

# MISSISSIPPI

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Mississippi Press Release**

Two years after Hurricane Katrina buffeted the coast of Mississippi, the state has dusted itself down and picked itself up...

A brand new Hard Rock Casino opened in Biloxi in July. Besides 1,500 slot machines, the lavish new development also boasts five restaurants and, of course, one of the world-famous Hard Rock Cafes. There's also a stunning 1,500 seat entertainment venue. More information on all these attractions can be found at [www.hardrockbiloxi.com](http://www.hardrockbiloxi.com)

Over recent weeks people all over the world have been busy remembering where they were 30 years ago, when Elvis Presley died in Memphis. But don't forget that the King of Rock & Roll was actually a Mississippi native - and Elvis's humble Tupelo birthplace has now been lovingly restored. UK visitors in particular are delighted to see a framed print of Rudyard Kipling's poem 'If', which Elvis was made to memorise at school. Visit [www.elvispresleybirthplace.com](http://www.elvispresleybirthplace.com).

If you're planning a trip to Mississippi for any reason over the coming year, you just *have* to make time for a detour to Edwards - the town that boasts the world's only cactus plantation! Rid yourself of those Triffid terrors for ever by viewing the 3,500 exotic varieties on display.

Famous the world over as the birthplace of the blues, Mississippi now boasts its own Blues Heritage Trail. The first plaque - commemorating blues legend Charley Patton, and sited near his graveside at Holly Springs - was unveiled by Governor Haley Barbour in December 2006. Since then a further 14 plaques have been sited, honouring such historic names as Robert Johnson, Son House, Willie Dixon and Muddy Waters. Two more plaques, commemorating Memphis Minnie and Big Joe Williams, will be unveiled at the end of September. Log on to [www.msbluestrail.org](http://www.msbluestrail.org) for more details of the trail and to see those plaques so far installed.

And if it's a shot of modern-day blues you're after, this year's Mississippi Delta Blues & Heritage Festival runs from the third Saturday in September. Since 1978 this festival has attracted the biggest names in blues from all over the world. For details of who's on this year, visit [www.deltablues.org](http://www.deltablues.org).

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But if you're feeling a little less laid-back, and looking to release your inner Tiger Woods, then Mississippi's Magnolia Golf Trail boasts 14 challenging courses designed by such legends as Arnold Palmer and Jerry Pate. For a quiet time on some of the South's most beautiful courses, start by teeing off at [www.magnoliagolftrail.com](http://www.magnoliagolftrail.com)

Confusingly, the birthplace of renowned Southern playwright Tennessee Williams (1911-1983), was actually Columbus in Mississippi! And the Victorian house that was home to the Williams family is now open to the public. See [www.columbus-ms.org](http://www.columbus-ms.org).

Doe's Eat Place is without doubt *the* place to eat in Greenville, Mississippi. Former President Clinton and Willie Nelson are among those who have dropped in to feast on Doe's famous hot tamales and 4lb sirloin steaks. And Elvis liked the food so much that he sent his private jet down to pick up some of Doe's famous ribs! You can make your reservation by dialling 001 662 334 3315.

For more on the state, go to [www.visitmississippi.org](http://www.visitmississippi.org) or for details on visiting Mississippi from the UK, telephone 01462 440787.