

ATMORE The Native American Poarch Creek Indians, an original segment of the Creek Nation, have had an established community here for nearly 150 years. Now the home of Wind Creek Hospitality, a four diamond casino and resort complex.

PENSACOLA This city was originally established in 1559 by Spanish conquistador Don Tristan De Luna. Just two years after the colony grew to about 1,000 people, De Luna abandoned it. It was more than 139 years later before Pensacola would become a settlement for the second time. It is nicknamed "The City of Five Flags," due to the five governments that have ruled it during its history: Spain (Castile), France, Great Britain, the United States of America and the Confederate States of America. Now Pensacola is the home to Naval Air Station Pensacola, The Blue Angels, National Naval Aviation Museum, the Blue Wahoos AA Baseball Team and the University of West Florida.

MILTON is home to the Naval Air Station Whiting Field and the Northwest Florida Railway Museum. Milton was settled in the early 1800s as a small village centered on the lumber industry. Originally known as "Scratch Ankle," because of the briars and bramble that grew in the area, it was also known as "Lumberton," "Black Water" and "Hard Scrabble." By 1839, it was being referred to as "Milltown." The village of Milton was incorporated as a city in 1844, one year before the Territory of Florida joined the United States as the 27th state.

CRESTVIEW was largely an outgrowth of the coming of railroad service to the west Panhandle of Florida. Now home to Eglin Air Force Base, the largest military air base in the world. As a result, Crestview is one of Florida's fastest growing cities. Crestview is located along a section of the "Old Spanish Trail," a historical trade route, and is considered the gateway to Ft. Walton Beach and Destin, FL.

DEFUNIAK SPRINGS named after Frederick R. DeFuniak, a vice-president of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad in the 1880's. Magnolia trees and azalea bushes enhance the Deep South charm of DeFuniak Springs, known for its restored Victorian homes. Like much of Northwest Florida, DeFuniak Springs was settled mainly by Scots from Virginia and the Carolinas.

CHIPLEY Originally called Orange, Chipley was renamed in 1882 for the railroad businessman and Florida State Senator William Dudley Chipley. Chipley's development began with the construction of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, completed between Tallahassee and Pensacola in 1883. It was one of the largest naval store centers in the South, the gateway to Baptist College of Florida and the beaches of Panama City.

TALLAHASSEE Florida's capital city is a center for trade and agriculture in the Big Bend (Florida) region. The city also touts one of the world's deepest fresh water springs, Wakulla Springs, and areas where alligators can be found swimming in local lakes and rivers. Tallahassee is home to Florida State University and to Florida A&M University. Tallahassee's total student population exceeds 70,000.

MADISON Founded in 1838 by cotton planters; the world's largest long staple cotton gin was located here before the boll weevil arrived in 1916, wiping out the cotton industry. The "cotton years" memories are preserved in a small park near the station, where a patch of cotton grows. Offering a beautiful country backdrop to history and culture the town boasts "Our Attraction is Only Natural."

LAKE CITY The site of Lake City was a Seminole village named Alpata Telophka or Hvlpvtv Tvlofv, meaning "Alligator Village." The name change occurred in 1859 because the mayor's wife, who had recently moved to the town, refused to hang her lace curtains in a town named Alligator. Lake City is now home to the Florida Sports Hall of Fame and the Osceola National Forest.

JACKSONVILLE "The Gateway to Florida" and the closest point on this route to the Atlantic Ocean, is the corporate headquarters of CSX Transportation and the home of the first building built using skyscraper technology, the six-story Dyal Upchurch Building, constructed in 1901. This is a destination for sports, home of the NFL Jacksonville Jaguars and the annual TaxSlayer Bowl, Jacksonville is the second largest city in the U.S. geographically. Jacksonville offers the Suns AA Baseball team, Jacksonville Naval Complex, the historical Black College Edward Waters, and the University of North Florida.

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ROUTE GUIDE



NEW ORLEANS A thriving Gulf and river port, New Orleans preserves the flavor of the Old South, with a distinctly French accent. It is famed for its filigree wrought iron balconied Vieux Carre (French Quarter) and festive Mardi Gras celebrations that herald the beginning of Lent. Amtrak serves New Orleans today with three long distance trains from New York, Chicago and Los Angeles. After leaving New Orleans, the train runs parallel to the Gulf of Mexico through Lake Catherine, past the Rigolets and into Southern Mississippi.

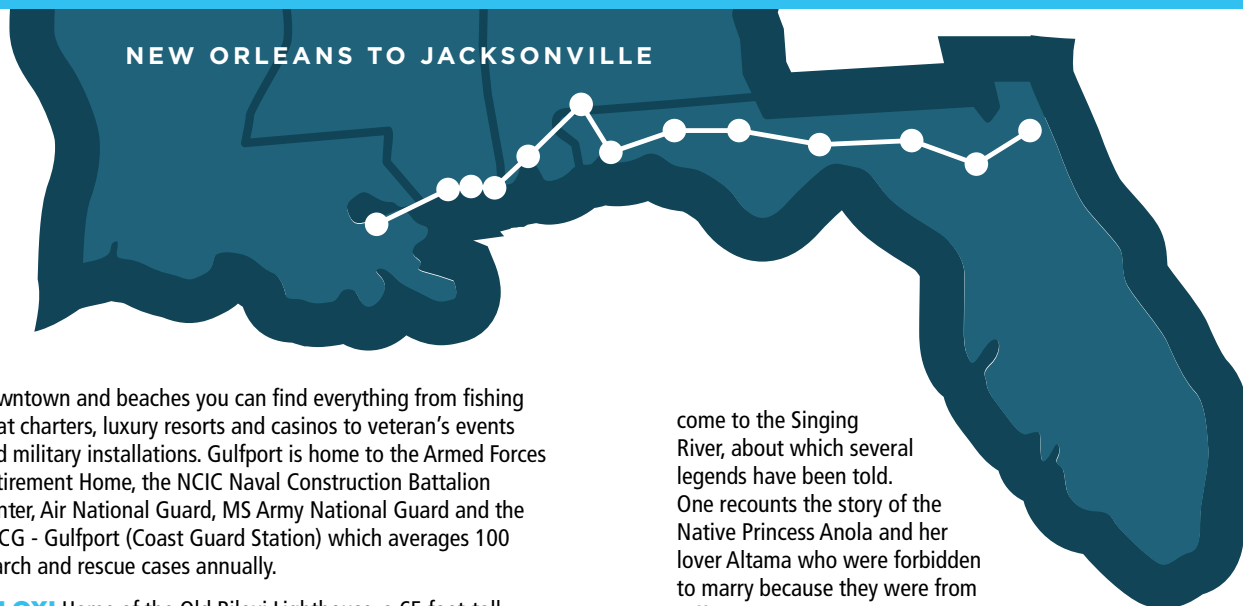
WAVELAND The City of Waveland was incorporated in 1972 but nearly destroyed by Hurricanes Camille on August 17, 1969 and Katrina on August 29, 2005. Today, Waveland is the only city on the Gulf Coast which prohibits commercial buildings on its beachfront.

BAY ST. LOUIS Bay St. Louis offers a view of the beautiful bay from the only bluff on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, where seagulls, pelicans and the great blue heron can be seen feeding on the bay's bounty. Bay St. Louis provides plenty of outdoor recreational activities including camping at nearby Buccaneer State Park and is the closet point to the Stennis Space Center. The 1966 movie "This Property Is Condemned" starring Robert Redford and Natalie Wood was filmed in and around the Bay St. Louis station. Leaving here the train will pass through Old Town Bay St. Louis, an antique center and art colony, with unique gift shops and restaurants abound on historic Main Street and Beach Blvd. The area offers unique festivals, casino gaming and resorts. Leaving here, the train crosses over St. Louis Bay. US 90 is to the left, and the Gulf of Mexico is to the right.

PASS CHRISTIAN Affectionately known as the "Pass," Pass Christian dates its history back to 1699, and is the site of the oldest Yacht Club in the South. Pass Christian is also the western most city in Harrison County, and the beginning of one of the longest stretches of man-made beach in the United States, 26 miles of soft white sand.

LONG BEACH is the next city in the Harrison County Metropolitan area. Beginning as an agricultural town, Long Beach has transitioned to a bedroom/beach community with a thriving and redeveloped Main Street.

GULFPORT is Mississippi's largest seaport and the center point of it's beaches, located halfway between New Orleans and Mobile. These premier sailing waters are protected by a ring of outer islands, including Ship Island. At the northwest end of this island lies the only national deep-water harbor along the entire length of the Mississippi Sound. Fort Massachusetts, one of the last masonry coastal fortifications to be built in the US, now stands here. Ship Island is part of the Gulf Islands National Seashore, a park that stretches over 150 miles east to Santa Rosa Island of Florida. From Gulfport's thriving



downtown and beaches you can find everything from fishing boat charters, luxury resorts and casinos to veteran's events and military installations. Gulfport is home to the Armed Forces Retirement Home, the NCIC Naval Construction Battalion Center, Air National Guard, MS Army National Guard and the USCG - Gulfport (Coast Guard Station) which averages 100 search and rescue cases annually.

BILOXI Home of the Old Biloxi Lighthouse, a 65 foot-tall cast-iron structure, which was built in 1848. It is the only lighthouse in the U.S. that stands in the middle of a four-lane highway. Along with beautiful white sand beaches, casino gaming and resorts you will find a new AA Baseball team and facility, "The Biloxi Shuckers." Keesler Air Force Base is also located here, one of the largest technical training centers in the country. It borders the track on the left prior to entering downtown. Leaving Biloxi, you'll cross the Biloxi Bay. To your right, in the distance, is Deer Island. Thanks to Biloxi's proximity to Ship Island, it was once the capital of Louisiana. In 1722, the capital was moved to New Orleans. We can't leave Biloxi without a note about Mardi Gras. In 1908, the first official queen was crowned, "Queen Ixolib," Biloxi spelled backward.

OCEAN SPRINGS For a short time, the capital of Louisiana, the Natives called Ocean Springs "E-ca-ma-cha-ha," which means the "Holy Ground." It was here in the 1800s that they came from miles around to drink the water of the Great Spirit and made the area famous. Now, Ocean Springs offers a thriving downtown with unique shops, restaurants, and is a gem for art lovers.

GAUTIER ("GO-chay") is a bedroom resort community with two championship golf courses, stately homes, and historic properties surrounded by bayous and wetlands on three sides. The natural environment of Gautier offers many opportunities for recreation and eco-tourism.

PASCAGOULA Welcome to the most industrial town in Mississippi. On the way in, you'll cross the Pascagoula River Swamp, one of the most fertile bird watching areas in the state. You will see the tree line of Petit Bois Island off to the right in the distance. Locals call this island "Petty Boy." Next, you'll

come to the Singing River, about which several legends have been told. One recounts the story of the Native Princess Anola and her lover Altama who were forbidden to marry because they were from different tribes. Together they ended their lives by walking into the river chanting a song rather than enduring living apart. Another tale tells of a mass suicide by a Pascagoula tribe who knew they were about to be massacred by the Biloxi Indians. They all chose to hold hands and sing as they walked into the river to drown. Actually, scientific studies have been undertaken to find out why the river "sings." One theory is that movement of schools of fish in the river cause a sound like singing. Today, locals only "hear" the singing upriver because of the heavy industry in the area. As you cross this river, you'll see NOAA research facilities on the East and West banks. To the right is Ingalls Shipyard, the largest manufacturing employer in the state, and the site of numerous Navy shipbuilding projects, including the USS Cole which was built and then returned to the yard for repair after the Yemini suicide attack.

MOBILE, an old world city, was founded by the French in 1704. As the train enters Mobile, you will see the Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley complex to your right, a mixed-use industrial complex, that includes Airbus aircraft manufacturing. Upon reaching the platform, the Port of Mobile is to your right, it is one of the ten largest in the world. Here you can also see Austal USA, where the Independence Class Combat ships are currently under construction for the U.S. Navy. This city is a melting pot of people, flavors, cultures and traditions. Mobile is home to the Battleship USS Alabama, American Mardi Gras and a thriving cruise industry. Sports are also a big part of Mobile's culture, locals love to cheer the home teams which include, the University of South Alabama, Spring Hill and Mobile Colleges. Besides the AA baseball Mobile Bay Bears, Mobile hosts the Go Daddy Bowl and the Senior Bowl.