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# Let's talk Memphis #4 25<sup>TH</sup> Largest city in the U.S.

Happiest Cities for Job-Seeking College Grads - Forbes and Careerbliss.com

Welcome to Memphis, the city most famously known as the birthplace of rock 'n' roll and the home of the blues. Capturing the essence of a city can be difficult, especially when that city boasts a history as unique as ours. So, we'd like to offer a few suggestions for sightseeing trips, dining options, and places to stay while in the Bluff City. Enjoy your visit!



## Uniquely Memphis

With its rich history and diverse culture, Memphis has something for everyone.



A visit to Graceland is the ultimate rock 'n' roll experience.

**GRACELAND:** There's a reason this is the second-most visited residence in the nation. (The first? The White House.) Cruise the mansion on your own or opt for the audio tour, narrated by Priscilla Presley. (3734 Elvis Presley Blvd., 332-3322)

**SUN STUDIO:** No trip to Memphis is complete without a stop by Sun, where rock 'n' roll was born. Stand in the same space as icons like Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Roy Orbison, Carl Perkins and Elvis. (706 Union Ave., 521-0664)



The Stax Museum of American Soul Music pays tribute to all of the artists who recorded there with an amazing collection of more than 2,000 interactive exhibits.

**STAX:** The home of soul music, where Isaac "Shaft" Hayes famously uttered the words, "Can you dig it?" You'll dig it, we promise. (926 McLemore Ave. E., 942-SOUL)

#### THE NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS

**MUSEUM:** Newly renovated to include state-of-the-art interactive exhibits, the museum is a humbling and enlightening journey through the past, a nod to how far we've come, and where we need to go. (450 Mulberry St., 521-9699)

**MEMPHIS ZOO:** Consistently ranked among the top zoos in the U.S., the Memphis Zoo provides a thriving incubator for Rhodes students who intern and conduct research with its award-winning staff. (Overton Park, 333-6500)





The Rock 'n' Soul Museum and the Gibson Guitar Factory are located next to FedEx Forum.

**OVERTON PARK:** A great place to spend an afternoon relaxing by Rainbow Lake or taking a nature walk, the park—a 342-acre city treasure created in 1906—also contains the Memphis Zoo; the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, a stunning Beaux Arts structure opened in 1916; and Levitt Shell, an outdoor music venue that hosts more than 50 free concerts in the spring and fall. (Brooks Museum, 544-6200)

**BEALE STREET:** Your go-to for the musical genre that made the city famous. You can't miss with stops at Rum Boogie Cafe, B.B. King's, King's Palace, Blues City Cafe—or any of the other fine blues hot spots. (Second and Beale, or ask any of the locals)

**BEALE STREET LANDING:** Memphis' new riverboat dock is the perfect place to grab a bite to eat and watch the river roll.

**SOUTH MAIN ARTS DISTRICT:** This Downtown district is home to art galleries, boutique shopping, and bars and restaurants.

## Where to Stay



When you visit Memphis, do yourself a favor and stay downtown. Depending on the time of year, you might catch a Grizzlies game in the FedEx Forum or a Redbirds Triple-A baseball game in AutoZone Park.

**THE PEABODY:** The grande dame of Memphis hotels—a destination in and of itself, with one of the best lobby bars in the Mid-South. (149 Union Ave., 529-4000)



A trip to Memphis is incomplete without seeing the ducks in the lobby fountain at The Peabody hotel.

**TALBOT HEIRS:** This all-suite destination offers all the amenities of home, including full kitchens. Fun and funky, and uniquely Memphis. (99 S. Second St., 527-9772)

**RIVER INN OF HARBOR TOWN:** Overlooking the Missisippi River in the heart of Mud Island's Harbor Town community. You're just minutes from downtown. (50 Harbor Town Square, 260-3333)

**THE MADISON:** Downtown's boutique hotel, in the middle of the action but a world away. Fantastic lobby bar & restaurant. (79 Madison Ave., 333-1200)



The Madison is a boutique luxury hotel that dazzles the senses with its striking interiors.

**THE DOUBLETREE:** Located downtown within walking distance to Beale Street, FedEx Forum, and many other attractions, the Doubletree offers a fitness center, pool, and a T.G.I Fridays. (185 Union Ave., 528-1800)

**COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT:** Located on the Downtown trolley line, this spacious hotel boasts a rooftop fire pit and swimming pool. (75 Jefferson St., 522-2200)

**THE WESTIN:** Located just behind Beale, a block away from the music and blues clubs dotting the city's most famous street. (170 George W. Lee Ave., 334-5900)

HAMPTON INN & SUITES - BEALE STREET:

This comfortable hotel is within walking distance of Beale Street, the Downtown business district, and a host of major attractions. (175 Peabody Place, 260-4000)

#### **HOLIDAY INN - DOWNTOWN:**

Located across the street from the famous Peabody hotel and within walking distance to Beale Street. (160 Union Ave., 525-5491)



The Hampton Inn is close to all of the downtown action.



Café Eclectic, a block from the Rhodes campus, is a popular hangout for students and faculty.

### NEARBY FAVORITES

A quick dash off campus will take you to some of the Rhodes community's favorite eateries.

**CAFÉ ECLECTIC:** Just a five-minute walk from campus, this coffee shop/soda fountain serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner and caters to the Rhodes neighborhood with its pastries, fresh-baked bread, sandwiches, soups, and specialty items. (603 N. McLean, 725-1718)



A local tradition—the Huey burger!

**HUEY'S:** A perennial winner in the *Memphis Flyer's* Best of Memphis competition, Huey's Midtown is known for its hamburgers, hand-breaded onion rings, and neighborhood atmosphere. (1927 Madison Ave., 726-4372)

**INDIA PALACE:** The all-you-can-eat lunch buffet here is one of Midtown's busiest and

most delicious—but it's still quick to get in and out. Folks from Rhodes eat at India Palace regularly enough to practically consider it part of campus dining. (1720 Poplar Ave., 278-1199)

**ECCO ON OVERTON PARK:** A Mediterranean bistro, upscale but casual, located close by in the Evergreen Historic District. Featuring everything from antipasto plates and pasta to seafood and ribeye steak, Ecco also has a full Saturday brunch. (1585 Overton Park Ave., 410-8200)



The revitalized **Broad Avenue Arts District**, just blocks from campus, offers a variety of dining options, including casual fine dining at **Bounty on Broad** (2519 Broad Ave., 410-8131); old-fashioned pizza with everything at **Broadway Pizza** (2581 Broad Ave., 454-7930); and oysters and cocktails at **The Cove** (2559 Broad Ave., 730-0719). Broad Avenue Arts District also has retail shopping, gourmet coffee, and a craft brewery, in addition to an outdoor performance venue that hosts free music and arts-based programming April through November.

#### **OVERTON SQUARE**

Here's where you'll find Midtown's only movie theater, along with live theater at Playhouse on the Square, Circuit Theater, and the Hattiloo Theatre. Many of the restaurants at the Square feature outdoor seating, great for watching the world go by.

**LOCAL ON THE SQUARE:** The Local gastropub features handcrafted cocktails and a menu incorporating fresh, locally sourced ingredients. (2126 Madison Ave., 725-1845)

**BARI RISTORANTE E ENOTECA:** Bari features the regional Italian cuisine of Puglia, which includes lots of fresh seafood, vegetables, homemade pastas, delicious bread, and homemade desserts. (22 S. Cooper St., 722-2244)

**BOSCO'S SQUARED:** This brew pub serves fresh fish, steaks, and sandwiches, but is best-known for its wood-fired pizzas. Bosco's brews award-winning hand-crafted beers—from golden ales to robust stouts and porters—to complement every dish. (2120 Madison Ave., 432-2222)

**BAYOU BAR & GRILL:** A casual sports bar, the Bayou serves Cajun specialties, including muffalettas, po-boys, and red beans and rice. There's often live music, and there's always a game on. (2094 Madison Ave., 278-8626)

**BABALU TACOS & TAPAS:** A fun, hip restaurant serving up bold flavors using fresh ingredients from local suppliers. Featuring gourmet tacos and Latin-style tapas with a southern twist. (2115 Madison Ave., 274-0100)

**MEMPHIS PIZZA CAFÉ:** Voted "Best Pizza" in both the *Memphis Flyer* and the readers' polls every year since 1994, this eclectic restaurant also serves calzones, sandwiches, and salads. (2087 Madison Ave., 726-5343)



**BAR LOUIE:** An upscale urban bar famous for its signature martinis. Located at the corner of Madison and Cooper, the outdoor patio is great for people-watching. (2125 Madison Ave., 207-1436)

**LAFAYETTE'S MUSIC ROOM:** Featuring a variety of southern-inspired offerings for lunch, dinner, and brunch, Lafayette's also boasts live music 7 nights a week from both local and touring acts playing rock 'n' roll to jazz to blues to everything. (2119 Madison Ave., 207-5097)

**THE SECOND LINE:** Casual atmosphere with a courtyard patio, serving up New Orleans-style po-boys and seafood. (2144 Monroe Ave., 590-2829)

**SWEET NOSHINGS:** Chocolates, candies, jellybeans, ice cream, fudge, and gourmet flavored popcorn popped right in the store. Try the Memphis Mix—BBQ and caramel! (2113 Madison Ave., 288-4753)



Satisfy your sweet tooth at Sweet Noshings.

### COOPER-YOUNG DISTRICT

A 10-minute drive south of campus, the Cooper-Young District combines a closeknit residential neighborhood with some of Memphis' favorite restaurants.



The cozy bar at Sweet Grass, a neighborhood bistro serving Low Country cuisine.

**SWEET GRASS:** Low Country cooking at its finest—don't miss the shrimp and grits. Sweet Grass' more casual sister is **NEXT DOOR** (literally!), where you can catch a game and have a local brew, no reservations needed. (937 S. Cooper St., 278-0278)

**YOUNG AVENUE DELI:** The Deli, as it's known to locals, serves traditional deli favorites, pizzas, specialty sandwiches, and salads, along with an impressive list of beers on tap. Midtowners also flock to the Deli to hear local and touring bands, play pool, or watch a Memphis Tigers or Grizzlies game on the huge projector screen. (2119 Young Ave., 278-0034)

**THE BEAUTY SHOP:** Named for its former incarnation—where Priscilla Presley went for her famous beehive 'do—this restaurant offers a quirky blend of modern American cuisine that lies somewhere between fine and casual dining. (966 S. Cooper St., 272-7111)



**ALCHEMY:** Known for its knowledgeable bartenders and expertly made cocktails, Alchemy serves contemporary fare that reflects the chef's German and Italian heritage and the culinary traditions of New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast. (940 S. Cooper St., 726-4444)

**SOUL FISH CAFE:** After opening in 2006, Soul Fish Cafe quickly became the favorite spot for Memphians who crave authentic Southern comfort food. It's the place to go to get your fill of fried catfish and hush puppies, po-boys, and fresh vegetables. (862 S. Cooper St., 725-0722)



The outdoor patio at the Beauty Shop.

DOWNTOWN

A wealth of restaurants await visitors in Downtown Memphis, but here are a few of our favorites:

**ITTA BENA:** On the second floor of B.B. King's Blues Club on Beale, this hip, modern eatery dishes out the best Southern and Cajun-American dishes around. Overlooking bustling Beale Street, it's the best of both worlds: a view of the raucous revelry below in a quiet, sophisticated setting. (145 Beale St., 578-3031)

#### **GUS'S WORLD FAMOUS FRIED CHICKEN:**

You've never had fried chicken until you've feasted on Gus's version: a little spicy, a lot juicy—and they don't cook it until you order it. *GQ Magazine* listed Gus's as one of the five restaurants worth flying to for a meal in the United States. (310 S. Front St., 527-4877)



Duck two ways at Felicia Suzanne's.

**FELICIA SUZANNE'S:** This upscale eatery serves Southern cuisine with Low Country and Creole influences. The restaurant prides itself on using locally sourced produce and beef and regional seafood. (80 Monroe Ave., 523-0877)



**FLIGHT RESTAURANT:** From Asia to Europe, Latin America to Southern USA, the ever-evolving menu features globally influenced cuisine and gourmet fusion presented in traditional entrees and tapas style "flights" that are great for sharing. (39 S. Main St., 521-8005)

**MCEWEN'S ON MONROE:** An eclectic blend of styles with the largest emphasis on Southern food raised to new and unusual heights. A warm, relaxed atmosphere and charming personality has made McEwen's one of the most popular downtown restaurants. (120 Monroe Ave., 527-7085)

**LYFE KITCHEN:** Part of the semi-fast food trend, LYFE specializes in flavorful meals made with organic and locally sourced ingredients and responsibly raised meats. (Try Art's Unfried Chicken!) (272 S. Main St., 526-0254)



LYFE Kitchen is located on the ground floor of the newly renovated, historic Chisca Hotel building.





Fine dining at Paulette's.

**PAULETTE'S:** A popular award-winning restaurant at the River Inn in Harbor Town, the intimate dining room features breathtaking views of the Mississippi River. Open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, Paulette's has won recognition as one of Memphis' best, serving continental cuisine in a romantic atmosphere. (50 Harbor Town Square, 260-3300)

**AUTOMATIC SLIM'S:** Named for a beloved Beale Street bluesman, Automatic Slim's is known for its innovative approach to food and its lively bar. The menu features fresh seasonal ingredients from local farmers. Slim's also features a large martini list, including its famous popsicle martini. (83 S. Second St., 525-7948)



Catfish tacos at the Flying Fish.

**FLYING FISH:** Step through the screen doors and enter a relaxed lakefront atmosphere with simple, hearty fare. Selections include fresh fried catfish, crab, fish tacos, boiled shrimp, and just about anything else that comes out of the water. Family friendly and open daily for lunch and dinner. (105 S. Second St., 522-8228)

**ARCADE RESTAURANT:** Go back in time with a visit to this funky, art-deco diner for breakfast or lunch. Nothing fancy about this place, just simple food—sandwiches, pizzas, and milkshakes—served with a smile. (540 S. Main St., 526-5757)



The Arcade has the honor of being the city's oldest restaurant. It doesn't get any more Memphis than this!

#### BARBECUE

While there is no debate among residents that our fair city is a mecca for barbecue, one question divides the masses: wet or dry? Translation: "wet" ribs are slathered in thick sauce, hot or mild, while "dry" ribs are served with a light, vinegar baste and seasoned with flavorful coatings of dry rub before cooking. Try both, and decide for yourself! Whether you're looking for a sandwich or a rack of slow-cooked ribs, you'll find it at these local favorites. And for the uninitiated, Memphis' barbecue sandwiches are served with coleslaw—don't knock it until you've tried it! Here are our top picks for the city's best in the business.

**THE RENDEZVOUS:** Located in a back alley downtown, this decades-old restaurant is famous for its dry ribs and is a must-stop on the city's barbecue circuit. Don't be intimidated by the line snaking out of the door and into the street, they serve 'em up quickly and no one leaves hungry. (52 S. Second St., 523-2746)



At the Rendezvous, you can sink your teeth into a slab of what makes Memphis, well, Memphis.



You'll need extra napkins at Central BBQ.

**CENTRAL BBQ:** Central BBQ has been ranked in the top three barbecue restaurants in Memphis since 2003 and has taken top honors 10 times. A favorite of Rhodes students, Central is also known for some not-so-traditional items, including BBQ nachos and smoked hot wings. (Midtown, 2249 Central Ave., 272-9377) (Downtown, 147 E. Butler St., 672-7760)



**CORKY'S RIBS AND BBQ:** Wet ribs are the specialty of the house here, though dry ribs are also on the menu. Grab a handful of napkins and get ready to have a delightfully messy meal that will leave you literally licking your fingers. (5259 Poplar Ave., 685-9744)



**THE BAR-B-Q SHOP:** Get a taste of the best of both wet and dry ribs at this Midtown restaurant, and if you're feeling adventurous, try the barbecue spaghetti. One of the few 'cue joints that also serves brisket, there's a little bit of everything here. (1782 Madison Ave., 272-1277)

**BLUES CITY CAFÉ:** Located on worldfamous Beale St., the Café's ribs—rubbed with a secret seasoning, hickory smoked, and basted with a maple BBQ sauce—have been featured on Bobby Flay's cooking show and in *Bon Appetit*. (138 Beale St., 526-3637)

**PAYNE'S BAR-B-QUE:** Off the beaten path and decidedly unpretentious, this BBQ shack is distinguished from all others by one thing: mustard-based cole slaw. Those who try Payne's version of the Memphis staple swear by it, with an almost cult-like fervor. (1762 Lamar Ave., 272-1523)

**COZY CORNER:** This humble restaurant nestled between Midtown and Downtown serves up juicy ribs slathered in a hot sauce that's more flavor than heat, but it distinguishes itself from all other barbecue restaurants with its sliced pork sandwiches, rather than the usual chopped or pulled style favored by its peers. (726 N. Parkway., 527-9158)



Blues City Cafe is well-known for BBQ ribs and live blues.





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