



History, Culture and Architecture

Welcome to Greenwood, a Delta river town packed with historic sites, cultural offerings and knock-out architecture. Take your time as you explore everything from Civil War battles to bluesmen to neoclassical landmarks. And the logical place to begin? That would be on the banks of the Yazoo River, which gave birth to an 1830s cotton port, *Williams Landing*.

Downtown Greenwood

(Printed map included)

Begin with a copy of Main Street Greenwood's Walking Tour Brochure, which will lead you past such landmarks as Cotton Row, the 1906 Neoclassic Leflore County Courthouse, the 1912 Carnegie Library and a stretch of retail blocks along Howard and Market Streets and Carrollton Avenue which date back from the 1890s to the 1930s. You'll see everything from the largest Elks Club in Mississippi (1912) to the renovated structure which housed Fountain's Big Busy Store, a Delta legend for half-a-century. Take time to visit the Alluvian Hotel, a world-renowned resort occupying the 1917 Hotel Irving building, and treat yourself to some time in the Viking Cooking School store and Spa.

Grand Boulevard

Walk or drive across the 1925 Keesler Bridge and enjoy a mile of century-old oaks lining this wide road from the Yazoo to the Tallahatchie. Laid out across a cottonfield in the early years of the 20th century, Grand Boulevard was the dream of Sally Humphreys Gwin, a Greenwood matron who oversaw the planting of hundreds of young trees taken from the riverbanks and plantations around Leflore County. Estate-size mansions and quaint cottages line "The Boulevard," named one of "America's Most Beautiful Streets" in the 1950s.

Museum of the Mississippi Delta

1608 Highway 82 West • 662-453-0925

Weekdays 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. • Saturdays 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. • Closed on major holidays

www.museumofthemississippidelta.com

Drive down Grand Boulevard to Park Avenue and head out to the Highway 82/49 Bypass, where you'll discover this eclectic local museum, founded almost forty years ago to house agricultural, archeological, cultural and historic treasures.

Fort Pemberton

Just west of the museum is the site of Fort Pemberton, one of a series of cotton bale fortifications placed to stop Federal boats from making their way down the Delta's river network to Vicksburg in 1863. Deep in the Tallahatchie's muddy bottom are the remains of the steamship Star of the West, fired on at Fort Sumter in 1861.

Money Road

At the north end of Grand Boulevard is the Tallahatchie Bridge, made famous when Greenwood's own Bobbie Gentry captured the mystery in her 1967 song, "Ode to Billy Joe." Across the bridge is County Road 518, a road seared into the nation's consciousness as Money Road. This two-lane stretch of asphalt carries you to Little Zion Baptist Church, the gravesite of bluesman Robert Johnson, a cryptic character infused with talent so deep that many credited it to a deal with Satan himself. Five miles or so further up Money Road, the crumbling walls of Bryant's Grocery are all that remain to mark one of the darkest chapters in American history. When Emmett Till stepped across the threshold of that store on an August afternoon, he set in motion an explosion of terror and retribution that would rock the nation. The Civil Rights movement, a landmark 20th century social upheaval, traces its birth to that sagging store.

Perhaps it was that Money Road tradition of conflict and torment that led director Tate Taylor to utilize the Whittington House, near the Tallahatchie's north bank, as Skeeter's home in the 2010 movie "The Help." What better location than the south end of Money Road to immortalize this story of racial division and the power of forgiveness?

Civil Rights

During the 1960s, Greenwood was a hotbed of civil rights activity, including visits by Dr. Martin Luther King and Stokely Carmichael, who first used the slogan "black power" at a speech on Broad Street, a site now marked on Mississippi's Freedom Trail. Bob Dylan and Pete Seeger also made appearances here to rally support for African American voter registration.

Mississippi Freedom Trail Markers

(Printed and .pdf map included)

Pick up a free map to drive to the two local sites memorialized with Mississippi Freedom Trail markers in Greenwood and Money. This area was a center of Civil Rights activity in the 1950s and 1960s, including protest marches, boycotts and voter registration drives.

- A. "Bryant's Grocery," CR 518 at CR 24, Money, MS, GPS Coordinates: 33.652391,-90.208697
- B. "Black Power", Corner of Broad Street and Avenue M

Mississippi Blues Trail

www.msbluestrail.org

(Printed map included)

Leflore County claims eight Mississippi Blues Trail markers, each commemorating a significant site in the development of this quintessentially American music. Pick up a Mississippi Blues Trail map to drive between B.B. King's birthplace, Elks Hart Lodge #640, Baptist Town, WGRM's Howard Street studio and markers dedicated to Hubert Sumlin, Guitar Slim and Furry Lewis.

- A. "WGRM", 222 Howard Street
- B. "Robert Johnson" Gravesite, Little Zion MB Church, GPS Coordinates: 33.563108,-90.215355
- C. "The Elks Lodge," 106 East Scott Street
- D. "B.B. King's Birthplace," CR 513 & CR 305, GPS Coordinates: 33.438985,-90.373363
- E. "Hubert Sumlin," 12th Street at River Road Ext.
- F. "Baptist Town," 200 Short Street
- G. "Guitar Slim," Salem M.B. Church, CR 101, GPS Coordinates: 33.558991,-90.236925
- H. "Furry Lewis," Intersection of Lamar & Carrollton Avenue
- I. Blues Deeja's, 503 Ione Street, 33.525494,-90.163998
- J. Mississippi John Hurt, CR 41, near Teoc, Mississippi, 33.629678, -90.037723