

# Strolling Memphis Beale Street



**VISUAL TRAVEL TOURS**

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# Tour Summary

This tour starts at the river, Memphis' reason for being. We'll trace the path of early riverboat passengers who stepped off the boat and onto Beale Street. We'll do as many of them did and head straight for "the stroll." Beale Street was known all over the south as a magical place where you could be anything you wanted to be... and the music never stopped. Beale Street is that place again... let's go do the stroll!

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# Introduction





Beale, one of the most famous streets in America, began as the main artery for the town of South Memphis. The original steamboat landing was right where Beale met the Mississippi. When the first trains came into town on the Memphis and Charleston railroad, they stopped at the

other end of Beale. So whether you came to the city by boat or train, you first stepped onto Memphis soil at Beale Street.



I'm often asked where Beale Street got its name. I'm not sure there's a definitive answer to that question, but the one most accepted is that it was named for a U.S. military leader of the 1840s. Nobody seems to know why he was honored by having a street named after him.



Beale is actually not very long, and the entertainment district that gave the street its legendary standing is only 3 blocks. The rest of the road consisted of buildings related to the cotton business, and residential areas. We'll concentrate on

those parts closest to the river, the entertainment area and the cotton warehousing area.



Our starting point is at the foot of Beale or Beale and the Mississippi. If you're driving, parking is available at Beale and Front just one block away. If you're staying at one of the downtown hotels, the Main Street Trolley stops at Beale and Main just 2

blocks from the river. When you get off,  
walk west.

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