

Mighty Mississippi Road Trip

Say Hello to Old Man River! The vast fertile flatlands of what is known as the Mississippi Delta were created by thousands of years of flooding by the Mississippi River. The soil and the climate created one the world's most important agricultural economies. The Mississippi Great River Road National Scenic Byway runs along the river through Mississippi's western most counties. To drive along the Great River Road takes you through what has been called "the most Southern place on Earth." Several exhibits along the Great River Road detail the history of the river and the people who settled along its fertile crescent.

Mississippi has developed a heritage trails program to highlight places of interest and historic significance to Mississippi's diverse culture. Throughout the Delta you will find dozens of Mississippi Blues Trail markers from Memphis Minnie just outside of Walls to Willie Dixon's hometown of Vicksburg. The Mississippi Country Music Trail celebrates the lives of Mississippians who left their legacies in country music. The Mississippi Mound Trail sites mark centers of social and political authority of Mississippi's Native Americans. The Mississippi Freedom Trail honors those who fought for the Civil Rights of all Mississippians.

- **The Gateway to Blues** – Tunica is the perfect stop for planning your journey through the Delta. A visit to the museum tells the story of the birth of the Delta Blues and the impact that the genre has had on popular music. You can even record your own Blues record!
- **Tunica River Park & Museum** – Robinsonville allows up-close and personal interaction with Old Man River. The museum surveys the history of the river and the region while the grounds are rich with native wildlife and flora. The observation tower atop the museum provides breathtaking panoramic views of the river and surrounding hardwood forests.
- **The Delta Cultural Center** – Helena, AR is dedicated to the history of the Arkansas Delta. The legendary King Biscuit Time radio show is broadcast live from the center daily. Part of the museum is located in a restored 1912 train depot where many of the early Bluesmen played on Saturday nights.
- **Quapaw Canoe Company** – Clarksdale, Helena & Vicksburg offers a bucket-list experience as you traverse the mighty Mississippi by canoe or kayak. Day trips and multiple night camping experiences offered.
- **The North Delta Museum** – Friar's Point was described by the Memphis Commercial Appeal, "it's like crawling through someone's attic." The museum is a repository of prehistoric Native American artifacts, antique clothing, military uniforms, medical instruments, photographs and a replica of an early Delta general store.
- **Winterville Mounds** – Greenville is a 42-acre site featuring 12 prehistoric Native American ceremonial mounds, two large plazas and a museum. Archaeological evidence indicates that the site was built by a Native American civilization that thrived from about A.D. 1000 to 1450.
- **The 1927 Flood Museum** – Greenville is exhibited in the oldest structure in downtown Greenville and presents the history of one of the greatest natural disasters this country has ever known as the levee broke just north of Greenville flooding thousands of acres and displacing thousands of people.
- **Warfield Point Park** – Greenville is located on the banks of the Mississippi River and is the perfect place to camp and enjoy a cacophony of katydids serenading in the cottonwood trees. The observation tower allows spectacular views of the river. RV hookups are available.
- **Lakeport Plantation (1859)** – Lake Village, AR, is the only remaining antebellum plantation home along Arkansas' Mississippi River bank. The Greek Revival residence is considered to be one of Arkansas' premier historic structures.
- **The Jesse Brent Lower Mississippi River Museum & Riverfront Interpretive Center** – Vicksburg explores how different communities, farming families and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have all utilized the river. A scaled model of a section of the river allows visitors to see how different factors can change a river. You can experience life aboard the M/V Mississippi IV. Nearly all of the vessel has been staged and can be explored on a self-guided tour.
- **Oxbow Lakes** – All along your adventure along the Mississippi River you will discover oxbow lakes. An oxbow lake is a U-shaped body of water that forms when a wide meander from the main stem of a river is cut off, creating a free-standing body of water. The landform is so named for its distinctive curved shape, resembling the bow pin of an oxbow. Through the years hundreds of oxbow lakes have been created by the power of the river – some small, some large. Here are a few of the larger oxbows that are easily accessible from the Great River Road: Tunica Lake, Moon Lake, DeSoto Lake, Lake Beulah, Lake Whittington, Lake Ferguson, Lake Chicot (AR), Lake Washington, Albermarle Lake and Eagle Lake.



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