

Memphis, Oxford and the Mississippi Delta

NATIONAL TRUST COUNCIL TRIP

APRIL 12-15, 2018



National Trust *for*
Historic Preservation®

We can't wait to see you in the Delta!

Few places on the national landscape played a more unique role in molding the shape and sound of our collective American identity than the Delta and Hill Country of northern Mississippi. The American story is reflected here in a myriad of ways: it is the land where the Blues was born, where the Civil Rights Movement took root, and where increasingly mechanized farming and Jim Crow segregation sparked the Great Migration. Join us in experiencing the people, places, food, and music that make this such an important and unique American landscape.

welcome



WEATHER: Averages in April are in the mid-to-low 70s during the day with evenings in the low 50s.

THURSDAY » april 12

SCHEDULE



COVER: Rowan Oak

PREVIOUS PAGE:
Mississippi River

ABOVE, CLOCKWISE
FROM LEFT:
Clayborn Temple,
by Steve Jones;
Peabody Hotel,
by Matthew
Nichols; Mallory-
Neely House, by
Victorian Village

Clayborn Temple

A STately ROMANESQUE REVIVAL church just south of Beale Street, Clayborn Temple began life with a white congregation in 1892 as Second Presbyterian. In 1949, the church was sold to an African-American congregation, who changed the name to Clayborn Temple in honor of a local African Methodist Episcopal (AME) bishop. Clayborn Temple became the epicenter of the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Workers' Strike. The support of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. elevated the strike from a local dispute to a national issue of economic justice and civil rights, and, tragically, it was during this trip to Memphis that Dr. King was assassinated.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12 (MEMPHIS, TN)

All times and distances approximate; itinerary subject to change.

12:00–2:00 Office Hours at Peabody Hotel (Claiborne Room, 3rd Floor)

Named to honor pioneering philanthropist George Peabody's contributions to the South, the Peabody was a hub of the Memphis social scene for much of the 20th century. Questions about the weekend? Stop by and say hello to the team!

Afternoon Tour Options (Choose one of the following)

CASUAL ATTIRE, COMFORTABLE WALKING SHOES

2:00–3:30 Millionaire's Row

A visit to the Victorian Village Historic District, once called Millionaire's Row, offers a glimpse into the Mallory-Neely House, an ornate Italianate style villa with original furnishings purchased by the Neely family from the World's Columbian Exposition and St. Louis World's Fair. *Minimal walking*

2:00–4:00 National Civil Rights Museum

Join a special afternoon tour of the National Civil Rights Museum, a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate. Anchored by the Lorraine Motel, site of the 1968 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the museum traces the history of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. *Minimal walking*

4:15–5:30 Free Time

6:00–8:00 Reception at Clayborn Temple

COCKTAIL ATTIRE

Kick off the weekend with a cocktail reception celebrating one of the National Trust's newest National Treasures.

8:00 Return to Hotel; Dinner on Your Own

For on your own recommendations in Memphis, see page 12.

FRIDAY » april 13

SCHEDULE



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: City Grocery and Southside Gallery, by Joe Buglewicz; University of Mississippi, courtesy of University of Mississippi; Holly Springs

Oxford, Mississippi

HOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI, Oxford has all the trappings and character of a traditional college town. Steeped in stately architecture and southern charm, The Square in downtown Oxford is a vibrant nexus of boutique shops and elegant restaurants surrounding the historic Lafayette County Courthouse.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13 (HOLLY SPRINGS AND OXFORD, MS)

All times and distances approximate; itinerary subject to change.

CASUAL ATTIRE, COMFORTABLE WALKING SHOES

Breakfast on Your Own in Memphis

8:00 Meet in the Lobby with Your Bags Packed for Mississippi!

8:30–9:30 Travel to Holly Springs (1 hour)

Journey into Mississippi and receive a personal introduction to Holly Springs from Council member Ruff Fant, whose family celebrates special ties to the Hill Country community and its local preservation movement.

9:30–11:15 Morning Tours in Holly Springs

Enjoy coffee and light refreshments at the private home of mystery novelist Marie Moore and her husband, Rook, before exploring private homes and studios of local pioneers in the preservation movement.

11:30–1:30 Lunch and Update Meeting at Montrose Mansion

Receive an update from National Trust staff over lunch at this historic Greek Revival home and arboretum managed by the Holly Springs Garden Club.

1:30–2:30 Travel to Oxford (1 hour)

2:30–4:30 Afternoon Tour of Oxford

Experience a private tour of Ammadelle, one of the only homes in Oxford not burned down during the Civil War. Architect Calvert Vaux, better known for his landscape collaborations with Andrew Jackson Downing and Frederick Law Olmsted, regarded Ammadelle as one of his finest works. Then board a double decker bus, imported from Oxford, England, for a view of downtown Oxford's historic square and Ole Miss' campus.

4:30–6:00 Check in and Free Time

6:30–8:30 Reception and Dinner at Rowan Oak

Join fellow Council members and guests for a magical evening at William Faulkner's Rowan Oak, a National Historic Landmark. Tour the property and enjoy cocktails and dinner at the Greek Revival home of the award-winning author and pioneer of the Southern Gothic tradition, whose works were set largely in fictionalized versions of Oxford and surrounding Lafayette County.

SATURDAY » april 14

SCHEDULE



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Dockery Farms; B.B. King Museum, by Bill Golladay; Tallahatchie County Courthouse in Sumner, MS, courtesy of the Emmett Till Interpretive Center

Mississippi Delta

THE FERTILE FLATLANDS of the Mississippi Delta have played a pivotal role in shaping our nation's character and culture. Regardless of where you grew up, in one way or another, all Americans have been impacted by the region's food, music, arts, and culture.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14 (MISSISSIPPI DELTA)

All times and distances approximate; itinerary subject to change. Please note the long distances in between stops on the bus.

CASUAL ATTIRE, COMFORTABLE WALKING SHOES

Breakfast on Your Own

8:30-10:00 Travel to Sumner (1.5 hours)

10:00-11:15 Emmett Till Interpretive Center

Follow Patrick Weems, Executive Director of the Emmett Till Interpretive Center, on a moving tour of the Tallahatchie County Courthouse where in 1955, an all-white jury acquitted two white men of the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till, capturing international attention and galvanizing the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi and across the country.

11:15-12:15 Travel to Indianola (1 hour)

12:15-1:45 Lunch at B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center

Enjoy lunch and live blues at the final resting place of Riley "B.B." King, the Delta's consummate bluesman, who spent his early years working in this original cotton gin building, now restored as part of a \$14 million facility devoted to the music, art, and rich cultural heritage that defines the Delta region.

1:45-2:15 Travel to Cleveland (30 minutes)

2:15-2:45 Dockery Farms

Join Bill Lester, Founder and Executive Director of the Dockery Farms Foundation, on a personal tour of the "birthplace of the blues," where Robert Johnson, Charley Patton, Howlin' Wolf, and other founding fathers of blues lived and worked in the late-19th and early-20th centuries.

2:45-4:45 Return to Oxford (2 hours)

4:45-6:15 Free Time

6:30-8:00 Cocktails at the Neilson-Culley-Lewis Home

COCKTAIL ATTIRE

Regroup for cocktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres at the private home of Patty and William Lewis, owners of the J.E. Neilson Department Store, one of the oldest in the South.

SUNDAY » *april 15*

SCHEDULE



ABOVE: University of Mississippi
Foundation's Brandt Memory House,
courtesy of University of Mississippi

SUNDAY, APRIL 15 (OXFORD, MS AND MEMPHIS, TN)

8:00–9:30 Early Buses Back to Memphis
(1.5 hours)

8:00–9:30 Goodbye Breakfast in Oxford

Gather once more with National Trust Council members and staff for a goodbye breakfast, catered by John Currence's City Grocery, in the historic surroundings of the University of Mississippi Foundation's Brandt Memory House.

9:30–11:00 Buses Back to Memphis (1.5 hours)

THE DELTA » *a historical overview*



10,000 BC

Ancestors of the Chickasaw and Choctaw tribes began developing settlements and agriculture on the natural levees along the Mississippi River, thousands of years before they first encountered explorers from Western Europe.



EARLY-MID 1800s

The cotton gin and the Indian Removal Act of 1830 gave rise to plantations across the Delta and into the Hill Country. As cotton became king, European-Americans were dramatically outnumbered by African slaves by the start of the Civil War. The University of Mississippi welcomed its first class of 80 students through the doors of its iconic Lyceum in Oxford in 1848.



MID 1800s

While our nation faced its greatest conflict, many southern families found the battle at their doorsteps. Though much of Holly Springs was spared during Union occupations and Confederate raids, most of Oxford was burned to the ground during Union General Andrew Jackson Smith's 1864 pursuit of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest.



EARLY 1900s

Willie Brown, Charley Patton, Son House, Robert Johnson, and Howlin' Wolf would all work the fields of Dockery Farms in Cleveland, MS, while also laying the foundation for the Delta Blues. During the Great Migration, many founding bluesmen would join millions of African Americans in leaving behind Jim Crow and the rural South to find new social and economic opportunities in cities across the United States.



MID 1900s

Throughout the 1960s, Clayborn Temple served as the Civil Rights Movement staging ground, which reached a boiling point by March 1968. That spring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. came to lend his support and a national spotlight to the Sanitation Workers' Strike for better pay and working conditions. Dr. King was shot and killed while standing on the balcony outside room 306 of the Lorraine Motel in downtown Memphis.



2000s

In 2007, more than five decades after two white men were acquitted by an all-white jury for the murder of Emmett Till, the Emmett Till Memorial Commission delivered a public apology to the Till family on the steps of the Sumner Courthouse. The apology marked the start of an eight-year process to create the Emmett Till Interpretive Center and point a way towards racial healing and reconciliation.

TIMELINE, LEFT TO RIGHT: View of Memphis, TN; University of Mississippi's Lyceum, courtesy of University of Mississippi; Holly Springs home, courtesy of Historic American Building Survey; Delta Cotton Field; Clayborn Temple, courtesy of Historic American Building Survey/Library of Congress; Tallahatchie Courthouse in Sumner, MS, courtesy of the Emmett Till Interpretive Center



AND MORE » *on your own*

Memphis, Tennessee

Graceland: Journey to the second most-visited home in the country, where more than 650,000 make the pilgrimage from across the globe every year for a glimpse of the Jungle Room and the home of Elvis Aaron Presley.

Beale Street: Stroll down Beale Street and explore what remains of this bastion of blues and local history. Largely leveled in the 1970s in the name of urban renewal, more recent redevelopment has revitalized this popular tourist destination and entertainment district with local favorites including B.B. King's Blues Club and Mr. Handy's Blues Hall.

Memphis' Music History: All over Memphis you can see the footprints of musicians who helped make it a capital of Southern sounds. Visit the Stax Museum for a look at the roots of American soul music (and Isaac Hayes's gold-plated Cadillac). Stop at the National Historic Landmark Sun Studio to discover the beginnings of rock and roll and Elvis. Or swing by the Blues Hall of Fame in the South Main historic district.

While at The Peabody: Watch the Peabody Ducks march in and out of the historic lobby, have a mint julep in the plush lobby bar, or head upstairs to the rooftop for an outstanding Mississippi River view.

Oxford, Mississippi

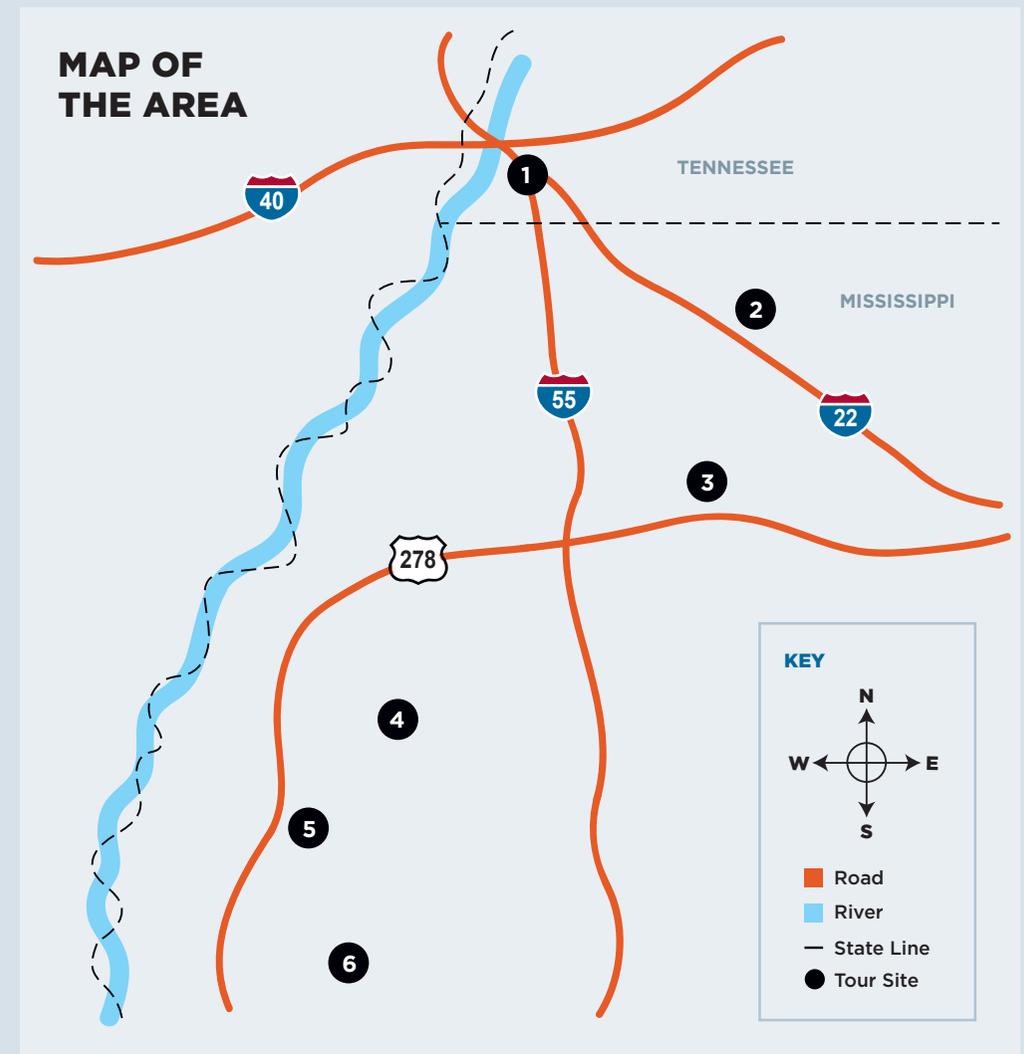
St. Leo: Enjoy the earthy simplicity of wood-fired Italian cooking from St. Leo, Oxford's own 2017 James Beard Award semifinalist for "Best New Restaurant."

City Grocery: Sample the innovative fare from this beloved local culinary institution that helped pioneer the revitalization of The Square in downtown Oxford.

Shopping on The Square: Browse the shops and elegant boutiques of Oxford's Historic Downtown Square, from the South's oldest department store (The J.E. Neilson Company) to one of the nation's most renowned independent booksellers (Square Books).

Lamar House Tour: Discovery the life and legacy of Mississippi's distinguished 19th-century statesman and former Secretary of the Interior and Supreme Court Justice L.Q.C. Lamar at this modest historic home. Lamar House was saved from "demolition by neglect" in the early 2000s by the Oxford-Lafayette County Heritage Foundation and serves an important function today in exploring the politics of slavery, secession, and reunion.

University of Mississippi Museum: Explore the University of Mississippi Museum's Southern Folk Art collection, which features the work of many local and regional artists, including Luster Willis, Mose Tolliver, M.B. Mayfield, and Howard Finster.



TOUR SITES

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Memphis, TN | 4. Sumner, MS |
| 2. Holly Springs, MS | 5. Cleveland, MS |
| 3. Oxford, MS | 6. Indianola, MS |

Mark your calendar!

Join the and Board of Trustees and the National Trust Council for a special celebration of the Campaign for America's National Treasures.

Newport, Rhode Island
October 18–20, 2018

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately funded nonprofit organization, works to save America's historic places.



National Trust *for*
Historic Preservation®

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SavingPlaces.org