

## MISSISSIPPI'S HOMETOWNS TOUR

### Route: Oxford – Tupelo – Columbus - Laurel, Mississippi

The legacies of Mississippians like literary titan William Faulkner and "The King of Rock 'n' Roll" Elvis Presley come alive in tours of their homes and the towns where they lived. Visit the home where Faulkner wrote his best-sellers, the hardware store where Elvis got his first guitar and the hometown of acclaimed playwright Tennessee Williams. Today, a new generation leads the charge in preserving and reviving those towns, like Erin and Ben Napier of HGTV's hit show "Home Town," which follows the duo as they bring new life to older homes in their charming hometown of Laurel. Come see the people and places that make "Home Town" one of HGTV's most-watched shows.

#### OXFORD

Widely known as the charming home of the University of Mississippi and epic gameday tailgating in The Grove, Oxford is also famous for being a creative haven for writers, artists and the like. Step back in time and explore the nooks and crannies of [Rowan Oak](#), the home of Nobel Prize-winning author William Faulkner. Browse the works of many more renowned Mississippi writers at [Square Books](#), and enjoy creative conversation at any of the restaurants and bars located on the [Historic Oxford Square](#).

#### Must See:

**Rowan Oak**, 916 Old Taylor Road, Oxford, MS (662)234.3284

**Square Books**, 160 Courthouse Square, Oxford, MS (662)236.2262

#### TUPELO

Tupelo, the [birthplace of Elvis Presley](#), is a dynamic Southern city easily accessible by Interstate 22, Highway 45 and the historic Natchez Trace Parkway. Begin your Elvis experience as you visit the two-room house where "The King" was born, the church of his childhood and the museum and park honoring the legendary performer. Next, x marks the spot at [Tupelo Hardware](#). Stand in the exact spot Elvis did when he chose his very first guitar, which his mother Gladys purchased for his 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. As they say, the rest is history.

#### Must See:

**Elvis Presley Birthplace**, 306 Elvis Presley Drive, Tupelo, MS (662)841.1245

**Tupelo Hardware**, 114 West Main Street, Tupelo, MS (662)842.4637

#### COLUMBUS

Columbus offers the perfect destination for anyone who appreciates warm hospitality, classic Southern architecture, beautiful surroundings, good food and a friendly atmosphere. Tour the [Tennessee Williams House Museum and Welcome Center](#) and learn more about how this quaint town provided inspiration for Pulitzer Prize-winning native son Tennessee Williams.

#### Must See:

**Tennessee Williams House Museum & Welcome Center**, 300 Main Street, Columbus, MS (662)328.0222

#### LAUREL

Step into the setting of HGTV's "Home Town," where husband and wife team Erin and Ben Napier work to revitalize and preserve their charming Mississippi hometown of Laurel. Begin your tour at the [Lauren Rogers Museum of Art](#) to pick up the Laurel Walking Tour brochure that will lead you to many of the

renovated homes and historic streets featured on the show. Next, go check out the quality merchandise offered at Erin and Ben's stores [Laurel Mercantile Co.](#) and [Scotsman General Store and Woodshop.](#)

**Must See:**

***Lauren Rogers Museum of Art***, 565 North 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Laurel, MS (601)649.6374

***Laurel Mercantile Co.***, 414 Front Street, Laurel, MS (601)804.2288

***Scotsman General Store & Woodshop***, 1 Spec Wilson, Laurel, MS (601)804.2288