The Kinsey Exhibit
Mitchell Memorial Library
Mississippi State University
Independent Travel Itinerary

Starkville: “Mississippi’s College Town”
http://visit.starkville.org

Mitchell Memorial Library at Mississippi State University (MSU)
MSU’s library is far more than stacks and study carrels. It is home to the U. S. Grant Presidential Library. MSU has approximately 17,000 linear feet of research papers on Grant, photographs, and several items of Grant memorabilia.
http://www.usgrantlibrary.org

The Library is also home to the Charles H. Templeton, Sr. Music Museum (http://library.msstate.edu/templeton), an expansive collection of phonographs, sheet music, and other music memorabilia dating to the late 19th century. Don’t miss the annual Ragtime & Jazz Festival, which will be held March 26-28, 2015, and features concerts, seminars, and tours.
http://library.msstate.edu/ragtime

Of special interest at the library beginning March 21, 2015 is African American Treasures from the Kinsey Collection. This exhibit provides a rare opportunity to see an extraordinary collection of art, artifacts, historic manuscripts, and memorabilia from the private collection of Bernard and Shirley Kinsey. The exhibit will be shown until June 20, 2015.
http://thekinseycollection.com

Culinary Heritage at MSU
Founded as a land grant institution in 1878, MSU has a rich culinary heritage. In 1938, the dairy science program began producing Edam cheese, and its production is now in great demand throughout the United States and even internationally. While on campus, stop at the MSU Cheese Store and see why it is so popular.
http://msucheese.com

Starkville City Jail
If the words “Starkville City Jail” sound familiar, you probably heard them from Johnny Cash. On May 11, 1965, Cash performed at Mississippi State University. A post-concert celebration would lead to a public drunkenness charge and a night at the local jail. Cash immortalized that night in the song “Starkville City Jail,” which he first performed in 1969 at his famous San Quentin prison concert.

Oktibbeha County Heritage Museum
The Oktibbeha County Heritage Museum is housed in the old Mobile and Ohio railroad depot. Included in the collection are artifacts and memorabilia representing African-American heritage, military history, agrarian life, and other aspects of Oktibbeha County’s heritage. For a stroll through an historic cemetery, visit Odd Fellows Cemetery across the street.

Mississippi Blues Trail Marker
Located outside the Oktibbeha County Heritage Museum is a Mississippi Blues Trail marker commemorating the blues artists who hailed from the county. Among them were Big Joe Williams, who was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame, Tony Hollis, and Lou Thomas Watts.

**Columbus 23 miles/30 minutes from Starkville**

[http://visitcolumbusms.org](http://visitcolumbusms.org)

**Tennessee Williams Home**

Begin your time in Columbus with a visit to the childhood home of Tennessee Williams. Thomas Lanier Williams was born in Columbus in 1911. He would later become known as one of the world’s greatest playwrights under the name “Tennessee” Williams. Each September, Columbus pays tribute to its most famous son at the Tennessee Williams festival, which draws attendees from across the country and around the world.

**Historic Homes**

Columbus contains some of the finest examples of American architecture from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth. Styles range from Greek Revival to bungalow. While some are on tour throughout the year, the annual pilgrimage provides a true showcase of the town’s finest.

**Catfish Alley**

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the area between Main and College Streets was a thriving business district in the African-American community. Tubs full of catfish would be brought to the neighborhood, blues musicians would perform, and the area became known as “Catfish Alley.” The music heritage of Catfish Alley is commemorated by a Mississippi Blues Trail marker, as is the music heritage of the Queen City Hotel, which stood nearby.

**Friendship Cemetery**

This beautiful cemetery was established in 1849. In the first year following the end of the Civil War, the ladies of Columbus came to the cemetery and decorated the graves of soldiers, both Yankee and Confederate. What we now know as Memorial Day was thus born.

**Mississippi University for Women**

Chartered in 1884, “The W” was the first public college for women in the United States. Among its distinguished students was Pulitzer Prize winner Eudora Welty. Each fall, the university hosts the Welty Symposium and Gala.

**West Point 18 miles/30 minutes from Starkville**


**Howlin’ Wolf Museum & Howlin’ Wolf Statue**

West Point was home to music legend Howlin’ Wolf. The museum in his honor features the history of the blues, as well as artifacts from Howlin’ Wolf. His legacy is further commemorated with a marker on the Mississippi Blues Trail.

**Okolona 46 miles/1 hour from Starkville**
1915 Carnegie Library
Pulitzer Prize winning columnist William Raspberry was born in Okolona in 1935. Okolona strives to continue its literary legacy through its library. The original Carnegie Library remains much as it did a century ago. In front of the library is the Story Labyrinth. The Story Labyrinth depicts stories gathered from the elders of the community and drawn by children of the community, thus ensuring that the story of Okolona’s rich cultural heritage will be passed along from one generation to the next.

Confederate cemetery
After the bloody Battles of Shiloh, Tupelo, and Brice’s Crossroads, the wounded were brought by train to a Confederate hospital in Okolona. Many did not survive. The Confederate cemetery contains the remains of over 800 soldiers and is the largest in this part of Mississippi.

Okolona College
Okolona played an important role in African-American education, with the founding of Okolona College in 1902. Though the institution closed in 1965, the historic structure remains.

National Register Historic District
Many of Okolona’s historic homes and buildings are in the National Register Historic District. The district contains 200 historic structures.

This region of Mississippi is part of
The Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area,
so designated for its significance to American cultural heritage.
For further information, go to
http://www.mississippihills.org