

# It's Electric: Neon Lights

Looking to experience Tupelo's vibrant art scene? Check out some iconic neon signs that have backlit the nighttime sky in **#MyTupelo**.

## 1 Hour Martinizing Cleaners • 603 West Main Street

Lighting up Tupelo since 1959, this neon sign is located at the intersection of West Main and South Madison Streets. The sign is among Martinizing dry cleaning franchises worldwide and was completely refurbished in 2010.

## 214 • 214 West Main Street

An entryway to upper-floor apartments in downtown Tupelo, this building used to house the office of Dr. William Robert Hunt. Just before dawn on January 8, 1935, Dr. Hunt arrived at the Presley home and delivered Jesse Garon Presley, who was stillborn, and 35 minutes later delivered Elvis Aaron Presley.

## Bar-B-Q by Jim • 203 North Commerce Street

Authentic slow-cooked meats, fresh vegetables, and desserts are menu staples at this downtown restaurant. A certified stop on the Mississippi BBQ trail since 2016, you don't want to miss this finger-lickin feast or the "We Roast, You Boast," neon sign located inside the establishment.

## Blue Canoe • 2006 North Gloster Street

This laid-back, funky joint is known for its eclectic menu, large craft beer selection, and live music. Established in 2015, the Blue Canoe Cathead Stage has featured many locally and nationally-known musicians.

## Dairy Kream • 796 East Main Street

Known for its soft-serve ice cream, burgers and fries, and walk-up window service, Dairy Kream is one of Tupelo's oldest restaurants. The red and green neon lights that surround the flat roof have welcomed locals and visitors since the 1950s.

## Davis Alley • 206 North Spring Street

Located across the street from the Lee County Courthouse, this privately owned, bricked alleyway is also home to The Stables, one of Tupelo's local restaurants known for their burgers, catfish nachos, and lunch menu specials. Take a seat and enjoy the alleyway or indoor dining.

## East Heights Barber Shop • 900 East Main Street

This barber shop has operated since the 1980s and can't be missed thanks to the traditionally striped barber poles marking the entrance. The multi-colored neon barber pole lights up when the shop is open for business.

## Downunder • 216 West Main Street

Don't miss the neon lightning bolt that welcomes patrons as they descend the stairs to this international pub grub restaurant. Known for their specialty cocktails, drop in and enjoy an Aussie meal in a relaxed, but lively atmosphere.

## Firestone • 407 West Main Street

Relocated in 1966, Tupelo Firestone anchors the corner of West Main and Green Streets. Founded by Harvey S. Firestone in 1900, this national company became a pioneer in the mass production of automobile tires.

## Hotel Tupelo • 314 East Main Street

Known as Tupelo's greatest hit, Hotel Tupelo embraces the rock and roll culture inspired by Tupelo's native son, Elvis Presley, and offers visitors a unique lodging experience in downtown Tupelo. You can't miss their location thanks to the neon backlit Hotel Tupelo sign that anchors the building.

## Johnnie's Drive-In • 908 East Main Street

The oldest operating restaurant in Tupelo, Johnnie's Drive-In opened in 1945. Known for their "dough burger" and BBQ, you can take advantage of the drive-in and carhop service or you can simply go inside. Grab a seat in the Elvis booth and try his favorite ... a cheeseburger and RC cola.



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## Lucky 7 Tattoo • 210 South Gloster Street

This trailblazing tattoo parlor was founded in 2010, not far from the iconic Crosstown intersection in Tupelo, and is known for one-of-a-kind design options for body art.

## Lyric Theatre • 201 North Broadway Street

Home to Tupelo Community Theatre, the Lyric was originally designed for operas and plays, followed by an adaptation to show moving pictures in the 1930s. Purchased in 1985 by the local community theatre group, the building's interior was refurbished and the neon and marquee lighting was upgraded. A marquee relighting event was held in 2010.

## Malco Theatre • 3080 Tupelo Commons Avenue

The entrance to this theatre features a can't miss overhead neon sign, as well as a background of upcoming movie posters framed in neon lights. The Malco Theatre chain has artfully showcased neon signs on their properties since the 1930s.

## Mugshots Grill & Bar • 375 East Main Street

Lighting up the Fairpark District in downtown Tupelo, this restaurant is known for its specialty burgers like the Mac & Cheese Burger, Breakfast Burger, and even a Peanut Butter Burger.

## Neon Pig • 1203 North Gloster Street

Identifiable by the neon pig sign above the entrance, this popular butcher shop and restaurant focuses on locally grown and homemade menu items. It is best known for its "Smashburger," a combination of aged filet, sirloin, ribeye, New York strip, and Benton's bacon.

## Romie's Grocery • 804 West Jackson Street

Operating first as a neighborhood grocery market for almost three decades, the building is now home to Romie's Grocery, a local restaurant that serves up great Southern food and coined the phrase, "put a little South in ya' mouth."

## Strange Brew Coffeehouse • 202 North Gloster Street.

A local and independent specialty café known for its creative brew, pastries, and a variety of house-made goods, it was featured in the 2019 Architectural Digest adaptive reuse article, "These are America's 7 Most Beautiful Gas Station Conversions." Strange Brew's building includes many original design elements, as well as a nod to Elvis Presley with the blue and white color scheme, Elvis photos, and blue velvet couch.

## Texas Roadhouse • 1342 North Gloster Street

This franchise opened in Tupelo in 2016 and is known for hand-cut steaks and ribs, made-from-scratch sides, and homemade bread.

## Tupelo TVA Sign • Crosstown at Main and Gloster Streets Intersection

Established in the 1930s and located at one of the busiest intersections in Tupelo, the iconic neon arrow points visitors and locals to the "Business District" of the city while also highlighting Tupelo as the "First TVA City." The Tennessee Valley Authority was a federal government initiative to deliver affordable electricity to rural areas in seven southern states.

## Woody's Tupelo • 619 North Gloster Street

The neon "Woody's" sign welcomes customers to Woody's Tupelo Steakhouse. Known for its charcoal-grilled, hand-cut steaks and wild game, delectable seafood, and cherished family recipes with a twist, this restaurant offers a truly satisfying dining experience. **Fun fact:** Woody's is located in the former Rex Plaza, one of the first motels in the country to combine motel convenience with quality hotel comfort.

