



TREES OF CHRISTMAS
AT MERREHOPE



VIKING COOKING
SCHOOL



THE ROOST



PROVIDENCE
HILL

MISSISSIPPI
MAGAZINE

BEST of MS

Travel

2026



EXPLORE OUR READERS'
PICKS FOR THE BEST IN THE

Magnolia State

writer MELANIE M. WARD

Accommodations

BED AND BREAKFAST/INN

Ross Mansion
Bed & Breakfast
Hattiesburg
rossmansion.com

This Colonial Revival mansion has been lovingly restored to preserve its historic character. Guests are welcomed with hospitality, elegant furnishings, and accommodations that blend old-world charm with modern comfort. Ross Mansion offers the perfect base for exploring the Hub City.



Anchuca Historic Mansion and Inn – Vicksburg
Baer House Inn – Vicksburg
Dunleith – Natchez
Magnolia Stables Bed & Breakfast – Hattiesburg
The Thompson House – Leland

HISTORIC HOTEL

The Alluvian Hotel & Spa
Greenwood
thealluvian.com

The Alluvian has become one of Mississippi's most celebrated luxury destinations. Guests enjoy access to the renowned Alluvian Spa, a destination in its own right, as well as nearby attractions including historic downtown Greenwood and Viking Cooking School.



Anchuca Historic Mansion and Inn – Vicksburg
Hotel 27 – Greenville
Natchez Grand Hotel – Natchez
Old Capitol Inn – Jackson
White House Hotel – Biloxi



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

Louisville
ltok.com

Lake Tiak-O'Khata is synonymous with summer memories. This family-owned resort combines a traditional lakeside retreat with a wide range of activities that appeal to all ages. Choose from motel accommodations, waterfront cabins, RV sites, and efficiency suites while enjoying swimming, fishing, kayaking, tennis, and boating. The full-service restaurant and gathering spaces make it a favorite for reunions, vacations, and weekend escapes.



Beau Rivage Resort & Casino – Biloxi
Centennial Plaza Resort – Gulfport
Jellystone Park: Yogi on the Lake – Pelahatchie
Margaritaville Resort Biloxi – Biloxi
The Alluvian Hotel & Spa – Greenwood

BOUTIQUE HOTEL

Cotton House
Cleveland
cottonhousecleveland.com

Cotton House has quickly become one of the state's premier destinations. Located on historic Cotton Row in downtown Cleveland, the hotel celebrates the culture, music, agriculture, and artistry that define the Delta. Its location places visitors near the GRAMMY Museum Mississippi, local restaurants, shops, and Delta State University.



Hotel 27 – Greenville
The Alluvian Hotel & Spa – Greenwood
The Mason Boutique Hotel – Louisville
The Roost – Ocean Springs
White House Hotel – Biloxi

HOTEL OR RESORT

The Roost
Ocean Springs
roostoceansprings.com

Tucked beneath majestic live oaks in the heart of Ocean Springs, The Roost offers a boutique experience that reflects the artistic spirit and coastal charm of its surroundings. The property sits within walking distance of both Front Beach and the vibrant shops, galleries, and restaurants of downtown Ocean Springs.



Cotton House – Cleveland
Hotel 27 – Greenville
Hotel Tupelo – Tupelo
The Alluvian Hotel & Spa – Greenwood
White House Hotel – Biloxi

Attractions

ANIMAL/WILDLIFE ATTRACTION

Mississippi Aquarium
Gulfport
msaquarium.org



The Mississippi Aquarium showcases the diverse aquatic environments that define Mississippi, from freshwater rivers and bayous to the Gulf of Mexico. Interactive exhibits, animal encounters, and immersive experiences create opportunities for visitors of all ages.



Cypress Point Resort – Brandon

Dolphin Watching Cruise,
Ship Island Excursions – Gulfport

Hattiesburg Zoo – Hattiesburg

Mississippi Museum of Natural Science –
Jackson

Tupelo Buffalo Park – Tupelo

HISTORY MUSEUM

Ground Zero
Hurricane Museum
Waveland
wavelandgroundzero.com

Learn more about the stories and memories of the communities affected by Hurricane Katrina. Through photographs, artifacts, personal accounts, and exhibits, visitors gain a deeper understanding of the storm's impact on the Gulf Coast and the resilience that followed.



B.B. King Museum – Indianola

Biedenharn Coca-Cola Museum – Vicksburg

GRAMMY Museum Mississippi – Cleveland

Museum of the Mississippi Delta – Greenwood

Old Court House Museum – Vicksburg

FREE ADVENTURE

Mississippi Blues Trail
Statewide
msbluestrail.org

Few experiences tell Mississippi's story more powerfully than the Mississippi Blues Trail. Markers located throughout the state guide travelers to the places, people, and events that shaped one of America's most influential musical traditions.



Aberdeen Art Trail – Aberdeen

Gulf Coast beaches – Mississippi Gulf Coast

Natchez Trace Parkway – Statewide

The Lucky Rabbit – Hattiesburg

Tishomingo State Park – Tishomingo

HOLIDAY ATTRACTION

Trees of Christmas
at Merrehope
Meridian
merrehope.com

For decades, Merrehope's Trees of Christmas has been a beloved holiday tradition. The home is transformed each season with decorated trees, festive displays, and seasonal décor created by local designers and community groups. Enjoy touring the historic property while experiencing the creativity and holiday spirit.



50 Nights of Lights – Cleveland

Christmas on the Water boat parade – Biloxi

Canton Christmas Festival – Canton

Hernando Dickens of a Christmas – Hernando

Oxford Lights on the Square – Oxford

HISTORIC DESTINATION

Dockery Farms
Cleveland
dockeryfarms.com

Often referred to as the birthplace of the blues, Dockery Farms occupies a unique place in both Mississippi and American history. Established as a cotton plantation in the Mississippi Delta, the property became a gathering place for musicians whose influence would shape generations of music. Visitors can explore preserved buildings and learn about the people, culture, and traditions that helped define the region.



Beauvoir – Biloxi

Corinth

Elvis Presley Birthplace – Tupelo

Natchez

Vicksburg

CASINO

Beau Rivage Resort & Casino
Biloxi
beaurivage.com

This expansive resort combines luxury accommodations, gaming, entertainment, fine dining, shopping, and a full-service spa under one roof. Visitors are drawn not only to the casino floor but also to nationally recognized restaurants, live performances, and seasonal events.



Ameristar Casino – Vicksburg

Gold Strike Casino Resort – Tunica

Golden Moon Hotel & Casino – Choctaw

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino – Biloxi

Hollywood Casino Gulf Coast – Bay St. Louis



ART MUSEUM

Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art

Biloxi
georgeohr.org

Visitors can explore Ohr's groundbreaking ceramic works while discovering rotating exhibits that highlight regional and national artists. The museum's blend of creativity, culture, and coastal setting continues to make it one of the state's most distinctive arts destinations.



Alice Moseley Folk Art Museum – Bay St. Louis
Lauren Rogers Museum of Art – Laurel
Meridian Museum of Art – Meridian
Mississippi Museum of Art – Jackson
Walter Anderson Museum of Art – Ocean Springs

DISTILLERY/BREWERY

Cathead Distillery

Jackson
catheaddistillery.com

As Mississippi's first legal distillery since Prohibition, Cathead Distillery helped launch a new era of craft spirits in the state. Known for producing award-winning vodka, bourbon, and other spirits while celebrating Mississippi's rich musical heritage. Visitors can tour the facility, learn about the distilling process, and sample products.



Crittenden Distillery – Kiln
Key City Brewery – Vicksburg
Lazy Magnolia Brewing Company – Kiln
Natchez Brewing Company – Natchez
Queen's Reward Meadery – Tupelo
Southern Prohibition Brewing – Hattiesburg

SPRING/SUMMER FESTIVAL

Pirate Day in the Bay

Bay St. Louis
baystlouisoldtown.com

Bay St. Louis embraces its coastal heritage each spring with Pirate Day in the Bay, a lively celebration that transforms the community into a swashbuckling adventure. Costumed pirates, live entertainment, family activities, local vendors, and waterfront fun create a festive atmosphere throughout the city.



Double Decker Arts Festival – Oxford
Juke Joint Festival – Clarksdale
Market Street Festival – Columbus
Que on the Yazoo – Greenwood
Starkville Derby – Starkville

FALL/WINTER FESTIVAL

OctoberFest

Cleveland
octoberfestms.com

Each fall, Cleveland comes alive as thousands gather for OctoberFest, the largest festival in Bolivar County. This two-day celebration showcases the very best of Delta culture through food, music, arts, and family-friendly entertainment.



Bukka White Blues Festival – Aberdeen
Canton Flea Market – Canton
Cruisin' the Coast – Mississippi Gulf Coast
Delta Hot Tamale Festival – Greenville
Yazoo County Fair – Yazoo City

Outdoor Adventures

BOATING AND WATER SPORTS

Grenada Lake

Grenada

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

From fishing boats and pontoons to skiing and tubing, Grenada Lake offers countless ways to enjoy a day on the water. The lake's wide-open spaces and excellent recreational facilities make it a favorite destination for families and outdoor enthusiasts.



Eagle Lake – Vicksburg

J.P. Coleman State Park – Iuka

Ross Barnett Reservoir – Ridgeland, Madison, and Brandon

Sardis Lake – Sardis

Tishomingo State Park – Tishomingo

STATE PARK

Tishomingo State Park

Tishomingo
mdwfp.com

Nestled in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, the park offers a landscape unlike anywhere else in Mississippi. Massive rock formations, scenic hiking trails, swinging bridges, and opportunities for canoeing and fishing make it a favorite destination.



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

SPORTS SHOOTING FACILITY

Providence Hill

Jackson

providencehill.com

Widely recognized as one of the premier shooting destinations in the Southeast, Providence Hill offers world-class facilities in a beautiful outdoor setting. The expansive property features sporting clays, rifle and pistol ranges, instruction programs, and special events that attract enthusiasts from across the region.



Hunters' Hollow – Oxford

Prairie Wildlife – West Point

Tara Wildlife – Vicksburg

Turcotte Shooting Range – Canton

Two Gun Tactical – Flowood and Ridgeland

HIKING TRAIL

Vicksburg

National Military Park

Vicksburg

nps.gov/vick

History and natural beauty come together at Vicksburg National Military Park. Miles of walking paths wind through rolling hills, monuments, and preserved Civil War battlefields, creating an experience unlike any other in Mississippi. Visitors can explore at their own pace while learning about one of the most significant campaigns of the Civil War.



Lee Tartt Nature Preserve – Grenada

Longleaf Trace – south Mississippi

Natchez Trace Parkway – statewide

Tanglefoot Trail – north Mississippi

Tishomingo State Park – Tishomingo

CANOEING/KAYAKING

River Life Kayak Rentals

Amory

662.640.2043

For paddlers looking to experience Mississippi from the water, River Life Kayak Rentals offers unforgettable adventures. Guided trips and rentals provide opportunities to explore the peaceful river, observe wildlife, and enjoy the natural beauty that often goes unnoticed from the road. Whether you're an experienced kayaker or trying it for the first time, River Life Kayak Rentals makes it easy to get on the water.



Black Creek – south Mississippi

Bogue Chitto River – southwest Mississippi

Lee Tartt Nature Preserve – Grenada

Okatoma River – Seminary

Tishomingo State Park – Tishomingo

FISHING HOLE

Grenada Lake

Grenada

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

Known nationally for producing trophy crappie, Grenada Lake has earned a reputation as one of the premier fishing destinations in the country. Anglers travel from across the South, hoping to reel in record-size catches while enjoying the lake's expansive waters and scenic surroundings.



Eagle Lake – Vicksburg

Mississippi Gulf Coast – coastal Mississippi

Lake Washington – Washington County

Ross Barnett Reservoir –

Ridgeland, Madison, and Brandon

Tishomingo State Park – Tishomingo

BIKING TRAIL

Natchez Trace

Parkway

Statewide

nps.gov/natr

Stretching through some of Mississippi's most beautiful landscapes, the parkway offers cyclists a scenic journey through history, nature, and small-town Mississippi. Riders enjoy gently rolling terrain, well-maintained roads, and miles of uninterrupted views that showcase forests, farmland, and historic landmarks. Whether tackling a long-distance ride or a leisurely afternoon excursion, cyclists are drawn to the parkway's natural beauty and peaceful atmosphere. It's no surprise this iconic route remains a favorite for riders across the South.



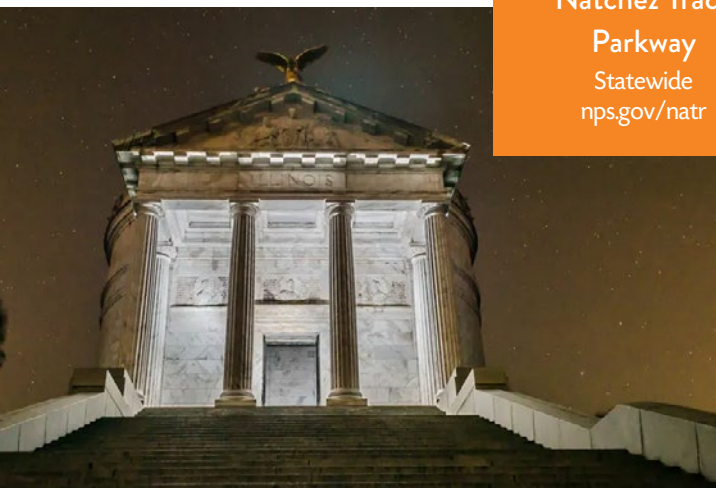
Longleaf Trace – Hattiesburg to Prentiss

Museum Trail – Jackson

Tanglefoot Trail – New Albany to Houston

Tishomingo State Park – Tishomingo

Vicksburg National Military Park – Vicksburg





Resources

HUNTING SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Hunters' Hollow
Oxford
huntershollow.com

Hunters' Hollow has earned a loyal following among sportsmen throughout the region. From firearms and ammunition to apparel, optics, and outdoor accessories, they offer products designed to help hunters make the most of their time outdoors.



Back Forty Outdoors – Grenada
Delta Outdoors – Cleveland
Delta Outfitters – Vicksburg
Mossy Oak – West Point
Van's Outdoors – Brandon

TRAVEL AGENT

Elisabeth Steele, LBAC Travel
Greenville
662.822.1559

A memorable vacation often begins with expert guidance. From family vacations and cruises to custom itineraries and special celebrations, Steele works closely with clients to match destinations with their interests and travel styles.



Fantastical Vacations by Samantha Ball – Petal
Howe Travel Co. – Long Beach
Jessica Jones, Treat Yourself Vacations – Pope
Magnolia Travel Group – Madison
Once Upon a Vacation, Amanda Howell – Sumrall

BOATING/WATER SPORT SUPPLIES

Grenada Bad Boys
Grenada
grenadabadboys.net

Grenada Bad Boys serves boaters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts with a wide selection of products designed for life on the water. Known for friendly service and a strong connection to the area's fishing culture, Grenada Bad Boys continues to be a trusted stop for visitors and locals alike.



Got Gear Motorsports – Ridgeland
Midway Marine – Fulton
PTG Outdoors – Grenada
Smith Marine – Ridgeland
Southaven RV & Marine – Southaven

GAS STATION GRUB & ROAD SNACKS

Fratesi Grocery & Service Station
Leland
662.686.2253

A Mississippi road trip isn't complete without discovering a memorable local stop, and since 1941 Fratesi's has long been a favorite among travelers and locals. Known for its breakfast offerings, po'boys, spaghetti, and small-town charm, the store has become a destination in its own right.



4 Corners Chevron – Oxford
Fannin Mart – Brandon
Martyville Quick Mart – Tishomingo
The Old Koke Plant – Brookhaven
Papa V's – Tupelo
Pelahatchie Bay Trading Post – Brandon

ADVENTURE OUTFITTER

Hunters' Hollow
Oxford
huntershollow.com

Hunters' Hollow has become a trusted resource for everything from hunting and fishing gear to apparel and accessories. Known for its knowledgeable staff, they help customers prepare for adventures in the field, on the water, and beyond.



601 Sports –
Brookhaven, Laurel, Meridian, and Vicksburg
Back Forty Outdoors – Grenada
Buffalo Peak Outfitters – Jackson
Delta Outfitters – Vicksburg
Trails & Treads – Tupelo

BIKES, SUPPLIES, AND SERVICES

Indian Cycle Fitness & Outdoor
Ridgeland
indiancyclefitness.com

For decades, Indian Cycle Fitness has helped Mississippians stay active on two wheels. They offer bicycles, accessories, repairs, and expert guidance for riders of all skill levels. Whether preparing for a competitive ride, exploring local trails, or simply enjoying a weekend outing, the experienced staff helps match riders with the equipment they need.



CORE Cycle + Outdoor – Oxford and Tupelo
Hattiesburg Cycles – Hattiesburg
Natchez Bicycle – Natchez
The Bike Crossing – Ridgeland
Trails & Treads – Tupelo

Getaways

ROMANTIC GETAWAY

Magnolia Stables

Bed & Breakfast

Hattiesburg

magnoliastablesbandb.com

Enjoy rustic charm with modern comforts in the heart of south Mississippi. Housed in a beautifully restored horse barn, the property offers cozy accommodations, picturesque countryside views, and Southern hospitality.



Cleveland

Cotton House – Cleveland

Natchez

Ocean Springs

The Alluvian Hotel & Spa – Greenwood

GIRLFRIEND GETAWAY

Cleveland

visitclevelandms.com

From boutique shopping and Delta cuisine to live music and cultural attractions, Cleveland offers everything needed for a memorable girls' getaway. Spend the day shopping, dining, and exploring.



Bay St. Louis

Hattiesburg

Natchez

Ocean Springs

Oxford

The Alluvian Hotel & Spa – Greenwood

DAY TRIP

Cleveland

visitclevelandms.com

Cleveland offers one of the most rewarding day-trip experiences. Spend the morning exploring the GRAMMY Museum, browse locally owned shops, enjoy Delta-inspired cuisine, and discover the region's musical heritage. The city's walkable downtown makes it easy to experience a variety of attractions in a single day.



Bay St. Louis

Greenwood

Laurel

Ocean Springs

Oxford

Ship Island – Gulfport

FAMILY GETAWAY

Mississippi Gulf Coast

coastalmississippi.com

With miles of beaches, family attractions, waterfront dining, and year-round activities, the Gulf Coast remains one of the state's most popular family destinations. Visitors can spend the day exploring the Mississippi Aquarium, enjoying beach activities, visiting museums, or taking excursions to nearby islands.



Jellystone Park: Yogi on the Lake –
Pelahatchie

Ocean Springs

Ship Island – Gulfport

Tishomingo State Park – Tishomingo

Vicksburg



**Photography
and the
Black Arts
Movement
1955–1985**

**On view July 25 –
November 8, 2026**

This exhibition is organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington. MMA's presentation is supported by Teiger Foundation, Visit Jackson, Southern Poverty Law Center, Baker Donelson, Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP, and Clarion Ledger.

**MISSISSIPPI
MUSEUM OF
ART**

msmuseumart.org
Downtown Jackson

Kwame Brathwaite, *Untitled (Portrait of Manasia Ree Horn with Reels as Necklace)* (detail), c. 1970 (printed later). Inkjet print, 29½ x 29½ in (74.9 x 74.9 cm). Collection of the National Gallery of Art, Gift of Funds from Renée Harbers Liddell and Alfred H. Moses and Fern M. Schad Fund, 2024.701.

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10 (1-YEAR) SUBSCRIPTIONS, \$180.00 (\$220 Value)

CULINARY DESTINATION/ EXPERIENCE

Viking Cooking School
Greenwood
vikingcookingschool.com

For food lovers, few destinations offer a more immersive experience than Viking Cooking School. Located in the heart of downtown Greenwood, the renowned culinary destination combines hands-on classes, demonstrations, and special events led by talented chefs.



Blue Biscuit – Indianola
Doe's Eat Place – Greenville
Mary Mahoney's Old French House – Biloxi
Ocean Springs
Oxford Square – Oxford

DOWNTOWN SHOPPING

Ocean Springs
oceanspringschamber.com

Ocean Springs has earned a reputation as one of the state's favorite shopping destinations. Its charming downtown is filled with locally owned boutiques, galleries, specialty shops, gift stores, and restaurants, all connected by walkable streets shaded by live oaks.



Cleveland
Greenwood
Laurel
Oxford
Vicksburg

HUNTING DESTINATION/ GUIDED HUNTING FACILITY

Delta Duck Hunts
Tunica
deltaducks.com

The Mississippi Delta has long been recognized as one of the premier waterfowl hunting regions in North America, and Delta Duck Hunts offers sportsmen access to some of its finest habitat. Hunters travel from across the country to pursue ducks in the flooded timber, fields, and wetlands that define the Delta landscape.



Catfish Point Hunting Club – Benoit
Grenada Lake – Grenada
Prairie Wildlife – West Point
Sardis Lake – Sardis
Yazoo County