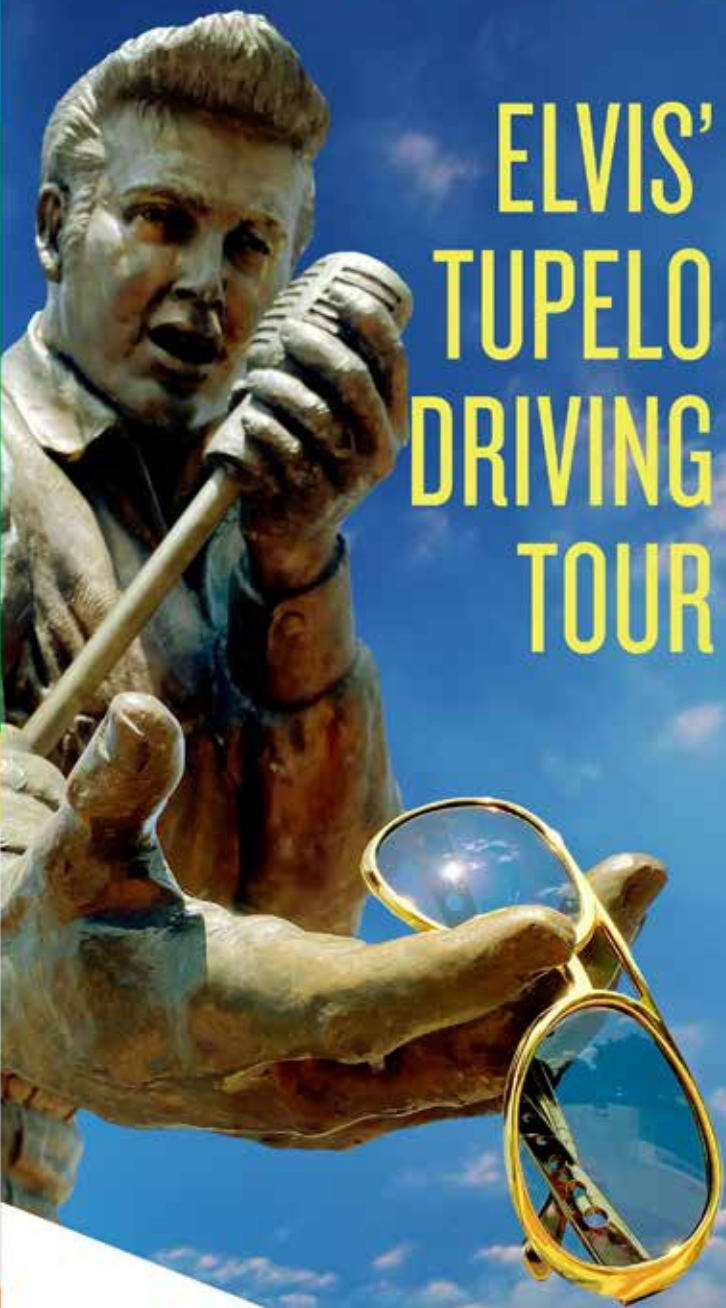




# ELVIS' TUPELO DRIVING TOUR

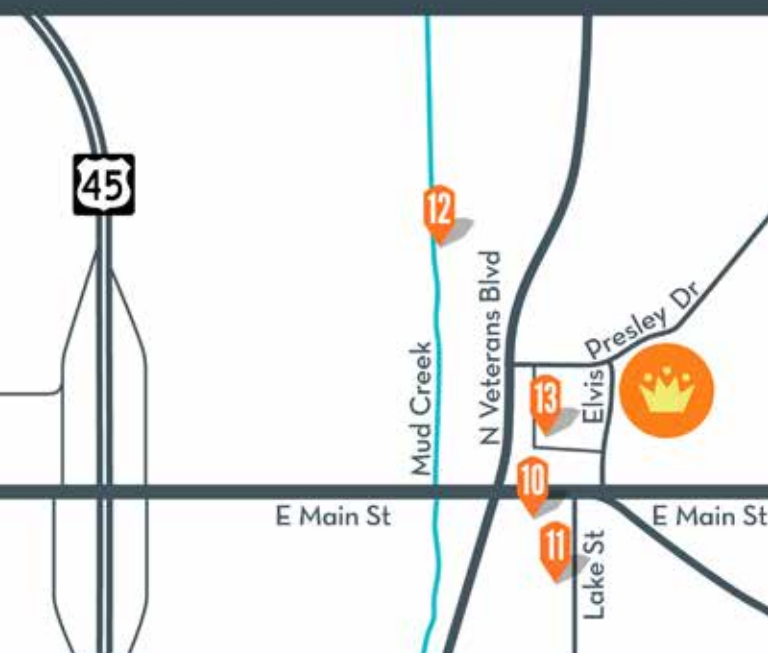


# ELVIS' TUPELO



- 1 Tupelo Visitors Center and Previous Site of Shakerag
- 2 Previous Site of Tupelo Fairgrounds
- 3 The Elvis Homecoming Statue
- 4 Tupelo Hardware Store
- 5 Lee County Courthouse
- 6 Lyric Theatre
- 7 Lee County Library

# DRIVING TOUR



8 Milam Junior High

9 Previous Site of  
Mayhorn's Grocery Store

10 Johnnie's Drive-In

11 Lawhon Elementary School

12 Mud Creek Swimming Hole

13 Previous Site of  
Assembly of God Church



Elvis Presley Birthplace  
& Museum

# ELVIS' TUPELO

1



## SHAKE RAG COMMUNITY

*399 East Main Street  
Tupelo, MS 38804*

From 1943-47, Elvis' father, Vernon, worked for L.P. McCarty & Son's local wholesale grocery company making deliveries to various parts of the city. Shake Rag, a historically black community, was one of his delivery areas. It was here that Elvis was influenced by the sanctified gospel and blues music he heard which contributed greatly to the style he made famous.

*Explore the Tupelo Visitors Center to learn more about Elvis' Tupelo and other attractions and events that make Tupelo the city where anything is possible.*



2



## FAIRGROUNDS

*Fairpark  
Downtown Tupelo*

Elvis returned here in 1956 and 1957 to perform concerts on what was then known as the Tupelo Fairgrounds. Proceeds from these concerts were used to buy and restore his birthplace and build the Elvis Presley Youth Center. The Presley family also lived in this area in the late 1930s.

# DRIVING TOUR

3



## ELVIS HOMECOMING STATUE

*Fairpark  
Downtown Tupelo*

Dedicated in August 2012, this larger-than-life statue depicts the famous photograph known all over the world as “The Hands,” shot by Roger Marshutz in 1956 in Tupelo, Mississippi. Artist Bill Beckwith was commissioned to sculpt the statue and is known for his artistry on statues of Mississippi’s well-known native sons including William Faulkner and B.B. King. The statue is placed so the famous photograph can be re-created by fans today.

4



## TUPELO HARDWARE

*114 West Main Street  
Tupelo, MS 38804*

In 1946, Elvis’ mother, Gladys brought him here to buy a bicycle. Once they arrived, a 22-caliber rifle caught Elvis’ eye, and he asked his mother to buy it instead. She wasn’t happy about purchasing a gun so they compromised on a guitar. Forest L. Bobo, a long-time employee of Tupelo Hardware, sold the guitar to the young Elvis for \$7.90.



*Step inside Tupelo Hardware Company to hear the story of Elvis’ famous purchase. Guitars are still available for purchase here today.*



# ELVIS' TUPELO

5



## LEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

*201 West Jefferson Street  
Tupelo, MS 38804*

In 1946, Tupelo radio station WELO broadcast weekly music jamborees from the Courthouse. Mississippi Slim, who had his own show on WELO, arranged for Elvis to perform at the jamboree. Elvis' dream was to become as famous as Mississippi Slim and to have his own radio show some day.



6



## LYRIC THEATRE

*201 North Broadway  
Tupelo, MS 38804*

Elvis enjoyed going to the movies, especially "westerns," at the Lyric Theatre. Friends recall how Elvis would climb over the divider in the balcony to sit among his African-American friends. The sweetest of the legends associated with this theatre and Elvis is the rumor that he stole his fist kiss in the balcony.

# DRIVING TOUR

7



## LEE COUNTY LIBRARY

*219 North Madison Street  
Tupelo, MS 38804*

At this site on February 13, 1948, 13-year-old Elvis, accompanied by his mother Gladys, applied for his first library card. Through the books he read from the Lee County Library, Elvis would vicariously travel to distant places and learn new things that were still only the dreams of a young boy growing up in Tupelo.



*Go inside the Lee County Library to see Elvis' first library card on display.*

8



## MILAM JUNIOR HIGH

*720 West Main Street  
Tupelo, MS 38804*

Elvis attended the 7th and part of the 8th grade here. He often played his guitar for classmates during the lunch hour. In 1948, the family moved to Memphis before he completed the school year.

# ELVIS' TUPELO

9



## MAYHORN GROCERY STORE

*Across from Springhill MB Church  
684 North Green Street  
Tupelo, MS 38804*

In 1947, Elvis lived at the North end of Green Street, not far from here. Mayhorn Grocery previously occupied this space, and Elvis would walk to the store and sit on the porch listening to the blues. It was also here that he heard the sounds of black gospel music sung in the church across the street.

10



## JOHNNIE'S DRIVE-IN

*908 East Main Street  
Tupelo, MS 38804*

While attending nearby Lawhon Elementary, Elvis often stopped here for one of his favorite meals - a cheeseburger and an RC Cola - or as Elvis called it an "R-O-C." One of Elvis' best friends was James Ausborn, who often joined him here.

*The oldest restaurant in Tupelo, Johnnie's is still an operating drive-in. Sit in the Elvis booth in the dining room and enjoy American diner food as Elvis did.*





# DRIVING TOUR

11



## LAWHON ELEMENTARY

*140 Lake Street  
Tupelo, MS 38804*

Elvis attended school here. In 1945, while in the 5th grade, one of his teachers, Mrs. J.C. Grimes, encouraged him to take part in the daily chapel services. Elvis would often sing “Old Shep” for the class.

12



## MUD CREEK SWIMMING HOLE

*90 North Veterans Blvd.  
Tupelo, MS 38804*

Childhood friends Elvis Presley, Guy Harris, and Odell Clark played in this creek. As neighbors, they spent summers exploring the land surrounding Mud Creek in Reese’s Woods. To keep their mothers from tracking them to the swimming hole, where they mostly skinny-dipped, the trio would go the long way around Reese’s Woods and walk back to the hole in the creek bed. When the girls took a turn at the swimming hole, the boys would play tag, chase, shoot marbles, play hopscotch, or go to the movies.

# ELVIS' TUPELO

13



## ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

207 Adams Street  
Tupelo, MS 38801

In 1947, Elvis and his family attended church at this location, previously known as the Assembly of God. Rev. Frank Smith was the pastor of the church during this time and was very influential in Elvis' life. Not only did they become good friends, but Rev. Smith also helped young Elvis develop his guitar skills.

*The Assembly of God Church building now sits on the grounds of the Elvis Presley Birthplace and includes an interactive presentation.*



## ELVIS PRESLEY BIRTHPLACE & MUSEUM

306 Elvis Presley Drive  
Tupelo, MS 38801

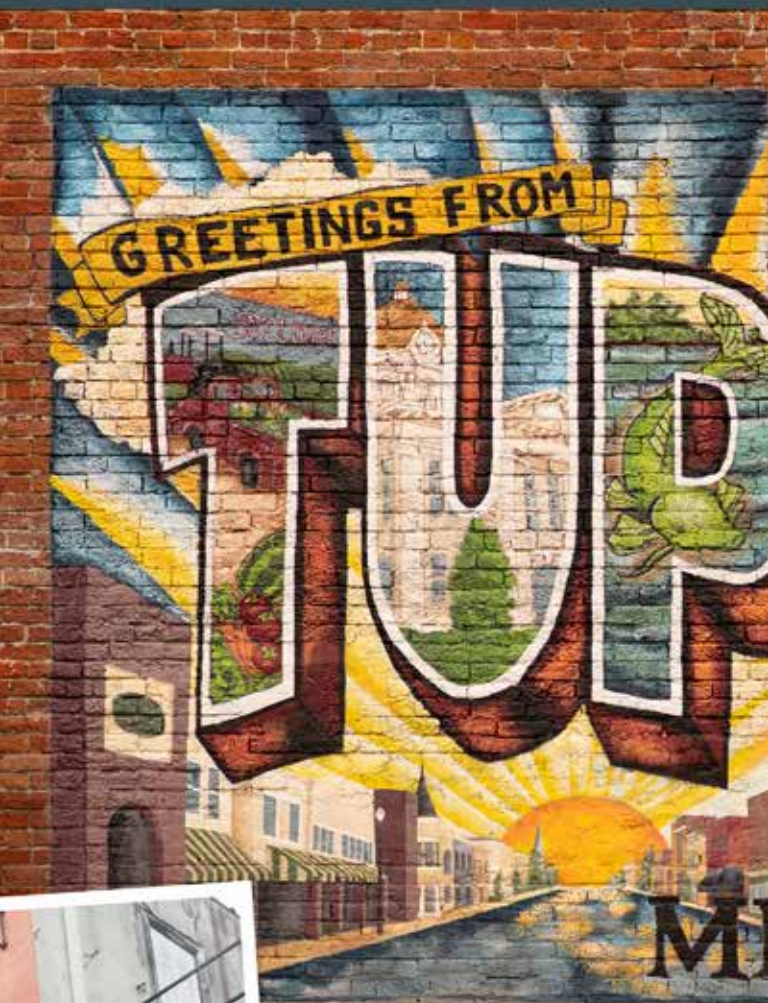
Explore the humble home where Elvis was born, a museum that chronicles his life, and the original Assembly of God Church where he was influenced by gospel music. Discover ten other exhibits that depict what life was like for young Elvis growing up in Tupelo.

# DRIVING TOUR





# EXPLORE EL



# VIS' TUPELO

## Elvis Murals

Take a walking tour of Tupelo's impressive collection of larger-than-life murals that tell the city's story and celebrate its history.  
[www.tupelo.net/best-of-tupelo/](http://www.tupelo.net/best-of-tupelo/)





# EXPLORE EL

## Eat Like a King

Tupelo is home to over 160 restaurants, many of which offer Elvis inspired eats, drinks, and treats. Stop by the Tupelo Visitors Center to pick up a list of Elvis eats and feast like a king.

[www.tupelo.net/best-of-tupelo/](http://www.tupelo.net/best-of-tupelo/)



## Elvis On Two Wheels

Explore Elvis' Tupelo on two wheels on the Elvis' Tupelo Self-Guided Bicycle Tour. The tour includes the same stops as the Elvis' Tupelo Driving Tour, but on a bicycle.

[www.tupelo.net/vendor/elvis-tupelo-self-guided-bicycle-tour/](http://www.tupelo.net/vendor/elvis-tupelo-self-guided-bicycle-tour/)



# VIS' TUPELO

## Tupelo Elvis Festival

Held each June, the Tupelo Elvis Festival celebrates the city's favorite native son through music, food, and fun.  
[www.tupeloelvisfestival.com](http://www.tupeloelvisfestival.com)



## Elvis Guitar Trail

More than 30 six-foot, hand-painted guitars line the streets of Downtown Tupelo. Walk in the footsteps of Elvis and snap a picture with your favorites.

[www.tupelo.net/best-of-tupelo/](http://www.tupelo.net/best-of-tupelo/)





TUPELO CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

(662) 841-6521

[www.tupelo.net](http://www.tupelo.net)

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