

Weekend in Natchez: Tourist in My Hometown

By Kim Floyd and Valerie Jones
Contributing Writer

So when it was time for the **Floyd Family Reunion in Natchez, Mississippi**, I decided to share the beauty my hometown has to offer. When you're young, you think, "I can't wait to leave," but when you get a little older, you realize all the beauty and history that you didn't appreciate.

When I tell people I'm from Mississippi, they instantly think "country." I did indeed grow up in the country, and it was beautiful, but there is more - so much more.

Natchez, the oldest city on the Mississippi River, is celebrating 300 years - a Tricenten-

1ST STOP



Natchez Grand Hotel & Suites

nial - this year. Throughout the years, the city has received numerous accolades and most recently was named by Southern Living magazine as one of the 50 Best Places in the South. Also, the "CBS This Morning" show named **Natchez** a top travel destination for 2016.

Let me show you why everyone is talking about Natchez!

Upon arriving in **Natchez**, I checked into the Grand Hotel and Suites located right beside the Mississippi River. My room had an absolutely gorgeous river view.

3RD STOP



LEFT TO RIGHT: Passbach Meats Sign and Garlic sausages from Passbach Meats



4TH STOP



The Bakery Cottage cupcakes

I also ventured "across the river" to Vidalia, LA, to visit The Bakery Cottage (thebakerycottage.com) for a few yummy buttercream cupcakes.

2ND STOP

I decided to check out historic downtown Natchez, along with a few nearby areas:

- William Johnson House
- Fort Rosalie
- Natchez City Hall
- Adams County Court House
- Rhythm Night Club Memorial
- St. Mary's Catholic Church
- Holy Family Catholic Church
- Darby's (famous for their fudge)
- The Mill Menswear
- Museum of African American History & Culture

There are also some must-see places to visit too:

- Natchez Visitor Center
- Magnolia Bluffs Casino
- Historic Jefferson College
- The Natchez Trace
- Emerald Mound
- Grand Village of the Natchez Indians
- Old South Winery
- Natchez Under the Hill
- Natchez National Cemetery
- Smoot's Grocery Blues Lounge



Mayor Grennell signs posters for the kids

And of course, I had to visit some of Natchez's best restaurants. If you're ever there, these standouts should be your first stop:

- Roux 61 (my personal favorite)
- The Camp
- Pearl Street Pasta
- Fat Mama's Tamales
- Pig Out Inn
- The Donut Shop
- The Malt Shop
- Magnolia Bar and Grill
- Taste of Chicago
- Biscuits & Blues

The main reason for the visit back home was my family reunion, held at Duncan Park. The mayor of Natchez, Darryl Grennell, stopped by and greeted the family and even signed posters for the kids. Reason #601 I love small towns!

5TH STOP



Joan Anderson, Natchez Native and Co-Owner of CJ's Southern Seasonings

The next stop was in Ferriday, LA, at Ferriday Mart for a product tasting of CJ's Southern Seasonings (cjsouthernseasonings.com). The owner Joan Anderson, a Natchez native, has the catfish seasoning in more than 150 stores throughout Mississippi and Louisiana. The catfish samples were delicious, and I just had to purchase three bags of seasonings to take home.

During this trip, I was able to visit a lot of wonderful places, eat some delicious food, and have a whole lot of fun. But I didn't have time to do it all. Guess I'll have to come back soon. Next time I will not stay away so long. Hope you enjoyed my hometown!



Kim Floyd - 1/2 of 2 Girls Who Travel



Jessie Miller (Floyd Family Reunion President), BJ Ferguson (Floyd Family Reunion Vice President) and Natchez Mayor Darryl Grennell at the Floyd Family Reunion



Valerie Jones

Kim Floyd

By 2 Girls Who Travel: Valerie Jones & Kim Floyd

Armed with a love for culture, adventure, food, arts and entertainment - and equipped with a laptop, camera and multiple cellular devices - 2 Girls Who Travel has a mission to share their journey with the world. Throughout their travels, they conduct exclusive interviews, write about cool finds, give destination-specific travel tips and provide their takes on the best food and drinks and so much more. Embodying two different kinds of travelers - Val is the adventure-seeking millennial and Kim is the cultured lover of luxury - readers will learn more about them as they share their experiences traversing the globe! Subscribe to the 2 Girls Who Travel blog 2girlswhotravel.com