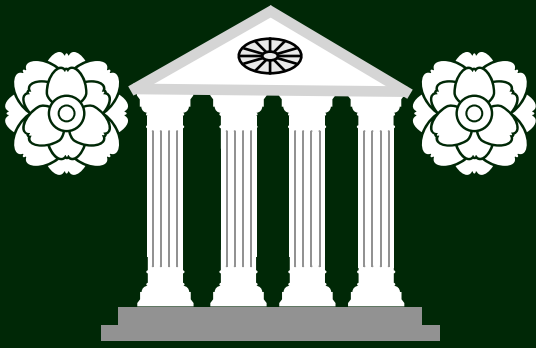




Natchez

Magnolia Meet



Join us for our first Magnolia Meet in historic Natchez, Mississippi!

February 18, 2026 - February 21, 2026

Natchez Grand Hotel and Suites
111 Broadway St. Natchez, MS 39120

<https://secure.webrez.com/hotel/822/>

Group code: Franklin

Some Trek Highlights!

- See the Melrose Estate National Historic Park, one of the best-preserved estates in the Deep South.
- Drive up the Natchez Trace Parkway, one of Americas oldest and largest travel corridors. Gaze up at the ruins of what was the largest plantation home in Mississippi at Windsor Ruins
- And of course, enjoy some good Southern Food in between!



Come explore the oldest city in Mississippi for a weekend of driving, food and architecture!

Hosts:

Austin and (maybe) Ethan Billhime
407-484-1275 | austinbillhime@icloud.com
2600 Coral Stone Ct. Windermere, FL 34786

Welcome to Mississippi's oldest and most storied city! Natchez was the trade hub of the south in the 17 and 1800's, and is home to some of the South's best preserved architecture.

Our meet starts off strong with an optional tour of Melrose, a national park and one of the best preserved homes in Natchez. The house and grounds are a great place to start and get an idea of what many of the homes in this area looked like and how they were run. The ground and out buildings are free to roam around and are a great place to get those steps in after a long flight or drive! From there is exploring historic downtown and lunch on your own! Enjoy the collection of antique stores, coffee shops, and consignment shops, all walking distance from the hotel! We'll meet back up at the hotel for check-in and reunite with some of our favorite Franklinites! From there it's off to dinner at the Pig Out Inn for some of that world famous Southern BBQ. We end the day with a movie night at Hope Farm to watch a Southern Classic, Fried Green Tomatoes. Gone with the Wind would have been a little too on the nose, and a little too long.

Our first full day of touring will start at the most iconic home in all of Mississippi, Longwood! Like many of our project cars, it too remains mostly unfinished. From there we will start our drive through 10,000 years of history on the Historic Natchez Trace Parkway! This road has been used as a travel and trade route by the native Americans long before European settlers came in and started using it to travel North back up the Mississippi River. We'll take this scenic drive all the way to our lunch stop, where with God as my witness you'll never be hungry again(or at least the rest of the day) because we'll have fried chicken and every other kind of Southern comfort food at The Old Country Store. From there we'll finish our drive at the ruins of what was once Mississippi's largest plantation home. We'll finish our drive back at the hotel and meander down the bluff to the Natchez brewery for dinner and trivia!

Our last full day deep in the delta will start with another nice drive over into Louisiana to visit The Myrtle's, which is known as one of the most haunted houses in America. We'll stop for lunch in St. Francisville after the tour, where trekkers are welcome and encouraged to explore all this charming Southern town has to offer. If you don't want to wander into town you can explore the gardens at The Myrtles. Once back in Natchez it's off to Monmouth for our final group picture, awards ceremony and closing banquet.



Registration Form



NAME

Description	Price Per Person	Quantity	Total
Wednesday			
Melrose Estate National Historic Park	\$10(house tour) self pay		
Pig Out Inn - Dinner	On your own		
Movie Night on the lawn	\$10		
Thursday			
Longwood	\$20		
The Old Country Store - Lunch	\$20		
Windsor Ruins	\$0		
Hope Farm	\$15		
Natchez Brewery - Dinner	On your own		
Friday			
The Francis - Lunch	On your own		
The Myrtles	\$15		
Banquet	\$100		
		Subtotal	
	Per family registratioin fee		\$25
	Grand Total Due		

ESTIMATED DATE OF ARRIVAL

MORNING, AFTERNOON, EVENING

ESTIMATED DATE OF DEPARTURE

MORNING, AFTERNOON, EVENING

NAME(S)

ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

BRINGING A FRANKLIN?

YEAR:

BODY STYLE:

NEED SPACE FOR A TRAILER?

DIETARY RETRICTIONS?

You can mail this form with a check to Austin OR email your response to Austin and request to pay via Venmo, PayPal, or Zelle.



How to get there



If you are driving to Natchez this section isn't for you. Just ask your GPS or follow the signs that say "South" and you should get there...eventually.

For anyone flying there are no airports in the direct vicinity of Natchez. Your best bet is to the closest airport is in Baton Rouge(BTR) and is roughly 1.5 to 1.75 hours from Natchez. Alexandria(AEX) is the next closest and then Jackson(JAN) which is about 2 hours. If you wanted to come early and spend a few days in New Orleans you can make the drive from NOLA to Natchez in about 3 hours. Just make sure to give yourself plenty of time between your last Hurricane and when you hit the road! You can rent a car from the airport, or use shuttle service. You can always carpool with your fellow travelers or ask one of your Franklin family to pick you up, once they've thawed out. I know of at least one private shuttle service so feel free to reach out to me for their contact!

Schedule of Events

Wednesday - Feb 18

During the morning, feel free to explore - ya da, ya da.

12:00-3:00pm - Optional Tour of Melrose Estate National Historic Park

3:00pm - Registration is open at the Natchez Grand Hotel

Dinner as a group at the Pig Out Inn

7:00pm - Movie "*Fried Green Tomatoes*" on the lawn of Hope Farm

Thursday - Feb 19

Breakfast on your own at the hotel

9:00am - Group meeting so everyone has the information and directions for the day.

9:30am - Leave the Natchez Grand Hotel and travel to Windsor Ruins

11:30 - Take in the magnitude of Windsor Ruins

12:30pm - Lunch where you eat your weight in fried chicken at "The Old Country Store"

3:00pm - Tour Hope Farm

6:00pm - Dinner and Trivia at The Natchez Brewery

Late Evening - We'll go down Under the Hill!

Friday - Feb 20

Breakfast on your own at the Hotel

9:00am - Group meeting so everyone has the information and directions for the day.

9:30am - Leave the Natchez Grand Hotel and travel to lunch

12:00pm - Lunch at "The Francis"

1:00pm - Get haunted at The Myrtle's

2:00pm - Start the trek back to Natchez where you have the afternoon to explore!

6:00pm - Reception and Banquet at Monmouth

Saturday - Feb 21

Breakfast on your own at the hotel

(timing and activities are subject to change without notice)