# JEWS, BLUES, AND FOOD IN JACKSON, MEMPHIS, AND THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA



Get a taste of southern food, history, culture, and music on this **immersive** and intimate journey in Jackson, Memphis, and the Mississippi Delta. Engage with community members and fellow travelers during visits to interactive museums, legendary music venues, and vibrant southern Jewish communities.

January 31 to February 5, 2024

### Wednesday, January 31

Arrive in Jackson and make your own way to the hotel. No meals included. Overnight in Jackson.

#### **Thursday, February 1**

The Mississippi Civil Rights Movement

Get to know your guides and fellow travelers, and set intentions for the journey | Spend the morning at the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and the Museum of Mississippi History, getting to know Mississippi as the birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement | Tour Jackson State University, the COFO Civil Rights Education Center, and other sites, learning about Jackson's civil rights history along the way | Enjoy an opening dinner at one of Jackson's iconic music venues. Included meals: breakfast and dinner. Overnight in Jackson.

#### Friday, February 2

Jews and the Blues

Travel to the Mississippi Delta to meet with Jewish community leaders in Greenwood and Indianola | Stop by the burial site of legendary blues performer Robert Johnson before touring the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center, which celebrates the Delta's musical legacy | Celebrate Shabbat at Hebrew Union Congregation in Greenville. Included meals: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Overnight in Greenville.

# Saturday, February 3

Welcome to the Mississippi Delta

Get to know the complexities of the Delta's rich Jewish history at the Hebrew Union Congregation Century of History Museum | Tour Mound Bayou (founded as an independent Black community in 1887) and Ruleville (home of Civil Rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer) with staff members of the Delta Center for Culture and Learning and the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area | Spend the evening at a juke joint in Clarksdale. Included meals: breakfast and lunch. Overnight in Clarksdale.

#### Sunday, February 4

Civil Rights and Soul in Memphis

Understand the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement at the National Civil Rights Museum and the Lorraine Motel, site of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. | Sing along with the hits of the 1960s at the Stax Museum | Enjoy a closing group dinner and a night out on Beale Street. Included meals: breakfast and dinner. Overnight in Memphis.

#### **Monday, February 5**

Bus transportation back to Jackson | Return home with new friends, new recipes, and a new perspective on Jewish life and culture in the American South.

# **PRICE**

4 days, 5 nights

Double occupancy: \$2,240 Single occupancy: \$2,860

# JEWISH LIFE IN THE MOST SOUTHERN PLACE ON EARTH: JACKSON, NATCHEZ, VICKSBURG, AND THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA February 18 to 25, 2024

Join the ISJL's expert staff on a **deep dive into Mississippi's Jewish history and culture**. Understand the ways in which Mississippi's Jewish history intersects with stories of slavery, the Civil War, and the Civil Rights Movement, all while engaging in meaningful conversations about southern Jewish identity and heritage. This luxury trip features **exclusive hotels, award-winning restaurants, and off-the-beaten-path cultural experiences.** 

#### Sunday, February 18

Welcome to the Jewish South

Arrive in Jackson and make your own way to the hotel | Enjoy an opening lunch and welcome from your guides, then spend the afternoon at the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum | Spend the evening in conversation with Institute of Southern Jewish Life staff and Jackson community leaders at Beth Israel Congregation. Included meals: lunch and dinner. Overnight in Jackson.

#### Monday, February 19

The Mississippi Civil Rights Movement

Tour Jackson State University, the COFO Civil Rights Education Center, and other sites, learning about Jackson's civil rights history along the way | Enjoy dinner and a show at one of Jackson's iconic music venues. Included meals: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Overnight in Jackson.

#### **Tuesday, February 20**

Early Mississippi Jewish History + Jews and Slavery

Travel to Natchez, Mississippi, via the Forks of the Road, once the site of the second-largest domestic slave market in the Deep South | Tour historic Temple B'nai Israel, home to the oldest Jewish congregation in the state | Meet with the historians and preservationists working to tell the full story of Natchez's history at sites like Melrose Plantation, the William Johnson House, and the Natchez Museum of African American History and Culture | Spend an evening on your own in Natchez. Included meal: breakfast. Overnight in Natchez.

# Wednesday, February 21

Jews and the Civil War + Jewish Assimilation

Travel to Vicksburg, Mississippi, site of the decisive Siege of Vicksburg, and learn about the depth of Jewish involvement in the Civil War | Get to know the complexities of the Delta's rich Jewish history at the Hebrew Union Congregation Century of History Museum. Included meals: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Overnight in Greenville.

#### **Thursday, February 22**

Welcome to the Mississippi Delta

Tour Mound Bayou (founded as an independent Black community in 1887) and Ruleville (home of Civil Rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer) with staff members of the Delta Center for Culture and Learning and the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area. Included meals: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Overnight in Indianola (or around).

#### Friday, February 23

Jews and the Blues

Dig deep into the Delta's musical legacy at the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center | Meet with Jewish community leaders in Greenwood, then hone your knife skills at a southern cooking class | Celebrate Shabbat in the heart of the Delta. Included meals: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Overnight in Greenwood.

#### Saturday, February 24

Remembering, Reminding, and Forgetting

Follow the footsteps of Emmett Till on a pilgrimage through the Delta, including a visit to the Emmett Till Interpretive Center, whose staff are working to tell the story of Emmett Till and point toward racial healing | Return to Jackson for a closing group dinner at a James Beard Award-nominated restaurant. Included meals: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Overnight in Jackson.

# **Sunday, February 25**

Return home with new ideas, new questions, and a new perspective on Jewish life and culture in Mississippi.

# SOUTHERN JEWISH HERITAGE TOURS

For more details and tour registration, visit www.isjl.org/tours.

#### PRICE

7 days, 7 nights Double occupancy: \$4,425

Single occupancy: \$5,750

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