



A Message From The Governor

On behalf of the citizens of Mississippi, I am proud to extend "The South's Warmest Welcome." This map represents more than the topography of our state; it embraces our distinctive history, cultural and economic strength — now recognized nationally as the "Mississippi Miracle." The names of our towns, cities and rivers signify passages of Mississippi history. Each locale has its own unique narrative to share and gracious folks to welcome the weary traveler. Visitors relish our incomparable Southern hospitality, combined with the convenience and efficiency that have earned Mississippi a leading role in new and expanded business and industry.

Named for the mighty river that drains more than half a continent, the "Hospitality State" offers an enchanting blend of sparkling gulf shores, artistic and cultural excellence, contemporary cities and historic landmarks. A wealth of scenic byways, decorated by nostalgic towns and courteous Southern cities, will light your imagination with the timeless elegance of the South. Our gracious citizens will touch your heart with the wisdom and integrity of "Hometown, Mississippi." We welcome your decision to savor our traditions of excellence and unsurpassed quality of life.

KIRK FORDICE
Governor

Kirk Fordice, Governor
Ronnie Musgrove, Lt. Governor

Mississippi Department of Transportation
Transportation Commissioners

Zack Stewart Northern District
Wayne Barkes Central District
Ronnie Shows Southern District

Kenneth I. Warren Executive Director
James H. Kopf Chief Engineer

For emergency assistance only, call the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol
Toll-free in Mississippi
1-800-843-5352
Outside Mississippi
(601) 987-1212
Cellular
1-800-843-5354
*47

WELCOME CENTERS/REST AREAS

Mississippi Welcome Centers are ranked among the top centers in the nation. These antebellum-style centers, furnished with period antiques, are conveniently located on major incoming routes and offer visitors courtesy in-state accommodation reservation services, TDD phones and rest rooms. Travel counselors are on duty to provide maps and brochures and assist with other travel information. Interactive kiosks supply information for visitors to preview or print out about attractions, accommodations and events throughout the state. These modern facilities, enhanced by Old South charm and hospitality, are open year-round, except Christmas day, Thanksgiving day and New Year's day. Twenty-four-hour security is provided at all state welcome centers. All welcome centers and rest areas are shown on the map.

WELCOME CENTER LOCATIONS — NORTH

ALCON COUNTY WELCOME CENTER
U.S. Highway 45
Northbound at Harper Road in Corinth
Opening first quarter 1998

DE SOTO COUNTY WELCOME CENTER
I-55 South at Hernando
Mile marker 280 southbound

ITAWAMBA COUNTY WELCOME CENTER
U.S. Highway 78 East at Tremont
Mile marker 116 westbound

REST AREA LOCATIONS — NORTH

BATESVILLE REST AREAS — I-55
Located approximately two miles south of Batesville, north and southbound lanes

HERNANDO REST AREA — I-55
Located approximately one mile south of Hernando, northbound lane

WELCOME CENTER LOCATIONS — CENTRAL

LAUDERDALE COUNTY WELCOME CENTER
I-20 and I-59 West at Toomsuta
Mile marker 164 westbound

WARREN COUNTY WELCOME CENTER
I-20 at Vicksburg
Mile marker 1 east and westbound

WASHINGTON COUNTY WELCOME CENTER
U.S. Highway 82 West at Greenville

REST AREA LOCATIONS — CENTRAL

FOREST REST AREA — I-20
Located approximately three miles east of Forest, eastbound lane

MORTON REST AREA — I-20
Located approximately one mile west of Morton, westbound lane

TOWN OF WEST REST AREA — I-55
Located approximately two miles south of the town of West, northbound lane

VAIDEN REST AREA — I-55
Located approximately two miles south of Vaiden, southbound lane

WELCOME CENTER LOCATIONS — SOUTH

ADAMS COUNTY WELCOME CENTER
U.S. Highway 61 at Natchez

HANCOCK COUNTY WELCOME CENTER
I-10 and Mississippi Highway 607 at Bay St. Louis
Mile marker 2 east and westbound

JACKSON COUNTY WELCOME CENTER
I-10 West at Moss Point
Mile marker 74 westbound

PEARL RIVER COUNTY WELCOME CENTER
I-59 at Nicholson
Mile marker 2 northbound

PIKE COUNTY WELCOME CENTER
I-35 North at Magnolia
Mile marker 3 northbound

REST AREA LOCATIONS — SOUTH

HAZLEHURST REST AREAS — I-55
Located approximately eight miles south of Hazlehurst, north and southbound lanes

MAGEE REST AREA — U.S. Highway 49
Located approximately three miles north of Magee, northbound lane

MOSS POINT REST AREAS — I-10
Located approximately six miles east of the I-10/Mississippi Highway 57 intersection at Moss Point, east and westbound lanes

OTHER WELCOME/INFORMATION CENTERS

BILOXI VISITORS CENTER
710 Beach Boulevard (U.S. Highway 90) at Biloxi

CANTON WELCOME CENTER
141 North Union Street at Canton

COLUMBUS WELCOME CENTER/TENNESSEE WILLIAMS BIRTHPLACE
300 Main Street (U.S. Highway 82) at Columbus

JACKSON TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER
Agricultural and Forestry Museum
1150 Lakeland Drive at Jackson

KOSCIUSKO MUSEUM VISITORS CENTER
Natchez Trace Parkway
Milepost 160 at Kosciusko

NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY VISITORS CENTER
Natchez Trace Parkway
Milepost 266 at Tupelo

PORT GIBSON VISITORS CENTER
U.S. Highway 61 at Port Gibson

CLIMATE

Mississippi's moderate climate encourages outdoor activity year-round. The state experiences a noticeable change of seasons, but temperatures remain mild and pleasant throughout the year. January's average is 50 degrees; the summer's high reaches into the 90s.

RULES OF THE ROAD

The speed limit on Mississippi interstate highways is 70 mph, unless otherwise posted. The state highway maximum speed limit is 65 mph on four-lane divided highways and 55 mph on two-lane highways. The speed limit on the Natchez Trace Parkway is 50 mph. Hauling and commercial trucking are not allowed on the Parkway. Charter buses may obtain a special permit from the

Natchez Trace Parkway headquarters by calling 1-800-305-7417. Crash helmets, approved by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, are required for all persons traveling by motorcycle/motor scooter. Mandatory seat belt laws require that driver and front-seat passengers wear seat belts. All children under the age of four must be restrained in a suitable car seat.

GUN PERMIT LAW

Firearms may be carried through the state in your vehicle. They cannot be carried on your body and must remain in the vehicle at all times. Special provisions exist for transporting firearms when traveling on the Natchez Trace Parkway. Firearms must be unloaded and outside the immediate reach of the driver or passengers. They must be transported separately from the ammunition.

RV/TRAILER LENGTH LIMITS

Recreational vehicle lengths may not exceed 40 feet. Legal length for a travel trailer, including the motor vehicle, is 50 feet. Legal width may not exceed 8.5 feet. Height may not exceed 13.5 feet.

STATEWIDE TRAVEL INFORMATION

For free statewide travel information, call toll-free 1-800-WARMEST (927-6378) or write, Mississippi Division of Tourism, P.O. Box 1705, Ocean Springs, MS 39566-1705.

Mississippi will host two international events in 1998. *Spandors of Versailles* will showcase art, artifacts and furniture from palaces of French monarchs including Louis XIV, Louis XV, Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. And the most acclaimed dancers in the world will compete for glory and gold in Jackson during the International Ballet Competition.

In honor of these two magnificent events, watch for the profusion of yellow-blooming *Coreopsis*, Mississippi's official wildflower, at highway entrances, along roadides and various plantings throughout the state. This project was made possible by Mississippi's First Lady Pat Fordice, the Mississippi Department of Transportation and the MDECD Division of Tourism.

