

Take the *scenic way.*

12 Mississippi drives worth
making a little time for.



MISSISSIPPI / VOL. 01



YOUR NEXT GOOD DAY

A full tank.
A loose plan.
A reason to smile.

Good days don't need *a boarding pass.*

Sometimes all you need is a free afternoon, someone good in the passenger seat, and a road you haven't taken in a while.

I put this guide together to give you a starting point: twelve ways to see more of Mississippi, from the coast to the hills, with room to make each trip your own.

Pick the drive that fits your day. Choose a couple of stops. Leave space for a long lunch, a good conversation, or a place you decide to stay a little longer.

David Kett

YOUR CAR GUY. AND A FAN OF THE LONG WAY HOME.



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The time suggestions include room to explore; they are not measured drive times. Tap the planning links, confirm your stops, and use a live navigation app for the actual route. These are twelve separate outings, not one continuous itinerary.

Where to?

Start with the feeling. Then choose the road.

01	Natchez Trace	One section: a day	04
02	Great River Road	Two or more days	05
03	The coastal road	A full day or weekend	06
04	Highway 16	A relaxed day	07
05	Tishomingo to luka	A day with time outside	08
06	Vicksburg	Half a day or longer	09
07	Highway 15	Half a day, with stops	10
08	Highway 35	A leisurely half day	11
09	The Raymond loop	A relaxed day	12
10	Natchez to Woodville	Half a day or longer	13
11	Toward Fort Adams	A day from Natchez	14
12	Oxford to Pontotoc	A leisurely half day	15

TAP A ROUTE TO GO STRAIGHT THERE

01 Natchez Trace

A little less hurry.



TREE-LINED ROAD.

NATCHEZ TO NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI

ONE SECTION: A DAY

The Trace makes a beautiful case for taking the slower road. Choose one stretch instead of trying to squeeze the whole parkway into a day. The best part is having time to step out, look around, and understand the landscape you are passing through.

1 Start with the southern stretch

From Natchez, head north to Emerald Mound at milepost 10.3, then Mount Locust at 15.5. These stops introduce very different chapters of the region's history.

2 Make another day of the middle

Cypress Swamp is at milepost 122; French Camp is farther north at 181. Treat these as a separate outing if you want time to explore.

3 Save the north for a return trip

Pair the northeastern Trace with Tishomingo State Park. You do not need to cover every mile to have a memorable day.

BEFORE YOU GO / TAP FOR VISITOR INFO

Check park alerts before choosing stops. Fuel and food are off the parkway; follow posted speeds and use designated pull-offs.

02 Great River Road

Follow the river's rhythm.



RIVER LANDSCAPE.

WESTERN MISSISSIPPI

TWO OR MORE DAYS

This is a journey through river towns, music, and the wide horizons of western Mississippi. The Great River Road is a signed network, not a promise of continuous waterfront views. Make the towns your anchors and let the river be the thread.

1 Begin in the Delta

Build a northern section around Clarksdale and a music stop. Check performance and museum schedules before committing to your day.

2 Pause in Vicksburg

Leave room for the waterfront and the city's layered history. The military park deserves its own unhurried visit; see trip 06.

3 Finish in Natchez

Use Natchez as a final overnight or a separate weekend. An evening on the bluff is an easy way to let a long drive settle.

BEFORE YOU GO / TAP FOR VISITOR INFO

Use the official route map rather than assuming US 61 follows the riverbank. Break this trip into sections and book overnight stops ahead.

03 The coastal road

A front porch to the sea.



BILOXI Lighthouse.

US 90 / OCEAN SPRINGS TO BAY ST. LOUIS

A FULL DAY OR WEEKEND

Water, working harbors, old live oaks, and towns worth getting out of the car for. This coastal drive is best enjoyed with a loose schedule: one cultural stop, a good lunch, and enough room to follow your curiosity.

1 Begin in Ocean Springs

Start with a downtown walk and coffee. Give galleries and small shops time to open before building your morning around them.

2 Pause in Biloxi

Make the lighthouse a visual landmark, then choose a museum or waterfront stop. Confirm tour availability if you want to go inside.

3 Continue west

Pass through Gulfport and Pass Christian before ending in Bay St. Louis. Pick one town for a longer wander rather than rushing through them all.

BEFORE YOU GO / TAP FOR VISITOR INFO

Pack sun protection and water, and check coastal weather. Beach access, parking, and attraction hours vary by stop.

04 Highway 16

Pines, towns, living culture.



WOODLAND DETAIL.

CARTHAGE TO CHOCTAW & PHILADELPHIA

A RELAXED DAY

Let this drive be a conversation with central Mississippi: small-town streets, wooded stretches, and an opportunity to learn from the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. A cultural visit gives the scenery context and the day a meaningful center.

1 Start in Carthage

Take a short town stop before following MS 16 east. Set your destination pins while parked so the drive can stay simple.

2 Visit Chahta Immi

Plan around the Chahta Immi Cultural Center in Choctaw Town Center. Its exhibits share the distinct heritage of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

3 Finish in Philadelphia

Leave time for lunch and a walk around town. A modest itinerary gives each stop more space to be worthwhile.

BEFORE YOU GO / TAP FOR VISITOR INFO

Confirm cultural-center hours with the Tribe before leaving. Tribal tours require advance arrangements; respect private and sacred places.

05 Tishomingo to luka

Mississippi, with a little lift.



SWINGING BRIDGE AT TISHOMINGO STATE PARK.

NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI

A DAY WITH TIME OUTSIDE

The state's northeastern corner brings a different texture: rocky woodland, creek crossings, and a landscape that rewards a little time on foot. Begin with the park and keep the drive to luka as the quieter second act.

1 Start at Tishomingo State Park

Stop at the park office and choose a trail that fits your group. The swinging bridge and Bear Creek are the signature sights.

2 Make lunch an actual pause

Use a designated picnic area and give yourself time to cool down after a walk. A simple packed lunch keeps the day flexible.

3 Continue toward luka

Follow your mapped route north toward luka for a town stop. Return the same way or map a separate return before leaving; this is not a signed loop.

BEFORE YOU GO / TAP FOR VISITOR INFO

Download the official park map. Trails can be uneven, and water levels or weather may affect activities. Confirm access and fees before travel.

06 Vicksburg

History beneath the trees.



MEMORIAL ARCH, VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK.

VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

HALF A DAY OR LONGER

This is a drive to take thoughtfully. The battlefield landscape tells a consequential story of the Civil War, and the monuments are more meaningful when you give yourself time to read, listen, and reflect.

1 Begin with context

Start with the visitor center when open. Collect the current tour information and ask which sections are accessible that day.

2 Follow the available tour route

Choose a few places to stop and read rather than treating every monument as a quick photograph. Stay on the signed route.

3 Make room for USS Cairo

The ironclad and museum add a different perspective to the battlefield visit. Confirm their separate operating schedule before planning around them.

BEFORE YOU GO / TAP FOR VISITOR INFO

Road rehabilitation and operating schedules can change the visit. Check current NPS alerts, admission details, and accessibility information first.

07 Highway 15

Pine country, town to town.



WILDLIFE DETAIL.

BEAUMONT TO LAUREL**HALF A DAY, WITH STOPS**

For a drive with an everyday Mississippi feel, head north from Beaumont toward Laurel. The appeal is in the contrast: wooded stretches and small communities giving way to a town where you can park, walk, and make an afternoon of it.

1 Begin in Beaumont

Set out with fuel, water, and a lunch plan. Follow MS 15 north and let the rural drive be part of the outing, not a race to the finish.

2 Keep the middle easy

Allow a short break in a town along the way. Choose public parking and established stops rather than stopping on a narrow shoulder.

3 Spend your time in Laurel

Make downtown your destination for a walk, lunch, and browsing. If art is your thing, check the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art's visitor information.

BEFORE YOU GO / TAP FOR VISITOR INFO

Treat forest trails as separately planned detours. A wooded highway does not mean every side road is public or suitable for your vehicle.

08 Highway 35

Small towns, wide breathing room.



RURAL LANDSCAPE.

CARROLLTON TO VAIDEN

A LEISURELY HALF DAY

Build this short drive around the pleasure of two small towns and the countryside between them. This is hill country near the Delta's edge, rather than an uninterrupted flat Delta drive. Its quieter scale is exactly the point.

1 Walk Carrollton first

Start with a look around the town center. Notice the buildings and details before you get back behind the wheel.

2 Take MS 35 toward Vaiden

Keep your route simple and your expectations open. The landscape is the interlude between two places worth slowing down for.

3 Make a Vaiden stop

Finish with a town walk or a picnic at an appropriate public spot. Check meal options beforehand if lunch is part of your plan.

BEFORE YOU GO / TAP FOR VISITOR INFO

Allow for limited business hours in smaller towns. Enjoy barns, homes, and fields from public places; ask permission before entering private land.

09 The Raymond loop

A little countryside reset.



COTTON DETAIL.

CLINTON / RAYMOND / UTICA

A RELAXED DAY

Close enough to feel manageable, varied enough to feel like you went somewhere. This is a self-planned countryside loop, not an officially signed “Trace Scenic Trail.” Use the three towns as anchors and choose your stops before setting out.

1 Leave Clinton with a plan

Map your preferred road connection to Raymond. A slower route is only relaxing when you know where it is taking you.

2 Spend time in Raymond

Make the courthouse square your town stop. If you want more historical context, check visiting information for the Raymond battlefield.

3 Continue to Utica

Add the southern leg if your schedule allows, then map your return to Clinton. If time gets tight, a Clinton-to-Raymond outing stands on its own.

BEFORE YOU GO / TAP FOR VISITOR INFO

Save the full route offline. Keep photo stops to legal public parking; fields and rural lanes may be privately owned.

10 Natchez to Woodville

The hills have their own pace.



PASTURELAND.

US 61 / SOUTHWEST MISSISSIPPI

HALF A DAY OR LONGER

Turn south from Natchez for a drive through southwest Mississippi's rolling countryside. This is a good choice when you want a change of scenery without building the day around a long checklist of attractions.

1 Begin on the Natchez bluff

Enjoy the river view before leaving town. This is your best chance to make the river part of a drive that spends much of its time inland.

2 Follow US 61 south

Let the wooded and open stretches do their work. Plan breaks in established public places rather than searching for informal roadside overlooks.

3 Finish in Woodville

Spend time around the courthouse square and check what is open locally. A lunch stop or short walk makes a satisfying turnaround point.

BEFORE YOU GO / TAP FOR VISITOR INFO

Want a longer day? Trip 11 continues toward Fort Adams. Check the route and daylight before adding it; rural services can be limited.

11 Toward Fort Adams

The quieter southwest.



RIVER COUNTRY.

WOODVILLE / MS 24 / FORT ADAMS AREA

A DAY FROM NATCHEZ

Use Woodville as the gateway to the far southwestern corner of Mississippi. This is a rural outing to plan deliberately: wooded roads, small communities, and the sense of reaching the state's quieter edge.

1 Get your bearings in Woodville

From Natchez, travel south on US 61 first. Then map the MS 24 route toward the Fort Adams area; this is not a continuous "Bluff Road" from Natchez.

2 Choose your main destination

Decide whether the day is about a rural drive or a hike. Clark Creek Natural Area is a separate option in the area, with its own access and trail planning.

3 Leave room to return

Do not assume a maintained public river overlook or full services will be waiting at the end. Confirm your stopping place and return route before setting out.

BEFORE YOU GO / TAP FOR VISITOR INFO

For Clark Creek, use official visitor guidance and check trail conditions. Bring water, sturdy footwear, and time for the return climb if hiking.

12 Oxford to Pontotoc

From the square to open skies.



OXFORD SQUARE.

MS 6 / NORTH MISSISSIPPI

A LEISURELY HALF DAY

Begin with the energy of Oxford, then trade it for the more open rhythm of the road. This is an easy way to pair a lively town morning with a quieter afternoon and a second small-town stop.

1 Give Oxford a real morning

Park and explore the Square before leaving. Build in time for a bookstore browse, coffee, or an early lunch rather than only driving through.

2 Head east on MS 6

Set your route toward Pontotoc. The main drive is the connection; add side roads only if you have mapped a specific public destination.

3 Pause in Pontotoc

Finish with a downtown walk and something to eat if local hours line up. Returning to Oxford keeps the day simple; an overnight gives you more flexibility.

BEFORE YOU GO / TAP FOR VISITOR INFO

Oxford event weekends can change traffic, parking, and room availability. Check the local calendar before deciding when to go.

Make room for *a good day.*

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Check the forecast and official alerts. Save your route offline, confirm opening hours, and tell someone your plan if you are heading into a remote area.

FOR THE CAR

Check fuel, tire pressure, and your usual maintenance needs. Bring a charger and keep essentials within reach before you start driving.

FOR THE PEOPLE

Pack water, snacks, sun protection, and comfortable shoes. Ask about accessibility at specific stops; a scenic drive and a trail walk are different experiences.

YOUR EASY DAY PLAN

The road I'm taking

My one can't-miss stop

Lunch / picnic plan

Time to turn toward home

A little local knowledge.

Tap a resource before you go. Current hours, closures, admission, and access details belong with the people who look after each place.

- 01** Natchez Trace / NPS parkway information
- 02** Great River Road / Great River Road route planning
- 03** The coastal road / Coastal Mississippi visitor guide
- 04** Highway 16 / Choctaw visitor information
- 05** Tishomingo to luka / Tishomingo State Park
- 06** Vicksburg / Plan a Vicksburg park visit
- 07** Highway 15 / Mississippi destination planning
- 08** Highway 35 / Mississippi destination planning
- 09** The Raymond loop / Raymond battlefield information
- 10** Natchez to Woodville / Natchez visitor information
- 11** Toward Fort Adams / Clark Creek visitor information
- 12** Oxford to Pontotoc / Oxford visitor information

A note on the images

Photographs are retained from David's supplied guide. Landmark photos are named where identifiable; other images are landscape or wildlife details rather than exact navigation points. The magnolia artwork was created for this edition. No generated destination photography is used.

More miles. *More memories.*

That's what a good drive
should give you.



I hope this guide helps you find a new favorite corner of Mississippi. Save it for your next free day, or send it to the friend you want in the passenger seat.

And when it's time for your next vehicle,
I'd be glad to help you find your starting point.

Let's find your next good drive.

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