

MISSISSIPPI MAGAZINE

Best of

MISSISSIPPI

Travel

Explore our readers' picks for the best of Mississippi travel in the Magnolia State.

writer GRACIE LEE

# Best of Mississippi Travel

## Accommodations

### Boutique Hotel

#### The Mason Boutique Hotel

Louisville  
themasonhotel.com

The Mason Boutique Hotel was built by a chapter of Masons in 1922 and was later refurbished into a hotel by Heather and Jeremy Cummins. Today, guests can visit the Grand Ballroom and choose between seven hotel rooms that combine historic extravagance with modern amenities.



The Alluvian, Greenwood  
The Chancellor's House, Oxford  
Hotel 27, Greenville  
The Threefoot Hotel, Meridian  
The White House Hotel, Biloxi

### Hotel or Resort

#### The Alluvian

Greenwood  
thealluvian.com

This hotel's name originates from the term alluvial, which describes the Mississippi Delta's level land of rich soil. The Alluvian Hotel stay is complete with a visit to the 7,000 square foot spa, Viking Cooking School, yoga classes from Studio A, or Giardina's Restaurant.



Cotton House Hotel, Cleveland  
Hotel Tupelo, a Wyndham Hotel, Tupelo  
Hotel 27, Greenville  
The Threefoot Hotel, Meridian  
The White House Hotel, Biloxi

#### BEST HISTORIC HOTEL The White House Hotel



### Historic Hotel

#### The White House Hotel

Biloxi  
whitehousebiloxi.com

When Cora White and Judge Walter White started taking in boarders during the 1890s, their business was so good that they had to buy the house next door. By 1910, two of the seven buildings they had accumulated were combined to make a lobby and dining spaces for their guests. After surviving Hurricane Katrina, the White House's damage was repaired, and it now offers a selection of 76 rooms to guests.



The Alluvian, Greenwood  
Duff Green Mansion, Vicksburg  
Dunlieth, Natchez  
Hotel 27, Greenville  
Monmouth Historic Inn, Natchez

### Family-Friendly Resort or Hotel

#### Lake Tiak-O'Khata

Louisville  
ltk.com

This family-owned resort combines private rooms, cabins by the water, kitchenette suites, an RV park, conference centers, and a lakeside motel for any vacationer's needs. Their restaurant serves two meals a day and a lunch buffet.



Cotton House Hotel, Cleveland  
Hotel 27, Greenville  
Margaritaville Resort, Biloxi  
McClain Resort, Brandon  
The Threefoot Hotel, Meridian,  
a Tribute Portfolio Hotel

#### BEST FAMILY-FRIENDLY RESORT OR HOTEL Lake Tiak-O'Khata



# Best of Mississippi Travel

## Accommodations

### Spa Hotel

#### The Westin Jackson

Jackson  
marriott.com

The Westin Jackson resides in the heart of the Mississippi capital's downtown area. Its location is central to some of Jackson's most popular attractions, such as the Mississippi Museum of Art, Thalia Mara Hall, and the Planetarium. Get your sweat on at the WestinWORKOUT Fitness Studio, and then refuel with a visit to the Soul Spa and a bite to eat at Estelle Wine Bar & Bistro.



The Alluvian, Greenwood  
Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, Biloxi  
Fairview Inn, Jackson  
Pearl River Resort, Philadelphia  
The White House Hotel, Biloxi

### RV Park/ Campground

#### Tishomingo State Park

Tishomingo  
mdwfp.com/parks-destinations/state-parks/tishomingo/ives

This campground has a rich Native American history. Its scenic forests and wildflowers offer visitors a picturesque background for their next camping trip. Those who need a break from "roughing it" can enjoy outdoor activities like swimming, volleyball, picnicking and more.



Buccaneer State Park, Waveland  
Clarkco State Park, Quitman  
Jellystone Park, Yogi On The Lake, Pelahatchie  
Lake Tiak-O'Khata, Louisville  
Majestic Oaks RV Resort, Biloxi

### Pet-Friendly Resort or Hotel

#### Cotton House, Cleveland

Cleveland  
cottonhousecleveland.com

This unique hotel offers Southern charm and hospitality to its guests. Located on Cotton Row, the Cotton House offers a spot next to the Grammy Museum, Bar Fontaine, and Balance Fitness gym, as well as a pet-friendly atmosphere.



Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, Biloxi  
Duff Green Mansion, Vicksburg  
The Graduate, Oxford  
Lake Tiak-O'Khata, Louisville  
The Roost Boutique Hotel, Ocean Springs

### Bed and Breakfast/ Inn

#### Inn at Cedar Grove

Vicksburg  
cedargrovemansion.com

Among one of the biggest bed and breakfasts in the South, the Inn at Cedar Grove is a destination spot for Vicksburg guests who want charming, southern accommodations. The mansion includes 11 rooms, 3 cottages, 19 suites, and a complimentary tour.



Bay Town Inn, Bay St. Louis  
Duff Green Mansion, Vicksburg  
Dunlieth, Natchez  
Fairview Inn, Jackson  
Wisteria Bed and Breakfast, Laurel



# Best of Mississippi Travel Attractions

## Historic Destination

### Merrehope

Meridian  
merrehope.com

Merrehope, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, dates to 1858 when Richard McLemore gifted the house to his daughter, Juriah. It was used to shelter Confederate soldiers in 1863, served as rental property from 1915 to 1968, and was bought by members of the Federated Women's Club of Meridian. The space is used for club meetings and rented out for weddings and event venues.



Beauvoir, Biloxi  
The city of Natchez  
Rowan Oak, Oxford  
Ship Island, Gulfport  
Vicksburg Military Park, Vicksburg

## Art Museum

### Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience (The MAX)

Meridian  
msarts.org

The Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience, also called The Max, combines Mississippi's art history in one immersive experience. It showcases southern legends like Tammy Wynette, Margaret Walker, and John Lee Hooker in various events, classes, and performances.



Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, Laurel  
Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson  
Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art, Biloxi  
The University of Mississippi Museum, Oxford

Walter Anderson Museum of Art, Ocean Springs



**BEST ANIMAL/WILDLIFE ATTRACTION**  
**Mississippi Aquarium**

## Animal/Wildlife Attraction

### Mississippi Aquarium

Gulfport  
msaquarium.org

The Mississippi Aquarium strives to tell the story of the Magnolia State's natural resources, including the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi River's aquatic life. It focuses on conservation, research, and education and donates all its contributions to supporting animal care, education, conservation, and underwater research.



Hattiesburg Zoo, Hattiesburg  
McClain Resort, Brandon  
Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, Jackson  
Safari Wild Animal Park, Como  
Tupelo Buffalo Park & Zoo, Tupelo

## Holiday Attraction

### Experience Columbia MS

Columbia  
experiencecolumbiams.com

Experience Columbus MS is an annual event that celebrates Christmas cheer and features everyone's favorite holiday activities. Winter Wonderland 2022, scheduled from November 19 to December 31, promises days full of ice skating, live music, and light shows for your new holiday tradition.



Christmas on Deer Creek, Leland  
50 Nights of Lights, Cleveland  
Gulfport Harbor Lights Winter Festival, Gulfport  
Landrum's Homestead, Laurel  
Trees of Christmas at Merrehope, Meridian

## Haunted Site

### McRaven Tour Home

Vicksburg  
mcraventourhome.com

This antebellum home is named Mississippi's Most Haunted House, but guests can choose between a historical and a haunted tour. Its three-acre gardens, pioneer kitchen, and historical antiques share the history of the people who once lived there in one immersive experience.



Friendship Cemetery, Columbus  
Grave of the Gypsy Queen, Meridian  
Longwood, Natchez  
Merrehope, Meridian  
Rowan Oak, Oxford

# Best of Mississippi Travel Attractions

## Free Adventure Gulf Coast Beaches

Biloxi  
gulfcoast.org

A walk along the beach? Check. Paddlesports? Check. Seashell hunting? Check. The beaches along the Gulf Coast have it all, whether in Bay St. Louis, Ocean Springs, or anywhere in between.



Dunn's Falls Park, Enterprise  
Grenada Lake, Grenada  
Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, Laurel  
Lee Tartt Nature Preserve, Grenada  
Natchez Trace Parkway

## Spring Festival

### Pirate Day in the Bay

Bay St. Louis  
mkotsh.com/pirate-day-in-the-bay

This festival is so popular that it has made our Best of Travel list two years in a row. This annual weekend, set in May, allows attendees to dress up in their favorite pirate gear for a day and enjoy a full range of adult and kid-friendly activities. It features live music, vendors, and boat races in one celebratory event of Bay St. Louis's pirate history.



Double Decker Arts Festival, Oxford  
Market Street Festival, Columbus  
Ocean Springs Spring Arts Festival, Ocean Springs  
Sipp & Savor, Meridian  
World Catfish Festival, Belzoni

## Fall Festival

### Delta Hot Tamale Festival

Greenville  
mainstreetgreenville.com/delta-hot-tamale-festival

Greenville, named the hot tamale capital of the world in 2012, is home to this three-day event, which features the beloved Southern staple. Besides celebrating tamale makers, it showcases local musicians, artists, and chefs. Attendees can also enter the art, tamale cooking, and tamale eating contests.



Bukka White Blues Festival, Aberdeen  
Canton Flea Market, Canton  
Cruisin' the Coast  
Natchez Balloon Festival, Natchez  
Peter Anderson Arts & Crafts Festival, Ocean Springs

## History Museum GRAMMY Museum Mississippi

Cleveland  
grammymuseumms.org

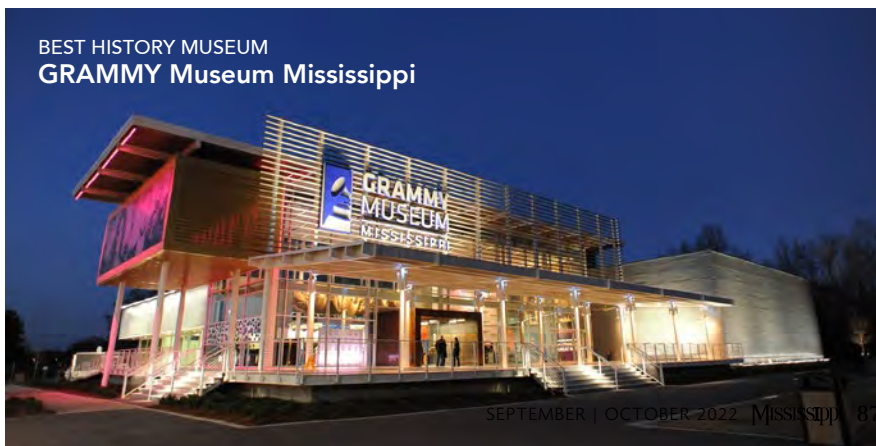
Located on the campus of Delta State University, the GRAMMY Museum celebrates the power of music in an interactive experience. The 28,000-square-foot establishment educates attendees on the diversity and creativity of music. Visitors can lose themselves for a few hours as they meander through visual displays and educational films.



Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum, Biloxi  
Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience (The MAX), Meridian  
Mississippi Industrial Heritage Museum (Soule' Steam Feed Works), Meridian  
Museum of Natural History, Jackson  
Two Mississippi Museums, Jackson



BEST FALL FESTIVAL  
Delta Hot Tamale Festival



BEST HISTORY MUSEUM  
GRAMMY Museum Mississippi

# Best of Mississippi Travel

## Outdoor Adventures

### State Park

#### Tishomingo State Park

Tishomingo  
mdwfp.com/parks-destinations/state-parks/tishomingo

This state park is located in the Appalachian Mountains and derives its name from Chickasaw leader, Chief Tishomingo. It is so popular that it was voted the best campsite and state park by our readers. It possesses rock formations, mossy boulders, trails, and wildflowers. Visitors can enjoy activities like swimming, volleyball, disc golf, and rock climbing (available with a permit), or choose to sit down for a quiet picnic amongst the historical scenery.



Clarkco State Park, Quitman  
Hugh White State Park, Grenada  
LeFleur's Bluff State Park, Jackson  
Paul B. Johnson State Park, Hattiesburg  
Roosevelt State Park, Morton

### City Park/ Playground

#### Hattiesburg Zoo/Kamper Park

Hattiesburg  
hattiesburgzoo.com

One of Hattiesburg's well-known attractions, the zoo offers a glimpse at animal wildlife and a high ropes course, train ride, mining expedition, splash pad, petting zoo, and more. Located in Kamper Park, which features tennis courts and playgrounds, this outdoor attraction will entertain little tykes of all ages.



Bonita Lakes, Meridian  
Dam Area Central, Grenada Lake, Grenada  
Flowood Winners Circle Park, Flowood  
LeFleur's Bluff Playground, Jackson  
Park Along the River, New Albany

### Fishing Hole

#### Grenada Lake

Grenada  
mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Grenada-Lake

Although the 36,000-acre Grenada Lake makes a great fishing spot, it can also claim to possess hiking, boating, hunting, bird watching, golfing, and camping opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. History buffs will love the visitor center, whose exhibits showcase the Lake's culture and resources.



Pickwick Lake, Iuka  
Ross Barnett Reservoir, Jackson Metro  
Sardis Lake, Vicksburg  
Ship Island, Gulfport  
Tombigbee Waterway, Amory

### Sports Shooting Facility

#### Providence Hill Farm

Jackson  
providencehillfarm.com

Providence Hill Farm is a private sports shoot facility outside the state's capital. Both experienced visitors and new-to-the-sport hobbyists can visit the farm as a member. It includes pheasant shoots, quail shoots, an archery range, and much more.



Camp Binachi, Meridian  
Longleaf Plantation, Purvis  
Prairie Wildlife, West Point  
The Range by Jimmy Primos, Madison  
Turcotte Shooting Range, Canton

### Biking Trail Tanglefoot Trail

Northwest Mississippi  
tanglefoottrail.com

This 43.6-mile rail trail snakes its way through the Appalachian Mountains. Since it was inducted into the Rail-Trail Hall of Fame in 2019, northwest Mississippi locals have known that they possessed something special. Many use this glimpse of Native American history for their daily commute to work or a scenic drive.



Bonita Lakes Park, Meridian  
Longleaf Trace, Hattiesburg  
Natchez Trace Chisha Foka Multi-Use Trail, Ridgeland  
Ocean Springs Live Oak Bicycle Trails, Ocean Springs



BEST SPORTS SHOOTING FACILITY  
**Providence Hill Farm LLC**

# Best of Mississippi Travel

## Outdoor Adventures

### Hiking Trail

#### Natchez Trace Trails

scenictrace.com

The Natchez Trace stretches across Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi, specifically in proximity to Tupelo, Ridgeland, Jackson, Clinton, and Tishomingo County. Its multiple hiking trails offer shorter and longer distances and historical markers, like Meriwether Lewis' Burial Site at milepost 385.9.



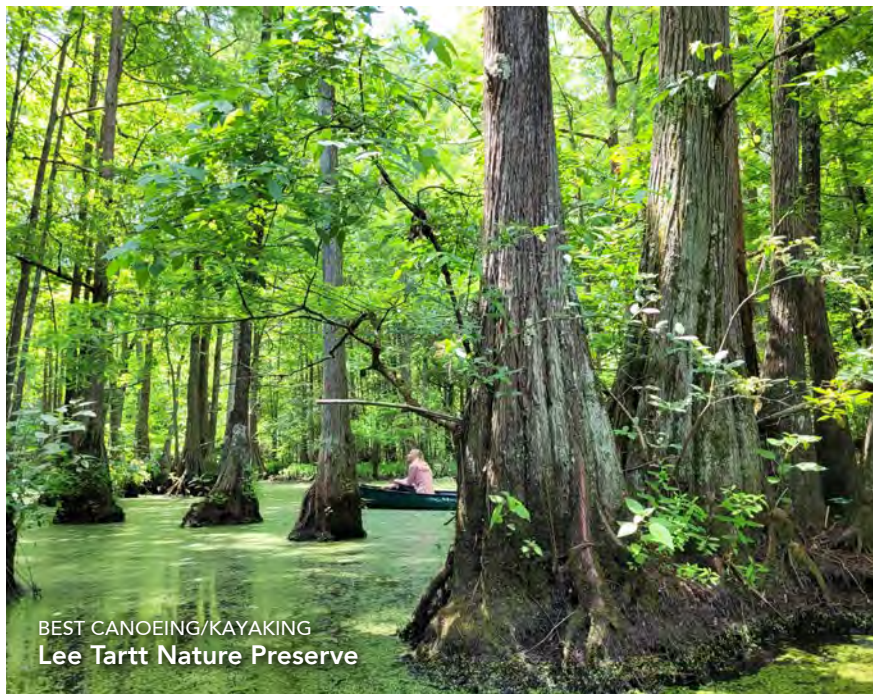
Bonita Lakes Park, Meridian

Longleaf Trace, Hattiesburg

Lost Bluff Hiking Trail, Grenada

Tanglefoot Trails, Houston

Tishomingo State Park, Tishomingo



BEST CANOEING/KAYAKING  
Lee Tartt Nature Preserve

### Boating and Water Sports

#### Pickwick Lake

luka

mdwfp.com/parks-destinations/state-parks/jp-coleman/fishing-boating-and-marina/

Pickwick Lake is a reservoir stretching between Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi and was formed from the Pickwick Landing Dam. Its 47,500 acres of water are filled with catfish, bass, walleye, and more. Water sports and skiing are available to guests for a daily rental fee.



Grenada Lake, Grenada

Lake Tiak-O'Khata, Louisville

Ship Island, Gulfport

Tishomingo State Park, Tishomingo

Ross Barnett Reservoir, Jackson Metro

### ATV/Motocross Park

#### Whynot Motorsports Park

Meridian

whynotmotorsportspark.com

Named "THE Action Track of the South," this motorsports racetrack is located in our Meridian. It hosts multiple race days a year, with grandstand and pit tickets available to adults and kids. If you're traveling from out of town, you can stay at their host hotel, the Holiday Inn, for a special rate.



Piney Hills and Hollows ATV Park, Grenada

Red Creed Off-Road, Perkinston

Rocks Bottom Off road ATV Park, Forest

Warfield Point Park ATV Park, Greenville

### Canoeing/Kayaking

#### Lee Tartt Nature Preserve

Grenada

friends-of-cs.org

The Lee Tartt Nature Preserve, formerly the Chakchiuma Natural Swamp Area, was named for one of Grenada's honored Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics special agents. The name changed after Lee Tartt passed away in the line of duty in 2016. The preserve, home to the conservation organization, Friends of Chakchiuma Swamp, aims to protect the wetland and its wildlife. Its 300 acres of forest and water are perfect for watersports like kayaking or canoeing.



Deer Island, Biloxi

Grenada Lake, Grenada

Lake Tiak-O'Khata, Louisville

Okatoma, Hattiesburg

Tishomingo State Park, Tishomingo

# Best of Mississippi Travel Resources



**BEST BIKES, SUPPLIES, AND SERVICES**  
**Indian Cycle**

## Boating/Watersport Supplies

### Bass Pro Shops

Pearl  
basspro.com

You can't visit Pearl without stopping in the Bass Pro Shop. Its large selection of boats—from fishing to cruising to skiing—is complemented with a great selection of everything needed to enjoy a day on the water. Large departments are filled with watersports gear, fishing needs, and clothing options.



Coastal Marine Sales, Gulfport  
Hattiesburg Cycles, Hattiesburg  
Midway Marine, Fulton  
Pearl River Kayaks, Brandon  
Smith Marine, Ridgeland

## Bikes, Supplies, and Services

### Indian Cycle

Ridgeland  
indiancyclefitness.com

Indian Cycle Fitness offers bikes ranging from mountain to pavement and bicycle parts. It features brands like Batch Bicycles, Sun Bicycles, Masi Bicycles, Haro Bikes, and more. Customers boast of its wonderful service and wide selection.



Bicycle Revolution, Madison  
Boardtown Bikes, Starkville  
Coast Cruz, Pass Christian  
Core Cycle and Outdoor, Tupelo  
Moore's Bicycle Shop, Hattiesburg

## ATV/Motorcycle Sales

### Hattiesburg Cycles

Hattiesburg  
hattiesburgcycles.com

Hattiesburg Cycles provides for all your ATV motorcycle needs, whether you reside in Laurel, Jackson, or Hattiesburg. Its inventory, which can be bought new or used, does not limit itself to ATVs. The store also carries essential, high-quality equipment for scooters, motorcycles, and watercraft.



Grenada Bad Boys, Grenada  
Got Gear Motorsports, Ridgeland  
Hellfighters, Laurel  
Jackson Motorsports, Jackson  
Meridian Cycles, Meridian



**BEST ATV/MOTORCYCLE SALES**  
**Hattiesburg Cycles**

# Best of Mississippi Travel Resources

## Adventure Outfitter

### Mossy Oak

West Point  
mossyoak.com

Mossy Oak was created by those who love the outdoors for those who love the outdoors. It carries sizes and styles for kids to adults and features hunting and fishing gear, clothing, and accessories.



Bass Pro Shops, Pearl  
Buffalo Peak, Jackson

Chandeleur Outfitters, Ocean Springs  
Core Cycle & Outdoor, Tupelo  
Lonnie's Sporting Goods, Corinth

## Gas Station Grub & Road Snacks

### Fratesi Grocery and Service Station

Leland  
662.686.2253

This gas station/grocery/sandwich shop in Leland is a quaint but classic stop on your next road trip. Whether you need fuel for yourself or your car, you can count on Fratesi to have a sub on hand.



Clarksdale Superette, Meridian

Lindsey's Chevron, Oxford

Papa V's, Tupelo

Rose's Bar-B-Q, Hattiesburg

United Deli & Grocery, Columbus

## Camper/RV Sales and Rentals

### Paw Paw's Campers and Cars

Picayune  
pawpawrvs.com

Dub Herring, fondly called "Paw Paw" by locals, has built a strong bond with his customers. Not only can you peruse Paw Paw's cars and RVs, but you can also sell your used vehicle. Many customers choose to sell their used camper, even if they purchased a new car from another auto shop. And now, you can, too.



Aberdeen RV, Aberdeen  
Camper Corral, Madison  
Camping World, Jackson  
Rocket RV, Columbus



BEST ADVENTURE OUTFITTER  
Mossy Oak



BEST CAMPER/RV SALES AND RENTALS  
Paw Paw's Campers and Cars

# Best of Mississippi Travel Getaways

## Girlfriend Getaway

### Oxford

visitoxfordms.net

Voted by USA Today as one of the busiest college towns, Oxford has you covered for all your girl-trip desires. Oxford's quaint downtown square puts incredible hotels, world-class dining, and shops to satisfy every whim, all within walking distance of one another.



The Alluvian, Greenwood

Bay St. Louis

Laurel

Ocean Springs

Vicksburg

## Downtown Shopping

### Silo Square

Southaven  
silosquarems.com

Silo Square is a neighborhood development in Southaven, featuring a diverse blend of homes, shopping, dining, apartments, and more. It strives to promote the charm of its community and local businesses. One of its boasts is its wide, walking-friendly sidewalks which contribute to its small-town ambiance.



Cleveland

Greenwood

Laurel

Ocean Springs

Oxford

Vicksburg

## Day Trip

### Ship Island Excursions

Gulfport  
msshipisland.com

The ship island ferry has been carrying individuals to the Mississippi Islands for 96 years. The boat ride, which lasts about an hour, transfers visitors to Ship Island's beaches, where they can swim in the crystal clear water, lounge on the sandy white beach, and sight dolphins. Fort Massachusetts, which dates to the antebellum era, is also on the island.



Merigold

Laurel

Ocean Springs

Oxford

Vicksburg



BEST DAY TRIP  
Ship Island Excursions

## Romantic Getaway

### Natchez

natchez.ms.us

Getaway with your favorite person and stay in one of the city's historic old homes, grab a candlelight dinner at one of its many fine-dining restaurants, and book a carriage ride around the city for the perfect way to end a romantic date night.



The Alluvian, Greenwood

Bay St. Louis

Cotton House, Cleveland

Ocean Springs

The White House Hotel, Biloxi



BEST GIRLFRIEND GETAWAY  
Oxford

## Family Getaway

### Ocean Springs

[oceansprings-ms.gov](http://oceansprings-ms.gov)

Known as the City of Discovery, Ocean Springs is situated near the Gulf of Mexico. It's perfect for a family vacation with a range of accommodations, museums, great food, outdoor activities, and incredible shopping.



Biloxi

Lake Tiak-O'Khata, Louisville

Ship Island, Gulfport

Tishomingo State Park, Tishomingo

Vicksburg



Opening in Flowood in 2023



# BENSON

— COMPANIES —

[www.bensonconstruct.com](http://www.bensonconstruct.com)

**Your Healthcare  
Construction Leader  
in the State of  
Mississippi**



Expansion Complete in November  
2022

**Mississippi Sports Medicine  
And Orthopaedic Center**

**BEST FAMILY GETAWAY  
Ocean Springs**



**All there is to Sea!**



**SCAN ME**  
[disl.edu/aquarium](http://disl.edu/aquarium)

**Alabama Aquarium**  
at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab  
**Open 7 Days a Week!**  
102 Bienville Boulevard, Dauphin Island, AL 36528