



VISIT MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST *See The Most of the Coast*

Day 1: *Savor the Flavor of Gulf Coast Culture*

Begin your day at the new **Biloxi Visitors Center at Lighthouse Park**. The center houses a free 5,000 square foot multi-media museum dedicated to the history of Biloxi and the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Audio-sticks are also available. The second floor has a sixty-seven seat theater that regularly shows a 10-minute video titled "We are Biloxi." Open 7 days a week, this new attraction is a great way to start any visit to the coast. Enjoy an excursion aboard the **Biloxi Shrimp Trip**. For 70 minutes, enjoy tales of shrimping, fishing and Biloxi history. Allow enough time after the tour for a southern Shrimp Boil for lunch.

Cross the street to see the **Hurricane Katrina Memorial** built by *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*. Spend some time at the **NEW Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art** to experience the creations of George Ohr, our very own "Mad Potter". Don't miss the **Pleasant Reed Interpretive Center**, a replica of the original house that former slave Pleasant Reed built in 1887. Visit **Beauvoir**, The Jefferson Davis Home circa 1852, last home of the President of the Confederacy and the place where he penned his memoirs. Stroll around **Ms. Davis' Gardens** opened summer of 2013. Explore the new **Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum** at the Point in Biloxi. Learn how to throw a cast net or tie knots with the experts. Exhibits on shrimping, oystering, recreational fishing, wetlands, managing marine resources, charter boats, marine blacksmithing, wooden boat building, netmaking, catboats/Biloxi skiff, shrimp peeling machine tell the story of Biloxi's rise to being known as *Seafood Capitol of the World*. If the Gulf of Mexico beckons, relax on a sail aboard the **Biloxi Schooners**, replicas of the oyster schooners used from the late 1800's to the early 1900's or ride with **Ship Island Excursions** aboard the *Pan American Clipper*. Docked at the Gulfport Harbor, watch for dolphins as you cruise to Ship Island, home of Ft. Massachusetts and some of our most beautiful beaches.

After dark enjoy the shows, entertainers and gaming at our coastal **casino resorts**.

Day 2: *Eagles, Ospreys and Wild Orchids*

Travel east to **Old Town Ocean Springs, Moss Point and Pascagoula**. Spend the morning visiting the many boutiques, galleries and restaurants in this quaint artisan town. Don't miss a visit to the **Walter Anderson Museum of Art** to enjoy the distinctive works of this renowned artist. Make your own lunch at the Café in the **Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Arts Center** downtown. Enjoy nature at the **William M. Colmer Visitor Center** (Gulf Islands National Seashore - Mississippi), open daily from 8:30 a.m.

- 4:30 p.m. Visitors can find the park's passport stamp there, view a park orientation film and exhibits, and purchase items at the book store. Catch a glimpse of the endangered **Mississippi Sandhill Crane**. The refuge consists of more than 19,000 acres in four units and is now part of the Gulf Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Visitor's Center: Tuesday - Saturday, 9am - 3pm. A three-quarter mile nature trail adjacent to the Visitor Center winds its way through pine savanna, tidal marsh, and pine scrub.

For a truly unforgettable experience, greet some gators at the **Gulf Coast Gator Ranch**, the oldest gator farm in Mississippi. Airboat rides through the swamplands are a must to see gators in the wild!

Day 3: *From the Bay to Beyond the Milky Way*

Looking for someplace special? **Spend the day in the Bay**. After a beautiful Gulf View drive west, you will cross the Bay of St. Louis into a shopping and dining paradise. You're sure to catch a glimpse of our marvelous tree carvings along the way.

Mississippi's West Coast is home to more than 200 resident artists who create fine and folk pieces exhibited in galleries that will take your breath away. **Visit St. Rose de Lima**, an African American based Catholic Church which holds a truly magnificent surprise! While riding through this historic town see firsthand their post-Katrina rebirth. The **historic L & N Train Depot**, home to the Hancock County's CVB, is a convenient rest and information stop. **Lunch & Blues at 100 Men Hall**, an authentic restored Blues Club where you can have lunch catered and listen to live music, maybe a little dancing if the mood moves you.

If you're intrigued by outer space, blast off to **Infinity Science Center** at exit 2 and discover why America came to NASA's Stennis Space Center prior to going into space. As part of your journey, join a narrated tour through the nation's largest rocket test complex where space shuttles' main engines are tested.

Ala Carte:

Charter fishing captains stand ready to take you some to the some of the finest fishing spots in the south.

Premiere golf by some of the hottest designers: Tom Fazio, Jerry Pate, Jack Nicklaus, Mark McCumber, Davis Love, Arnold Palmer and more.

Shopping Meccas - Handcrafted collections, boutiques and antiques charm our coastal towns creating our own coastal arts trail. **Premium Outlets** with Hilfiger, Polo, Nike, Gap, Banana Republic, and many more shops at great outlet prices. Just minutes away, **Crossroads Mall**, is home to TJ Maxx, Old Navy, Academy Sports, Shoe Carnival, and more. Easy to find, **The Promenade** retail shopping center features more than 45 stores including Target, Kohl's, Dick's Sporting Goods, Best Buy, Marshall's, ULTA, and a wide variety of restaurants.

Hands-On

Ever wondered how to tie knots or throw a cast net? Learn how at the Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum. Group workshop programs available; "**Throwing a Cast Net, Popular Sailing Knots and Oyster Tonging**".

Pottery making - it's not as hard as you think. Create your own at the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art in Biloxi.

Watercolor and block print workshops at the Walter Anderson Museum of Art in Ocean Springs.

Be Your Own Artist at “Cocktails and Canvas”, “BYO Brush” - Private group art event. Bring your own wine and get creative with painting, decorating wine glasses, etc.
<http://www.lindalangishee.com/canvasandcocktails/>; <http://byobrush.com/>

Culinary Experiences

Cooking Classes

Try your hand at creating your own fresh pasta, Cajun cooking, and local classics at the Lynn Meadows Discovery Center, Mary C. O’Keefe Culinary kitchen, or a private event with a local chef.

Microbrewery Tours & Tastings

Lazy Magnolia Brewing Company, Mississippi’s first microbrewery, specializes in creating unique beers to pair with our wonderful Gulf Coast cuisine. Treat your group to a tour of the facility and learn about the art of brewing beer. Follow the brewery and tasting tour with Lazy Magnolia try a **Beer Pairing** dinner at one of the delightful local restaurants on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Call us to **schedule your group**. We’ll take care of all the details. *Cheers Y’all!* For Beer Pairing Dinner, a two month minimum advanced booking is required for beer and food pairing dinners.

www.lazymagnolia.com, (228) 467.2727, Brandy Bradley.

Crooked Letter Brewing Company - Tour and tasting on Saturdays or call in advance to schedule your group tour in downtown Ocean Springs.

www.crookedletterbrewery.com, (228) 238-1414.

Chandeleur Brewing Company - Tours and tastings on Thursday and Fridays, 4-7pm, Saturday, 1-4pm. Schedule your group in downtown Gulfport.

www.chandeleurbrew.com, (228) 701-9985.

Virgin Olive Oil and Vinegar Tasting at Pass Christian Olive Oils Shop. Create your own special blend of oils and vinegars.

Biloxi Shrimp Boil

www.biloxishrimpingtrip.com

(228) 392-8645, Ms. Brandy Moore

“How many legs does a shrimp have?” - Learn everything you ever wanted to know about catching, cooking, and eating this delicious southern delicacy, Mississippi Gulf Coast Style. For the truly adventurous diner, crawfish are plentiful from March to May.

Let our local experts put on a show not to be found anywhere else. The southern Mississippi Shrimp Boil is not just a meal, it’s an adventure! Feast on succulent Shrimp, red potatoes, corn on the cob, sausage, and mushrooms; “finger food” at its best. In the early spring, your group can try substituting crawfish for shrimp; learn to *suck the heads and pinch the tails* like a true south Mississippian.

For a most unique experience, venture down to the docks and watch the locals barter with fishermen for the freshest and biggest shrimp pulled from the Gulf of Mexico just hours before. (Seasonal)

Uniquely Southern Redding House or Historic Oak Crest Mansion

- Brunch, Luncheon and Dinner Packages
- Afternoon Southern Tea
- Cooking Classes of southern classics
- Southern Mixology workshops
- Team Building Courses - A day filled with challenging but exciting adventure. Boost company morale while developing relationships founded upon trust and accountability. Embark on a scavenger hunt throughout the MS Gulf Coast and experience the South like a true native. Shop at local markets, fish off coastal piers, visit our local historical libraries, and learn about the South's rich and hospitable history.

ECOTOURISM AND OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Estuarine Education and Leadership Development Center – 228.497.7778, Gautier, MS 39553

Increase your awareness the natural places of the Mississippi Gulf Coast at this new center with interpretive walks on the nature trails, informal classes on estuaries and wetlands in the educational greenhouse, and boat tours along the backwaters of coastal Mississippi. (*River and Marsh Tours for larger groups, the Estuarine Center will partner with Eco-Tours of South MS and McCoy's River Tours). Team building and group problem solving on the Low Ropes Course. For more of a challenge, experience the High Ropes course, kayak/canoe/SUP instructions. Catering available.

***Eco-Tours of South Mississippi** - 228.297.TOUR(8687), Gautier City Park - Mary Walker Bayou ecotours.ms@gmail.com Contact: Kathy or Jeff Wilkinson. (*max 20 passengers)

Interpretive tours introduce you to the natural habitats of the cypress swamps and salt marshes of the lower Pascagoula River or the coastal barrier islands. The Pascagoula River, the longest (by volume) unimpeded river in the lower 48 states, flows 80 miles from its confluence to the Gulf of Mexico. Alligators and migratory birds--pelicans, ospreys, herons, egrets, and even bald eagles--are abundant. Three hundred species of native plants including wild lilies and orchids enhance the beauty of the swamp.

***McCoy's River and Marsh Tours** – 228.588.0356, 5107 Arthur Street, Moss Point. Provides eco-tours of the Pascagoula River Basin. <http://rivercritters.pardue-consulting.com/index.html>. Contact: Captain Lynn or Benny McCoy (*max. 20 passengers). Let Captains Lynn or Benny McCoy take you on the Pascagoula River, one of the most pristine river swamps in America and the last waterway of its size in the United States which is unimpeded by any artificial structure. Over 74,000 acres of it is a permanently protected wildlife area. Tour on a 24-foot custom built; Coast Guard certified and approved tour boat, which holds up to 20 passengers and offers small nature tours of this unique river and marsh system.

Gulf Islands National Seashore – 228.875.9057, 3500 Park Rd, Ocean Springs. Davis Bayou area. <http://www.nps.gov/guis/miss.htm>

Congress set aside a few of the barrier islands as Gulf Islands National Seashore for recreation and preservation of natural and historical resources. Recreational activities such as camping, fishing, boating, swimming, walking, hiking and biking abound here. The park stretches from Cat Island in the Mississippi Sound 160 miles east to the Okaloosa area on Santa Rosa Island in Florida.

The Davis Bayou headquarters area of the park in Ocean Springs features the William M. Colmer Visitor Center, nature film, interactive exhibits, boat launching, trails, pier, picnicking, and pavilions. Seasonal passenger ferry service takes visitors from the Gulfport Small Craft Harbor to day use beaches on West Ship Island. Primitive camping is available on Cat, East Ship, Horn, and Petit Bois Islands. The Visitors Center is open daily from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge - 228.497.6322, 7200 Crane Ln, Gautier. <http://mississippisandhillcrane.fws.gov>

This refuge is one of national wildlife refuges administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It was established in 1975 to safeguard the critically endangered Mississippi Sandhill Crane and its unique disappearing habitat. The refuge consists of more than 19,000 acres in four units and is now part of the Gulf Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Visitor's Center: Tuesday - Saturday, 9am - 3pm.

A three-quarter mile nature trail adjacent to the Visitor Center winds its way through pine savanna, tidal marsh, and pine scrub. Plant life is abundant along the trail, especially in spring when carnivorous plants and orchids are in bloom. The alert visitor can also see and hear signs of wildlife. Wading birds visit the bayou, and many songbirds, including the eastern bluebird and Bachman's sparrow, frequent the savannas. Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge is an excellent place to come and observe wildlife.

Coastal Heritage:

Biloxi Lighthouse - 800.245.6943. The Biloxi Lighthouse, erected in 1848 and one of the first cast-iron lighthouses in the South, is the city's signature landmark and has become a post-Katrina symbol of the city's resolve and resilience. Open for public tours Monday through Saturday at 9 am.

Biloxi Visitors Center at the Lighthouse - 800.245.6943, opened on August 8, 2011. The center houses a free 5,000 square foot multi-media museum dedicated to the history of Biloxi and the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Audio-sticks are also available. The second floor has a sixty-seven seat theater that regularly shows a 10-minute video titled "We are Biloxi." Both floors of the beachfront facility include abundant rental space for special events, meetings etc. Open 7 days a week. Hours: Mon-Sat, 8am - 5pm, Sundays, 10am - 4pm.

Biloxi Schooners - 228.435.6320. Biloxi Schooner Pier, across from the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art Campus. www.maritimemuseum.org Contact: Robin Krohn-David, Executive Director.

The Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum has recaptured a piece of history in their two famous schooners, the "Glenn L. Swetman" and the "Mike Sekul". For a truly unique way of enjoying the Mississippi Gulf Coast step on board an authentic replica of a Biloxi oyster schooner. These "White Winged Queens" once sailed the Coast from the late 1800's to the early 1900's.

Enjoy a beautiful sail from the Schooner Pier Complex along the Biloxi Beachfront and see Biloxi's coastline and islands as you have never seen them before or just gaze into the sunset and watch for dolphins. Boarding is at the new Schooner Pier in Biloxi

which is located south of Highway 90 just West of Harrah's Casino Complex and East of Kuhn Street.

Biloxi Shrimping Trip– 228.392.8645. Biloxi Small Craft Harbor, Call for tour schedule, walk-ons welcome. www.biloxishrimpingtrip.com Contact: Brandy Moore.

The Biloxi Shrimping Tour celebrates over 50 years of the Sail Fish operating as a tourist attraction. The pride and heritage of Biloxi comes alive aboard this unique and interesting cruise. Upon leaving the harbor, the shrimping net is set out with full details of how and what makes the net operate correctly. Expect to catch a variety ranging from shrimp, blue crabs, flounder, stingray, oysterfish, squid, pufferfish and numerous other species of local marine life. The entire catch will be identified and presented for your inspection by the captain. This 70 minute living marine adventure cruise is navigated in the calm protected waters between Deer Island and the Biloxi shoreline for your comfort.

Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum - 228.435.6320. Exhibits include Native Americans/Colonial period, Boatbuilding, Tools of the Trade, Shrimping, Oystering, Crabbing, Marine Blacksmithing, Wetlands, Barrier islands, Biloxi Seafood Factory, Historic Boats of Biloxi, Managing Marine Resources, and Nets including Turtle Excluder Devices. We will also have a hurricane exhibit discussing the anatomy of a hurricane, development stages, tracking and a theatre showcasing the films on Hurricane's Camille and Katrina.

Ship Island Excursions - 228.864.1014, 866.466.7386, Gulfport Small Craft Harbor. www.msshipisland.com Contact: Captain Louis Skrmetta

Relaxation, recreation and history - these are the gifts offered to you on Ship Island. Here in the north central Gulf of Mexico, about 11 miles off the Mississippi Coast, are some of the last undeveloped barrier islands in America. Part of Gulf Islands National Seashore and protected by the U.S. Park Service, these exquisite sand islands offer visitors the first high quality beaches for swimming and shelling east of New Orleans.

Travel to a special place where the main attractions are outstanding beaches, beautiful water and clean gulf air. Locals and visitors consistently rate the 22-mile round trip to Ship Island as the coast's **premier waterborne experience**. **Watch for dolphins.**

Atlantic Bottle-nosed Dolphins are frequently seen playing in the wake of our boats, or feeding on mullet and menhaden near the island beaches. Visit historic **Fort Massachusetts** (circa 1868) on your own, or on a Park Ranger guided tour offered after the passenger ferries arrive at the island. Seasonal schedule runs from April-October and departs from the Gulfport Yacht Harbor located at Highway 49 & Highway 90 intersection. Call for departure times.

Paddling, Tubing and Sailing:

Wolf River Canoe/Natural Adventures Touring Kayaks - 228.452.7666, 21640 Tucker Rd, Long Beach. www.wolfrivercanoes.com Contact: Joe Feil (can accommodate large groups)

Famous for its white sand beaches and winding waterways, the Wolf River is the perfect playground for the amateur or experienced canoeist and kayaker alike. Lessons, guided trips, camping, tubing, sea kayaking adventures are available for individuals and groups.

Just minutes from the gulf beaches, the cool waters of the Wolf River flow over adventurous clay formations, twist around pristine white sand beaches, and meander through peaceful woodlands. Whether you want to swim, picnic, camp, tube, or just relax and enjoy nature, a canoe trip from Wolf River Canoes has a trip for you. By encouraging visitors to be environmentally concerned, helping found the Wolf River Conservation Society, sponsoring river cleanups, and participating in the Adopt-A-Stream Program, *I hope to see the river remain pristine for generations to come. I feel that "river-time" is a great way to bring people and nature together, combine fun and fitness, and to recharge in the midst of hectic lives* – Joe Feil.

Paddles Up and WutSUP – Standup paddle board rentals and tours. 850.687.3023 or 228.669.1802

Trekking:

Tuxachanie Hiking Trail, 601.528.6160, USDA Forest Service - Red Creek Wildlife Management Area

Saucier, MS 39574. (This activity requires moderate agility and stamina. Narrow foot bridges may be slippery and some uneven pathways)

Jump into your sneakers and take a walk on the Tuxachanie Trail in the DeSoto National Forest. The trailhead begins at Highway 49 in north Gulfport. The first five miles of the trail follow an old abandoned railroad, which once served the saw mill of the Dantzler Lumber Company. As you hike, you will encounter a variety of environments, from savannahs to swamps with an abundance of pitcher plants and palmettos. This trail is 22 miles long roundtrip. If you plan on walking the entire trail, bring along your water bottles. If you don't want to travel the whole route, there is a 5.5 mile pick-up point at Airey Lake.

Possum Walk Trail, 228-467-9048, Trailhead begins at INFINITY Science Center, exit 2 off I-10. This 3.1 mile trail crosses through pristine marsh and wetland areas, is great for birding and wildlife viewing, biking, pedestrian walks and have interpretive exhibits throughout, including information about the history of the area. This segment of trail is located in the first area settled by Europeans in 1699. Logtown was known for its tremendous resources of pine and hardwood forests, and at one time, was home to the largest sawmill in the world. The fully accessible trail highlights the heritage and ecology of the area, with interpretive signage for children and adults, a scavenger hunt, and a new bridge over the Bayou Bogue Homa, near a settlement of freed slaves who worked in the mills and forests. Graphics will provide information on common birds, the Pearl River watershed, the native tribes of Acolapissa and Choctaw, pine plantations, the lost community of Logtown, and the community of Possum Walk.

Walk-On Fishing:

Deer Island Fishing & Tours, 228.875.3825, 228.806.8671, Ocean Springs Harbor, Ocean Springs, MS 39564 Contact: Captain Mark Compton (Maximum 25 passengers). A 30-foot pontoon boat named "Ms. Biggy," offering 3 hour fishing trips departing twice daily. Captain Compton has over 35 years fishing experience. For the fisherman the "Ms Biggy" offers light tackle fishing within sight of the coastline. Many reefs and wrecks produce a large variety of fish to include white trout, ground mullet, red fish, speckled trout and flounder. You never know what you might hook. All tackle, bait and fishing licenses provided. Departure Times: 8am & 1pm Daily.

Biloxi Shrimping Trip - 228.257.8357, Biloxi Small Boat Harbor, Biloxi
Enjoy 3 hours aboard the Sailfish. (Minimum 10 passengers to set sail).
You will experience light tackle fishing with an experienced Captain and Crew. We will take you to the local favorite fishing spot "the rock piles" located directly south of Biloxi Small Craft Harbor. Once anchored up we will help you set your lines so the fun can begin. You will be targeting such species as white trout, ground mullet and flounder. This trip is great for a first time fisherman, children or anyone who does not want to be out in the hot sun all day.
All trips depart from the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor at exactly 6:30am and arrive back at Biloxi Small Craft Harbor at exactly 9:30am. Please arrive at the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor by 6:15am to board the boat.