



ELVIS' TUPELO



TUPELO HARDWARE CO.


tupelo
#MyTupelo

ELVIS' TUPELO DRIVING TOUR



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ELVIS' TUPELO DRIVING TOUR



1



SHAKE RAG COMMUNITY

399 East Main Street
Tupelo, MS 38804
Phone: +1 (662) 841-6521

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



Previous Site of TUPELO 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.

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 COMPANY

114 West Main Street
Tupelo, MS 38804
Phone: +1 (662) 842-4637

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 DRIVING TOUR



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 Street
Tupelo, MS 38804
Phone: +1 (662) 844-1935*

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 first kiss in the balcony.

7



Previous Site of DR. WILLIAM ROBERT HUNT'S OFFICE

*214 West Main Street
Tupelo, MS 38804*

Dr. William Robert Hunt's office was housed on the second floor of this building at 214 West Main Street. Just before dawn, January 8, 1935,

Dr. Hunt was called to the Presley home and delivered Jesse Garon Presley, who was stillborn, and 35 minutes later delivered Elvis Aaron Presley. Officially noted on medical record 920, Elvis was born about halfway through Dr. Hunt's career delivery of just over 1,800 babies. Dr. Hunt died in 1952, never knowing of Elvis' international success.

8



Previous Site of TUPELO GARMENT COMPANY (1927 - 1938)

*248 South Green Street
Tupelo, MS 38804
Phone: +1 (662) 260-5228*

In 1932, 20-year-old Gladys Love Smith went to work as a seamstress on the second floor of this building located in Mill Village. While working at the plant, Gladys wed Vernon Presley and became pregnant with twins. On January 8, 1935, Gladys gave birth to two children: Jesse Garon, who was stillborn, and Elvis Aaron, who went on to achieve worldwide acclaim for his music. Her co-workers took up a collection of money after her delivery suggesting that she was well-liked.



This building is now home to Relics Antique Marketplace, where you can shop over 117 booths on two floors filled with antiques, collectibles, and Elvis artifacts.

ELVIS' TUPELO DRIVING TOUR



9



LEE COUNTY LIBRARY

219 North Madison Street
Tupelo, MS 38804
Phone: +1 (662) 841-9027

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.

10



MILAM JUNIOR HIGH

720 West Jefferson 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.

11



Previous Site of 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.

12



JOHNNIE'S DRIVE-IN

908 East Main Street
Tupelo, MS 38804
Phone: +1 (662) 842-6748

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.

ELVIS' TUPELO DRIVING TOUR



13



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.

14



MUD CREEK SWIMMING HOLE

90 North Veterans Boulevard
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.

15



Previous Site of ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

207 Adams Street
Tupelo, MS 38804

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' TUPELO DRIVING TOUR



ELVIS PRESLEY BIRTHPLACE AND MUSEUM

306 Elvis Presley Drive

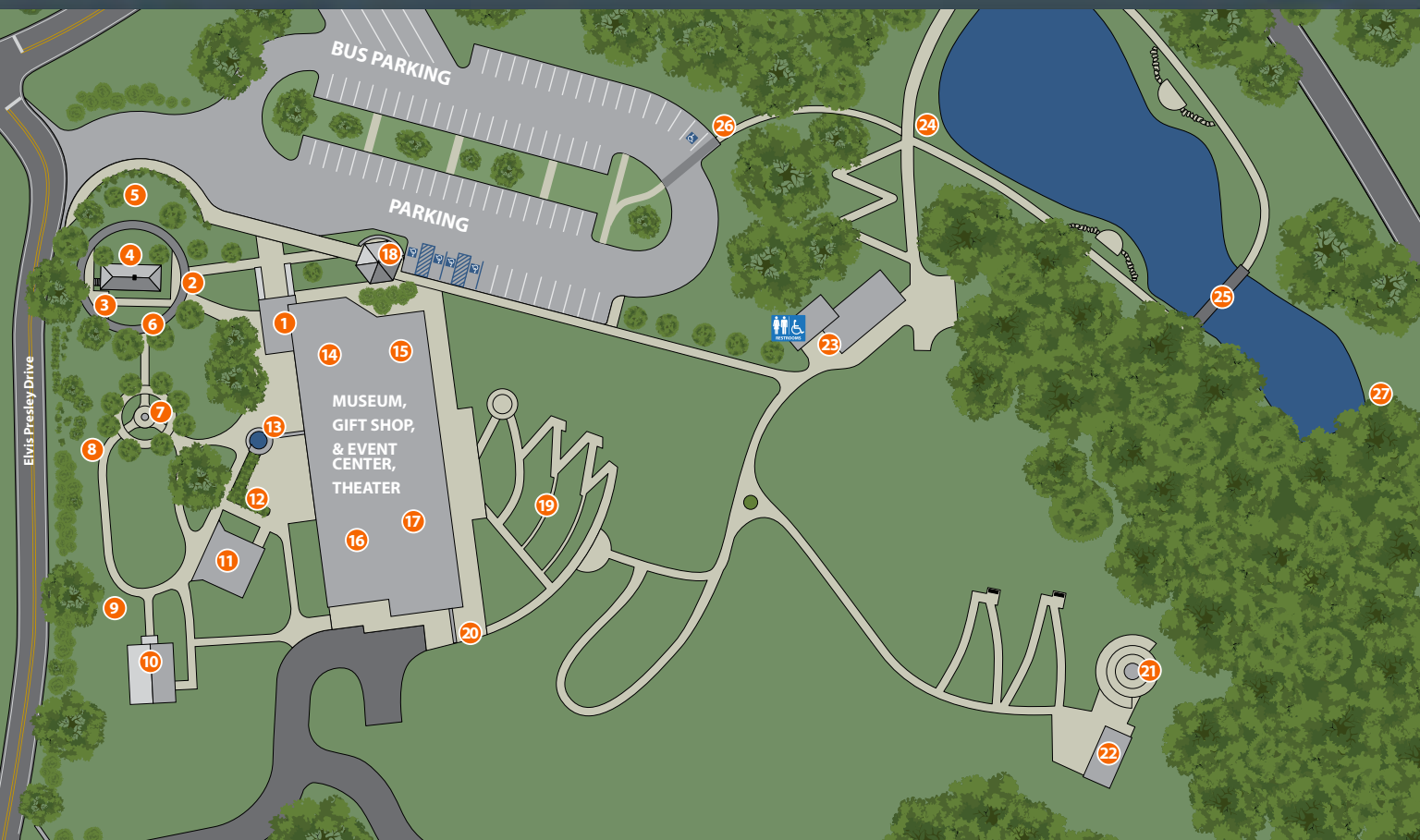
Tupelo, MS 38804

Phone: +1 (662) 841-1245

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 many other exhibits that depict what life was like for young Elvis growing up in Tupelo.

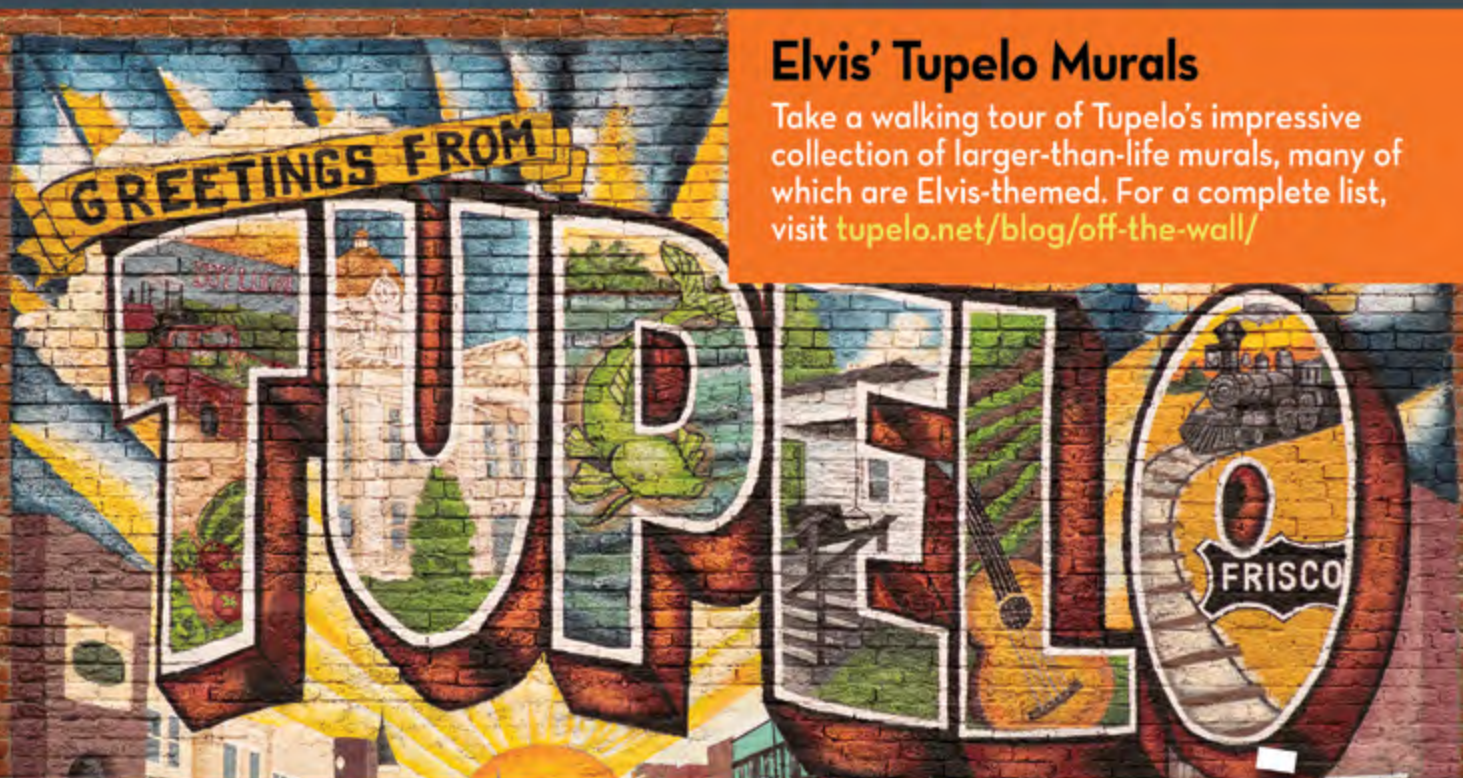


ELVIS PRESLEY BIRTHPLACE AND MUSEUM



- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | Start Your Tour Here | 15 | Gift Shop |
| 2 | Walk of Life | 16 | Event Center |
| 3 | Mississippi Historic Site | 17 | Theater |
| 4 | Elvis Presley Birthplace | 18 | Memphis Bound |
| 5 | Garden Club Marker | 19 | Amphitheater |
| 6 | 1948 Granite Block | 20 | Tupelo Timeline Mural by Betty Harper |
| 7 | "Elvis at 13" Statue | 21 | "Becoming" Statue |
| 8 | Mississippi Country Music Trail Marker | 22 | Overlook Pavilion |
| 9 | Mississippi Blues Trail Marker | 23 | Picnic Pavilion and Restrooms |
| 10 | Elvis' Childhood Church | 24 | "Reflections" Entrance |
| 11 | Elvis Presley Memorial Chapel | 25 | Bridge Over Troubled Waters |
| 12 | Story Wall | 26 | "Reflections" Entrance from Parking Lot |
| 13 | Fountain of Life | 27 | Koi Pond |
| 14 | Elvis Presley Museum | | |

EXPLORE ELVIS' TUPELO



Elvis' Tupelo Murals

Take a walking tour of Tupelo's impressive collection of larger-than-life murals, many of which are Elvis-themed. For a complete list, visit tupelo.net/blog/off-the-wall/

All Shook Up: Elvis' Tupelo Experience

The newest way to experience Elvis' Tupelo is through the All Shook Up Elvis' Tupelo Experience passport. Simply download a pass at tupelo.net/things-to-do/elvis/ and start your journey through rock 'n' roll history. Check in at each of the locations to earn your free **#MyTupelo** pennant, redeemable at the Tupelo Visitors Center.



Eat Like A King

King Chicken Fillin' Station,
3897 McCullough Boulevard

Gold Lamé Elvis

Fun World, 314 South Green Street

Greetings From Tupelo

202 West Main Street

Home of the King

108 South Broadway Street Alleyway

Icehouse Elvis

Gardner-Watson Icehouse/The Silver Moon Club,
213 Clark Street

Jailhouse Rock Elvis

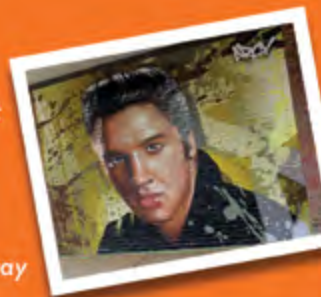
124 West Main Street

1950s Elvis

Reed's Department Store,
131 West Main Street

1970s Jumpsuit Elvis

Reed's Department Store Alleyway, 131 West Main Street



EXPLORE ELVIS' TUPELO

Eat Like a King

Tupelo is home to over 200 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/blog/eat-like-a-king/



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



Elvis Guitar Trail

More than 20 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/directory/elvisguitartrail/



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/





TUPELO CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

+1 (662) 841-6521

www.tupelo.net

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