



LAND OF THE AMERICAN

Kings



THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRAIL

Memphis

When you visit Memphis, be prepared to go with the flow. It's a city of music, food, history and heritage - all moving to the rhythm of the mighty Mississippi River.

The first stop to explore the impact and history of Ol' Man River in Memphis is the aptly named **Mud Island** - a peninsular between the Mississippi River and the Wolf River - and home to **Mud Island River Park** which offers a fascinating river museum, a scale model of the river, a boating lake, canoeing, a marina and an outdoor concert venue with the best view of the Memphis skyline. Visitors can take the monorail to Mud Island from downtown or stroll across the bridge above the monorail.

The River Walk on Mud Island is an exact scale model of the Lower Mississippi River flowing from its confluence with the Ohio River at Cairo, Illinois 954 miles south as it meanders through Mississippi and Louisiana to New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico.

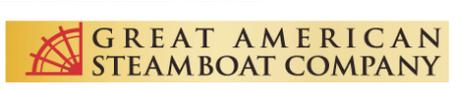
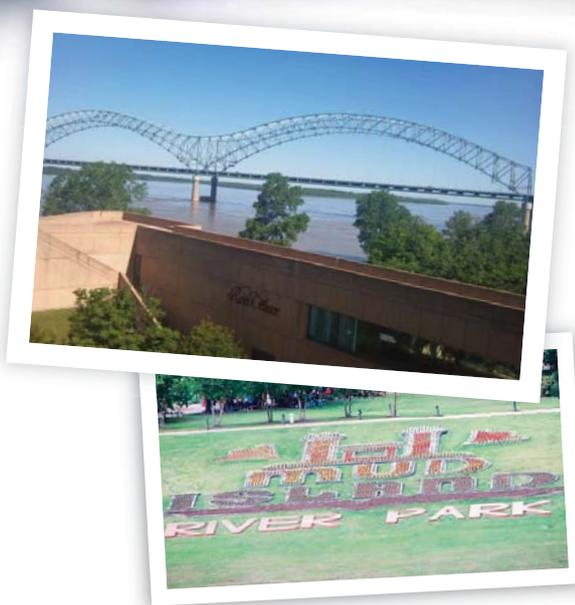
On Mud Island visitors can enjoy the cosy comforts of the **River Inn of Harbor Town** where the charm of the Old South meets the intimate style of Europe at this quaint hotel. To add to the ambience, the hotel offers breathtaking views of the Mississippi River from its rooftop terrace as well as two charming restaurants.

To get up close to Ol' Man River the **Memphis Riverboats** offer a variety of options ranging from daily sightseeing to dinner and special theme cruises. Visitors ride aboard an authentic paddlewheel boat for an immersive, historic look at Memphis and the Mississippi River narrated by the onboard "riverlorian".

To make even more of the Mississippi River in downtown Memphis, visitors can follow the **River Path** which starts at the Welcome Center on Riverside Drive and ends in Martyrs Park - two miles to the south. Along the way is Tom Lee Park, a great picnic spot on the waterfront and also the site of some of the city's most popular events including the World Championship Barbeque Cooking Contest and the Beale Street Music Festival. The River Path winds through the charming residential district of the south bluff and then runs adjacent to the Riverfront Loop Trolley, an authentic vintage trolley car that runs from South Main to the Pyramid and Mud Island.

River Cruisin'

Memphis welcomes the 2012 return of the American Queen, the world's largest paddlewheel steamboat. The American Queen will have overnight inland trips on the Mississippi River from its new home port on Beale Street Landing. Passengers on the inaugural voyage in April will get a taste of the pace and charm of an earlier era on Ol' Man River, with all the modern comforts including gourmet regional cuisine, opulent antebellum design and a two-deck-tall Grand Saloon Showplace. For cruise details, go to: www.greatamericansteamboatcompany.com



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Mississippi

Tunica

From Memphis head south along Highway 61 to Tunica and the **Tunica RiverPark** which allows you to interact up close with the awe-inspiring beauty of the Mississippi River. Loaded with authentic artifacts and exhibits, the **Mississippi River Museum** is an extensive, interactive showcase of history, nature and culture. The grounds are rich with native wildlife and flora, and the stunning overlook provides breathtaking views of America's river.

Departing from the RiverPark landing, the **Tunica Queen** takes you back to a time when the country was young and the Mississippi was truly America's highway. Nighttime cruises include dinner, live music and dancing offering a romantic evening getaway.

Greenville

Tour Greenville's history at the **Flood of '27 Museum** exhibited in the oldest structure in downtown Greenville. You can explore the Mighty Mississippi as well as the Great Wall of Mississippi – the Mississippi River Levee, Lake Washington and Lake Ferguson. Walk long the levee and catch some casino action at the Lighthouse and Jubilee casinos on Lake Ferguson.

Vicksburg

Because of its location atop a high bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, in the 19th century Vicksburg built an extensive trade from the river's prodigious steamboat traffic. In 1876 a Mississippi River flood cut off the large meander flowing past Vicksburg, leaving limited access to the new channel. The United States Army Corps of Engineers diverted the Yazoo River in 1903 into the old channel to rejuvenate the waterfront. A series of riverfront murals tells the fascinating history of Vicksburg and the downtown area is a quaint mix of shops, boutiques, bars and restaurants.

Natchez

The greatest natural attraction that Natchez has is the Mississippi River, and the best vantage point from which to take in her beauty and splendour is the bluff. The best time to be on the bluff is at sunset as Natchez is perched over 200 feet above the Mississippi River, with 30-mile views along the river both north and south. Natchez is also home to the **Great Mississippi River Balloon Race**, held every October over three days, with live music playing while hot air balloons fill the skies over the Mississippi River.

River Cruisin'

The **Quapaw Canoe Company** provides high quality, custom-guided canoe or kayak adventures on the Mississippi River offering wilderness expeditions on the river, its back waters, bayous, oxbows and the flood plains between the levees. For further details on floating a bend of the river that takes 20 miles of delta to complete, camping on a sand bar that stretches to the horizon or swimming in pristine "blue holes" visit: www.island63.com

