

RHYTHMS OF THE SOUTH - SELF DRIVE ITINERARY

Days 1 & 2

Memphis

Start your adventure in Memphis "Home of the Blues" and the "Birthplace of Rock 'n' Roll." Take a walk down one of America's most famous streets, Beale Street, where W.C. Handy first penned the Blues music of the Mississippi Delta. Take a tour of Sun Studio, the birthplace of Rock'n'Roll, where Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, B.B. King, Rufus Thomas, Howlin' Wolf, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, Roy Orbison, and many others launched their careers. Visit 'Graceland', Elvis' beloved Mansion. Imagine being in the same place where the famous musician in the world hung his hat and made music that has mesmerised the world.



Days 3 & 4 – 210 miles

Memphis to Nashville

En-route to Nashville take a visit the Delta Heritage Center and the Rockabilly Hall of Fame. In Nashville visit the Country Music Hall of Fame, its core exhibition 'Sing me back home' will immerse you in the history and sounds of country music. Tour the Ryman Auditorium and enjoy a performance (selected evenings) at the Grand Ole Opry. These are just a few of the attractions on offer in this 'Music City'.

Day 5 – 195 miles

Nashville to Tupelo



Travel along the historic and scenic Natchez Trace Parkway, an 800-year-old path taken by Indians, outlaws and settlers to Tupelo. Visit Elvis Presley's birthplace, a modest two-room house has been restored and is part of the Elvis Presley Center. Take a tour of the Tupelo Automobile Museum and see over 100 antique, classic and collectible vehicles.

Days 6 & 7 – 116 miles

Tupelo to Clarksdale

Take a stop in the beautiful town of Oxford, home of the University of Mississippi and the writers William Faulkner & John Grisham. Don't miss the Delta Blues Museum and drop in next door to Ground Zero Blues Club, an authentically reproduced blues "juke joint" owned by the famous actor, Morgan Freeman. Visit "The Crossroads", the intersection of Highways 61 and 49, where legend has it that the famous bluesman of all, Robert Johnson, made a pact with the devil.

Day 8 & 9 – 216 miles

Clarksdale to Vicksburg to Natchez

From Clarksdale, head south to Vicksburg and visit the hallowed Biedenharn Candy Company, the restored 1890 building where Coca-Cola® was first bottled. Take a stop in Port Gibson, which was saved during the Civil War because it was proclaimed too beautiful to burn. In Natchez visit Dunleith Plantation one of the beautiful antebellum homes.

Day 10 & 11 – 150 miles

Natchez to Lafayette

Cross the river & stop in the small town of Ferriday and visit the Delta Music Museum which showcases entertainers Jerry Lee Lewis and Mickey Gilley, evangelist Jimmy Swaggart and blues trombonist Pee Wee Whittaker. In Lafayette take a visit to Vermilionville, this Cajun/Creole heritage and folk life park recreates life in the Acadiana area between 1765 and 1890.

Days 12 to 14 – 135 miles

Lafayette to New Orleans

En-route to New Orleans you'll pass through the capital city of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, from here take a drive down the great 'River Road', which has a stunning collection of historic plantation homes. Finish your adventure with a three night stay in New Orleans. The historic French Quarter is one of the oldest and most extraordinary neighbourhoods in the U.S. Experience the madness of Bourbon Street, referred to as the playground of the South. Many of the French Quarter restaurants have become global attractions and serve incredible food, everything from oyster bars to 5 star dining. Take a cruise on the Mississippi, visit Mardi Gras World and the World War II Museum, the options are endless.



Day 15 – Depart for home

Please note this itinerary is only a suggested and can be adjusted to suit your requirements.