

City of Biloxi Visitors Center

710 Beach Boulevard • Biloxi, MS 39530
228-374-3105 • 1-800-BILOXI-3
Fax: 228-435-6248 • Email: visitor@biloxi.ms.us
<http://biloxi.ms.us>



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P.O. Box 1928
Biloxi, MS 39533-1928
1048 Beach Blvd.
(N. of Biloxi Lighthouse)
Biloxi, MS 39530
228-374-2717
Fax: 228-374-2764
www.biloxi.org



Street Map & Insiders Guide

Winter/Spring 2005



Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the City of Biloxi.

Chances are, if you asked for this brochure you're either a visitor seeking more information on the excitement Biloxi has to offer, or you're a resident who will appreciate this comprehensive map of city streets.

Either way, you have great timing! Right now, Biloxi is enjoying the most exciting and prosperous time that we've seen since our shores were settled back in 1699. We have a great deal to offer.

We've tried to include in this brochure an interesting mix of useful information about our city, along with bits of trivia about Biloxi and its colorful history and year 'round lineup of special events.

As Mayor, I'm proud that my city is enjoying unprecedented success, and that our future is very promising. The renaissance we're enjoying these days was spawned by the arrival of the casino resort industry in 1992, but you'll find that Biloxi is a great deal more than the casino resorts along our waterfront.

We're about small-town charm. Historic sites and museums. Great deep-sea fishing. Tasty seafood restaurants. Miles of inviting beaches with glorious sunsets. Championship golf courses. First-class accommodations at affordable prices. And good, old-fashioned Southern hospitality.

Whether you're here for a weekend or for a lifetime, I hope you enjoy everything that Biloxi has to offer.

Sincerely,

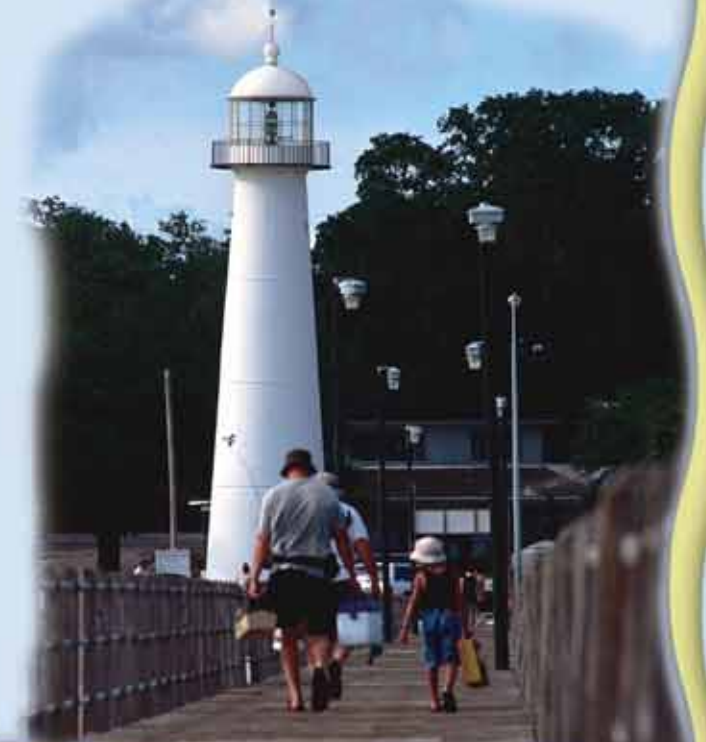
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A.J. Holloway".

A.J. Holloway
Mayor
January 2005

P.S. You also can find out more about our city online at biloxi.ms.us, where you can even sign up to have timely news about Biloxi and its special events e-mailed directly to you on a regular basis.

City Council

George Lawrence • Eric Dickey
Arlene Canaan • Charles T. Harrison Jr.
Mike Fitzpatrick • Tom Wall • David Fayard



Things everyone should know about Biloxi

History

Biloxi is a progressive, cosmopolitan, waterfront community fast becoming one of the nation's premier resort destinations.

Biloxi was established in 1699 as the first French settlement in the Mississippi Valley. Soon after, Biloxi became a cultural melting pot influenced by the French, English, Spanish, and other foreign cultures before becoming the first capital of the Louisiana Territory.

Throughout its history, Biloxi's thriving success has been strongly influenced by its temperate, Gulf Coast location. Quickly emerging as a leader in the seafood industry, Biloxi was recognized as the seafood capital of the world by the late 1800s.



By the 1920s, Biloxi had become a booming tourist town. Thousands of "snowbirds" from the North and Midwest flocked to Biloxi's warm climate each winter for deep-sea fishing, a round of golf, or simple relaxation on the beautiful Gulf shore.

In 1941, Keesler Field was established, and the Air Force base continues to have a significant impact on Biloxi and its economy.

With the arrival of legalized casino gambling in 1992, Biloxi began transforming itself into what today is a world-class resort destination year-round. Residents find appeal in the city's excellent public and private schools, hospitals, police and fire protection, low unemployment rate, and low cost of living overall.

In fact, whether you're looking for a great place to visit or a place to plant your roots, Biloxi has a great deal to offer.

Plenty to see and do

History, culture, excitement – you'll find it all in Biloxi.

Experience the sights and sounds of carnival year 'round at Biloxi's Mardi Gras Museum, or re-live life through the eyes of Civil War soldiers in the new museum at Beauvoir, where you can also visit the last home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

Step into the past while visiting gracious antebellum homes such as the Old Brick House or Tullis-Toledano Manor. Be swept away during a symphony performance at Biloxi's grand Saenger Theater, once home to early motion pictures and vaudeville shows. Adventure lovers can explore Civil War-era Fort Massachusetts at Ship Island or search for shells on the pristine beaches of the barrier islands.

Chances are, you'll find one of our many local celebrations in progress during your stay – and you're invited. Join the fun at the Biloxi Shrimp Festival and Blessing of the Fleet, Mardi Gras, Christmas on the Water, the Biloxi Seafood Festival, the George Ohr Fall Festival of Arts, Fall Muster at Beauvoir, or Cruisin' The Coast, an annual Coastwide block party that has established itself as the largest celebration in the state.



Mardi Gras



Blessing of the Fleet



Cruisin' The Coast



Christmas on the Water

Location

Biloxi is in the center of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, 90 minutes from New Orleans and an hour from Mobile. Biloxi is accessible by car on I-10 and U.S. 90, by plane via the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport, and by train via Amtrak.

Weather

There are no sharply defined seasons in Biloxi, where tropical sunshine and cool ocean breezes are the norm. Average temperatures range from 56 degrees in the winter to 81 degrees in the summer, making it possible to enjoy outdoor activities year 'round.

Humidity and rainfall are highest in the late summer, due to the proximity to the warm Gulf waters. Most rainfall is intermittent and followed by traditional Gulf Coast sunshine. Biloxi averages about 78 inches of rainfall a year.

Did you know...

- Biloxi (pronounced Buh-luck-see) is an Indian word meaning "First People."
- Explorer Pierre LeMoyne Sieur d'Iberville landed on what is now the Biloxi peninsula on Feb. 13, 1699 to strengthen France's claim to the Mississippi Valley. He named the area in honor of the Indians, the Biloxis, who greeted him.
- Biloxi is the birthplace of Barq's Root Beer, the No. 1 selling root beer in the world.
- Apollo 13 Astronaut Fred Haise was born and raised in Biloxi.
- Keesler Air Force Base is the electronics training headquarters of the Air Force, home of the second largest medical facility in the Air Force, and home of the Hurricane Hunters.
- Mullet, known as "Biloxi Bacon," saved residents from starvation during the Civil War blockades.
- One piece of Biloxi native George Ohr's pottery can sell at auction for more than Ohr earned in his entire life.



The rules of the road

Biloxi and the Mississippi Gulf Coast have seen the number of visitors to our community increase from about a million a year before 1992 to between 10 and 12 million a year today.

The roads can get busy on the 13-square mile Biloxi peninsula and others areas in the overall 50-square miles of the city.

A few tips for the motoring public to keep in mind:

- Traffic signals along U.S. 90 have now been numbered from the west end of Gulfport to the east end of Biloxi. This new feature was designed to help in providing directions.
- Speed limits on U.S. 90 in Biloxi range from 30 mph to 45 mph. Slower traffic should use right lanes. Parking on U.S. 90 is allowed only in designated parking bays. No city street has a speed limit higher than 45 mph. In fact, the posted speed limit on most streets is 25 mph.
- Unless otherwise marked, right turns are allowed at red lights, after making a complete stop and yielding to oncoming traffic.
- For emergency assistance, dial 911; for non-emergency police assistance, dial (228) 435-6103.
- The number to the Visitors Center is (228) 374-3105 or 1-800-BILOXI-3.

The Biloxi Visitors Center on the Town Green in downtown Biloxi



Things visitors should know about Biloxi



Casino Row on Point Cadet

Casinos and nightlife

With an impressive array of themed casinos, you're guaranteed to have a big time in Biloxi. The city is home to some of the leading casino operators in the world and has established itself as the hottest new locale in the country, being compared to such destinations as Las Vegas and Orlando.

The waterfront locations are far more than casinos. They're resorts, where you'll find bright lights, big-name entertainment and supervised children's activity centers.

Biloxi's casinos offer fun and thrills for the entire family. And when it's time to wind down, luxurious hotels are only a few steps away. And all overlooking the picturesque Gulf of Mexico or Bay of Biloxi.

Coast Transit provides citywide bus service, including a Beachcomber route along the front beach.

For route info:
(228) 896-8080
or online at
biloxi.ms.us.



Dining

When you think Biloxi, think fresh, succulent seafood. For generations, our local fishing fleet has ventured into the Gulf to return with bountiful catches of mouth-watering crabs, oysters, fish, shrimp, and other seafood delicacies.

Dozens of restaurants – long-established family operations as well as familiar national chains – offer a tasty fare in a wide range of settings, from casual Southern home cooking to upscale and intimate fine dining.



Sites of interest

Biloxi's rich culture and heritage are masterfully preserved in the following sites and attractions – many through the leadership of the City of Biloxi and community volunteers.

Beauvoir, U.S. 90 in west Biloxi: Visit a bygone era of Southern charm and elegance at the final home of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, or explore the scenic grounds and chronicle the Confederacy and life of the South's "First Family" in a \$4.5 million museum, theater and resource center with numerous historical archives.



Biloxi Lighthouse, U.S. 90 at Porter Avenue: One of the most photographed sites in the South. Erected in 1848, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and celebrated its 150th birthday in 1998.

Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art, downtown Biloxi: Home to the "Mad Potter of Biloxi," this museum houses the world's largest public display of the works of potter George Ohr, an eccentric turn-of-the-century potter whose work has gained national acclaim.



Beauvoir, the Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library



One of the Coast's best examples of antebellum architecture. It was built in 1856 for a wealthy New Orleans businessman and his family, and today is operated by the City of Biloxi for special events and tours.

Old Brick House, on Back Bay: This historic structure features a mingling of French and American architectural traditions of the mid-19th century.

Saenger Theater, downtown Biloxi: The Saenger was renowned as the most modern theater in the South when it was built in 1929. The theater was home to vaudeville and early motion pictures before it became a performing arts venue.

Tullis-Toledano Manor, U.S. 90, east beach:



Tullis-Toledano Manor

J.L. Scott Marine Education Center and Aquarium, Point Cadet: Mississippi's largest public aquarium, the 42,000-gallon Gulf of Mexico tank is home to sharks, sea turtles, eels and other creatures. Enjoy enclosed and hands-on exhibits as well as a collection of more than 900 seashells from around the world.

Mardi Gras Museum, downtown Biloxi: Housed in the historic Magnolia Hotel, the museum features colorful exhibits that tell the story of Mardi Gras in Biloxi, and features costumes including those of the current King d'Iberville and Queen Ixolib (Biloxi spelled backwards).



Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum

Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum, Point Cadet: The museum traces Biloxi's rise to "Seafood Capitol of the World," with exhibits that give a visual timeline of Biloxi's history and describe boatbuilding, net making, blacksmithing, and sailmaking. Learn about the destructive force of hurricanes in the Wade Guice Hurricane Room.



Recreation

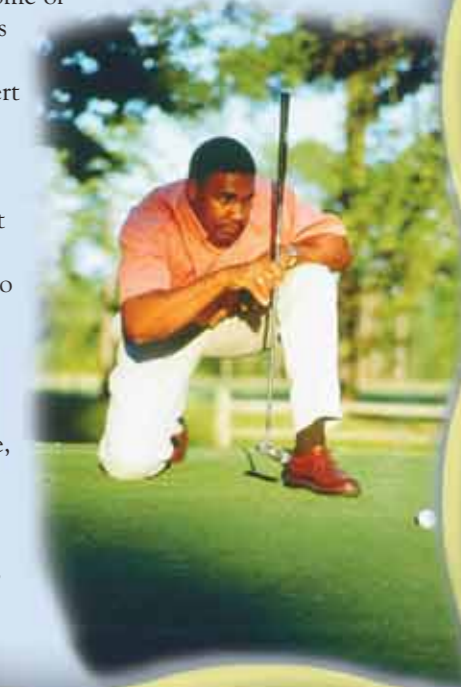
With water on three sides, Biloxi offers an abundance of first-class recreation. You'll find miles of sugar-white beaches. Saltwater, freshwater, and deep-sea fishing aboard our fleet of charter vessels. Scuba diving. Sailing aboard beachfront rental craft or one of the Seafood Museum's majestic schooners. Tennis. Backwater canoeing. Hiking. Horseback riding. Amusement parks. Plus much more.

And there's good reason to call this the Mississippi "Golf Coast." Biloxi and the surrounding area are home to an array of challenging golf courses, designed by such notables as Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Davis Love III and others. You'll find miles of lush fairways and immaculately manicured greens.

As testament to our ranking as the country's most affordable vacation resort, you'll find "stay and play" golf and lodging packages year 'round.

Concerts and sports

You'll find some of entertainment's hottest touring artists in concert at the 11,500-seat Coast Coliseum, on U.S. 90 in west Biloxi. The Coliseum is also home to the Mississippi Sea Wolves of the East Coast Hockey League, as well as a public ice skating rink several months of the year.



Things residents should know about Biloxi

Overview

Biloxi has seen a great deal of growth and excitement since the area was first settled in 1699, but none more than since 1992, when waterfront casino resorts ignited an economic and cultural renaissance that continues to flourish today.

The city has seen \$3 billion in growth, primarily along the waterfront in east Biloxi, but also including tens of millions of dollars in construction of new homes and new small businesses.

The city has been recognized as a model of success as a result of its orderly management of such massive growth, while at the same time preserving the community's sense of place and enhancing its quality of life.

Education

The Biloxi Public School District, with an enrollment of more than 6,000 students in Grades 1 to 12, has earned the state's highest rating for academic excellence, and has also captured worldwide attention for its state-of-the-art facilities.

Biloxi is also home to private and parochial prep schools, as well as a community college, and Tulane's University College. Degree-granting courses are also offered at Keesler Air Force Base and at the Gulf Coast campus of the University of Southern

Mississippi in nearby Long Beach.



Biloxi High School, off Popp's Ferry Road, north Biloxi



Good sports

Biloxi residents have witnessed a dramatic expansion in community centers, parks and athletic fields in the past several years, and participation in youth sports leagues has skyrocketed with the city's abolishing of registration fees in each sport.

The city is home to diverse array of recreational facilities: a massive sports complex, three community centers, dozens of ballparks and neighborhood parks, two indoor swimming pools, indoor and outdoor walking tracks, marinas and boat launches.



Golfing and fishing are just two of the many year 'round pursuits. There are more than two dozen courses in the area.

Conditions for recreational and competitive fishing are ideal, with the fresh water tributaries of the Mississippi River feeding into the warm saltwater of the Gulf of Mexico. From pier fishing to surf fishing on one of the barrier islands to deep-sea fishing, Biloxi and the Gulf Coast offer extraordinary opportunities. As a result, the number of national and local sports fishing tournaments in Biloxi is on the rise.



Medical

With comprehensive acute care medical facilities at each end of Biloxi, Keesler Medical Center in the middle and Cedar Lake Medical Park to the north, Biloxi residents enjoy a broad spectrum of state-of-the-art health care services without the inconvenience of traveling far.

Since 1998, Biloxi has experienced phenomenal growth in the medical services industry, which includes the construction of new multimillion dollar facilities in addition to a wide diversification of treatment options performed by physicians in all areas of specialization.

Government

Biloxi is governed by a strong mayor-council form of government, with the mayor running the city on a day-to-day basis and council members elected from seven wards throughout the city, serving parttime and helping set policy.

New residents can register to vote at Biloxi City Hall or at the County Courthouse. The nearby County Courthouse also is where you purchase automobile tags or pay city and county property taxes. Mississippi driver's licenses are available from the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, in the Dr. Eldon Bolton State Office Building on Back Bay.



Biloxi City Hall,
140 Laneuse St.

Public safety

Biloxi is home to one of the best-trained, best-paid, and best-equipped police and fire departments in the Southeast.

The Biloxi Police Department (more than 150 sworn officers) and the Biloxi Fire Department (more than 150 firefighters at nine fire stations) have taken a pro-active approach to public safety. The departments have specialized units focusing on such areas as home security inspections, accident reconstruction, fire prevention,

and hazardous material response.

The Lopez-Quave Public Safety Center, which houses police and fire department leaders and the city's Municipal Court, is on Porter Avenue, two blocks north of the Biloxi Lighthouse.



Services, utilities

Biloxians enjoy the lowest water, sewer and garbage rates of any city in the area. The city provides residential and commercial water and sewer services, and Biloxi is home to one of the largest wastewater treatment plants of its kind in the nation.

Mississippi Power Co. and Coast Electric Power Association provide electrical service in Biloxi; CenterPoint Entex provides gas service; and Cable One offers digital cable TV and online access in Biloxi.

Did you know....

- According to the 2000 Census, Biloxi has 50,644 residents, with a median age of 32.5.
- In a 2000 Fodor's survey, the nation's travel agents identified the top three emerging U.S. destinations as Orlando, Las Vegas and Biloxi.
- In 2003, the Golf Insider, a golf-travel rating publication, named the Mississippi Gulf Coast the "Best Up-and-Coming Domestic Golf Destination of the Year."
- The Biloxi Public School System was recognized in 2003 as being the first public school district in the country to have surveillance cameras in all classrooms. The feat generated a front-page story in USA Today and stories on "ABC's World News Tonight," "Good Morning America," CBS, Fox News, National Public Radio and even the BBC.



The Biloxi Lighthouse, at U.S.
Highway 90 and Porter Avenue

