Hilton Head's upscale offerings provide everything else you might have a hankering for, from tapas to steaks. For gourmet salads and comfort food done in high-style, with a dose of music tossed in, try The Jazz Corner. You may want to skip dessert, as next-stop Savannah is practically around the corner.

61 km 1 hour by car

#### 06 SOPHISTICATED SOUTHERN AND SEASONAL FARE IN SAVANNAH, GEORGIA



This quintessential Southern town is beloved for its eccentric character, history and charm. Savor all three through its food. The ambience here – think moss-laden live oak trees, cobblestone streets and charming squares – is hard to beat. Start with a sophisticated dinner at Olde Pink House. Housed in an 18th century mansion, the menu here reflects what's classically great about Savannah cuisine with items like fried green tomatoes, pork tenderloin and pecan pie making appearances. Give yourself over to a chef's tasting menu for a culinary adventure. The sage grits, Georgia shrimp and coastal grouper you might find on the seasonal menu at Elizabeth on 37th will make you glad you did. When you're ready for that fried chicken, homemade biscuits, okra gumbo and savory barbecue you've heard so much about, make time to eat at Mrs. Wilkes Dining Room or Wiley's Championship BBQ. Before you leave for Golden Isles, head to Ellis Square's Goose Feathers Café and get some bread pudding for your drive.

134 km 2 hours by car

#### 07 IN GOLDEN ISLES, GEORGIA, SAVOR THE SUNSETS AND SEAFOOD



The ocean provides all the best ingredients on these four gorgeous islands, accented by golden marshes, wide beaches and tree hammocks. Start on St. Simons Island and go straight to Halyards, which captures local, fresh flavors in a seasonal menu peppered with specialties like wild Georgia shrimp and cane grits. On the same island, reserve lunchtime for oysters and wine; locals like the ones at The Half Shell. If you're in town in early June, don't miss the Georgia Sea Island Festival on St. Simons Island. You'll definitely want to make time to eat the seafood here the way nature intended: on the water. For that, head to Echo and sample the sea scallops while you watch the sunset. On Jekyll Island, you'll find family-friendly fare that reflects the beachy vibe and outdoor dining options that run the gamut from docks to courtyards. Find four different eateries inside Jekyll Market or sit by the water at Latitude 31 Restaurant & Rah Bar to take full advantage of the scene here before heading to Macon.

369 km 4 hours by car

#### 08 FIND THE SOUTH'S HEART AND SOUL IN MACON, GEORGIA

If music is food for the soul, food is the music of life in Macon, which is also known for its music scene, past and present. Start with some soul food at the iconic H&H Restaurant, where you'll enjoy meat-and-three-sides lunches, fresh squeezed lemonade and trademark Southern charm. Just down the street, Downtown Grill serves the city's best steak, lamb or fresh fish, and a humidor bar features the finest in cigars and bourbons. Around the corner, find farm-to-fork fare with a new Southern twist at Dovetail, which is above a favorite neighborhood bar and grill, The Rookery. Grab lunch at Nu-Way Weiners, one of the nation's oldest hot dog stands, established in 1916, before driving to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport to catch your flight home. ■

# CHANGING THE COURSE OF FREEDOM: A CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TOUR

A tribute to the struggle and honoring a legacy across the Southeast



Route distance:  
2,005 km

Suggested time:  
1-2 weeks

Of the themes running through the American South, civil rights is one of the most dichotomous. Not only because the theme is one of division but because to follow its thread is to relive its lows and highs, and to comprehend how those lows invoked the attention and energy to power positive change. Through this itinerary that includes the birth home of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the site of his assassination, you'll meet the soldiers of the movement – children, colleagues, clergy and others – in memorials, museums and historic sites along the way.

01

## START IN KING'S FOOTSTEPS IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Fly directly into Birmingham's Shuttlesworth International Airport (named after civil rights activist Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth), or drive over from Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport (about two and a half hours). Your journey will deposit you in the heart of a vibrant, heritage-rich city that has the stamp of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. all over it. The late, great activist visited in April 1963, a year when the civil rights events in Birmingham made history. Make your first stop the Birmingham Civil Rights District, where you can see demonstrators' gathering points at Kelly Ingram Park, and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, which holds the door and bars of the cell from which King composed "Letter from Birmingham Jail" and footage of King's "I Have a Dream" speech. Nearby, visit the Fourth Avenue North Historic District, the black business district during the King era, and the 16th Street Baptist Church, where lively Sunday services have changed little from the days when King was a visitor. On your way out of the city, make a stop in the town of Bessemer to visit one of the oldest – and last remaining – backyard "juke joints" in America, Gip's Place.

🚗 211 km

🚗 2 hours by car

02

## A MICROCOSM OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE IN TUSKEGEE, ALABAMA

Tuskegee offers a broad overview of the civil rights story through its numerous monuments and museums. Start at Tuskegee University, formerly the Tuskegee Institute, which was founded by Booker T. Washington in 1881 as a school to train Africa-American teachers. Visit on a weekend for guided tours of Washington's home, The Oaks, or explore the George Washington Carver Museum and the campus itself, a designated historic district. Make your way to the university chapel, where 11 Negro spirituals are depicted in stained glass known as the "Singing Windows." Also worth visiting is the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, which tells the story of pioneering black American pilots through its hangar museum, wayside exhibits and regular events, including fly-ins. Before leaving Tuskegee, fit in a stop at the Tuskegee Human & Civil Rights Multicultural Center, where exhibits draw parallels between the U.S. civil rights conflict of the mid-20th century and earlier conflicts between European explorers and Native American tribes – profound material to consider as you head west toward Selma.

🚗 64 km

🚗 1 hour by car

03

## FOLLOW THE SELMA TO MONTGOMERY NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

As you journey between Tuskegee and Jackson, you'll pass through Montgomery and then Selma, the start and end points of the 87-kilometer Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, which commemorates those who marched for the right to vote in 1965. In Montgomery, one of the cornerstones of the civil rights movement, take a tour of the Capitol before exploring downtown sites like the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, where Dr. King lived, preached and planned the Montgomery bus boycott. Later, visit the Rosa Parks Library and Museum and the Freedom Rides Museum, which commemorates people of all races who protested against segregated public transportation. Proceed to Haynesville and the Lowndes Interpretive Center, and watch for wayside exhibits along the route. Once to Selma, head to the Selma Interpretive Center, which tells how armed forces attacked the first wave of unarmed marchers on Bloody Sunday. Worth examining before continuing on to Mississippi: the Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, where the marches began, the National Voting Rights Museum, and the Slavery & Civil War Museum.

🚗 399 km

🚗 4 hours by car





04

#### JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI: THE HEART OF CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISM

On your way to Mississippi's capital city, stop in Meridian, a center of civil rights activism, and remember civil rights martyrs such as James Chaney, who died during the "Freedom Summer" of 1964. Then proceed to Jackson and the Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center, housed inside the first public school for African Americans in Mississippi. Next, visit Tougaloo College and explore Farish Street, a historic center of black businesses including the renovated Alamo Theater. Try hot smoked sausage sandwiches when hunger calls. Jackson was also the home of famed civil rights pioneer Medgar Evers, whose namesake museum tells of his life and 1963 murder by a white supremacist. En route to your next stop, meet Sylvester Hoover in Greenwood, and he'll take you to Bryant's Grocery in the town of Money, a site associated with the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till. Till's death is often credited with awakening the world to the U.S. civil rights struggle. If you have the time, inquire into Hoover's side trips to other Mississippi civil rights sites.

423 km

4.5 hours by car

05

#### LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS: HOME TO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL

##### HISTORIC SITE AND MUCH MORE

Just a 4.5-hour drive from Jackson, Little Rock, Arkansas, is home to one of the nation's most important civil rights sites, Central High School National Historic Site. This is where, in 1957, nine brave African American students, known as the Little Rock Nine, integrated a previously all-white high school, in pursuit of a quality education. Use the Arkansas Civil Rights History Tour app to learn about more than 35 African American-related sites in the Little Rock area. Follow the Arkansas Civil Rights Heritage Trail that runs through downtown and commemorates the sacrifices and accomplishments of those who fought for racial and ethnic justice in Arkansas. Round out your time in Little Rock with a variety of other attractions such as the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center; the Clinton Presidential Center and its Anne Frank Tree exhibit; the Daisy Bates House; and "Testament," the Little Rock Nine monument, which was the first civil rights memorial to be placed on the grounds of a Southern USA capitol. Before you hit the road to your next stop in Tennessee, enjoy a meal at the Lassis Inn or Sims Bar-B-Que, both long-time Little Rock dining institutions owned by African-Americans and recipients of national accolades over the years.

220 km

2.25 hours by car

06

#### CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUMS AND MUSIC IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Memphis was instrumental in the civil rights movement, which was intertwined with its legendary music scene. Start your visit on a serious note at Memphis' National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel, and take a glimpse inside the motel room and balcony where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. Across from the museum stands the boarding house where the shooter stood. Within this Legacy Building, exhibits detail the investigation, manhunt and trials associated with King's murder. Memphis is filled with other important civil rights sites, from the Burkle Estate, a rumored stop on the Underground Railroad, to historic markers honoring activists such as Ida B. Wells, to Mason Temple, where Dr. King delivered his legendary final speech. Beale Street's Withers Collection Museum & Gallery is also a must. End your visit at the Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum or the Stax Museum of American Soul Music, where you'll get a look inside the Memphis music scene and see its connections to the larger story of civil rights in the South. These stops may just inspire the soundtrack for the last leg of your trip to Atlanta.

610 km

6 hours by car

07

#### MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S LEGACY LIVES ON IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA

It's a long but worthwhile drive to culture-rich Atlanta, where historic homes and churches, festivals and the new Center for Civil and Human Rights cement Atlanta as a civil rights hub. But Atlanta is perhaps most famous as the birthplace of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Take a guided tour of King's birth home on Auburn Avenue, then explore the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site's self-guided elements: Ebenezer Baptist Church, where three generations of the King family preached; The King Center, where King and his wife, Coretta, are buried; and the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame, where shoeprints from Rosa Parks, Desmond Tutu and others are embedded. Surrounding the site, the Sweet Auburn district invites its own exploration. From March through November, you can walk with a docent from the Atlanta Preservation Center as your guide; or you can tour it on your own, stopping into the APEX Museum, where exhibits tell Sweet Auburn's story, dating to the mid-1800s. When you're ready to leave, Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport is just 13 kilometers from downtown.





Route distance:  
760 km

Suggested time:  
4 days

# SAVORY SOUTHERN CUISINE

A menu of sumptuous, savory and delectable delights

**P**repare for your taste buds to be wowed – and to pack on a few pounds – as you embark upon a culinary adventure through some of the South's most famous foodie destinations. Whether it's your first po'boy, sticky jambalaya or freshly caught Gulf shrimp, these dining experiences can't be missed.

01

## SAVORY SEAFOOD AND SWEET TREATS IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

New Orleans Cajun and Creole cuisine is as famous—and as festive—as its Mardi Gras, and there's no shortage of places serving it up. After landing at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, introduce yourself to the land of gumbo and grits at one of the classic establishments like Commander's Palace, a local favorite where the weekend Jazz Brunch is legendary. Breakfast is a high art in this city, a tradition that goes back 100 years to morning menus that were more robust and full of variety: You might be eating jambalaya for breakfast one day and a sweet beignet the next. To experience this incredible range, head to Elizabeth's, where the Banana's Foster Stuffed French Toast is a heavenly way to start your day, but you can opt for fried chicken livers and eggs, too. One place to explore the city's delicious obsession with beignets is La Petite Grocery, where you can get them stuffed with crab. Dining later in the day plunges you into the heart of Cajun and Creole cooking: rich, dense flavors; roux and red beans and rice; grits and grillades. Try award-winning Cochon, where the Cajun-Southern approach is applied mostly to pork, for a sense of how much depth can be brought to food here. As for oysters, Peche Seafood Grill's raw bar is an excellent place to start. For some of the best Cajun fried chicken around, stop in to Coop's Place. And before you roll out to Gulfport, sample one of the region's most beloved desserts, bread pudding; get the Krispy Kreme version at Boucherie.

126 km 1.5 hours by car

02

## GO GOURMET ON THE GULF COAST IN GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

Just an hour away from New Orleans, Gulfport's take on classic Gulf Coast cooking is easy to love. The friendly beach town, with its Old Florida waterfront district, cute cottages and scores of independent shops and restaurants, is all about its position along the Gulf. There's a strong Southern influence in the food here, but this is also coastal cuisine. Try fresh-caught shrimp, catfish and oysters, best eaten dockside, at sunset. Southern favorites like fried dill pickles and green tomatoes pop up frequently in starter and small plate menus at places like the Blow Fly Inn. If you ask locals where to go for a Gulfport-style po'boy sandwich, they'll likely point you to Lil' Ray's, where the motto is "South in Ya Mouth." Breakfast lovers can drive 10 minutes to Long Beach to sample the white chocolate raspberry pancakes at the Harbor View Café. Eat them while overlooking Long Beach Harbor, mimosa in hand. Grab coffee from Southern Grounds Coffeehouse to fuel your drive to Biloxi.



21 km 30 minutes by car



03

### SOUTHERN SEAFOOD MEETS ASIA IN BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Seafood might be king in Biloxi, but it's the city's interest in fusing it with other flavors that makes the food scene so appealing. It's not just catch-of-the-day here; it's that catch done Vietnamese-style, with a dash of Southern technique thrown in for good measure. International flavors are on the plate alongside the comfort food, barbecue and crawfish. Le Bakery & Café is a prime example with a menu that blends local and Asian flavors in dishes such as the Vietnamese po'boy or the curried coconut chicken. But you can also get good old-fashioned barbecue from restaurants like Slap Ya Momma's BBQ Smokehouse – don't let the name intimidate you – and feast on ribs or pulled pork to your

heart's content. Crawfish connoisseurs will like how their plate arrives here; restaurants like Taranto's Crawfish do a true boil, dishing up piles of the crustaceans with corn and potato mixed in. Trying all of the variations of bread pudding throughout your trip is a must, so get to-go boxes of Mary Mahoney's Old French House's version, topped with rum, to hold you over until Mobile.

52 km 1 hour by car



04

### MOBILE, ALABAMA: SOME OF THE FRESHEST SEAFOOD IN THE COUNTRY

Peach pies, hole-in-the-wall barbecue joints and boiled peanuts: Mobile's culinary scene is lively and varied, but there is no doubt seafood rules here. The industry is a major employer, and the Gulf of Mexico is just beyond Mobile Bay. Locals are fiercely proud of their city's tasty reputation, and the number of eateries devoted to crabs, shrimp, fish and oysters reflects it. Wintzell's Oyster House, a flagship restaurant in the heart of Mobile's downtown entertainment district, is a good introduction into how Mobile does oysters; try the Carnival preparation, with lump crabmeat, spinach and hollandaise. Everywhere you'll

see fun iterations on the usual, such as the One-One and One – cups of gumbo, crab soup and turtle soup – from Felix's Fish Camp Grill or Spot of Tea's Cajun Seafood Omelet, stuffed with blackened shrimp and covered with a sauce made with Mexican grouper with crawfish. The only thing you will take away with you is a bag of fresh-roasted peanuts from A&M Peanut Shop, since there's even more eating to do in Montgomery.

272 km 3 hours by car



05

### MICROBREWS AND LOCAL EATS IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Many of this capital city's most interesting restaurants can be found in one area, the Alley Entertainment District, which is suggestive of Montgomery's fun approach to food. You'll find top-notch barbecue sold in smoke shacks with nicknames like "The Butt Hut" as well as a 100-year-old hot dog joint. To dive right into the pit-culture here, indulge in hickory-smoked sausage and ribs with sides of okra and Brunswick stew at Dreamland Bar-B-Que. There are counterpoints to traditional Southern fare, too, including Japanese, Italian and Mexican restaurants. Just a few steps from the Alley, you'll find something to whet your palate. Railyard Brewing Company's microbrewery serves its burgers on a pretzel

bun with pimento cheese fries and craft beer in a building that unites the area's past and present. It's good preparation for Atlanta's modern food and brew scene.

259 km 3 hours by car



06

### STEAKS, SEAFOOD AND CUTTING-EDGE CULINARY CREATIONS IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA

This metropolis does all the classics well, but it's the combination of modern American fare with a Southern twist that makes Atlanta an emerging food city. Yes, it has its peaches and berries, chicken and dumplings, and hosts more than one Creole jazz brunch, but Atlanta is also a prime destination for steak, menus inspired by locally sourced food, and international flavors. At Buckhead's KR SteakBar, small-plate steaks won't overwhelm your appetite for the pasta on the menu. For Southern ingredients given an urban gloss, head to Decatur's Cakes + Ale Restaurant, just 20 minutes away,

which offers arancini and squash dip before you've even thought about round two. If you want to really see what Atlanta does with its Southern roots, get to JCT Kitchen, set in the hip Westside Urban Market. Start with a drink upstairs, then move to the dining room for truffle Parmesan fries, shrimp and grits and a side of heirloom tomatoes. If you still have room left for more, stop at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport's One Flew South before you board the plane home. The "Southernational" cuisine is the perfect end to your food tour of the South. ■



# INDULGE YOUR SENSES IN THE RHYTHMS OF THE SOUTH

Dancing, dining and other delights in Atlanta, Nashville and New Orleans

When it comes to road trips, it's hard to beat the diverse offerings of the South. From the country, blues and rock tunes drifting through the streets of Nashville, to the world-class attractions of Atlanta and the tasty libations in New Orleans, this trio of destinations offers a wealth of adventure for all five senses of taste, touch, sight, smell and hearing.

Route distance:  
1,303 km

Suggested time:  
1-2 weeks





01

## ATLANTA, GEORGIA: A METROPOLIS WITH CHARACTER

After arriving at the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, you'll want to stretch your legs in "The City in a Forest," a nickname Atlanta earned because of its tree canopy. Smell the fresh air and start the day with outdoor play at Piedmont Park, which has more than 81 hectares of lawns, lakes, jogging paths and playgrounds.

Continue on to the Georgia Aquarium, and see more than 100,000 creatures from 500 species swimming, diving and soaring. Walk next door to the World of Coca-Cola to learn about one of the world's favorite beverages and watch the 'Search for the Secret Formula' inside the multisensory 4-D theater. Walk, jog or stroll through Centennial Olympic Park, built for the 1996 Olympic Games, where free concerts and festivals take place throughout the year and you can splash in the Fountain of Rings, a synchronized water and music attraction. Newshounds won't want to miss listening to tour guides tell how live news is broadcast at the world headquarters of CNN.

Feel the power of the past by heading to the Sweet Auburn District to walk the same streets that Martin Luther King, Jr. roamed as a child; see King's birth home, visit the King Center for Non-Violent Social Change and see the reverend's final resting place. Hear live music during a stop at Sweet Georgia's Juke Joint, a local institution where the aroma of Southern fare wafts through the building. You can't leave Atlanta without visiting the Buckhead neighborhood and touching fine merchandise in more than 200 upscale stores in Lenox Square. You'll want something special to wear in Nashville.



resting place. Hear live music during a stop at Sweet Georgia's Juke Joint, a local institution where the aroma of Southern fare wafts through the building. You can't leave Atlanta without visiting the Buckhead neighborhood and touching fine merchandise in more than 200 upscale stores in Lenox Square. You'll want something special to wear in Nashville.

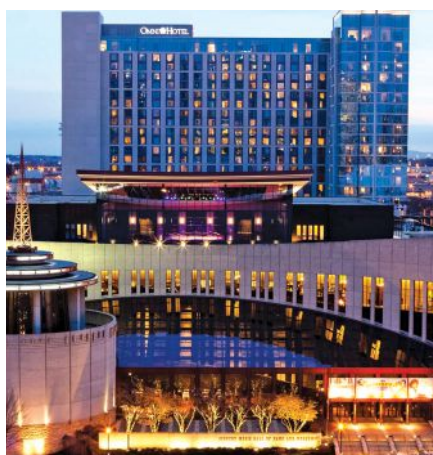
401 km 4 hours by car

02

## SINGING THE PRAISES OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

On the drive to Nashville, tune your radio during to a variety of stations and prime yourself for your experience in Music City. Make a beeline downtown to check out RCA Studio B, where legends like Elvis Presley, Dolly Parton and Willie Nelson recorded famous hits. The Johnny Cash Museum was voted by both Forbes and National Geographic as a can't-miss destination. Walk the Music City Walk of Fame, the Music Mile connecting Downtown to Music Row to touch sidewalk stars honoring famous musicians, including Jimi Hendrix, Vince Gill and Wynonna Judd. Next, head to the Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum to hear rare recordings of country's legendary performers and see the collection of instruments and costumes.

A Nashville visit isn't complete without a stop at the Grand Ole Opry, the world's longest running live radio show. Add a treat for your sense of taste by rounding out your visit at B.B. King's Blues Club, where you can drink, eat, dance and enjoy live music with a soulful sound. Before you leave town for New Orleans, buy yourself a pair of authentic cowboy boots to serve as a reminder of your time in Music City.



855 km 8 hours by car

03

## WILD AND SCENIC NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

After driving from Nashville, you'll be rewarded in New Orleans with great food, festive music and fun. Enjoy the sights on a walking tour through two of New Orleans' most distinctive neighborhoods, the rollicking French Quarter and the elegant Garden District. At lunchtime, get ready to taste a flavorful fried oyster po' boy or a belly-busting muffuletta. Follow up with a sweet, buttery pecan praline.

Hear the city sounds as you ride the Saint Charles Avenue streetcar, the oldest continuously operating one in the world, and take in views of stately mansions, towering live oaks, Tulane University and the Audubon Zoo. At night, sip on a hurricane, a rum-based favorite, and wander the Quarter, listening to wandering street musicians, or stopping by landmarks such as Preservation Hall for live jazz music. For the bravest souls, there are plenty of ghost, voodoo and vampire stories to hear on tours through the city's haunted streets and spooky cemeteries.

As you begin the trip home with a flight out of Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, think about all of the stories you'll have to tell about your jaunt through Atlanta, Nashville and New Orleans. ■





Route distance:  
914 km

Suggested time:  
5 days

# SOUNDS OF THE DELTA

Celebrating an American art form

There are few regions that have given rise to as many music stars as the Mississippi Delta. In this melting pot of slaves and sharecroppers, from despair came the blues. From the fields grew gospel. From rogues and unlikely collaborators came rock 'n' roll and soul. Designated trails like Bridging the Blues and the Mississippi Blues Trail will link you to the fields, shacks and impossibly small studios that remind us where this uniquely American art form came from, while festivals and venues showcase a new generation of American roots musicians.

01

## A NOD TO PAST AND PRESENT IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Step out of the Memphis International Airport into the cradle of many American music genres, from rock 'n' roll to soul to blues. This city is a history lesson set to music, though its biggest claim to fame is as the home of Elvis Presley. First, head to Union Avenue and tour Sun Studios, where Presley recorded his first song, and then move on to Graceland, the compound his eventual stardom built, just 10 minutes away.

Stop at Stax Museum of American Soul Music, formerly Stax Records, where Rufus Thomas, Otis Redding and Isaac Hayes gained fame. Hear their story and just try to not dance your way through the exhibits. On nearby Beale Street, catch a show

at B.B. King's Blues Club, and then follow along the Brass Note Walk of Fame, a path of 150 notes embedded into the sidewalk and inscribed with the names of Memphis' music idols. Listen to Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum's epic playlist of music while studying the artifacts. Add an audio walking tour of Beale Street to imagine jazz and jug bands, and walk through the Memphis home of W.C. Handy, the artist who gave blues its modern form. Set your radio dial to the blues, gospel and rockabilly stations on your way to Helena.

113 km

2 hours by car

02

## HELENA, ARKANSAS: A SMALL TOWN WITH A BIG BLUES HISTORY

In downtown Helena, orient yourself to historic Cherry Street, the anchor of this charming small town chock-full of music. At the Delta Cultural Center, listening stations let you sample Delta musicians like Sonny Boy Williamson, developing your ear for the region's blues and gospel traditions. For the maximum experience, time your visit with the center's live broadcast of the King Biscuit Time radio show hosted by Blues Hall-of-Famer "Sunshine" Sonny Payne since 1951. You can also sit in on a broadcast of the center's own Delta Sounds radio show, a showcase of blues, gospel, rockabilly and country. When you're in the mood to party, head to the King Biscuit Blues Festival in early October.

The four-day event offers a range of performances; previous artists have included Bobby Rush, Robert Cray and Greg Allman. When you've had your fill, hop on U.S. 49 and take it south to Clarksdale.



48 km 1 hour by car



Take a jaunt to Greenwood and let Delta native Sylvester Hoover show you where Robert Johnson lived, jammed and died on his Delta Blues Legend Tours. An hour's drive to Indianola takes you to the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center, which details King's life from sharecropper to icon. To celebrate it all, grab a folding chair and go to Greenville for the Mississippi Delta Blues and Heritage Festival in September or the Mighty Mississippi Music Festival in October. On your way out, pick up a barbecue sandwich and fries from Abe's Bar-B-Q for the drive to Columbus.

03

### BLUES LEGENDS AND FESTIVALS SURROUND CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI

Clarksdale's storied musical history is alive and well in the sites, trails and other landmarks the city has proudly preserved. To truly explore the Mississippi Blues Trail's Delta region, Clarksdale makes a good base, with nightly live blues and vibrant events, including April's Juke Joint Festival and August's Sunflower River Blues and Gospel Festival. View the remains of Muddy Waters' cabin and John Lee Hooker's guitars at the Delta Blues Museum. A skip away, hit the memorabilia-packed Rock & Blues Museum and Cat Head Delta Blues & Folk Art, a store for the blues-curious and devotees alike.

267 km 3 hours by car



04

### HISTORY AROUND EVERY CORNER IN COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI

East of the Mississippi Delta region, Columbus' story lives in its vibrant districts, historic venues, architecture and hometown characters. Blues Trail markers can help guide you through town. Make a stop at the colorful first home of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tennessee Williams on Main Street, then marvel at the sturdy low-country architecture displayed in The Haven, built in 1843 by two free black men and located in the historic district. Tour pillared Whitehall mansion, once a Civil War hospital, for an example of the period's sometimes-expansive home design. If you're around in spring, Columbus' annual Spring Pilgrimage lets you

take house and church tours, carriage rides and attend the Catfish in the Alley festival. This day of live blues music and fried fish is an homage to Columbus' former Catfish Alley, an African-American district where fishermen came in and bluesmen played. Don't leave for Tupelo without having a mint julep; it's Columbus' signature drink and is liberally handed out at the festival.

111 km 1 hour by car



05

### WALK IN THE STEPS OF YOUNG ELVIS PRESLEY IN TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

Tupelo connects you to a young Elvis Presley and to the unstoppable spirit of pioneering blues musicians. Definitely tour the Elvis Presley Birthplace and consider the contrast between this modest two-bedroom house and Graceland's epic proportions. While there, step inside Presley's childhood church, relocated here, where you'll hear a young Elvis singing "Jesus Loves Me." Read what family and friends have said about him on the Story Wall. In June, the Tupelo Elvis Festival presents local, regional and national musicians, including a Sunday gospel concert and an Elvis Tribute Artist Contest. After

taking it all in, grab a dough burger from local favorite Johnnie's Drive-In, where you can sit a while and chat with locals. Stop by the former site of Shake Rag, a stopover for African-American traveling musicians, before you travel on to Muscle Shoals.

145 km 2 hours by car



06

### SOURCE OF THE SOUND IN FLORENCE AND MUSCLE SHOALS, ALABAMA

Just as Memphis trademarked the Memphis Sound, the Muscle Shoals Sound distinguished this region. In the 1960s, a string of No. 1 hits from local recording studios led to it becoming known as the Hit Recording Capital of the World. The standard stops on a tour here are FAME Studios, one of the biggest producers of the sound and still operating, and the Alabama Music Hall of Fame in Tuscumbia, which showcases the state's biggest figures in the industry through exhibits and a Walk of Fame. Head to Florence to see the cabin where the "father of the blues" was born at the W.C. Handy Birthplace, Museum and

Library. Consider visiting In July for the W.C. Handy Music Festival, when 10 days of live music percolates throughout Florence. If you want to hear live music in one of the South's most unusual locations, head to Tuscumbia's Rattlesnake Saloon. You'll be put into the back of a pickup truck, ride down a dirt road, and discover a fun western saloon and dance hall under a large but shallow cave. There's no better way to end your journey before heading to Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport. ■



# VIEW FINDER

**Find wild beauty and adventure in West Virginia.**

**V**isit West Virginia and discover its unparalleled combination of scenic beauty and abundant outdoor recreation. Hike through thick forests, climb to awe-inspiring overlooks, walk across bridges spanning lush gorges and scramble along rocky trails including a portion of the famous Appalachian Trail.

The Mountain State is full of fun year-round. In spring, summer and fall, enjoy the adrenaline rush of whitewater rafting and ziplining or the more relaxed pastimes of fishing and golfing. In winter, ski down bunny slopes, black diamond trails or anything in between. Spend a day snow tubing with your family.

Head to the state's charming cities to find a healthy dose of Southern hospitality. Get a taste of comfort foods including buttermilk biscuits and pepperoni

rolls at old-fashioned diners, and explore local farm-to-table fare in upscale restaurants. The range of accommodations will appeal to all tastes: Stay in a luxury resort with vast mountain views, a quaint inn, a rustic lodge or a family-friendly hotel or campground.

Don't miss the opportunity to learn about the state's culture and history. Explore Civil War trails, living history museums and art galleries. See the handiwork of mountain craftspeople and hear authentic Appalachian music. Watch a live music show with Larry Groce on Charleston's Mountain Stage.

West Virginia is an easy drive from major international airports including Washington Dulles, Pittsburgh, Charlotte Douglas, Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky and John Glenn Columbus.

Photos from top:  
J.Q. Dickinson Salt-  
Works, Malden; skiing  
in Canaan; Babcock  
State Park, Clifftop







West Virginia Tourism Office



WILD, WONDERFUL  
**WEST VIRGINIA**



## ACCOMMODATIONS TO SUIT ALL STYLES

**LUXURY HOTELS:** Guests have escaped to The Greenbrier since 1858. The Queen Anne-style Blennerhassett Hotel also has a storied legacy.

**AFFORDABLE FAMILY STAYS:** Take the family to the camp-like Capon Springs and Farms, go whitewater rafting at ACE Adventure Resort or stay at a lodge or cabin in a state park.

**QUAINT B&BS:** Stay at Cafe Cimino Country inn in Sutton, named one of the Best Inns of the South in 2016, or settle in at the charming Guesthouse Lost River for a wonderful weekend.



West Virginia Tourism Office



West Virginia Tourism Office





Photos from top: Hiking at Yahoo Falls, Whitley City; Keeneland Racecourse, Lexington



# KENTUCKY CHARMS

Find bourbon tours and horse farms, along with scenic beauty at every turn.

From its storied history of racehorses and bourbon to the thrill of cave exploration, experience the uniquely Southern qualities of Kentucky, where down-home cuisine isn't a trend, but a way of life. See thoroughbreds grazing at picturesque horse farms; perhaps one of them will win the Kentucky Derby one day. Learn how 95 percent of the world's bourbon is made here, and sip samples during a distillery tour. Pay homage to two native sons – the 16th U.S. president Abraham Lincoln, and a world champion boxer, Muhammad Ali – at museums in their honor. Marvel at Mammoth Cave, the longest cave system in the world, and delve into the USA's love affair with a sports car at the National Corvette Museum. Above all, enjoy the outdoors: Boat and fish, and hike, bike or climb 19,300 km (12,000 miles) of trails.

KENTUCKY



**Kentucky**  
UNBRIDLED SPIRIT®





### LEXINGTON

Surrounded by 450 horse farms and nine distilleries, Lexington is famous for bourbon and Thoroughbred racehorses. Visitors also will find a burgeoning craft beer scene, farm-to-table dining, murals decorating city buildings, and historic sites, such as the Ashland Estate and the Mary Todd Lincoln House.

[Sharethelex.com](http://Sharethelex.com)



### NORTHERN KENTUCKY

Experience Southern hospitality in Northern Kentucky, where visitors find a strong brewing heritage, historic wineries and great culinary experiences. Travel the Kentucky Bourbon Trail, discover the wonders of the river region aboard a BB Riverboats cruise, and visit attractions such as the Newport Aquarium.

[meetNKY.com](http://meetNKY.com)



### BARDSTOWN

In just an afternoon, it's easy to understand why Rand McNally and *USA Today* declared Bardstown the Most Beautiful Small Town in America. Tour seven bourbon distilleries, relive U.S. history, indulge in Southern cuisine and enjoy shopping. Whatever you seek on vacation, this small city offers a magnificent escape.

[VisitBardstown.com](http://VisitBardstown.com)



### BOWLING GREEN

In Bowling Green, visit the National Corvette Museum to see classics, prototypes and rare finds. Drive a lap at the NCM Motorsports Park. Go on the state's only underground boat tour at Lost River Cave. Explore nearby Mammoth Cave National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the world's longest known cave system.

[VisitBGKY.com](http://VisitBGKY.com)





Images supplied by Tennessee Department of Tourist Development

Photos clockwise from top: the Great Smoky Mountains; Grand Ole Opry, Nashville; "Elvis Presley's Memphis" at Graceland



# AUTHENTIC MUSIC, CREATIVE SPIRIT

Experience "The Soundtrack of America. Made in Tennessee." Discover the state's true appeal in exciting urban hubs and charming small towns.

## ▼ INSPIRATIONAL MUSIC

Tennessee delivers foot-tapping, soul-stirring music – Blues, Bluegrass, Country, Rock 'n' Roll and everything in between. Pay homage to the King of Rock 'n' Roll at Elvis Presley's Graceland and channel the Blues on Beale Street, both in Memphis. Experience the best in live music at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium and Grand Ole Opry.

## ▼ AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

Discover the state's heritage in the Great Smoky Arts and Crafts Community in Gatlinburg, Fort Loudoun Historic Park in Vonore, Stones River National Battlefield in Murfreesboro and Rock City and Ruby Falls in Chattanooga.

## ▼ NATURE AT ITS BEST

Find unparalleled natural beauty and outdoor experiences, especially in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the most-visited national park in the USA. Then go ziplining over treetops at Anakeesta Aerial Adventure Park in Gatlinburg, rafting on the Ocoee River in Cleveland or hiking in one of 56 state parks.

## ▼ CULINARY CREATIVITY

Tennessee's creative spirit is infused into every bite of Memphis barbecue. Eat your way through food festivals across the state, and be sure to sip some Jack Daniels whiskey – every bottle is made with water from a single spring in Lynchburg.

## TENNESSEE



The SOUNDTRACK of AMERICA  
• MADE IN •  
**TENNESSEE**  
☆☆☆

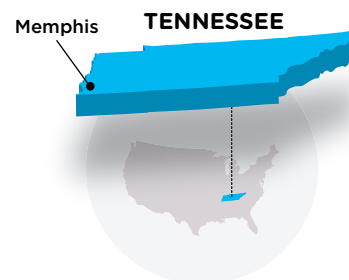


# BLUES AND BBQ REIGN IN MEMPHIS

In “Soul City,” discover the Home of the Blues and the Birthplace of Rock ‘n’ Roll. And be sure to savor the city’s thriving culinary scene.

**M**emphis is a soulful mix where past and present blend, creating an authentic Southern experience. No trip is complete without visiting landmarks such as Graceland (Elvis Presley’s former home), Sun Studio, STAX, Beale Street and the National Civil Rights Museum. The city’s past is fascinating, but don’t miss the opportunity to discover what’s happening today. Local musicians

may have gotten their inspiration from the icons (including Elvis Presley, Al Green and Justin Timberlake), but the musical results are original, soulful and a true taste of Memphis. Food is also a huge part of the culture. Find award-winning barbecue, reinvented Southern classics and soul food bursting with innovative culinary genius. Feed your imagination with the sights, sounds and culinary flavors of Memphis.



**MEMPHIS**  
*Home of the Blues  
Birthplace of Rock'n'Roll*



Photos from top:  
Charlie Vergos' Rendezvous,  
Beale Street



# EXPLORE TENNESSEE'S CITIES

Find gorgeous scenery,  
outdoor adventures and  
exciting attractions in these  
welcoming destinations.

## NASHVILLE

With its charming mix of music, historical and cultural flavors, Nashville is a city for all seasons. In “Music City,” visitors enjoy live music of all genres every night of the week. Can’t-miss attractions include seeing top performers at the Ryman Auditorium and Grand Ole Opry, then following their stars embedded in the sidewalk leading up to the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. Stroll the downtown waterfront district along the Cumberland River and visit trendy neighborhoods such as 12South, Hillsboro Village, East Nashville and the Gulch. [visitmusiccity.com](http://visitmusiccity.com)

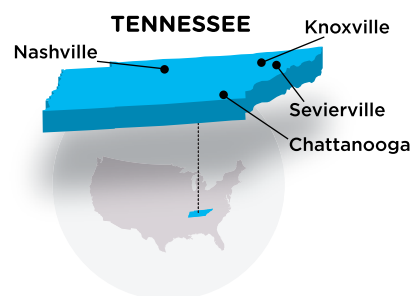
## KNOXVILLE

With its sophisticated mix of culture and genuine hospitality, Knoxville will surprise you. Downtown’s walkability allows you to explore and discover vibrant murals, local music, historic sites and museums – or experience a festival like Big Ears. About 5 km (three miles) from downtown, Knoxville’s Urban Wilderness features quarry lakes and more than 80 km (50 miles) of mixed-use trails for hiking, biking and birding. Just save room for dinner. Knoxville is emerging as one of the Southeast’s best culinary and craft beer towns. [welcome.visitknoxville.com](http://welcome.visitknoxville.com)



Josh Sawyer





### SEVIERVILLE

Enjoy outdoor adventures such as hiking, ziplining, cavern exploration and whitewater rafting in and around Great Smoky Mountains National Park – the USA's most popular park. Relax in a luxurious mountain cabin with a hot tub, fireplace and spectacular views. Explore Dolly Parton's hometown and shop at two outlet malls, fun flea markets and antiques malls. Enjoy delicious, down-home cooking and international cuisine, follow the Rocky Top Wine Trail to five wineries offering more than 70 varieties and taste moonshine on a distillery tour.

[SeviervilleUSA.com](http://SeviervilleUSA.com)

### CHATTANOOGA

In this charming Tennessee river town, follow the urban RiverWalk through city parks to reach great farm-to-table dining, free music venues and attractions such as the 3D IMAX® and Tennessee Aquarium. Take in the beautiful scenery from the surrounding mountaintops or get a different view from a kayak, paddleboard or cycleboat. Explore the Whiskey and Craft Beer Trail, try bouldering and climbing, or enjoy natural wonders at attractions such as Rock City Gardens or Ruby Falls on Lookout Mountain, only 15 minutes from downtown.

[ChattanoogaFun.com](http://ChattanoogaFun.com)







All images supplied by Arkansas Dept. of Parks and Tourism



# NATURE'S BEAUTY SHINES IN ARKANSAS

In Arkansas, find stunning mountain vistas and clear running streams in more than 50 state parks. Also enjoy growing arts and culinary scenes.

**A**rkansas is the birthplace of musical legends Johnny Cash, Al Green and Glen Campbell, and political leaders including former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The state is home to Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, with a truly impressive art collection housed in a building designed by Moshe Safdie and surrounded by extensive nature trails. It's also home to Sam Walton's first Walmart, the new Murphy Arts District in El Dorado and the Unexpected Project in Fort Smith, which brings world-renowned street artists to an old frontier town to install bright murals on historic buildings.

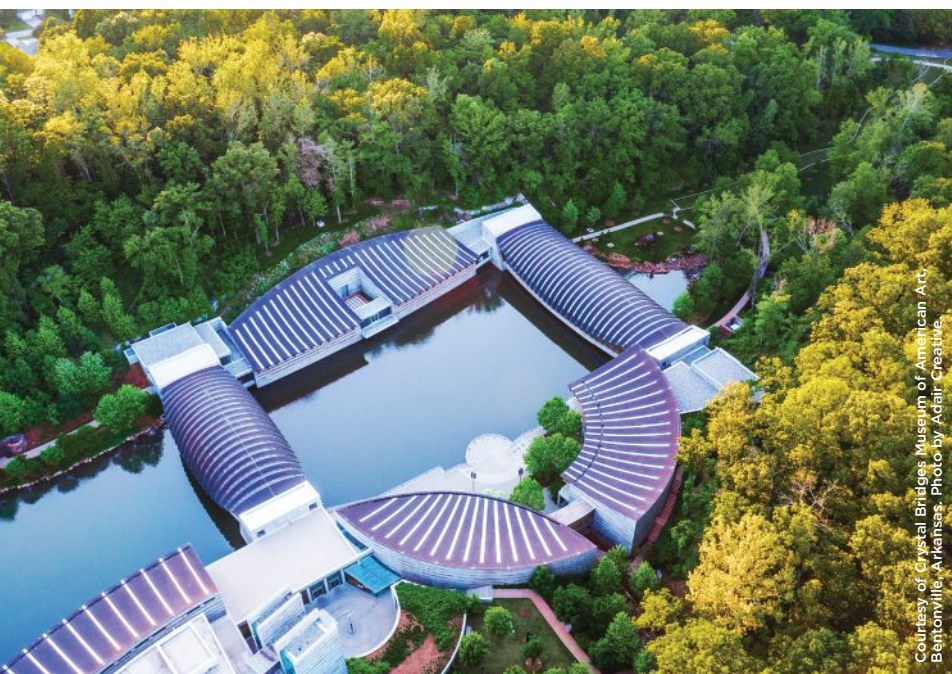
Alongside the emergence of arts, music and culture is Arkansas' true beauty and the reason it's known as The Natural State.

This beauty is seen in the state's lakes and rivers, such as the beloved Buffalo National River, the first national river in the USA, and in its 52 state parks.

Explore Hot Springs National Park, the oldest in the national park system and home to mineral baths. Experience exciting whitewater rafting or take a peaceful float trip down a river or creek. Embark on a scenic motorcycle road trip or get off the beaten path on five International Mountain Bicycling Association "Epic" rides, a distinction that means these trails are among the best in the world. Take the family to Crater of Diamonds State Park, the only diamond mine open to the public where you can keep what you find.







Courtesy of Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas. Photo by Adair Creative.

## ▼ BENTONVILLE

Bentonville is a unique destination, a place of ideas, innovation and inspiration – art, food, music, cycling and forward thinking are at the center of this Northwest Arkansas town. Come explore the architecturally inspiring Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art with more than 500 pieces of art in a stunning natural setting. Ride on nearly 130 km (80 miles) of trails, both paved and single track. Or dine at one of the city's world-class restaurants and get a taste of its emerging culinary scene. Visit Bentonville, where sophisticated spirit meets charming hospitality.

[visitbentonville.com](http://visitbentonville.com)

## ▼ FAYETTEVILLE

Surrounded by the Ozark Mountains, this college town in Northwest Arkansas offers breathtaking scenery, abundant outdoor adventures and much more. Visit the Clinton House Museum, where Bill and Hillary Clinton were married. Experience Fayetteville's blazing colors in autumn foliage from a vintage passenger train or ride bikes along 97 km (60 miles) of trails within the city limits. Fayetteville caters to every taste, and visitors will find culinary delights around every corner. Enjoy food truck fare, ethnic eats or fine dining. Follow the Fayetteville Ale Trail to 11 stops.

[ExperienceFayetteville.com](http://ExperienceFayetteville.com)



Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau

## ▼ LITTLE ROCK

Nestled on the banks of the Arkansas River, Little Rock's neighborhoods are filled with locally owned restaurants and shops, and year-round festivals and events. Great attractions and museums in the state capital include the Clinton Presidential Center, Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site and the Arkansas River Trail. Stroll over the Big Dam Bridge, explore Pinnacle Mountain State Park and spend an afternoon at Riverfront Park downtown. Home to a vibrant, growing artisanal food and beverage scene, the Little Rock area boasts numerous microbreweries, wineries and a distillery.

[LittleRock.com](http://LittleRock.com) | [HeartofArkansas.com](http://HeartofArkansas.com)





Photos clockwise from top: Bodie Lighthouse; Outer Banks Brewing Station in Kill Devil Hills; whitewater rafting at Nantahala Outdoor Center

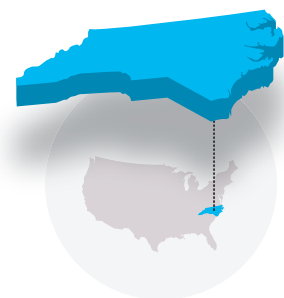
## STUNNING SCENERY

Explore sandy beaches and rugged mountains.

**N**orth Carolina is justly famous for its beautiful scenery, boasting landscapes as diverse as the verdant Smoky Mountains and the state's pristine national seashores. Along the coast, see stunning sunrises, explore barrier islands and climb to the top of the tallest lighthouse in the USA at Cape Hatteras. Inland, take a memorable road trip along the Blue Ridge Parkway (especially lovely in autumn) and visit

iconic landmarks such as the historic Biltmore Estate along the way. If adventure is your style, you'll find it in all forms, including white-water rafting, kiteboarding, hiking and hang gliding. Outdoor enthusiasts will discover challenging biking trails with breath-taking views and famous golf courses such as Pinehurst. Craft beer lovers can enjoy tours and tastings at more than 150 craft breweries. •

NORTH CAROLINA



**NC**  
NORTH CAROLINA



# CITY SIZZLE & SOUTHERN CULTURE

Discover Charlotte's cosmopolitan vibe and the city's gracious hospitality.

In this vibrant North Carolina hub, visitors will find a glittering skyline and more than enough adventures to fill a holiday. Check out top spots such as the U.S. National Whitewater Center, the NASCAR Hall of Fame, the award-winning Carowinds theme park and Discovery Place science museum. Travellers will find that Charlotte offers a stellar craft beer scene, charming cafés and fine restaurants. Taste Southern comfort foods such as

fried green tomatoes, chicken and dumplings and buttermilk biscuits, as well as international specialties ranging from Greek to Vietnamese foods. Enjoy vibrant cultural events and museums as well a professional sports scene that includes football, basketball and lacrosse. Wander among the charming restored bungalows in Dilworth, discover bustling nightlife in Uptown and meet the locals at quaint neighbourhood bars in Plaza-Midwood. •



**Charlotte's  
got a lot.**



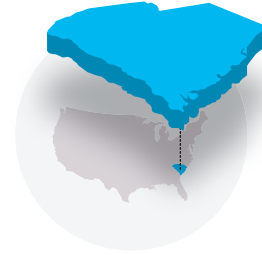


# WARM ESCAPE

Find fabulous golf, rich history and spectacular beaches in South Carolina.

**H**ead to South Carolina's beautiful beaches, where you can stroll the boardwalk, kayak among sea islands and bask in warm sunshine all year long. Choose from 360-plus golf courses set on mountainsides, scenic valleys and ocean shores, offering stunning views of mountains, waterfalls and sand dunes. Dine on fresh seafood prepared in innovative ways at award-winning restaurants in Hilton Head Island, Charleston and Myrtle Beach. Learn about South Carolina's rich history from the Revolutionary War sites of downtown Charleston to the Gullah culture of the Lowcountry. Take the time to explore the state's diverse landscapes, from its vast Atlantic coastline to lush parks, lakes and mountains in the western part of the state.

SOUTH CAROLINA



South Carolina  
Just right. 



Photos from top:  
Hilton Head Island;  
Charleston





## HILTON HEAD ISLAND

Island dreaming? Named No. 1 on *Travel + Leisure* magazine's "Best Islands in the Continental U.S." list and No. 1 on *Condé Nast Traveler's* list of "Top Islands in the U.S.," Hilton Head Island is famous for pristine beaches, breathtaking coastal scenery and 24 world-class golf courses. Explore the South Carolina Lowcountry with its treasured Gullah history and vibrant arts and cultural scene. Embark on a culinary tour at more than 250 restaurants and enjoy children's museums, kids' camps and pirate tours. Indulge in shopping at hundreds of shops and boutiques and several well-known outlets. Vacation dreams come true on Hilton Head Island.

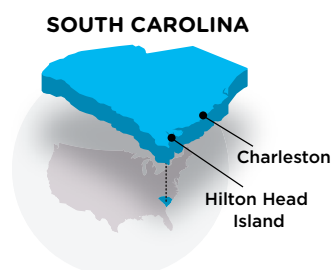
[hiltonheadisland.org](http://hiltonheadisland.org)



## CHARLESTON

With its celebrated restaurant scene, architectural treasures, historic wonders and serene coastal landscapes, it's no surprise that Charleston is a popular vacation destination. Explore food and music festivals, dine on Lowcountry cuisine and browse for Sea Island crafts. Wander through the historic district and peer past wrought-iron gates into mysterious courtyards and fragrant gardens. Take a tour of culinary hot spots, antebellum mansions, historic churches or breweries. Stay at a charming inn or beach resort. Discover the people, flavors, traditions, sights and sounds found only in Charleston.

[ExploreCharleston.com](http://ExploreCharleston.com)

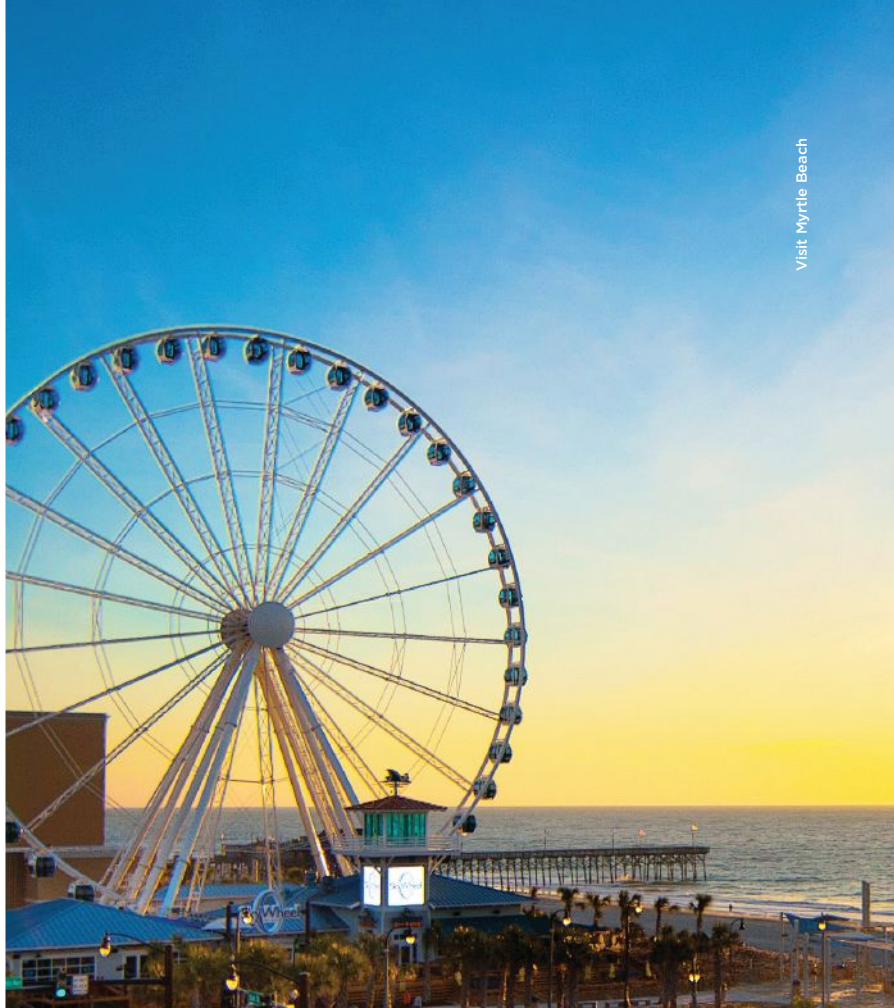




### MYRTLE BEACH

Myrtle Beach is the hub of the Grand Strand, a glorious 100-km (62-mile) stretch of beach towns. Stay in an oceanfront high-rise hotel or condo, a relaxing resort on the Intracoastal Waterway or a tree-shaded golf villa. Explore quaint seaside towns or play a round of golf on one of nearly 100 beautiful courses. Go surfing, fishing, kayaking, parasailing or ride bikes along the boardwalk. Head out for an afternoon of shopping at area malls, factory outlets, specialty shops and flea markets. Enjoy seafood and other fresh, local ingredients served with Southern hospitality at waterfront restaurants.

[VisitMyrtleBeach.com](http://VisitMyrtleBeach.com)



Visit Myrtle Beach

### SOUTH CAROLINA'S PUBLIC GARDENS

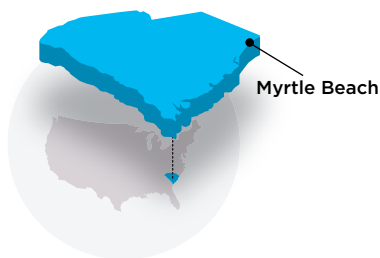
South Carolina's gardens combine natural beauty and history. At Brookgreen Gardens near Myrtle Beach, walk among 1,400 sculptures and 300-year-old live oak trees, then take a boat ride on plantation-era rice fields. At Middleton Place in Charleston, azaleas, camellias and crape myrtles bloom in the gardens of an 18th-century plantation and interpreters depict life in the pre-Civil War era. The Historic Charleston Foundation and Garden Club of Charleston host tours in March and April, showcasing private homes and gardens noted for their historic charm and spring blooms.

[VisitTheUSA.com/southcarolina](http://VisitTheUSA.com/southcarolina)



Mark T. VanDyke

### SOUTH CAROLINA



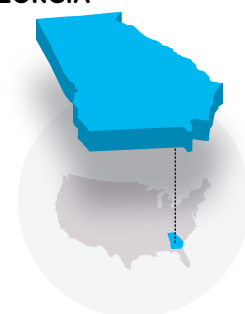




Photos clockwise from top: hiking in Fort Mountain State Park, Chatsworth; fishing in Gordonia-Alatamaha State Park; Cumberland Island



GEORGIA



# GEORGIA'S GREAT OUTDOORS

To enjoy the state's abundant natural beauty, visit the mountains and the coast, hike along wooded trails or tour a scenic vineyard.

## ▼ HEAD TO THE COAST

Take the ferry to Sapelo Island for a weekend of hiking, kayaking and stargazing. Canoe through the mysterious swamps of the Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge and paddleboard off Tybee Island.

## ▼ HIT THE TRAIL

Hike on the Appalachian Trail, starting at Springer Mountain, the legendary trail's southern end. Pass mountain streams and enjoy expansive views on your way to Amicalola Falls State Park, home to a beautiful cascading waterfall and a mountaintop lodge.

## ▼ GO MOUNTAIN BIKING

Challenge yourself on the epic mountain bike trails rolling through the Cohutta Wilderness Area and the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests. Rugged trails are easily accessible from the mountain resort in Ellijay.

## ▼ FISH ON LAKES AND RIVERS

Go fishing and canoeing throughout the vast Altamaha River watershed, formed by the confluence of three rivers, or head to the cypress-dotted mill pond in George L. Smith State Park.

## ▼ TOUR A WINERY

At vineyards set in the fertile hills of north Georgia, sip on award-winning vintages in an antique wine library and cellar, tour vineyards with stunning mountain views and stop in at gift shops. Enjoy a meal with perfectly paired wines or keep it casual with a picnic on the grounds.



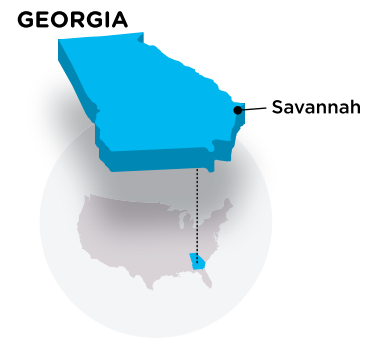


# GRACEFUL SAVANNAH

Discover a city that remembers its past and welcomes visitors to enjoy its charms.

**D**raped in Spanish moss, Savannah charms visitors with its art, music, architecture, pedestrian-friendly Historic District and coastal cuisine. Stroll along cobblestone streets and see historic monuments and buildings at every turn. The city's 22 squares are filled with grand fountains and monuments to historic figures, and tours of the city and its well-preserved mansions invite visitors to explore its rich past, dating to its 1733 founding as Georgia's

first city. In the Victorian District, stay in a circa 1800s bed-and-breakfast, and stop in to River Street's boutiques, restaurants and pubs housed in converted cotton warehouses. Venture into the Lowcountry to learn about the Gullah/Geechee culture, then discover Tybee Island and other communities along the Atlantic coast. Everywhere, you'll be amazed by the friendly welcome in this city known for its hospitality and grace.

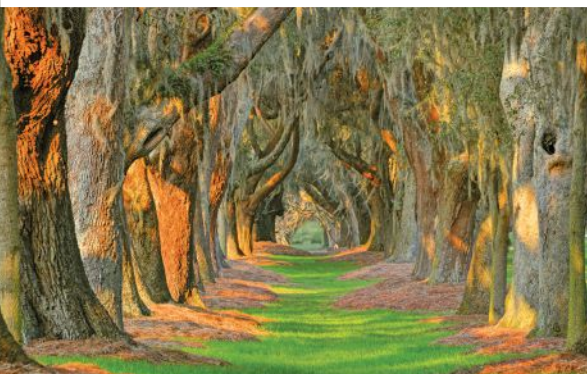


VISIT  
**SAVANNAH**  
EST.  1733

Visit Savannah

Photo: Forsyth  
Park in Savannah's  
historic district





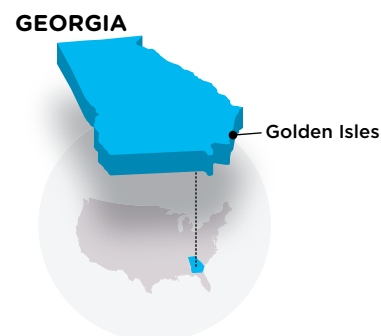
Photos clockwise from top: Driftwood Beach; St. Simons Lighthouse Museum; Avenue of the Oaks

# ISLAND SERENITY

Georgia's Golden Isles boasts award-winning beaches and true Southern hospitality.

A stunning coastal destination encompassing St. Simons Island, Little St. Simons Island, Sea Island, Jekyll Island and the mainland city of Brunswick, the Golden Isles are set on the Georgia coast between Savannah, Georgia, and Jacksonville, Florida. Here, you can bask in the sunshine and swim, fish or simply relax on pristine, golden-sand beaches. Kayak or paddleboard through salt marshes and sparkling rivers

that are home to otters, herons, dolphins and other wildlife. Play golf on spectacular seaside courses or explore historic attractions and museums. Savor fresh, local seafood and traditional Lowcountry cooking served with genuine hospitality. Enjoy gracious lodging at a historic inn, beach condo or wooded campsite. With a semi-tropical climate year-round, the Golden Isles offers a perfect escape any time of year.







# TREASURE MISSISSIPPI'S MUSIC

When you want to experience authentic American music, head to the place where it all began.

Photos clockwise from left:  
Elvis Presley Birthplace and Museum, Tupelo;  
GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi, Cleveland;  
Jackson comedian Rita Brent;  
Doe's Eat Place, Greenville;  
The Chimneys Restaurant, Gulfport

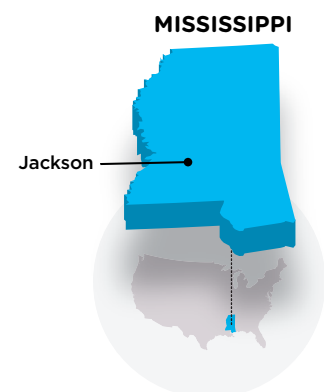
**K**nown as the “Birthplace of America’s Music,” Mississippi has helped shape the course of modern music with its contributions to Blues, Jazz, Rock, Country and Gospel. Visitors can explore the state’s global impact on music at the interactive GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi and tour the King of Rock ‘n’ Roll’s first home at the Elvis Presley Birthplace and Museum.

The state is best known as the home of the Blues, which were born in the fertile Mississippi Delta. Tour the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center in Indianola and follow the Mississippi

Blues Trail to learn the stories of other artists, both well-known and obscure, in cotton fields, rustic train depots, clubs and churches.

The state’s wonderful music doesn’t just belong to the past. Hear Blues in casual clubs along Highway 61 and live music in venues across the state.

Creative chefs pair the state’s rich heritage with unforgettable culinary experiences in a diverse cultural landscape. Taste local Gulf of Mexico seafood and farm-fresh vegetables or dig into a plate of heart-warming soul food – fried chicken or catfish, fried okra, and biscuits and gravy.



VISIT  
**MISSISSIPPI**





## JACKSON, THE “CITY WITH SOUL”

**Feel the heartbeat of the South in Jackson, home of Civil Rights museums, delicious food and hundreds of festivals and events.**

**V**isit Jackson, nicknamed the “City with Soul,” and experience its rich culture and history. These compelling stories from the Civil War to the Civil Rights movement are captured in the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, which opened in late 2017. Watch the new documentary series at [www.jxn.ms](http://www.jxn.ms); this highlights the best the city has to offer, and stars Jackson’s own comedian Rita Brent (see photo above).

Dazzle your taste buds with award-winning cuisine ranging from Gulf seafood and soul food to Cajun dishes. Find amazing live music everywhere in the city, and enjoy its vibrant nightlife.

Laid-back summer festivities, sporting events, fall celebrations and food and music festivals fill the calendar year-round. Jackson’s warm hospitality will make you feel at home. [visitjackson.com](http://visitjackson.com)



All images supplied by Mississippi Development Authority



Photos, clockwise from top left: dancing at Festival International in Lafayette; Second Line parade in New Orleans; crawfish paired with local craft beer



# ROAD TRIP RAMBLE

Hit the road for unforgettable vacation experiences in Louisiana, where good times and great food are enjoyed year-round.

## ROAD TRIP #1: CULINARY TREASURES

Begin your Louisiana foodie road trip in **New Orleans** – its exciting culinary scene includes options for every palate and budget. The French Quarter is perfect for breakfast and late-night eats. Or grab a po'boy from Parkway Bakery & Tavern and head to New Orleans City Park for a waterfront picnic. In historic Faubourg Marigny/Bywater, choose from upscale restaurants and casual eateries. Head west to **Lafayette**, named the “Tastiest Town in the South” by *Southern Living* magazine. Fezzo’s Seafood, Steakhouse and Oyster Bar specializes in grilled oysters and fried catfish. Don’t miss Bon Temps Grill (gator legs), Café Vermilionville (chicken and sausage gumbo) and Poupert Bakery and Bistro (king cake during Mardi Gras). In **Houma**, to the southeast, sample some of the state’s famous recipes. At David Chauvin’s Seafood Company, take a guided tour on a shrimp boat. For fine dining with a water view, stop at CoCo Marina’s Lighthouse.





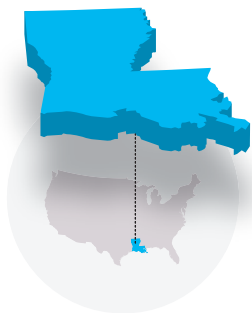
Todd Coleman

Find authentic travel adventures, lively festivals and fun road trips, along with videos to inspire your travel plans, at [VisitTheUSA.com/louisiana](https://www.visittheusa.com/louisiana).

## ROAD TRIP #2: OFFBEAT CULTURE & HIDDEN GEMS

Louisiana's gateway city, **New Orleans**, has a fun, cultural vibe with a historic twist. Visit Mid-City Lanes Rock 'n' Bowl, a popular bowling alley famous for live, local music. Explore the city's neighborhoods on a hop-on, hop-off bus tour. Across Lake Pontchartrain, on **New Orleans' Northshore**, head to Fontainebleau State Park for fishing and sailing charters. Mandeville's lakefront offers waterfront dining near historic homes. Eat fresh seafood at Rips on the Lake, then go for a bike ride. At the Wooden Boat Festival (held each October), find vintage boats and local food. In **Baton Rouge**, stroll through historic Spanish Town, visit the State Capitol building or Old State Capitol and watch a college football game. **Shreveport** and **Bossier City** sit on opposite banks of the Red River. Louisiana's favorite crustacean, the crawfish, takes center stage at the Mudbug Madness Festival in May, one of more than 50 area festivals each year.

### LOUISIANA



# LOUISIANA



# IN NEW ORLEANS, LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

Photo: French  
Quarter Festival

Every day is a celebration in New Orleans. Experience this lively city's unique blend of cultures, complex flavors, spirited music, historic neighborhoods and fun-loving spirit.

## ▼ DIVERSE CULTURES

New Orleans is a fascinating melting pot of cultures that have simmered together over hundreds of years. Find Caribbean, French, Spanish and African cultural influences throughout the city. Explore centuries-old architecture, take a street car ride back in time and tour an elegant plantation home on River Road.

## ▼ UNFORGETTABLE CUISINE

It's been said that no place else loves its food quite as sincerely – or as indulgently – as New Orleans does. Creole, Cajun and French cuisines add spice and flair. Taste dishes with intriguing names including jambalaya, étouffée, gumbo and andouille.

## ▼ MUSICAL MEDLEY

From Jazz and Zydeco to R&B and Soul, music is the soundtrack of daily life in

New Orleans. Discover impromptu street performances that set your feet to dancing. Experience live music in stylish lounges and tiny music clubs.

## ▼ INTRIGUING NEIGHBORHOODS

Start in the famous French Quarter, the city's oldest neighborhood – this is where New Orleans was born. Wander boisterous Bourbon Street, bohemian Royal Street and historic Jackson Square. Then explore the Garden District, Faubourg Marigny and beyond.

## ▼ LEGENDARY FESTIVITIES

Celebration is at the core of the New Orleans experience. No matter when you visit, you're very likely to encounter a festival or other fun event. Mardi Gras is the best known, but hundreds of smaller festivals throughout the year celebrate food, music and the arts.

## LOUISIANA







## LAKE CHARLES

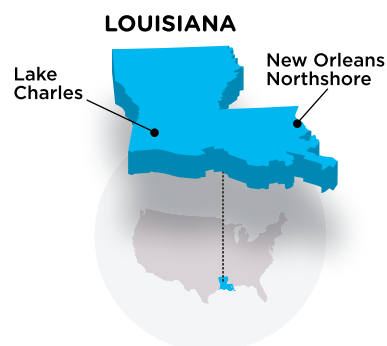
Meet new friends over a delicious meal or at an informal musical gathering in Lake Charles. Head to a world-class resort to enjoy gaming, spas, marinas, championship golf, top-notch entertainment, shopping and dining. Just outside Lake Charles, travel along the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road to see alligators and other marsh wildlife as well as more than 400 bird species. Enjoy year-round family fun including Mardi Gras and other festivals that celebrate local food, music and culture. Lake Charles is just two hours from Houston, Texas, and 3.5 hours from New Orleans, Louisiana. [VisitLakeCharles.org](http://VisitLakeCharles.org)



## NEW ORLEANS NORTHSORE

Just 40 minutes from the French Quarter, this area is where New Orleans residents go to relax and play. Explore 32,000 hectares (80,000 acres) of wildlife preserves – go kayaking or stand-up paddleboarding, take a charter fishing trip or see wildlife, including alligators, on a Honey Island Swamp tour. Bicycle along the 50-km (31-mile) Tammany Trace. Recently inducted into the Rails to Trails Hall of Fame, it connects five Northshore communities. Discover an outstanding culinary scene, influenced by Creole heritage and fresh seafood from the Gulf of Mexico and Lake Pontchartrain.

[NewOrleansNorthshore.com](http://NewOrleansNorthshore.com)





## BATON ROUGE

In Louisiana's capital, taste delicious regional cuisine at longtime local dives and restaurants highlighting new takes on classic Southern fare. Experience Jazz, Zydeco and Swamp Pop at live music performances. Enjoy the Spanish Town Mardi Gras Parade and other fun events. Shop tax-free at the Mall of Louisiana and Tanger Outlets.

[visitbatonrouge.com](http://visitbatonrouge.com)

## LAFAYETTE

Named the "Happiest City in America" by the *Wall Street Journal* and the "Tastiest Town of the South" by *Southern Living*, Lafayette is the heart of Louisiana's Cajun and Creole country. Enjoy its welcoming people and distinctive blend of food, music, culture and history. Explore the Cajun Boudin Trail or visit a dance hall and two-step to Cajun and Zydeco music.

[LafayetteTravel.com](http://LafayetteTravel.com)

## HOUMA

Known as Louisiana's Bayou Country, Houma has more than 6,500 square km (2,500 square miles) of swamps, marshes and estuaries to explore by pontoon boat, airboat or kayak. Savor the freshest seafood - local fishermen bring their catches directly to the restaurants. Enjoy authentic Cajun jambalaya and perfect Creole gumbo and meet the most hospitable people.

[houmatravel.com](http://houmatravel.com)

## ALEXANDRIA/PINEVILLE

Explore this history-rich area to find a variety of military history points of interest, museums and trails. Visit the Epps House: Solomon Northup's Gateway to Freedom, situated on the Northup Trail Byway, to learn more about Northup and his "12 Years a Slave." Make a stop at one of the pre-Civil War-era plantation homes to pick cotton or learn how sugar was made.

[AlexandriaPinevilleLA.com](http://AlexandriaPinevilleLA.com)



Visit Baton Rouge



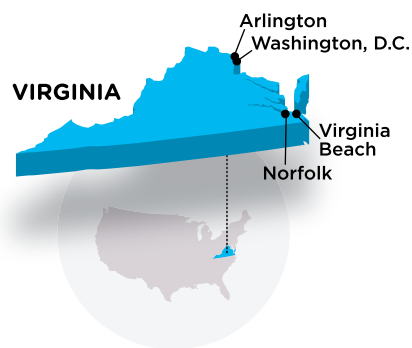
Matthew Noel





# CULTURE AND COASTAL BEAUTY

In Virginia, explore scenic coastal cities, get out on the water, and visit impressive places that helped form U.S. history.



## ▼ VIRGINIA BEACH

Watch the sun rise over the Atlantic and set over the Chesapeake Bay. Bike the famous 5-km-long Beach & Boardwalk, or hike trails through forests and marshlands. Kayak with dolphins, or take a boat tour to an oyster farm to taste prized Lynnhaven oysters. Enjoy the fresh catch of the day, including striped bass and flounder. Just a 4-hour drive from Washington, D.C., Virginia Beach is truly a classic American beach holiday. [visitvirginiabeach.com](http://visitvirginiabeach.com)

## ▼ NORFOLK

Enjoy sightseeing cruises aboard *American Rover*, *Victory Rover* and the *Spirit of Norfolk*. Be mesmerized at the LanternAsia exhibition in 2018 at Norfolk Botanical Garden, then visit the Neon District downtown to see more artwork and dine in trendy eateries. [visitenorfolk.com](http://visitenorfolk.com)

## ▼ ARLINGTON

Across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C., treasures here include Arlington National Cemetery and the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial. With lodging close to 11 Metrorail stations, explore parks, shops and lively neighborhoods. [stayarlington.com](http://stayarlington.com)



© Cameron Davidson

Photos, clockwise from top left: sailing along the coast of Norfolk; Don Tito rooftop bar, Arlington; Virginia Beach Fishing Pier





Photos clockwise from above: Laclede's Landing, St. Louis; Top of the Rock, near Branson; The McFadden Brothers, Kansas City; Route 66 Mural Park, Joplin

# NOSTALGIC JOURNEYS

**In Missouri,  
enjoy legendary  
quirks along Route 66,  
indulge in world-famous  
barbecue and spend  
unforgettable evenings  
listening to live music.**

**T**ravel back in time as you explore Missouri's 450-km (280-mile) stretch of iconic Route 66, stopping at vintage motels, nostalgic diners and other fun landmarks from the 1950s and '60s. Take a selfie in front of Frog Rock and taste a freshly baked slice of pie at an old-time roadside restaurant.

In St. Louis, take a tram ride to panoramic views at the top of the 192-meter (630-foot) Gateway Arch, the USA's tallest monument and an enduring symbol of the

country's pioneering spirit. Then see this thriving city from a different perspective – cruising aboard a replica paddlewheeler on the Mississippi River.

You're never far from adventure in Missouri – take a bike ride on the converted rail trail at Katy Trail State Park, go boating and fishing on Lake of the Ozarks, hike to river overlooks at Ha Ha Tonka State Park or go canoeing in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, the first national park established to protect a river system.





**Learn more about everything there is to do in the Show-Me State and download the Missouri Tour Guide at VisitMO.com.**

Experience Missouri's culinary delights at upscale restaurants and classic diners. Follow the I-70 Tour de BBQ, which connects the great barbecue capitals of St. Louis (famous for its style of ribs) and Kansas City (known for its signature dish, burnt ends).

Raise a toast to the state's delicious beverages at its micro- and macrobreweries, wineries and distilleries. Take a tour of Anheuser-Busch Brewery or taste handcrafted beers and dine on locally sourced pub grub. The

Route du Vin Wine Trail meanders among scenic vineyards south of Ste. Genevieve. Sample Vignoles, Seyval and elderberry wine, among many other varieties.

Nicknamed the Show-Me State, Missouri definitely knows how to put on a show. Live entertainment venues in Kansas City, St. Louis and Branson spotlight every type of music, and dinner shows, honky-tonks, local bars and nightclubs round out the options for visitors who love live music and theater.

MISSOURI



**MISSOURI**  
enjoy the show



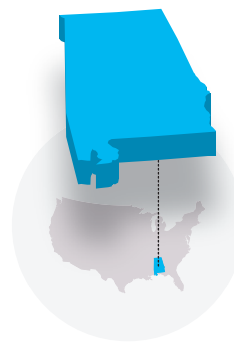
# HEART AND SOUL OF THE SOUTH

**History, culture and adventure  
all come together in Alabama.**

**"SWEET HOME ALABAMA"** is more than a song. It's a place where the skies really are so blue – a land of history, culture, music and adventure. Here, Gospel is sung in churches and folks dance to Blues, Country and Jazz in bars. Locally owned restaurants dish up meals of mouth-watering barbecue and fresh seafood from Alabama's fishing villages. Each meal is a celebration. Alabama's top attractions include the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum, sites along the U.S. Civil Rights Trail and the legendary studios of Muscle Shoals, where famous musicians have recorded since 1959. Visitors can enjoy world-class golf on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. Surrounded by great cities – New Orleans, Memphis, Nashville and Atlanta among them – Alabama is the heart and soul of any Southern USA trip.

**Sweet Home  
Alabama**

ALABAMA



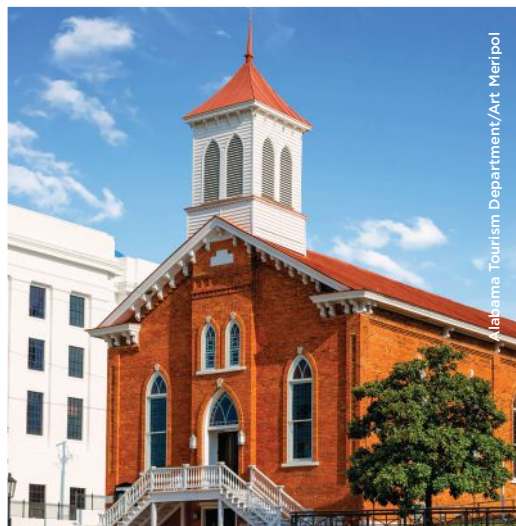
Alabama Tourism Department / Meg McKinney



Alabama Tourism Department

## ▼ GULF SHORES/ ORANGE BEACH

Enjoy 50 km (32 miles) of white-sand beaches, along with nightlife and fresh seafood, all less than 3.5 hours from New Orleans.



Alabama Tourism Department / Art Meripol

## ▼ MONTGOMERY

Voted one of the best historic cities in America, Montgomery is home to Martin Luther King Jr.'s church and home as well as dozens of museums, 2.5 hours from Atlanta.



Alabama Tourism Department / Art Meripol

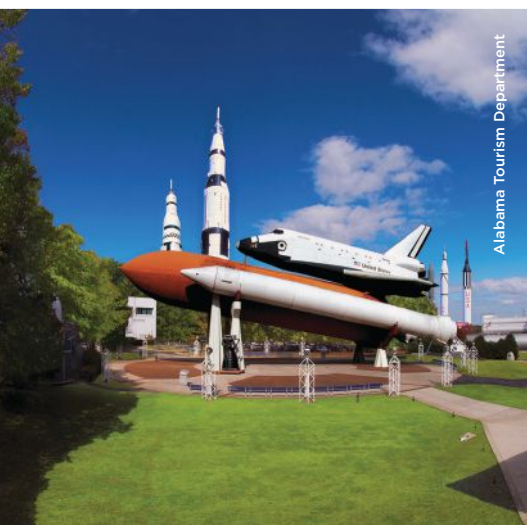
## ▼ MUSCLE SHOALS/FLORENCE

Visit the studios where Aretha Franklin, Otis Redding and The Rolling Stones made their records, three hours from Memphis and Nashville.





Photo:  
U.S. Space and Rocket  
Center, Huntsville



Alabama Tourism Department

### ▼ HUNTSVILLE

Huntsville is home to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center and Space Camp (astronaut “training” for children). Two hours from Nashville and Atlanta.



Alabama Tourism Department/Tad Denson - MyShotz.com

### ▼ MOBILE

Mobile was the first U.S. city to host Mardi Gras. Top attractions include nature tours and the WWII battleship the USS *Alabama*. Less than 2.5 hours from New Orleans.



Alabama Tourism Department/Art Meripol

### ▼ BIRMINGHAM

Enjoy great dining and shopping. Visit the 16th Street Baptist Church and the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum, just 2.5 hours from Atlanta.





Photo: Steel City Jazz Festival, Birmingham

# ALABAMA HIGHLIGHTS

Fans of history, the outdoors, music and golf will want to add these can't-miss experiences to their bucket lists.

## ▼ FASCINATING HISTORY

See the places where U.S. history was made and feel as if you're transported back in time. In Montgomery, Birmingham and Selma, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led the Civil Rights movement. Walk across the bridge where the Selma-to-Montgomery March began. See King's home and jail cell. Tour Civil Rights churches and sites on the U.S. Civil Rights Trail. Alabama's history reaches back to the U.S. Civil War. See where the Southern states began a war to secede from the Union, formed their own country and inaugurated a president.

## ▼ OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

North Alabama is known for scenic state and U.S. national park sites with waterfalls, lakes and mountains while Central Alabama has mountain biking and whitewater rafting. In South Alabama, adventures include alligator tours and relaxing on sugar-white beaches.

## ▼ TOE-TAPPING MUSIC

Alabama's music is the music of the USA. The state's lively musical heritage is celebrated in places as diverse as churches and nightclubs. The Rolling Stones, who recorded in Muscle Shoals, called it "Rock 'n' Roll

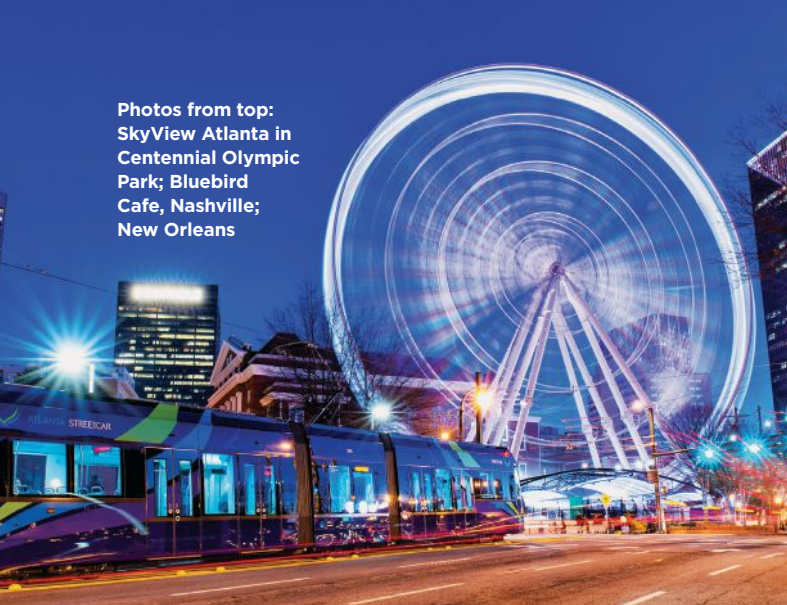
heaven." One of the best examples of Southern Rock, the song "Sweet Home Alabama" is a tribute to the state. Go to local festivals, bars and music halls to hear authentic, local, live music.

## ▼ WORLD-CLASS GOLF

The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail is one of the world's most amazing golf destinations, with 26 courses set in 11 cities and towns across Alabama. Resort hotels are located at many of the RTJ Trail courses. *The New York Times* called the RTJ Golf Trail "some of the best public golf on Earth."



Photos from top:  
SkyView Atlanta in  
Centennial Olympic  
Park; Bluebird  
Cafe, Nashville;  
New Orleans



# RHYTHMS OF THE SOUTH

If you've never been to the Southern USA, you're in for a real treat. A mix of legendary hospitality, delectable Southern cuisine and rich history can be found in three of the country's finest cities. Atlanta, Georgia; Nashville, Tennessee; and New Orleans, Louisiana, offer a perfect taste of the South. Discover unique experiences linked by a common thread of authentic Southern culture and charm – and, of course, legendary music.

## ATLANTA

Home of the Georgia Aquarium, the world's most famous soft drink and warm hospitality, Atlanta is a combination of big-city attractions and charming neighborhoods, each with its own personality. From the symphony orchestra to indie bands and Hip-Hop, Atlanta overflows with music. Also explore Centennial Olympic Park, Civil Rights sites and CNN Center.

[atlanta.net](http://atlanta.net)

## NASHVILLE

In Nashville, a world-famous music scene meets fashion, food, culture and the arts. Music must-sees include the Grand Ole Opry, Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum and historic Ryman Auditorium. Nashville's culinary scene is earning accolades for its creative treatment of everything from Southern fare to haute cuisine. Enjoy many festivals and events.

[visitmusiccity.com](http://visitmusiccity.com)

## NEW ORLEANS

In this mesmerizing city, diverse cultures collide in a brilliant explosion of flavors, emotions and sounds. Cajun, Creole, French, Spanish and African influences add richness to New Orleans' food, music and culture. At Mardi Gras and other festivals, in famous Jazz and Blues clubs and small music clubs, experience the city's heartbeat.

[NewOrleans.com](http://NewOrleans.com)



**RHYTHMS OF THE SOUTH**  
ATLANTA • NASHVILLE • NEW ORLEANS





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[travelsouthusa.com](http://travelsouthusa.com)