



*The City That Has It All!*

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**In “The City that Has It All,” the all-season argument for travel.**

COLUMBUS, MS: Want to start an argument? Just ask residents which season is best enjoyed in this historic northeast Mississippi city situated on the banks of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. You’ll get an earful—and a mouthful.

Traditionalists will argue for spring. And indeed spring presents uncommonly dramatic beauty as azaleas and dogwoods bloom, and doors open to one of the Southeast’s most significant collections of historic homes and architecture in the ten-day Columbus Spring Pilgrimage, which for more than 75 years has celebrated the best of Southern culture. Add in the delectable experience of Pilgrimage’s kickoff event, “Catfish in the Alley,” featuring delicious fried catfish and the world’s best blues music, and it’s hard to imagine how any season could match spring in Columbus.

Others, however, will fiercely argue for fall, for autumn, after all, is the time of exciting and engaging celebrations. Consider the fall lineup: The Tennessee Williams Tribute and Victorian Homes Tour, the Eudora Welty Writer’s Symposium at Mississippi University for Women (MUW), Caledonia Days, the Decorative Arts & Preservation Antique Show and Sale, the Ghosts and Legends tour, and the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Heritage Festival, Mississippi’s largest “block party.”

Winter? That’s time for the deep inspiration of Dream 365, a regional event that’s made its way to the forefront of MLK celebrations. And as for summer, that promises a season-long calendar of lively celebrations such as Juneteenth, the Market Street and Southside Park Blues Festivals, the Roast-N-Boast barbecue cook-off—and not to be missed, Fireworks Over Water, the Fourth of July spectacular on the Tenn-Tom Waterway. Another summer treat: weekly musical performances on the stage of the Columbus Riverwalk and Trail. Winding a scenic ribbon around the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway, Riverwalk is also home to the Hitching Post Farmer’s Market, where local farmers and artisans delight the senses with luscious fresh produce and prepared foods along with beautifully unique crafts. Truly a season and a city to savor.

And yet it’s more than celebrations that make Columbus the all-season, all-around destination for travel adventures. “The City that Has It All” has it all together to make even an ordinary day an extraordinary experience in Columbus.

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### **On water, on the trails, on the table.**

Year-round attractions and year-round mild weather keep the game and tournament schedule packed at the Columbus Soccer Complex, a uniquely attractive venue that nestles exceptional facilities within a wooded landscape that is, surprisingly, just adjacent to Main Street Columbus, and connected via the Riverwalk. Thus, mere steps away are the shopping and dining options of a vibrant city center, a winner of the national Main Street award for its blend of natural, cultural and economic assets. Only a few blocks from the heart of Main Street, MUW's historic and leafy campus, home to the Eugenia Summer Gallery, is another popular spot to slake a thirst for artistic and architectural beauty.

And Main Street is only the first flavorful stop for city-wide shopping and dining explorations easily enjoyed at nearly a dozen retail venues, including Jackson Square and the Shops at Brickerton, with dining options that range from the international excellence of Umi to the superb locally inspired cuisine served up by beloved establishments like J. Broussards, Harvey's, Huck's Place and Proffit's Porch.

Columbus also offers year-round adventures off the beaten path, on land or on the water—from the four miles of trails at Plymouth Bluff Environmental Center to the nearly 9,000-acre Columbus Lake on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, not to mention multiple recreational areas like Lake Lowndes State Park and hunting refuges like Black Prairie Wildlife Management Area and Burnt Oak Lodge. And at Lion Hills, the city's publicly owned golf club, the perfection of the links is matched by the pleasures of the club's lunch and dinner menus.

What are planned as short visits here have a way of stretching far longer, as visitors wind down in one of more than a half dozen charming B&Bs, where history and hospitality blend seamlessly in gorgeous antebellum and turn-of-the-century homes. And for those who prefer contemporary luxury or up-to-the-moment bargains, nearly two dozen nationally branded hotels and motels provide ideal lodging options for all tastes and budgets.

So while there may be disagreement about which season is best, for many reasons "The City that Has It All" is, without argument, one of the top travel destinations in the Southeast, with the numbers in visitors and tourism awards to prove it. Come get an earful—and a mouthful—and you'll agree.

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