



Indagare[®]

The next generation of travel wisdom[®]

Yearbook/Dreambook

Next Stop: American South

Teva Kukan investigates three Southern cities that should be on your radar.



Clockwise from top left: sunset in Asheville; Memphis's Beale Street and Sun Studios; Billmore Estate; a dish and table at Curate in Asheville; the Kentucky Derby; Chimney Rock State Park



The opportunity to give free rein to your curiosity and sense of adventure is one of the most exciting parts of travel. In our third installation of the new Next Stop column, we recommend some less-visited cities of the American South.

Asheville

Just back from: Miami

Next stop: Asheville, NC

Destination requirements: breathtaking natural vistas, stunning architecture

Filled with wonders both natural and manmade, Asheville is an ideal weekend destination for those who enjoy hiking, biking, stargazing and picnicking with a side of city strolling and a splash of frontier history. From its beginnings as a primitive outpost—when frontiersmen like Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett came to town—through its 1920s reign as a playground for international celebrities seeking mountain air, to its current status as a cultural and countercultural center, Asheville has appealed to those who love both the outdoors and exploring old architecture.

In addition to being located on the Blue Ridge Parkway, which runs along the highest ridges of the Appalachian Mountains and has majestic views, Asheville offers local craft breweries and wineries and more Art Deco architecture than any other city outside of Miami. The city's downtown is a veritable encyclopedia of U.S. architecture, including Neoclassical, Romanesque Revival, Beaux

Arts and Gothic buildings that now house restaurants, museums, shops and art galleries. Two miles outside of town is Biltmore, the former country estate of George W. Vanderbilt. The country's largest private home recalls the grand castles and palaces of France and England and sits on 125,000 acres of forestland, much of it designed by Frederick Law Olmsted (the man behind New York City's Central Park).

Indagare tip: There are two hotels on the Biltmore estate, the new Village Hotel and the more traditional Inn. *Contact Indagare to book.*

Visit

Chimney Rock State Park: Among the plethora of outdoor activities on offer in and around Asheville, exploring Chimney Rock State Park is a must-do. Film buffs will recognize the 315-foot-high granite monolith that gives the park its name from the final scenes of *Last of the Mohicans*.

Eat

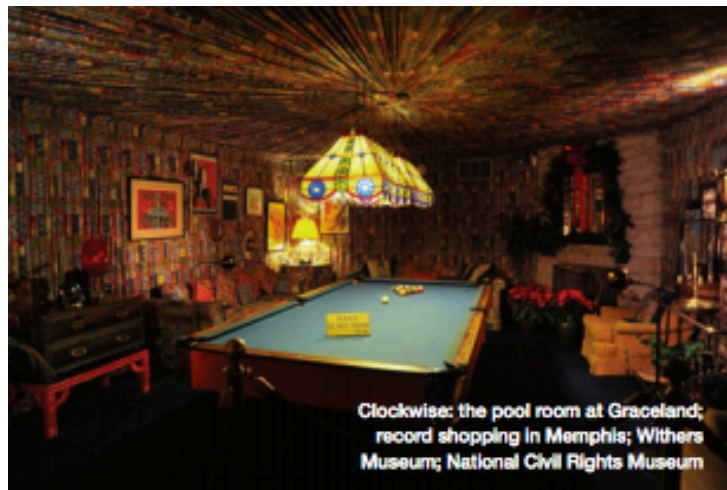
Rhubarb: Run by John Fleer, formerly of Blackberry Farm in Tennessee, the restaurant specializes in bold flavors with a Southern accent. rhubarbasheville.com

Cúrate: Whether snapped up as a quick bite or savored in a longer seating, the authentically prepared tapas at Cúrate (pronounced COO-rah-tay and signifying "cure yourself" in Spanish) will solve what ails you. curatetapasbar.com



Sarah Hardin-White

My favorite travel moment was road tripping through West Texas, and especially visiting the McDonald Observatory, which is one of the best places for viewing stars. They host star parties on week-nights, when visitors gather to take in the night sky.



Clockwise: the pool room at Graceland; record shopping in Memphis; Withers Museum; National Civil Rights Museum



Drink

Oenophiles can sample wines at one of the 13 wineries near Asheville, including the one on the Biltmore estate and Addison Farms Vineyard (addison-farms.net), in Leicester. With 15 breweries in the downtown area alone, beer aficionados will easily find a local ale they enjoy. Favorite makers include Highland Brewing Company (highlandbrewing.com) and Burial Beer Co. (burialbeer.com).

Memphis

Just back from: Austin

Next stop: Memphis, TN

Destination requirements: blues, soul and rock 'n' roll music; American Civil Rights history; slow-cooked barbecue

Located on a bluff along the Mississippi River in southwest Tennessee,

quirky, historic Memphis is known for its music, food and important role in the U.S. Civil Rights movement.

Memphis's streets are indissolubly linked to its rich musical past and present: Beale Street, still lined by blues, jazz and rock clubs, is where W.C. Handy ran a music business that published the first commercially successful blues song, Handy's "Memphis Blues." Union Avenue is home to the legendary Sun Studios, where Johnny Cash, B. B. King, Jerry Lee Lewis and other music greats recorded. McLemore Avenue was the address of Stax Records, a major player in the development of the Southern and Memphis soul styles on whose site now stands the Stax Museum of American Soul. Elvis Presley Boulevard is where tourists flock to visit the King's famous mansion, Graceland.

As important as music to Memphis's heritage is the Civil Rights movement. The city was the site of the 1968 sanitation strike that buried it under 10,000 tons of trash and brought Martin Luther King Jr. down to support the strikers. He was assassinated at Memphis's Lorraine Motel (now a museum).

Then there's the mighty Mississippi, which forms Memphis's western border. The second longest U.S. river (after the Missouri) is an attraction in and of itself, offering water activities and riverboat cruises.

Indagare tip: The Peabody Hotel hosts the famous Peabody Ducks, who each day at 11 am make their way down from the roof to the hotel's grand lobby and into its marble fountain. Both guests and nonresidents of the hotel are welcome to witness the mallard parade, which has been a tradition since 1932. peabodymemphis.com

Visit

Graceland: It may be kitschy, but Elvis's wonderfully bizarre home was decorated by the King himself and reflects his famous over-the-top persona and style. graceland.com

National Civil Rights Museum: Visiting the museum, which is located in the former motel where Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated and chronicles the history and challenges of Civil Rights in the U.S., is a somber but inspiring experience. civilrightsmuseum.org

The Mississippi by water: Old-fash-

ioned riverboats shuttle visitors up and down the river.

Eat

Restaurant Iris: Located in a converted house near the historic Overton Square, this restaurant specializing in French-Creole cuisine prepared using local seasonal ingredients, has only thirteen tables, so reservations are a must. restaurantiris.com

Andrew Michael Italian Kitchen/Hog & Hominy/ Porcellino's: James Beard Foundation Award nominees Andrew Ticer and Michael Hudmans have partnered on three Memphis eateries (so far). The vibes are different, but the food is uniformly delicious. Andrew Michael Italian Kitchen (andrewmichaelitaliankitchen.com) is an upscale option; Hog & Hominy (hogandhominy.com) is a comfort-food spot; and Porcellino's (porcellinoscraftbutcher.com) is a café/small plate/butcher shop.

Barbecue joints: Among the city's best are Central BBQ (cbqmemphis.com), Charlie Vargo's Rendezvous, known by locals as 'Vous, (hogsfly.com) and the Bar-B-Q Shop (dancingpigs.com).

Read about more recommendations for where to eat and visit in Memphis online at indagare.com.

Drink

Mollie Fontaine Lounge: This proper lounge housed in a Victorian mansion serves spirits among the spirits—rumors of hauntings and ghosts abound. molliefontainelounge.com



Nicole Martin
Visiting the Cape Winelands is a must on any South Africa itinerary. With charming towns, stunning landscapes and amazing food, it is a hard destination to beat.

Louisville, KY

Just back from: Savannah

Next stop: Louisville, KY

Destination requirements: genteel history with an emphasis on horses and bourbon

The largest city in Kentucky, Louisville is also one of the oldest west of the Appalachian Mountains, founded in 1778 by George Rogers Clark and named after French King Louis XVI. Located beside the Falls of the Ohio River, the city developed into a commercial and cultural hub because of the need for cargo portage around these rapids, a major obstruction (until the construction of the Louisville and Portland Canal) to river traffic between the upper Ohio and the Gulf of Mexico.

More than 100 parks, several designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, cover more than 13,000 acres and provide a wealth of open space. Louisville also boasts several National Historic Landmarks, including Locust Grove. This 18th-century Georgian mansion, set on a 55-acre farm site, was once the home of Revolutionary War hero George Rogers Clark and serves as a fascinating example of early Kentucky architecture, with one of the world's finest collections of Kentucky furniture.

Bourbon has been a major feature of Louisville's economy and culture since it was first marketed there in 1790, and tourists shouldn't miss Bourbons Bistro, a restaurant housed in a building dating back to the 1870s that offers more than 130 varieties of



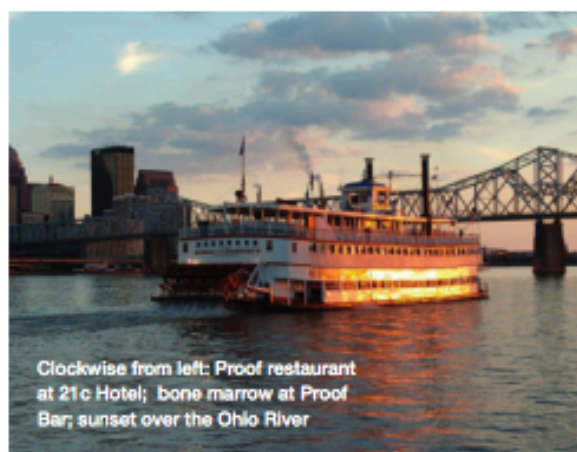
the American whiskey.

No visit to Louisville would be complete without a trip to Churchill Downs, home to the Kentucky Derby, as deeply ingrained in the city's traditions as bourbon. Those whose trip doesn't coincide with the Run for the Roses can console themselves with a walking tour of the racetrack.

Indagare tip: 21c Museum Hotel, located in the heart of Museum Row in downtown Louisville, is a 90-room property dedicated to luxury, hospitality and contemporary art. 21cmuseumhotels.com

Visit

Conrad-Caldwell House Museum: This masterpiece of local architecture, built for businessmen Theophile Conrad and William Caldwell, is one



Clockwise from left: Proof restaurant at 21c Hotel; bone marrow at Proof Bar; sunset over the Ohio River

of the finest examples of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. conrad-caldwell.org

Eat

610 Magnolia: This intimate spot has among the city's most sought-after tables. The six-course prix fixe menu, which combines Southern cooking with urban sophistication, changes based on the availability of market-fresh ingredients. 610magnolia.com

Jack Fry's: Established in 1933, Jack Fry's serves Southern cuisine with a French twist. Live jazz nearly every night keeps the atmosphere lively. jackfrys.com

Drink

Proof Bar: The bar at the Proof on Main restaurant boasts an impressive selection of more than 75 bourbons, in

addition to a 100-bottle wine list, to sample while people watching or admiring the art that adorns the walls. proofonmain.com

Seelbach Bar: This authentically restored, early 1900s bar is located in the Seelbach Hilton, a piece of Louisville history. During Prohibition, the establishment was a favorite hangout for Al Capone and George Remus, a local gangster known as the King of the Bootleggers who inspired F. Scott Fitzgerald's famous character, Jay Gatsby. seelbachhilton.com/dining

Indagare members can contact the Indagare Bookings Team for assistance planning a trip to the American South. Contact us by email: bookings@indagare.com or phone: 212-988-2611. Visit indagare.com to read destination reports and hotel reviews on staff-scouted properties around the region.