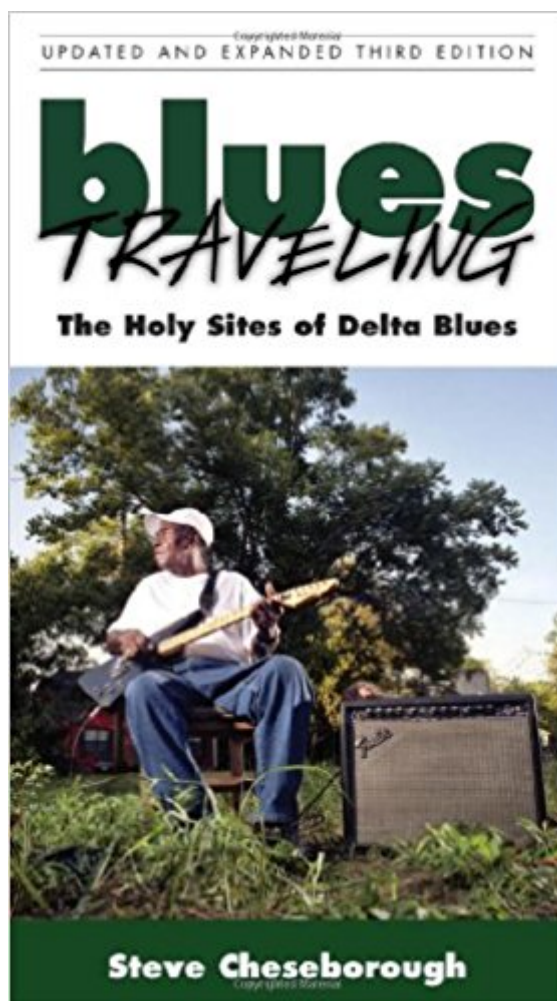


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# Blues Traveling: The Holy Sites Of Delta Blues, Third Edition



## Synopsis

At a crossroads in the Mississippi Delta, Robert Johnson is said to have sold his soul to the Devil so that he could become a guitar virtuoso and King of the Delta Blues. *Blues Traveling: The Holy Sites of Delta Blues* will tell you where that legendary deal was supposed to have been made and guide you to all the other hallowed grounds that nourished Mississippi's signature music. Johnson, Mississippi John Hurt, Memphis Minnie, Jimmie Rodgers, Bessie Smith, Muddy Waters, Mississippi Fred McDowell, Howlin' Wolf, B. B. King, Little Milton, Elvis Presley, Bobby Rush, Junior Kimbrough, R. L. Burnside-the list of great artists with Mississippi connections goes on and on. A trip through Mississippi blues sites is a pilgrimage every music lover ought to make at least once in a lifetime, to see the juke joints and churches, to visit the birthplaces and graves of blues greats, to walk down the dusty roads and over the levee, to eat some barbecue and greens, to sit on the bank of the Mississippi River, and to hear some down-home blues music. *Blues Traveling* is the first and only guidebook to Mississippi's musical places and blues history. With photographs, maps, easy-to-follow directions, and an informative, entertaining text, this book will lead you in and out of Clarksdale, Greenwood, Helena (Arkansas), Rolling Fork, Jackson, Natchez, Bentonia, Rosedale, Itta Bena, and dozens of other locales that generations of blues musicians have lived in, traveled through, and sung about. Stories, legends, and lyrics are woven into the text so that each backroad and barroom comes alive. Touring Mississippi with *Blues Traveling* is like having a knowledgeable and entertaining guide at your side. Even people with no immediate plans to visit Mississippi will enjoy reading the book for its photos, descriptions, and lore that will broaden their understanding and enhance their appreciation of the blues.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Providing excellent maps and driving instructions. . . . Along the way Cheseborough provides details on the towns, homes, and gravesites of famous blues musicians, buildings where they played, radio stations, sites of music festivals, and current clubs and restaurants that feature the music. Essential." -- Library Journal

"This localized, detailed and lively guidebook to blues music in Mississippi recommends following by car `a rough circle beginning and ending in Memphis' for a comprehensive tour. With maps, specific directions and succinct historical tidbits, Cheseborough describes blues venues as well as points of special interest. A recommended listening section completes the picture." -- Publishers Weekly

This acclaimed travel guide, hailed as the Bible of blues travelers throughout the world, will shepherd the faithful to such shrines as the intersection where Robert Johnson might have made his deal with the devil and the railroad tracks that inspired Howlin' Wolf to moan "Smokestack Lightnin'." Blues Traveling was the first and is the indisputably essential guidebook to Mississippi's musical places and its blues history. For this new edition Steve Cheseborough returned to the Delta, revisited all of the locales featured in previous editions of the book, and uncovered fresh destinations. He includes updated material on new festivals, state blues markers, club openings and closings, and many other transformations in the Delta's ever-lively blues scene. With photographs, maps, easy-to-follow directions, and an informative, entertaining text, this book will lead the reader in and out of Clarksdale, Greenwood, Helena (Arkansas), Rolling Fork, Jackson, Memphis, Natchez, Benton, Rosedale, Itta Bena, and dozens of other locales where generations of blues musicians have lived, traveled, and performed. A previous edition was so effective and informative that Real Blues told its readers, "This is THE guide to the Delta; short of living there, it is the best."

This is a great book. I live in Arkansas and have been to the Delta frequently. However, having said that, this book is in serious need of an update, especially with the coming of age of the hot tomale trail and the blues markers that are not a lot and state wide. He leaves out eating tamales at the white front cafÃ© in Rosedale which is a true joy. Larry's Hot Tamale have come out since then in Clarksdale and are also delicious. His directions to the scene where they filmed the crossroads scene is not very good. Where you turn it is paved then turns into a dirt road and it at least a mile to the crossroad. You need to take a photo from the movie with you. The crossroads is wider than you

would think. The tree is no longer there and I saw no sign of a church, but the road itself and the tree line in the background are unmistakable. But this is nitpicking. A truly great resource is you are on a blues trip to Mississippi.

My husband is a big fan of blues, we did a 2,000 miles tour last fall to follow the blues trail. We started at Memphis, drove to Mississippi and ended the tour in Louisiana. I bought this guide for the Mississippi part. It contains a lot of detailed information for the blues fans. Thanks to this book, my husband found for instance a place in Clarksdale selling unique recordings of blues. He had the opportunity to meet musicians in junk boxes recommended by this guide. This guide is a must to travel in this area and for blues fans. We discovered a yearly blues festival in Clarksdale and plan to go back next year. As all for the other travel guides, updating is important and some places were closed and new ones opened but his book told us where to go and is the perfect book to schedule your trip in the South.

I considered giving this book all five stars but held off, for two reasons. First, never having been to the Mississippi Delta (I bought it to help plan a possible future excursion) I haven't ground-truthed it. Second, it displays a level of obsessiveness that I love but concede most others may deem overkill. But if you buy the book and take it to heart you'll soon figure out a REAL Delta blues tour will consume more than just an idle weekend. Parenthetically, I have done a lot of reading about this region over the past year, enough to convince me things change by the day. Many of the landmarks you'll read about are already gone and more may have vanished since the book was published. That said, the book is and will remain a valuable resource for the devoted blues collector.

Great stuff. I wished I had checked the mail before we left. This book would have been awesome on our trip!!

This book was extremely valuable when my son and I set out on our blues tour in July. We would have wasted a lot of valuable time without it. The only drawback for me was that I had bought it on my Kindle and having a paperback version would have been easier to jump around to different sections. This however does not take away from the book's information at all. We have taken many "music vacations" in the past but this one my son claimed was the greatest trip we had ever done and it wouldn't have been as good without the advice and locations listed here.

i found this very helpful, easy to read, in preparation for taking this trip

It seems pretty comprehensive. I just discovered this fascinating music trail while visiting New Orleans and Natchez, It looks like I'll be heading back to the area with book in hand delving into the musical heritage. Thanks for your prompt service. Laurel, NY .

I have done a college radio blues show for years but never wound up taking a trip to the Mississippi Delta--till now. As I write this I'm in Clarksdale, halfway through my trip, and all has gone smoothly thanks to this book which I bought through . Cheseborough's latest edition has proven useful in terms of what to see and do and where to stay, shop and eat. His method of starting in Memphis and doing a circular route (just what I'm doing) is a good way to go about it, and his information on blues history and trivia makes it a fun read. Enjoy some of this culture while we still have it. The classic stars of blues have been dying off (though, some new voices take their place) and everything from the current economy to the casinos knocks off some blues places, but a lot is still out there and this is a great guidebook for the blues traveler.

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