

Civil War to Civil Rights Tour

Jackson, Vicksburg, Port Gibson, Natchez, Hattiesburg

Mississippi has been home to some of the most defining moments in American history, from pivotal battles in the Civil War such as the siege of Vicksburg to the struggle for civil rights and much more. This tour will visit many sites important to both historical movements, as well as places that celebrate the many innovations made by Mississippians. Walk the grounds and homes of history in Jackson, Vicksburg, Port Gibson, Natchez and Hattiesburg.

Thursday, March 15 Jackson, MS

Mississippi's vibrant cultural center and home of the state Capitol, Jackson offers the best of Mississippi hospitality, cuisine, music, entertainment and history. Visit the state's largest collection of museums, including the new Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

Arrival and Transportation Instructions:

Once you have gathered your baggage, please exit the baggage claim area. Look for a friendly face holding a sign imprinted with your name and Visit Jackson. You will be transported to the hospitality room at the historic King Edward Hotel.

For those of you arriving on Wednesday, March 14, you will receive an additional email with arrival instructions.

Your Visit Mississippi escort for this FAM is Jim Beaugez, and your Visit Jackson hosts are Jonathan Pettus and Yolanda Clay-Moore.

Jim's cell 601-527-0309

Yolanda's cell 601-209-8181

Hospitality Suite and

Check-in at Hilton Garden Inn Jackson Downtown
(formerly The King Edward)
235 West Capitol Street
601-353-5464

The King Edward Hotel has been a fixture on the Jackson skyline since 1923. This beaux-arts tower, featured on the National Register of Historic Places, is now the Hilton Garden Inn Downtown, with 186 hotel rooms, 64 luxury apartments and many amenities for travelers.

3:45 pm Meet in lobby to board bus

4:00 pm Depart Hilton Garden Inn for Driving Tour of Tougaloo College
500 West County Line Road
Tugaloo, MS

Tougaloo College, a historically black liberal arts institution, played a pivotal role in the civil rights movement. Students organized and participated in non-violent demonstrations such as the Jackson Municipal Library Sit-In in 1961.

5:00 pm Tour of Malaco Records
3023 W. Northside Drive

Malaco Records turned the thriving blues, soul and R&B music of Jackson into Gold records while documenting the cultural evolution of the “City with Soul.” Artists such as Paul Simon, Lucinda Williams, Mississippi Fred McDowell and more recorded here.

6:00 pm Dinner at Bully’s Soul Food
3118 Livingston Road

What’s a visit to the “City with Soul” without feeding your soul? Bully’s Soul Food Restaurant, a James Beard American Classic, will make you feel right at home with a rich collection of southern favorites like fresh greens, macaroni and cheese, fried-green tomatoes and fried chicken.

8:00 pm After dinner fun at Iron Horse Grill
320 W. Pearl Street

With Southern-style pub fare, local brews and live music, the Iron Horse Grill is a hot night spot in the metro. The Mississippi Music Experience wax-figure gallery gives diners a peek into what makes this state the Birthplace of America’s Music.

Friday, March 16

Jackson to Vicksburg, MS
7:00 am Breakfast provided at hotel
8:15 am Meet in lobby with luggage to Board Bus
8:45 am Depart hotel
9:00 am Mississippi Museum of Art
380 S. Lamar Street

Celebrate Mississippi’s Bicentennial at the Mississippi Museum of Art with the “Picturing Mississippi Exhibit, 200 Years. 100 Artists. 1 Mississippi.” Art made about Mississippi’s people, places, and events offers a powerful lens through which to understand the state’s history; this visual narrative complements the artifacts and stories in the new Museum of Mississippi History.

10:00 am Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and the Museum of Mississippi History
222 North Street

Discover two new state-of-the-art museums that opened December 9 in Mississippi's Capital City. Explore interactive exhibits, see engaging artifacts and hear stories from people who shaped our state and fought for civil rights in Mississippi. As historian and author John Dittmer said, "I've see all the major civil rights museums in the South and this one is the most impressive."

12:15 pm Lunch at Parlor Market
115 W. Capitol Street

Housed in a former grocery dating to 1898, Parlor Market specializes in Southern fusion cuisine using locally sourced produce and meats. This popular spot brings farm-to-table freshness to the heart of downtown Jackson for lunch and dinner.

1:30 pm Depart Jackson for Vicksburg

2:15 pm Arrive Vicksburg

Charming and historic Vicksburg sits on bluffs high above the Mississippi River, at the southern end of the Delta. This location made the city a strategic port and "the key to the South" in the Civil War, according to Abraham Lincoln.

2:30 pm Tour of Vicksburg National Military Park and City Tour
3201 Clay Street

The Vicksburg National Military Park tells the story of the 47-day siege of the city that ended in surrender to General Grant's Union forces on July 4, 1863. Visitors can visit more than 1,350 monuments and markers, view Civil War artifacts and tour the USS Cairo, an iron-clad gunboat sunk in the Yazoo River.

5:00 pm Check in at Duff Green Mansion & Steele Cottage
1114 First East Street
601-636-6968

Enjoy Southern hospitality at this antebellum mansion, and see the ballroom where both Jefferson Davis and Ulysses S. Grant both danced. The home served as a hospital for both Confederate and Union soldiers during the siege of Vicksburg and is restored to period elegance.

5:45 pm Meet in lobby to board bus

6:00 pm Reception at Old Court House Museum
1008 Cherry Street

7:30 pm Dinner and live music at 10 South Rooftop Bar & Grill
1301 Washington Street

With uninterrupted views of the Mississippi River, 10 South has one of the best sunset viewing spots in the state. This casual-dining restaurant is located on the rooftop of Vicksburg's First National Building, 10 stories above Washington Street in the city's walkable downtown.

9:00 pm Optional after hours fun at Ameristar Casino
4116 Washington Street

Saturday, March 17

Vicksburg to Natchez, MS

8:00 am Breakfast at Duff Green Mansion

8:45 am Meet in lobby with luggage to board bus

9:00 am Depart Vicksburg for Port Gibson

9:45 am Arrive Port Gibson

With several locations on the National Register of Historic Places, the town Grant reportedly called "too beautiful to burn" during the Civil War is an historic treasure. The town was the site of the Battle of Port Gibson prior to the siege of Vicksburg.

10:00 am Driving Tour of Port Gibson
Port Gibson Chamber of Commerce
1601 Church Street

10:30 am Visit Windsor Ruins
Rodney Road

Rising majestically above the surrounding river bluffs, the Windsor Ruins are near the former community of Bruinsburg, where General Grant crossed the Mississippi River. The antebellum mansion didn't fall as a result of war, though. A fire in 1890 destroyed the centerpiece of a former 2,600-acre plantation.

11:30 am Depart Windsor Plantation for Natchez

12:30 pm Arrive Natchez

Natchez, the oldest continuously occupied settlement in the lower Mississippi River valley, is a city with its own unique charms and character. Tours of Greek Revival and Federal homes dating to the late 1700s and early 1800s are essential, where visitors will find a city bursting with life ready to greet them.

12:30 pm Lunch at Restaurant 1818 on the grounds of Monmouth Historic Inn
1358 John A. Quitman Blvd.

On the grounds of Monmouth Plantation, visitors will find high-end living in an historic setting. Enjoy a mint julep served by Roosevelt, a fixture at Monmouth for a quarter century, in former Governor Quitman's study or near the fountain in the courtyard.

2:00 pm Tour Longwood
140 Lower Woodville Road

Longwood's octagonal construction was halted as tensions rose in the Civil War, leaving most of the interior a shell while the Nutt family live in the finished basement until the 20th century. Visitors can tour the mansion and grounds, including the unfinished upper floors.

2:45 pm Tour Charboneau Rum Distillery
617 Jefferson Street

Tucked away off the banks of the Mississippi River, Charboneau Distillery makes rum using locally sourced raw sugar and molasses. Tours begin upstairs at King's Tavern, a flatbread and craft cocktail hotspot next door, in the oldest remaining building in the former Mississippi Territory.

3:45 pm Visit Forks of the Road
232 St. Catherine Street

In the decades preceding the Civil War, this crossroads where Natchez linked to roads leading across the state and to Alabama and Georgia was home to a market for slave labor, as well as farming and frontier supplies.

4:30 pm Tour Natchez Brewing Company
207 High Street

Natchez Brewing Company, the city's first legal brewery, is a top destination for spirited tours in the bluff city. Sample beers inspired by the historical melting pot of cultures that make Natchez so unique.

5:00 pm Tour Rosalie Mansion
100 Orleans Street

Completed in 1823 and named for the original French fort built here in 1716, Rosalie Mansion offers visitors wide views of the Natchez riverfront and the Mississippi River. The original owner often ferried from the notorious Natchez Under-the-Hill area just down the bluff to his land in Louisiana.

5:45 pm Check in at Natchez Grand Hotel
111 Broadway Street
855-516-1090

Overlooking the river at the foot of the historic downtown district, the Natchez Grand Hotel is a short walk from restaurants, shops and cafés. The hotel regularly hosts groups, travel writers and the wide variety of visitors from around the world who come to Natchez.

6:45 pm Meet in hotel lobby
Walk to Natchez Museum of African American History & Culture
301 Main Street

Learn the story of generations of Natchez natives, including author Richard Wright, at the Museum of African-American History & Culture. The collection includes many exhibits and displays, artwork, books and more which shed a light on the lives of African-Americans during the Civil War, civil rights era and beyond.

8:00 pm Dinner and Entertainment at Rolling River Bistro
406 Main Street

Located on the oldest Main Street in Mississippi, the Rolling River Bistro is a favorite of locals and travelers alike. The menu features many regional delicacies and dishes.

Optional after dinner Natchez nightlife

Sunday, March 18

Natchez to Biloxi, MS

7:15 am Meet in lobby with luggage to board bus

7:30 am Depart Natchez for Hattiesburg

10:00 am Arrive Hattiesburg

Hattiesburg is a university city with roots as deep as its oaks and a culture steeped in history, perfectly balanced with a youthful and welcoming vibe. From the bustling live music and culinary scenes to the art-filled galleries and military museums, this city invites you to come craft your own adventure.

Brunch at Purple Parrot Café
3810 Hardy Street

The Purple Parrot Café has been named the best fine dining restaurant in Mississippi and has just received its sixth Four-Diamond rating from the AAA Travel Guide.

*Join owner Robert St. John as he hosts and delights with tales from his 40 plus years in the restaurant business. St. John is a restaurateur, chef, columnist and author. His newest cookbook collaboration with watercolorist Wyatt Waters is titled *A Mississippi Palate*.*

11:30 am	Depart Hattiesburg for Biloxi
1:00 pm	Arrive in Biloxi Mississippi Coast Convention Center 2350 Beach Boulevard Pick up Travel South Showcase Registration Packet
1:30 pm	Return to bus and travel to Beau Rivage Resort 875 Beach Boulevard 228-386-7111