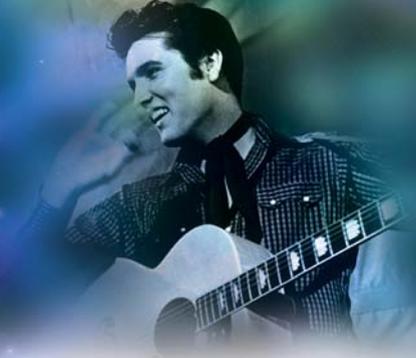




LAND OF THE
AMERICAN

Kings



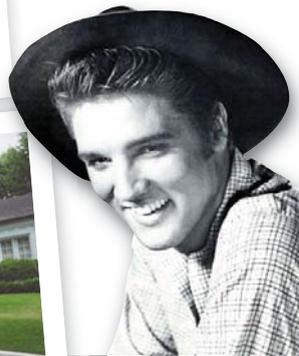
THE ELVIS® TRAIL

Follow in the footsteps of the King and explore the life and legend of Elvis Presley.

Memphis

- **Lauderdale Courts, 252 North Lauderdale, Memphis.** After Elvis and his parents moved to Memphis from Tupelo, Mississippi in 1948 they lived in a series of boarding houses and apartments. It is reported that they paid \$35.00 per month in rent. They moved into the apartment in 1949 and lived there until 1952 when their income exceeded the maximum amount allowed. This apartment can now be rented for the night for fans who want to sleep where Elvis did.
- **Humes High School, 659 North Manassas Street.** Elvis attended Humes High School from 1948 until 1953 when he graduated. He was the first in his family to finish high school. While in attendance at Humes, Elvis gave his first performance in front of a crowd. He sang and played guitar at a talent show in the school's auditorium. To his surprise and delight, he won the competition.
- **Sun Studio, 706 Union Avenue.** In 1953, an 18 year old Elvis Presley walked into Sun Studio (it was called Memphis Recording Service at the time) with a cheap guitar and a dream. Nervously, he sang a demo song, failing to impress Sam Phillips. Elvis continued to hang around the studio, however, and in 1954, Sam Phillips asked him to sing again, backed by a band made up of Scotty Moore and Bill Black. After hours in the studio the small group had yet to record anything of any value. Just for fun, Elvis began playing around with an old blues song, "That's All Right Mama." His rendition impressed Phillips and garnered him a recording contract.
- **First House, 1034 Audubon Drive.** Due to the success of his first #1 hit, *Heartbreak Hotel*, Elvis was able to purchase a home for his family. He bought this house in 1956 for just over \$29,000. The three Presley's lived there for just one year when an increasing need for privacy prompted Elvis to buy Graceland. The Audubon Drive house still stands today and has had eight owners since the Presleys lived there.
- **Graceland, 3734 Elvis Presley Boulevard.** Graceland was the last of Elvis' Memphis homes and it is where he and his family are buried in The Meditation Garden. Elvis bought the home in 1957 for \$102,000 and he, his parents and his grandmother all moved into the mansion. Today, Graceland is the most popular tourist attraction in Memphis, drawing hundreds of thousands of fans each year. It is one of the most visited homes in the United States, second only to the White House.
- **The Arcade, 540 S. Main Street, Memphis.** Memphis' oldest restaurant founded in 1919 is like a trip back in time and is what has attracted photographers, artists, writers, and movie makers from around the world. Scenes from *Mystery Train*, *Great Balls of Fire*, *The Client*, *The Firm*, *21 Grams*, *Elizabethtown*, *Walk the Line*, and *My Blueberry Nights*, just to name a few, have all been filmed in the restaurant. Elvis was a regular and even had his own booth where visitors flock for photos.

LAUDERDALE COURTS
Mid Century Life Style



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Tupelo

The most significant landmark of Tupelo's modern history is a modest, two-room house where the King of Rock 'n' Roll was born on January 8, 1935. From this humble beginning, Elvis Presley began his swift rise to become the world's most popular entertainer.

The house, built by his father with \$180, draws over 50,000 visitors each year from across the world. The City of Tupelo bought the house and land with money provided from a 1956 Tupelo concert by Elvis himself, who wanted a park for neighbourhood children. As an official Mississippi landmark, the birthplace is part of the 15-acre **Elvis Presley Park** which celebrates the life of Tupelo's most famous son.

The Elvis Presley Memorial Museum vividly explains the early days of Elvis in rural Mississippi and how his roots influenced his future.

The latest addition to the birthplace is **The Assembly of God Church** where Elvis and his family attended under the pastor of Rev. Frank Smith who taught Elvis to play guitar. The multi-media presentation takes visitors back in time to a depression-era gospel service.

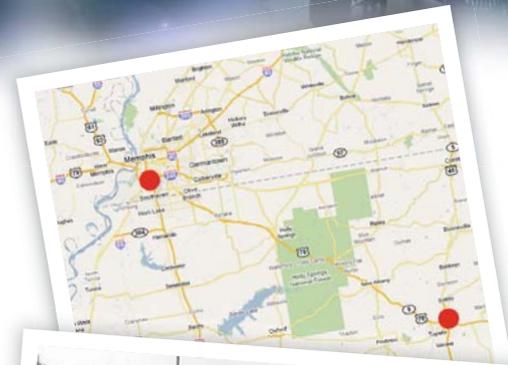
The **Story Wall** is a collection of original, unedited stories from people who knew Elvis during his Tupelo days. **The Chapel**, built by donations from his fans, is a popular attraction in the park offering a time for meditation and reflection as well as marriage ceremonies and dedications.

The Walk of Life which surrounds the house where Elvis was born, is a scored concrete circle with dated granite blocks denoting each year of Elvis' life from 1935 to 1977. The 1948 block marks the year in which Elvis and his family left for Memphis, and it leads to the **Elvis at 13** bronze statue, which was unveiled on Elvis' 67th birthday and memorialises Elvis as a young boy wearing overalls and carrying a guitar. From there the walkway leads to **The Fountain of Life**, a beautiful water feature, which is a complete circle representing Elvis' life in Tupelo. As you wind around the walkway you can view a 1939 green Plymouth 4-door sedan, similar to the car in which he and his family rode to Memphis in. It was the year of 1948 when the transformation of Elvis, as a young Tupelo boy began his journey as Elvis, the world's greatest entertainer.

The Elvis Presley self-guided driving tour leads to some of the most significant locations of Elvis' life in Tupelo:

- **Lawhon Elementary School**, the first school Elvis attended.
- **Johnnie's Drive-In**, where Elvis shared moments with friend James Ausborne, while enjoying a cheeseburger and Cola.
- **Shakerag**, a significant part of Elvis' past where he gained influence from sanctified gospel and blues music.
- **Tupelo Fairgrounds**, where Elvis performed concerts in 1956 and 1957.
- **Tupelo Hardware Store**, where Elvis bought his first guitar.
- **Lee County Courthouse**, where Elvis performed his first live radio show hosted by Mississippi Slim and WELO.
- **Mayhorn's Grocery Store**, where Elvis used to sit on the porch and listen to blues and gospel music in the neighbourhood where he lived.
- **Milam Jr. High**, the last school Elvis attended before moving to Memphis

Elvis Presley Festival Held annually the first weekend in June, the Elvis Presley Festival is Tupelo's tribute to their most famous native son. The weekend is filled with music, food and fun on the streets of Downtown Tupelo. For more information, visit: www.tupeloelvisfestival.com



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