

Creative Agendas

Half Day

- Journey along the scenic **Natchez Trace Parkway** and visit sites unique to the area such as the Yockanookany or River Bend picnic area, Ratliff Ferry and Cypress Swamp.
- The 33,000-acre **Ross Barnett Reservoir** hosts boaters, skiers, campers, picnickers and fishermen to its shores.
- Discover the **Mississippi Craft Center**, which features works of more than 400 artisans from folk crafts, Native American basketry and contemporary pottery to weaving, quilting and jewelry. The works are available for purchase, and demonstrations can be scheduled in advance for groups.
- No trip to Ridgeland is complete without enjoying our **shopping, restaurants** and quality **hotels**. Ridgeland is home to the state's two largest malls, and a host of individual boutiques and art galleries.

Full Day

Add the following to your half-day tour:

- Just minutes south on Interstate 55 is Mississippi's state capital, **Jackson**. The city resonates with history and offers attractions for every age. An opera company, professional theatre, symphony orchestra, art museum with over 3,000 works, natural science museum complete with a 100,000-gallon aquarium system, state archives and history library, zoological park and international exhibits are some of the attractions to fill your afternoon. Also in the area are the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, the Agriculture and Forestry Museum the Eudora Welty house and the Mississippi Children's Museum. The 40,000 square foot children's museum offers unique and exciting educational experiences to ignite and inspire a thirst for discovery, knowledge and learning in all children.

Regional Tour

With Ridgeland as your hub, it's time to venture out and discover other highlights of Central Mississippi.

- **Vicksburg**, located on the Mississippi River about 1 hour from Ridgeland on Interstate 20, is a place forever etched in Civil War history. Walk through the trenches of the Vicksburg National Military Park, operated by the National Park Service; visit the Old Courthouse Museum, a majestic structure that survived the Civil War; and take part in a historical tour viewing antebellum structures that dot the city. Vicksburg also hosts many outstanding restaurants and casinos with 24-hour gaming along the scenic river bluff.
- Mississippi's oldest river city, **Natchez**, is located about 90 miles southwest of Ridgeland. The unmatched splendor of this city is found in its 600 magnificent, pre-Civil-War mansions, cottages and buildings. Natchez's treasures include the stately Stanton Hall, historic Jefferson College and the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians. The Natchez Visitors Reception Center features exhibits, dioramas and video presentations.

- **Canton**, just 15 minutes north of Ridgeland on Interstate 55, is a storybook town that draws visitors and moviemakers to its charming town square and has been featured in the movies, *A Time To Kill* and *My Dog Skip*. The town is also home to the Canton Flea Market, a bi-annual collectors' mecca, featuring over 1,100 vendors. Visitors can also tour the Mosby House, a 20-room "in-town" plantation home built in 1852.

- Between Vicksburg and Natchez be sure to visit **Port Gibson**, the city U.S. Grant called "too beautiful to burn," and Alcorn State University, the nation's oldest land-grant school for African-Americans and one of the country's most respected historic black universities.

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