ROAD TRIP · UNITED STATES

Music of the Deep South

Country, blues and jazz: Nashville, Memphis, the Mississippi Delta and New Orleans.

Length	14 days, 13 nights
Distance	2,200 km, 8 driving days
Behind the wheel	26 h 20 min
Travellers	2, 1 room, 1 car
Hotels	Comfort: a good hotel (3 stars)
Flights	Amsterdam – Atlanta (ATL), Atlanta (ATL) – Amsterdam

CONTENTS

Atlanta	Days 1–2	**8**
Nashville	Days 3–5	**10**
Memphis	Days 6–7	**12**
Clarksdale	Day 8	**14**
New Orleans	Days 9–11	**16**
Montgomery	Day 12	**18**
Atlanta	Day 13	**20**

Day by day

DAY	DATE	NIGHT	KM	DRIVE	°C
1		Atlanta	20	20 min	
2		Atlanta			
3		Nashville	400	4 h 40 min	
4		Nashville			
5		Nashville			
6		Memphis	340	3 h 50 min	
7		Memphis			
8		Clarksdale	120	1 h 40 min	
9		New Orleans	540	6 h 50 min	
10		New Orleans			
11		New Orleans			
12		Montgomery	500	5 h 40 min	
13		Atlanta	260	3 h	
14		Flight home from ATL	20	20 min	

2,200 km · 26 h 20 min behind the wheel · on average 270 km a driving day

Kilometres and drive times by road (OSRM, OpenStreetMap), without stops: plan generously.

The route



Map: US Census Bureau (public domain) · roads © OpenStreetMap contributors

ON THE ROAD

Day 1	Land at Atlanta (ATL), drive to Atlanta · About 20 km (10 mi), 20 min
Day 3	Atlanta, drive to Nashville · About 400 km (250 mi), 4 h 40 min
Day 6	Nashville, drive to Memphis · About 340 km (210 mi), 3 h 50 min
Day 8	Memphis, drive to Clarksdale · About 120 km (80 mi), 1 h 40 min
Day 9	Clarksdale, drive to New Orleans · About 540 km (340 mi), 6 h 50 min
Day 12	New Orleans, drive to Montgomery · About 500 km (310 mi), 5 h 40 min

Well prepared

ESTA

Dutch and Belgian travellers need no visa for a holiday of up to 90 days, but do need an approved ESTA before boarding. It costs about $40, is valid for two years (or until your passport expires) and is applied for online. Apply at least 72 hours before you fly, and only on the official site.

esta.cbp.dhs.gov

Passport

An electronic passport (with the chip symbol), valid for the whole stay. Children need their own passport and ESTA.

nl.usembassy.gov

Driving licence

Your Dutch driving licence is accepted for renting and driving a car as a visitor. An international driving permit next to it helps with police and some rental desks.

anwb.nl

Renting a car

The renter is the main driver and pays with a credit card in their own name (no debit or prepaid card); the deposit is held on it. Usually from 21, and from 21 to 24 you pay a young-driver fee of about $25 a day. Book from home with insurance included (CDW/LDW and extra liability, SLI) and an extra driver if you want to take turns. Returning the car elsewhere (a one-way trip) costs extra. Fuel is sold by the gallon (3.8 litres); fill it up yourself before you bring it back.

Driving in the USA

Keep right; speeds are in miles an hour (65 mph is 105 km/h). Turning right on red is allowed after stopping, unless a sign says no. At a 4-way stop, whoever stopped first goes first. For a stopped yellow school bus with flashing lights you stop in both directions. Toll roads are often electronic only: ask your rental company about its toll pass. On remote stretches (parks, desert) there's little signal and a long way to the next pump: fill up at half and download the map.

Renting an RV

You can rent an RV from about 21 with an ordinary car licence. On top of the rent, count on mileage (often per mile), a kit with bedding and kitchen things, cleaning and the campsite: in the popular parks you book those months ahead on recreation.gov. Big RVs aren't allowed on every park road. Take photos of the RV when you pick it up: damage and missing items are the most heard complaint.

recreation.gov

National parks

Most big parks charge per car. Visitors from abroad pay $100 a person extra at 11 popular parks; the annual pass for non-residents is $250. Some parks need a timed-entry reservation in high season.

nps.gov

Money and tipping

Prices are without sales tax, which is added at the till. In restaurants a tip of 15 to 20% is usual. Cards are accepted almost everywhere; at the pump you may be asked for a ZIP code, so pay inside.

Travel insurance and health

Care in the USA is very expensive: take travel insurance with worldwide medical cover, and check whether your health insurance covers the USA. Cancellation insurance covers the trip if you can't go; insure the rental car with the rental company (see Renting a car). Take medicines in their original packaging, with a prescription in English. Emergency number: 911.

Power, phone and time

110 volt with flat two-pin plugs (type A/B): bring an adapter. A US eSIM is cheaper than roaming. The mainland has four time zones, Arizona mostly without daylight saving time.

Customs

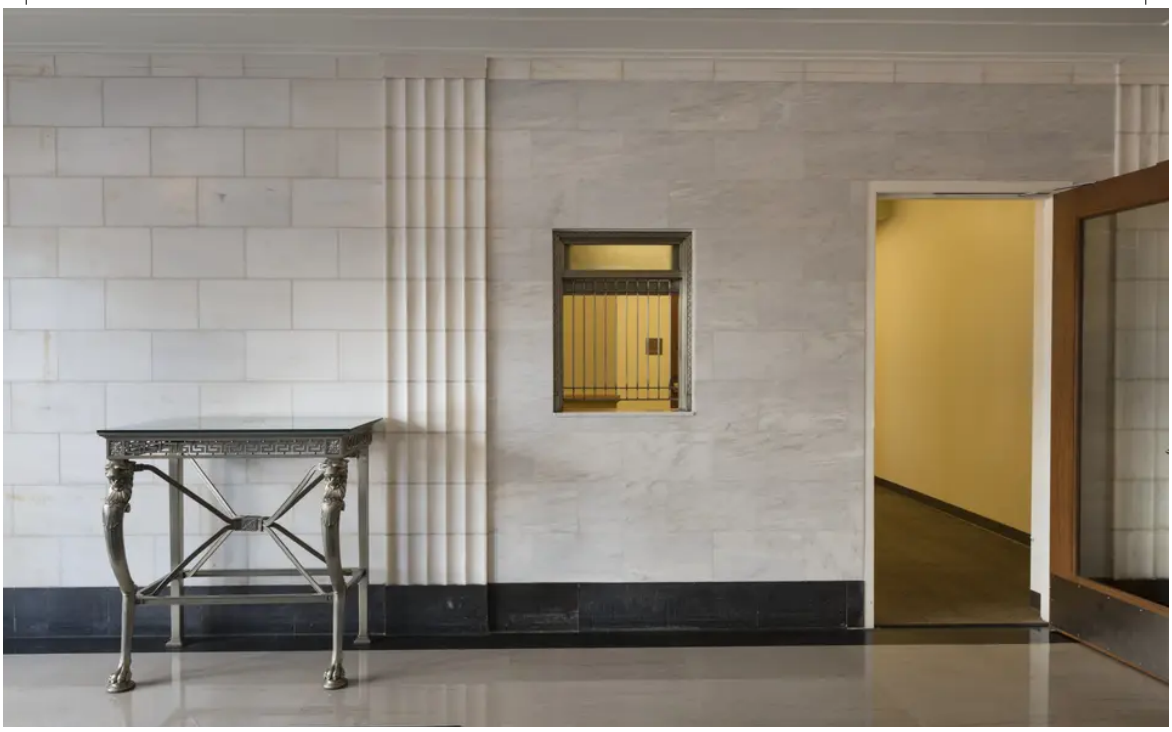
Fresh food, meat and fruit may not be brought in. Declare food you carry.

Packing list

- [ ] Passport (valid for the whole trip)
- [ ] ESTA, printed
- [ ] Driving licence (and an international one)
- [ ] Credit card in the driver's name
- [ ] Travel and cancellation insurance
- [ ] Confirmations: flights, car, hotels
- [ ] America the Beautiful pass for the parks
- [ ] Plug adapter for type A/B (110 volt)
- [ ] Car charger and phone holder
- [ ] eSIM or offline maps
- [ ] Sunscreen, sunglasses and a cap
- [ ] Water bottles for the desert
- [ ] Hiking shoes
- [ ] Layers: the coast and the nights get cold
- [ ] Medicines, in your hand luggage
- [ ] A pen, for this booklet

DON'T FORGET

Notes



DAYS 1–2

Atlanta GA

The Martin Luther King Jr. historic site

Land at Atlanta (ATL), drive to Atlanta: about 20 km (10 mi), 20 min

2 nights

ATLANTA · DAYS 1–2

HOTEL

- [ ] Hampton Inn & Suites Atlanta-Galleria · 3★ — roughly €120
  2733 Circle 75 Pkwy Se
- [ ] Hyatt House Atlanta Perimeter Center · 3★ — roughly €100
  5785 PEACHTREE DUNWOODY RD
- [ ] Hilton Garden Inn Atlanta Downtown · 3★ — roughly €150
  275 Baker Street NW
- [ ] Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton Atlanta Perimeter Dunwoody · 3★ — roughly €80
  4565 Ashford Dunwoody Road
- [ ] Sonesta ES Suites Atlanta Perimeter Center · 3★ — roughly €90
  4601 Ridgeview Rd

NOTES



DAYS 3–5

Nashville TN

Broadway's honky-tonks and the Grand Ole Opry

Atlanta, drive to Nashville: about 400 km (250 mi), 4 h 40 min

3 nights

NASHVILLE · DAYS 3–5

HOTEL

- [ ] La Quinta by Wyndham Nashville Airport · 3★ — roughly €70
  531 Donelson Pike
- [ ] Tempo By Hilton Nashville Downtown · 3★ — roughly €140
  127 Rosa L Parks Blvd.
- [ ] Residence Inn by Marriott Nashville Downtown/Convention Center · 3★ — roughly €180
  410 Rep. John Lewis Way S
- [ ] Best Western Plus Nashville Airport Hotel - BNA · 3★ — roughly €90
  911 Airport Center Drive
- [ ] Holiday Inn & Suites Nashville Downtown - Broadway by IHG · 3★ — roughly €120
  415 4th Avenue South

NOTES



DAYS 6–7

Memphis TN

Graceland and Beale Street

Nashville, drive to Memphis: about 340 km (210 mi), 3 h 50 min

2 nights

MEMPHIS · DAYS 6–7

HOTEL

- [ ] Hampton Inn & Suites Memphis-Wolfchase Galleria · 3★ — roughly €120
  2935 N Germantown Rd
- [ ] Residence Inn Memphis Downtown · 3★ — roughly €150
  110 Monroe Ave
- [ ] La Quinta by Wyndham Memphis Downtown · 3★ — roughly €100
  310 Union Ave
- [ ] Hampton Inn & Suites Memphis-Beale Street · 3★ — roughly €110
  175 Peabody Pl
- [ ] Hyatt Place Memphis Wolfchase · 3★ — roughly €160
  7905 Giacosa Pl

NOTES



DAY 8

Clarksdale MS

The blues crossroads

Memphis, drive to Clarksdale: about 120 km (80 mi), 1 h 40 min

1 night

CLARKSDALE · DAY 8

HOTEL

- [ ] Sunflower Cottage on the River · 3★
  226 Luster Lane Sunflower Cottage
- [ ] The Holy Moly Blues Central · 3★
  305 Issaquena Ave
- [ ] Hampton Inn Clarksdale, Ms · 3★ — roughly €120
  15000 New Africa Rd
- [ ] Clarksdale Home: Close to Music Festivals! · 3★
  633 Lynn Ave
- [ ] Walk Downtown: Home w/ Yard in Clarksdale · 3★
  108 Leflore Ave

NOTES



DAYS 9–11

New Orleans LA

The French Quarter and jazz

Clarksdale, drive to New Orleans: about 540 km (340 mi), 6 h 50 min

3 nights

NEW ORLEANS · DAYS 9–11

HOTEL

- [ ] Alder Hotel Uptown New Orleans · 3★ — roughly €90
  4545 Magnolia Street
- [ ] French Market Inn · 3★ — roughly €110
  509 Decatur St.
- [ ] Pelham Hotel · 3★ — roughly €130
  444 Common St
- [ ] Hampton Inn and Suites New Orleans Convention Center · 3★ — roughly €80
  1201 Convention Center Blvd
- [ ] Hotel Le Marais · 3★ — roughly €80
  717 Conti St.

NOTES



DAY 12

Montgomery AL

The civil rights trail

New Orleans, drive to Montgomery: about 500 km (310 mi), 5 h 40 min

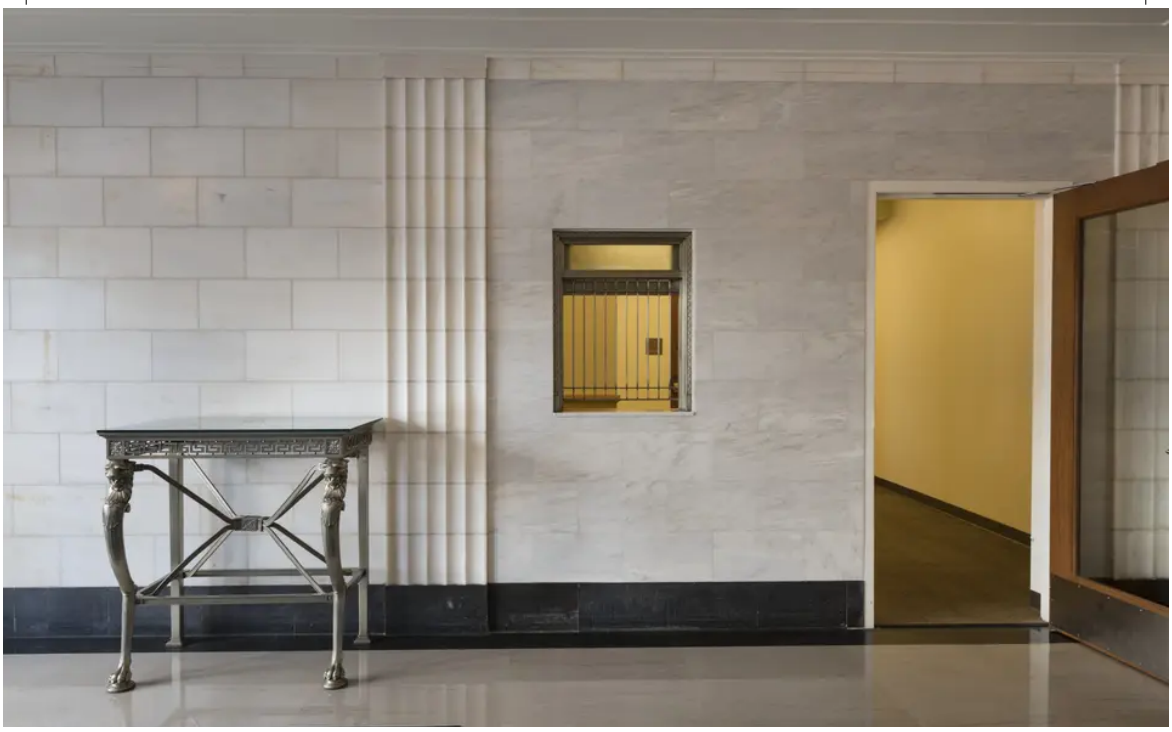
1 night

MONTGOMERY · DAY 12

HOTEL

- [ ] Home2 Suites By Hilton Montgomery Downtown · 3★ — roughly €120
- [ ] Homewood Suites By Hilton Montgomery EastChase · 3★ — roughly €160
  7800 EastChase Parkway
- [ ] Staybridge Suites Montgomery - Downtown by IHG · 3★ — roughly €120
  275 Lee Street
- [ ] Homewood Suites by Hilton Montgomery · 3★ — roughly €130
  1800 Interstate Park Dr
- [ ] Holiday Inn Montgomery Airport South by IHG · 3★ — roughly €70
  96 Folmar Parkway

NOTES



DAY 13

Atlanta GA

Before the flight home

Montgomery, drive to Atlanta: about 260 km (160 mi), 3 h

1 night

ATLANTA · DAY 13

HOTEL

- ☐ Hampton Inn & Suites Atlanta-Galleria · 3★ — roughly €120
  2733 Circle 75 Pkwy Se
- ☐ Hyatt House Atlanta Perimeter Center · 3★ — roughly €100
  5785 PEACHTREE DUNWOODY RD
- ☐ Hilton Garden Inn Atlanta Downtown · 3★ — roughly €150
  275 Baker Street NW
- ☐ Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton Atlanta Perimeter Dunwoody · 3★ — roughly €80
  4565 Ashford Dunwoody Road
- ☐ Sonesta ES Suites Atlanta Perimeter Center · 3★ — roughly €90
  4601 Ridgeview Rd

NOTES

What it costs

DAY	PLACE	HOTEL	TOURS	CAR	TOTAL
1	Atlanta	€160	–	€60	**€220**
2	Atlanta	€160	–	€60	**€220**
3	Nashville	€160	–	€60	**€220**
4	Nashville	€160	–	€60	**€220**
5	Nashville	€160	–	€60	**€220**
6	Memphis	€160	–	€60	**€220**
7	Memphis	€160	–	€60	**€220**
8	Clarksdale	€160	–	€60	**€220**
9	New Orleans	€160	–	€60	**€220**
10	New Orleans	€160	–	€60	**€220**
11	New Orleans	€160	–	€60	**€220**
12	Montgomery	€160	–	€60	**€220**
13	Atlanta	€160	–	€60	**€220**
14	Flight home from ATL	–	–	€60	**€60**

Flights	€1,700
Hotels	€2,080
Excursions	€0
Car hire	€840
Total	**€4,620**
	€2,310 a person

An estimate to plan with (prices of 2026-10): hotels, the ticked excursions, car hire and flights. No fuel or meals.

Notes

About this booklet

Made on rondreis.expert. Your trip is still there, to change and print again: usa.rondreis.expert/en/tours/deep-south-music/

PHOTOS

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MAP AND TYPE

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