

THE STORYBOOK SOUTH
VISIT
Columbus
MISSISSIPPI

VISITORS GUIDE

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LODGING | EVENTS & MORE

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TENNESSEE WILLIAMS HOUSE MUSEUM AND WELCOME CENTER

Make the first home of legendary playwright Tennessee Williams your first stop in Columbus. This home was the rectory of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, where his grandfather, the Reverend Walter Dakin, served. In 1993, the rectory was in jeopardy of being torn down to make room for a church expansion. In an effort to preserve this historic and literary landmark, the home was loaded onto flatbed trucks and taken to its new site on Main Street.

Extensive efforts were made to restore the 1875 Victorian home to its original glory. It was then reopened as the official Welcome Center for the city of Columbus. Just three months after the opening, Tennessee Williams was honored with a U.S. postage stamp, and a ceremony was held at the home. The Tennessee Williams Welcome Center, also a National Literary Landmark, is located in the heart of Columbus' downtown historic district at the corner of Main Street and Third Street South.





About Columbus

In 1540, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto and his expedition crossed the **Tombigbee River** in the Columbus area and made their winter camp. At the beginning of The Creek War in 1813, John Pitchlynn, U.S. interpreter and acting U.S. Indian Agent for the Choctaw Nation, constructed a small, fortified blockhouse, named Fort Smith on the bluff. Among those receiving supplies there was the frontiersman David Crockett.

The first house was built in 1817 where Andrew Jackson's Military Road connecting Nashville and New Orleans crossed the Tombigbee River and was occupied by Spirus Roach. Because of the "peculiarities" of Roach's long pointed nose and gray hair, local Native Americans who traded at Roach's establishment called the town "**Opossum Town**," a nickname still used.

Franklin Academy, Mississippi's first free public school, was chartered in 1821. William Cocke became president of the school's board of trustees, corresponding with his old friend Thomas Jefferson about the school. Also in 1821, the American Board for Foreign Missions and the Presbyterian and Congregationalist Churches founded the Mayhew Choctaw Mission. In March 1823, the Cotton Plant was the first Tombigbee steamboat to arrive at Columbus.

The first bridge over the Tombigbee River at Columbus was a wooden covered bridge built by African American engineer **Horace King** in 1842.

During the Civil War, Columbus was a major hospital center treating thousands of sick and wounded Confederate and Union soldiers. In a Decoration Day ceremony in 1866, ladies placed flowers on the graves of both Confederate and Union soldiers. This act of reconciliation drew praise from across the country, inspired the poem "The Blue and The Gray" and was recognized by President Obama in 2010 as an inspiration for **Memorial Day**.

In 1884, The Industrial Institute and College, now **The W**, opened as the country's first state supported college for women.

In 1942, Columbus Army Airfield opened as Kaye Field and 7,412 Army Air Force pilots earned their wings there during World War II. Today **Columbus Air Force Base** is the home of the 14th Flying Training Wing and still trains the world's best pilots.

Among notable natives or residents of Columbus are playwright **Tennessee Williams**, Hall of Fame baseball announcer "**Red**" Barber, Hall of Fame boxer **Henry Armstrong**, Oscar winning head of Disney Studio's Animation Effects Department **Joshua Meador**, NFL Hall of Famer **Jerry Rice** of Crawford, and C. S. Lewis' biographer and J.R.R. Tolkien's editor **Clyde Kilby**.



Attractions

Buttahatchee Barn Quilt Trail

Quilt trail winds throughout rural Lowndes County.

Columbus Air Force Base

CAFB has trained pilots since World War II and graduates hundreds of Air Aces annually.
662.434.7068

Columbus Arts Council / Rosenzweig Arts Center

501 Main Street

Features sales and exhibit galleries and hosts free monthly gallery shows.
662.328.ARTS

Columbus-Lowndes Public Library: Billups-Garth Archives / Buckley Genealogy Room

314 Seventh Street North

Peruse extensive records of many aspects of Columbus History.
662.329.5300

Columbus War Museum

1501 Main Street

Created to honor and recognize those who fought in the military.
Open year-round.
Free admission

Eugenia Summer Gallery

Located on The W campus and houses the departments of Art and Design and Music and Theater.
662.329.7341

Friendship Cemetery

1400 Fourth Street South

Founded in 1849, the cemetery was the site of the first Decoration Day in 1866 when four Columbus women first decorated the graves of both Confederate and Union soldiers. This impartial act led to the modern Memorial Day celebration.
662.328.4164

Historic Southside District Walking Tour

Walk through Columbus' scenic historic Southside district while learning about the historic and architecturally significant sights of Columbus. Information on the self-guided tour is available at the Tennessee Williams Welcome Center.

The Hitching Lot Farmers Market

Corner of Second Avenue North & Second Street North

From April – October, enjoy the harvest of local farmers, food producers, artisans, crafters, and musicians.
Tuesdays and Saturdays.
662.328.6305 • columbusmainstreet.com

Lowndes County Courthouse

505 Second Avenue North

Where the Mississippi Legislature met during the Civil War after the city of Jackson fell to Union forces.
662.329.5800 or 662.329.5900

Main Street Columbus

The district is made up of blocks of specialty shops, restaurants, and historic buildings.
662.328.6305

Plymouth Bluff Center

2200 Old West Point Road

Plymouth Bluff offers four miles of self-guided nature and fitness trails and boasts almost 12,000 square feet of conference space and 24 guest rooms.
662.241.6214 • plymouthbluff.com

Sen. Terry Brown Amphitheater

Downtown Columbus

Outdoor venue situated near the Tombigbee River, Columbus Riverwalk, and Pedestrian Bridge.

The Agnes Zaiontz Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Transportation Museum

318 Seventh Street North

The museum highlights not only the uniqueness of the Waterway with its extensive lock and dam system but also artifacts from rail and highway transportation.

Open Mon - Thurs, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fri, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., weekends by

appointment

662.328.3286

The W

1100 College Street

Founded in 1884 as The Industrial Institute and College, The W was the first public college for women in the United States of America.
877.Go.2.The.W

Trotter Convention Center

420 Second Avenue North

Newly remodeled Convention Center is in historic downtown.
662.328.4164





BLUES TRAIL MARKERS

The Mississippi Blues Trail identifies influential musicians, as well as historic sites and places that contributed to our wonderful blues heritage.

Big Joe Williams Blues Marker

Downtown Crawford, MS

In the late '50s, Big Joe Williams began a career as a "folk blues" artist. He performed widely at coffeehouses and festivals and recorded many albums for Delmark, Arhoolie, Testament, and Bluesville. He was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame in 1992.

Catfish Alley Blues Marker

Downtown Columbus, MS

Catfish Alley deserves this Blues Trail marker for its legendary reputation as the epicenter of blues, jazz, and soul music in North Mississippi. Some say the name originated after local fishermen brought their catches to be cooked on the street, where the aroma of frying catfish filled the air.

Queen City Hotel / Seventh Avenue South

Columbus, MS

For several decades beginning in the early 1900s, the area that includes the site of the Queen City Hotel was part of a vibrant African-American community. The hotel, founded by a former slave, catered to African Americans and once housed celebrities such as Ella Fitzgerald, B.B. King, Duke Ellington, and James Brown.

View a printable map of the blues markers at MSBluesTrail.org.



HISTORIC HOME TOURS

Amzi Love (c. 1848)

305 Seventh Street South
662.574.1209

The Ridge House (c. 1826)

571 Ridge Road
251.895.1160

Rosedale (c. 1856)

1523 Ninth Street South
662.574.1184 or 662.574.8494

Shadowlawn (c. 1848)

1024 College Street
662.327.3600

Stephen D. Lee Home & Museum (c. 1847)

316 Seventh Street North
662.327.8888 or 662.435.2368
Open Fri, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Tennessee Williams House Museum (c. 1875) and Welcome Center

300 Main Street
662.328.0222
Open Tues – Thurs, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sat, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Whitehall (c. 1843)

607 Third Street South
662.386.6587

Homes are open by appointment and fees apply



AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE TOUR

Downtown

Catfish Alley*

4th Street S, Between Main & College

Henry Armstrong*

215 3rd Street N (Henry Armstrong Way)

The Haven

315 2nd Avenue North

Gleed's Corner*

505 2nd Avenue North

The First Black Legislators*

505 2nd Avenue North

Southside

Horace King Bridge Site

West End of 4th Avenue South

Original Site of Union Academy*

9th Avenue South, Between 8th and 9th Street South

MUW Desegregation*

Third Avenue South at Pioneer Plaza

Henry Edwin Baker Jr.*

Main Street at 9th Street S

Sandfield Cemetery*

MLK Drive South & College Street

Northside

Dr. Theodoric V. James Home

1104 Fifth Avenue North

Missionary Union Baptist Church*

1207 Fifth Avenue North

Union Academy (Post 1903 Site)

1425 10th Avenue

W.I. Mitchell Homesite

Corner of Seventh Avenue & 16th Street N

Queen City Hotel Site*

15th Street N & Seventh Avenue North

Queen City Blues Marker*

1507 7th Avenue North

Robert Walker Home Site

Corner of Seventh Avenue & 14th Street N

R.E. Hunt Museum and Cultural Center

924 20th Street N

Lowndes County

Concord CME Church

1213 Concord Road

Samuel "Sam" Harding Hairston*

Old Macon Road (Hwy. 792) and W. Minnie Vaughn Road

Wicks Community*

There are two historical churches on Wicks Road. The Wicks Community is approximately 4 miles south of the Golden Triangle Airport and 4 miles east of Artesia, Mississippi.

There are 5 historical markers on Wicks Road.

- Dennis Wicks, Jr.*
- James "Jim" Wicks*
- Ned Wicks*
- Sally Wicks Sharp*
- Zacharias Wicks, Sr.*

Sam "The Jet" Jethroe*

1406 Nashville Ferry Road East

Big Joe Williams Blues Trail Marker*

442 Main Street, Crawford

LTC Alva Newte Temple

Columbus-Lowndes County Airport, 368 Fabritek Drive



*Denotes historic marker



Parks & Recreation

Black Prairie Wildlife Management Area

744 Firetower Road, Crawford, MS

Home to multiple national and regional bird dog field trials and fox hunts.
662.272.8303

Burnt Oak Lodge

1563 Penn Station Road, Crawford, MS

Burnt Oak Lodge is a favorite for corporate functions, wedding receptions, football weekends, getaways and quail hunting.
662.272.9550
burntoaklodge.com

Columbus Lake on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway

Columbus Lake offers 9,000 acres of fresh water for fishing and water sports.

Columbus Lock & Dam East Bank

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Beautiful recreation and picnic area, plus an exercise trail.
662.245.5500

Columbus Marina

295 Marina Drive
Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, Mile 335

Located just above the Stennis Lock and Dam.
662.327.8450

Columbus Riverwalk & Trail

4.4 mile walking/biking trail. The trail begins at Main Street and winds along the Tombigbee River. The trail offers two pavilions, bathrooms, benches, bike racks, and picnic tables.
662.328.4164

Crown Park

301 Third Street North

Located at the Roger Short Soccer Complex. Pavillion available.
662.328.0885

Dewayne Hayes Recreation Area & Campground

7934 Barton Ferry Road

The campground provides convenient access to the waterway for fishing, boating, or just spending the day hiking and sightseeing along the banks of the river.
662.434.6939
Day Use 662.434.6808

Lake Lowndes State Park / Opossum Trail

3319 Lake Lowndes Road

The park features the Opossum Trail—a 5.6-mile hiking or biking trail with a self-guided tour. Located on a beautiful 150-acre lake, the park provides limitless opportunities for fishing, water skiing, camping, and picnicking. An 18-hole disc golf course weaves its way through the park. Cabins are available for rent, as well as facilities for football, tennis, softball, soccer, volleyball, and other organized sports.
662.328.2110

Lee Park

Located off Seventh Street North
662.327.4935

Lowndes County Sportsplex

1336 N. Frontage Road

Just minutes from downtown, the Sportsplex centerpiece is the BankFirst Yards with eight baseball/softball fields and a playground.
662.328.0885

Patriot Park

2430 Fifth Street North

Located at the walking track of Baptist Hospital.

Propst Park

2509 - 2641 Second Avenue North

Park and recreational facilities for baseball, softball, disc golf, and a Bark Park for dogs.

662.327.4935 • thecityofcolumbusms.org

Roger Short Soccer Complex

301 Third Street North

Championship-level soccer and football complex complete with a dog park and more than a mile of sidewalks and trails connecting to the Columbus Riverwalk and Trail.

662.328.0885 • lowndesrecreation.com

Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway

This 234-mile stretch connects Middle America with the Gulf of Mexico.

662.328.3286

GOLF

Elm Lake Golf Club

1609 Taylor Thurston Road

A 6,913-yard, 18-hole, 72-par championship course designed by Kevin Tucker.

662.329.8964 • elmlakegolfcourse.com

Green Oaks Golf Club

326 Green Oaks Drive

A 6,491-yard, 18-hole, 72-par course.

662.328.3879 • greenoaksgolf.com

Lion Hills Golf Club

2331 Military Road

A 6,410-yard, 18-hole championship course open to the public Tue - Sun.

662.328.4837 Pro Shop • 662.329.6747 eastms.edu

MOTORSPORTS

Magnolia Motor Speedway

495 Highway 45 South

Enjoy racing excitement at this .375-mile oval racetrack.

662.240.3478 • magnoliadirt.com





Calendar of Events

January

MLK Day of Service

A community-wide breakfast along with distribution of school supplies to the county and city schools.

March | April

Catfish in the Alley® Festival

A celebration of the lives of African-Americans in Columbus and the important contributions they have made throughout the community. The event includes live music, arts and crafts and food vendors.
800.920.3533

Music by Women Festival

Held in March on the Mississippi University for Women campus, this annual international festival features concerts of new and historic women written by women composers, both historically and in the present day.
muw.edu/musicbywomen

Downtown Spring Open House

Main Street Columbus

Downtown businesses open special hours with refreshments and sales.
662.328.6305

Tales from the Crypt

Friendship Cemetery

An award-winning, nationally renowned research/performance project, Tales from the Crypt culminates with candlelit dramatic tours through historic Friendship Cemetery where students dramatize individuals and stories deeply rooted in history. Presented by Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science.
800.920.3533 • Admission fee.

Columbus Spring Pilgrimage

Presented by Historic Home Tours and Preservation Society of Columbus. Offers home tours, lunch and learn, and many other activities.
662.368.2503 • Admission fee.

May | June

Market Street Festival

Downtown Columbus

Music and art festival held in historic downtown Columbus. First weekend of May.
662.328.6305
Admission fee to some activities.

Traditions, Taste & Tunes

Riverwalk

A meaningful Memorial Day weekend tradition in Columbus, Mississippi, bringing the community together for a blend of remembrance, celebration and small-town charm. Enjoy a Memorial Day weekend with live music, community events and more.
Free admission.

Juneteenth

Sim Scott Park

A celebration of African-American freedom, Juneteenth emphasizes education and achievement and presents the community with a time for reflection and rejoicing. The event offers a parade, arts and crafts, music, and food.
Free admission.

Eighth of May Emancipation Celebration

A research/performance project by students at the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, the Eighth of May Emancipation Celebration commemorates the struggles, contributions and legacy of area African Americans through song, spoken word, and dramatic performances in Sandfield Cemetery. Union troops arrived in Columbus on May 8, 1865, bringing an end to slavery in this area.

July | August

Fireworks on the Water

Event honoring active and retired military as we celebrate Independence Day with a concert, food and fireworks. Held every other year. Free admission.

Southside Blues Festival

This festival offers a fun-filled Independence Day celebration featuring live music and family-oriented activities. Free admission.

Crawford Cotton Boll Festival

Downtown Crawford, MS

This festival celebrates and honors those who helped make cotton one of the leading industries in the South. Held in Crawford, the event features an array of live entertainment, speakers, a step show, and more. Free admission.

Artesia Days

Downtown Artesia, MS

This late summer festival offers activities and entertainment for the entire family. Enjoy live music, great food, story time with Mother Goose, train rides for the kids, and even a school supply giveaway. Free admission.

September | October

Tennessee Williams Tribute

Tribute honoring America's most prolific playwright, Tennessee Williams. Enjoy plays, forums and exhibits. tennesseewilliamstribute.org
Admission fee to some events.

Roast 'N Boast

Columbus Fairgrounds

Kansas City BBQ Society-sanctioned State Championship Contest. Family friendly event Friday and Saturday. roastnboast.org · 662.645.8291

Eudora Welty Writers Symposium

The W

A three-day celebration of Southern literature. 662.329.7386 · muw.edu/welty
Admission fee to some activities.

Caledonia Days

Downtown Caledonia, MS

This festival offers activities and entertainment for the entire family. Enjoy live music, arts and crafts, and great food. Free admission.

Seventh Avenue Heritage Festival

A celebration of the unique culture and entrepreneurial spirit of one of the city's most highly profiled business and entertainment districts. The event includes live music, great food, and activities for the entire family. Free admission.

November | December

Downtown Christmas Open House

Downtown Columbus

Downtown businesses open special hours with refreshments and sales. 662.328.6305 · Free Admission.

Wassail Fest

Downtown Columbus

Great night of entertainment with a homemade wassail contest and shopping with downtown merchants. 662.328.6305 · Free Admission.

Columbus Sings Handel's "Messiah"

Performed in early December at Annunciation Catholic Church. Complimentary ticketed event. 662.329.1191

LODGING

Hotels & Motels

Best Western Executive Suites

303 Shoney Dr. • 662.329.2255

National reservations

800.528.1234

Comfort Inn & Suites

129 Brickerton St. • 662.327.9999

National reservations

800.228.1000

Courtyard by Marriott

1995 Sixth St. North • 662.245.1540

Days Inn

1133 Hwy. 45 North • 662.329.4545

National reservations

800.329.7466

Econo Lodge

2015 Military Rd. • 662.328.6720

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott

2011 Sixth St. North • 662.241.1990

National reservations

888.236.2427

marriott.com/gtrfi

Hampton Inn & Suites

1915 Sixth St. North • 662.245.1085

Heritage Inn

1209 Hwy. 45 North • 662.328.4405

Holiday Inn Express & suites

2000 Sixth St. North • 662.245.6133

Hyatt Place of Columbus

101 Hospital Dr. Ext. • 662.370.1800

La Quinta

1200 Hwy. 45 North • 662.240.2454

Motel 6

1203 Hwy. 45 North • 662.327.4450

National reservations

800.466.8356

My Home Extended Stay

506 Hwy. 45 S. • 662.328.5202

Plymouth Bluff

2200 Old West Point Road • 662.241.6214

Quality Inn

1210 Hwy. 45 North • 662.798.0057

National reservations

800.521.2121

Red Roof Inn

510 Hwy. 45 North • 662.329.8788

Bed & Breakfasts

Ridge House

517 Ridge Road • 251.895.1160

Burnt Oak Lodge

1563 Penn Station Rd., Crawford, MS

662.272.9550

burntoaklodge.com

Mrytle Terrasse

1700 9th Street South • 662-251-8300

Puckett House (The W Campus)

1100 College St. • 662.329.7126

Shadowlawn Bed & Breakfast

(circa 1848)

1024 College St. • 662.327.3600

shadowlawncolumbus.com





SHOPPING

As you browse our unique specialty stores, boutiques, and antique emporiums, enjoying the delightful atmosphere of our charming city you'll understand that the journey can be as rewarding as the find.

Antiques

Uncommon Living

1116 Gardner Boulevard
662.329.1825

Magnolia Antiques Mall

302 Alabama Street
662.328.4750

The Southern Exchange

418 Main Street
662.570.1844

Mudd Dobbers

419 Wilkins-Wise Road
662.549.6833

Shopping Centers

Belk Department Store

2031 Hwy. 45 North
662.241.4443

Columbus Mainstreet (Downtown Merchants)

662.328.6305

The Crossing

1217 Hwy. 45 North

Gateway Center

201 Alabama Street
662.329.4187

Jackson Square

2001 Hwy. 45 North

Columbus Place

1404 Old Aberdeen Road
662.368.3551

Littlewoods Mall

445 Wilkins-Wise Road

Magnolia Place

Hwy. 45 North

The Columbus Centre

2304 Hwy. 45 North

Sheffield Court

2118 Hwy. 45 North

The Shops at Brickerton

Hwy. 82 and Military Road
662.327.4676

Windchase Shops

1725 Hwy. 45 North

- ★ Police Department H Hospital
 ? Visit Columbus

HISTORY

1. Amzi Love
2. Bryn Bella
3. Friendship Cemetery
4. Stephen D. Lee Home
5. Rosedale
6. Riverview
7. Sandfield Cemetery
8. Temple Heights
9. The Haven
10. Twelve Gables
11. Waverley Mansion
12. Whitehall

OUTDOORS

13. Columbus Lake/Tenn-Tom Waterway
14. Columbus Marina
15. DeWayne Hayes Rec. Area
16. East Bank Boat Ramps
17. Elm Lake Public Golf Course
18. Green Oaks Golf Club
19. Lake Lowndes State Park
20. Lee Park
21. Plymouth Bluff Center
22. Lion Hill Golf Club
23. Propst Park
24. Riverwalk
25. Stennis East Bank Lock & Dam
26. Town Creek Campground
27. The Magnolia Speedway

ATTRACTION

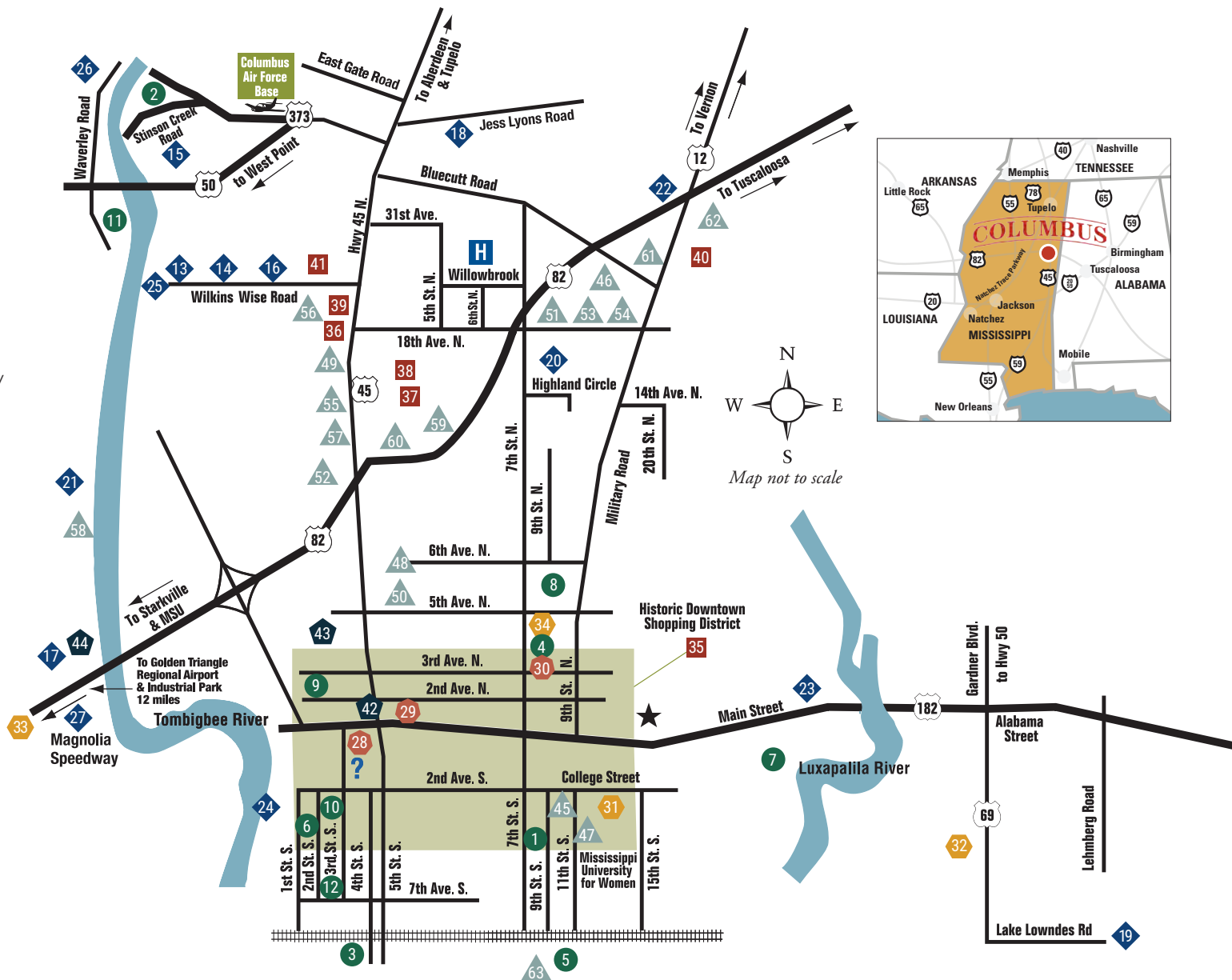
28. Tennessee Williams Welcome Center & Home Museum
29. Rosenweig Art Center/Columbus Arts Council
30. Columbus-Lowndes Public Library/Billups-Garth Archives

MISCELLANEOUS

31. The W
32. Columbus Fairgrounds
33. Golden Triangle Regional Airport
34. The Agnes Zaiontz Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Transportation Museum

SHOPPING

35. Historic Downtown Shopping District
36. Jackson Square
37. Columbus Place
38. Magnolia Place
39. Belk Department Store
40. Shops at Brickerton
41. Littlewoods Mall



SPORTS & MEETINGS

42. Trotter Convention Center
43. Roger Short Soccer Complex
44. Lowndes County Sportsplex

ACCOMMODATIONS

45. Avakian Shadowlawn B&B
46. Holiday Inn Express
47. Puckett House

48. Red Roof Inn
49. Best Western
50. My Home Extended Stay
51. Courtyard by Marriott
52. Days Inn
53. Fairfield Inn & Suites
54. Hampton Inn & Suites
55. Heritage Inn
56. Hyatt Place

57. Motel 6
58. Plymouth Bluff Center
59. Quality Inn
60. La Quinta
61. Econo Lodge
62. Comfort Inn
63. Myrtle Terrasse



800.920.3533 or 662.329.1191
VisitColumbusMS.org

P.O. Box 789
Columbus, MS 39703
#TheStorybookSouth

