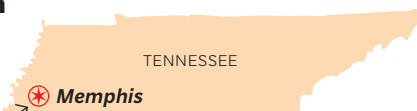


Insider's Guide To Memphis, Tennessee

Local business owner and mom Courtney Ellett takes you on a tour of her favorite places in this eclectic Southern town.



Graceland

MY STORY I was born and raised in Memphis. It's where I went to college, started my business and am raising my three kids. We love the diversity here, from the quiet neighborhood streets to the colorful arts district.

TUNE IN When people hear Memphis, they often think of our city's rich musical heritage. If you're an Elvis Presley fan, his former home, **Graceland**, is a must-see. 3734 *Elvis Presley Blvd.*; 901-332-3329; elvis.com/graceland. In summer we bring our lawn chairs to **Historic Town Square** in nearby Collierville and enjoy the informal bluegrass jam sessions. 125 *N. Rowlett St.*; 901-853-1666; mainstreetcollierville.org.

WALK ON THE WILD SIDE Whether you have kids or not, you should visit our most popular attraction, **The Memphis Zoo**. The Northwest Passage is one of my favorite exhibits. It has a large underwater-viewing area where you can watch the adorable polar bears and sea lions swim around. 2000 *Galloway Ave.*; 901-333-6500; memphiszoo.org.

DOWNTIME IN THE DISTRICT The **South Main Historic District** has a ton of boutiques and restaurants. *South Main St.*; southmainmemphis.net. My husband and I go to **Spindini** when we crave Italian. Everything tastes great and I love the smoked chicken fettuccine and the gorgonzola filet mignon. 383 *S. Main St.*; 901-578-2767; spindinimemphis.com.

BREEZING BY The three- to six-mile courses of the **Rockin' Running Tours** take runners past some of the greatest landmarks in Memphis. Tour guides jog with you and share information about the city along the way. You don't have to be a serious runner—they're designed for runners of all levels and for walkers, too. 901-569-4272; rockinrunningtours.com.

GOOD NIGHTS The **Madison** is definitely my favorite hotel in the city. It's a sophisticated boutique hotel with a terrace rooftop that offers stunning views of the Mississippi River. 79 *Madison Ave.*; 901-333-1200; madisonhotelmemphis.com.

—as told to Cheryl Lock