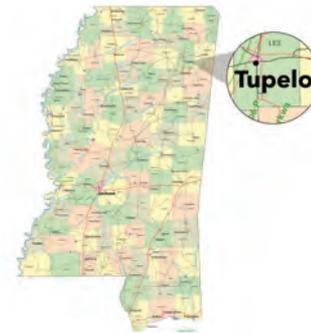




Tupelo, MS



Tupelo, Mississippi, is located in the northeastern section of the state not far from the Alabama border. Chickasaw and Choctaw Native Americans occupied this area before the arrival of European-American settlers in 1859. These settlers located their town on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad line and named it Gum Pond for the numerous tupelo trees, known locally as black-gum. The town was later renamed Tupelo.

Tupelo is famous as the birthplace of Elvis Presley who is commemorated with numerous plaques and statues including the “Elvis Presley Homecoming” statue and the “Elvis at 13” statue. His two-room childhood home, which is a Mississippi landmark, and his childhood church are part of the 15-acre Elvis Presley Park. The Elvis Presley Museum traces his early life and music.

Exhibits at the Oren Dunn City Museum, which is housed in a converted dairy barn, focus on the Chickasaw, early pioneer settlement, the 1936 tornado, and Tupelo’s agriculture and industry. An original 1870s dogtrot house, a one-room school, and a one-room chapel are also part of the museum properties.

Tupelo National Battlefield Site, a 1-acre commemorative site located along Main Street, contains a cannon, a marker with text, and maps outlining the engagement that occurred in July 1864 after the Confederate victory at the Battle of Brice’s Crossroads. Although Union troops claimed victory, the army retreated to Memphis due to insufficient supplies. This was the last major engagement of the Civil War in Mississippi.

The Tupelo Veterans Museum is a military collection shared by U.S. Army veteran Tony Lute and includes such memorabilia from World War II and the Civil, Korean, Vietnam, and Gulf Wars as guns, swords, uniforms, maps, pictures, and artifacts. The Tupelo Automobile Museum features over 100 automobiles representing 130 years of history, including a 1976 Lincoln Mark IV that Elvis Presley purchased. Gas station and automotive-related signs are also displayed. Other museums include Healthworks! of North Mississippi, which informs children on how to lead healthy lives; the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area Center, which enlightens visitors on little-known facts about Mississippi’s legends; and the Gumtree Museum of Art, which offers revolving exhibits.

Tupelo offers several opportunities to enjoy performing arts. The Tupelo Community Theatre produces plays in the historic Lyric Theatre. Tupelo Community Theater’s Off-Broadway venue is located just a few blocks away in a smaller theater. North Mississippi Symphony Orchestra performs in various locations. Blue Canoe is Tupelo’s home for original live music.

Tupelo is home to several annual festivals: the Elvis Festival (June), Azalea Festival (April), Gumtree Arts Festival (May), and Tupelo Film Festival (April).

NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Tupelo features single-family housing and apartments, including “upper-floor” housing units. The Fairpark District, constructed on the site of the former fair grounds and site of the new City Hall, has townhomes and single-family homes. Long-term plans include a much larger residential component with a mix of housing types.

Tupelo has several historic districts. The North Broadway Historic District features 13 wood-framed houses in bungalow/Craftsman, Colonial Revival, and Queen Anne styles with white picket fences separating the houses from the sidewalk. Highland Circle Historic District contains bungalow/Craftsman and Tudor Revival style houses from the 1920s and 1930s that are situated on a tree-lined circular street. The large houses are arranged on both sides of the circular street, with the ground in the interior of the circle used for neighborhood social events. The mostly two-story large homes in the South Church Street Historic District were built in bungalow/Craftsman, Prairie School, and other styles.

Springlake and Mount Vernon Plantation are gated communities that were built at the turn of the 21st century. Springlake features contemporary styled two-story houses on large lots; the neighborhood has a pool and tennis courts. Traditional two-story homes situated on tree-lined streets prevail in Mount Vernon Plantation. Charleston Gardens contains large, custom-made, single-family homes built in the early 2000s. The Villages is a new development and contains single-family houses separated into 6 distinct communities featuring different architectural styles and housing and lot sizes; some neighborhoods have been completed, while others are under development. Another new development, Jackson West, is designed

to transform a stretch of Tupelo’s West Jackson Street into a trendy district of affordable, owner-occupied homes.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Tupelo has 20 municipal parks. The 206-acre Veterans Memorial Park is home to the Tupelo Aquatic Center, a playground, LifeTrail Fitness system, disc golf courses, softball complex, splashpad, and a half-mile trail. The Oren Dunn Museum is located in the 153-acre Ballard Park, which also features a lake, a stage, a skate park, a disc golf course, 2 playgrounds, trails, LifeTrail Fitness system, 2 sand volleyball courts, and 16 lighted multipurpose fields. Amenities at other municipal parks include baseball and softball fields; a golf course; sand volleyball, basketball, and tennis courts; dog play areas; playgrounds; and an outdoor swimming pool.

Spanning 444 miles from Natchez, Mississippi, to Nashville, Tennessee, the Natchez Trace Parkway has a Visitor’s Center headquartered in Tupelo. The Parkway’s 6-mile long Blackland Prairie Section in Tupelo runs through forested areas, along bottomlands, and through the Chickasaw Village site at milepost 261.8. The Chickasaw Village site is the location of one of the tribe’s largest early forts and villages and was an active trade site through the 1700s.

A 1904 Victorian house and grounds featuring turn-of-the-20th-century plantings are located at the Private John Allen National Fish Hatchery.

Tupelo Buffalo Park & Zoo boasts over 260 animals on its 210 acres. In addition to buffalo, the park is home to a giraffe, capuchin monkeys, zebras, an African lion, ring-tail lemurs, a camel, a yak, a water buffalo, and Watusi cattle.

Tombigbee State Park and Trace State Park are located near Tupelo. Park amenities include cabins and tent camping areas, nature trails, tennis court, disc golf, playground, water activities, archery range, picnicking areas, volleyball, and fishing, water skiing, boat rentals, launch ramps, paddle boats.

EDUCATION

The Tupelo Public School District educates 6,900 students in 10 elementary schools, a middle school, a high school, and a career-technical center.

Higher education is available through a two-plus-two partnership between Itawamba Community College and the University of Mississippi-Tupelo. The community college offers the first 2 years of the college academic program, and the university offers courses for the third and fourth years toward a bachelor’s degree in 10 selected fields, including business, education, social work, journalism, and general studies. Itawamba Community College also offers career and technical education programs.

HEALTH CARE

Tupelo is served by the following health care facilities:
 North Mississippi Medical Center: 650 licensed acute care beds
 North Mississippi State Hospital: 50 psychiatric beds

CITY STATS

	2016
City Population	38,842
County Population	85,381
Per Capita Personal Income, Lee County, Mississippi	\$37,821