

Elvis Presley's
Graceland

Welcome to Elvis' House



Becki and Carol would split time between riding on the bikes and driving our mini-van loaded with luggage and beverages. Vinny and I split the time leading while Harmik ran "sweep" the entire trip.

After leaving from Spring, the first day's ride took us through Huntsville, Lufkin, Nacogdoches, Carthage, Shreveport and ended in Ruston, LA. After checking in at our hotel in Ruston we all decided to hit the pool before going out to dinner.

Day two for the most part was spent traveling across Arkansas. We arrived in Memphis late in the afternoon and after checking in and a quick shower we headed for dinner on Beale Street. We decided to try out the Pig Stop and we were not disappointed. The food there was great. After dinner we spent our time browsing the many shops on Beale before calling it a night.

Day three was all about Elvis. We got an early start from the hotel and got to Graceland in time for the 10:00 a.m. tour. After touring the house and the airplanes we went across the street to check out Elvis's car collection at his museum. After shopping for souvenirs we headed back to our hotel to freshen up and head over to the Peabody Hotel. We were trying to get there in time to see the famous ducks exit the fountain in the lobby, up the elevator to their "Condo" on the roof of the Peabody. Unfortunately, we missed this event but did get to see the ducks up on the roof where they spend the majority of their time.

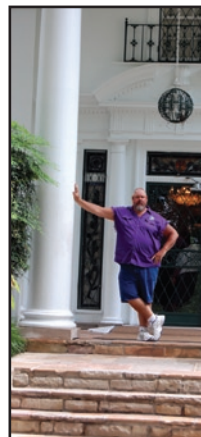
After the Peabody we headed over to Huey's for dinner. You can't miss seeing the thousands of toothpicks stuck in the ceiling tiles. While waiting for your food they bring out cups of toothpicks and straws and you can try your hand at seeing if you can blow a toothpick through a straw and stick it in the ceiling. After dinner it was back to Beale Street. We did a little more souvenir shopping here and stopped in a bar to listen to a great three piece band; the singer sounded exactly like Johnny Cash.

Day 4 was basically spent making our way south through Mississippi. After lunch we took a bit of a detour from our planned route and caught part of the Natchez Trace

Parkway. What a beautiful piece of road that was! The shade from the trees hanging over the road made for a pleasant ride on that hot June day. Just after crossing the Mississippi river we reached our hotel for our fourth and final night on the road. We stayed right on the bank of the river in Vidalia, LA. Our hotel had a terrific view of the river and we enjoyed watching the tugboats push barges north up the Mississippi.

Day 5 arrived and it was time to run our final stretch back to Texas. We were faced with possibilities of encountering some rain on our way home but we were fortunate to miss it all. We stopped for pictures just across the state line near Burkeville and then headed for a late lunch in Jasper. We made one final fuel stop in Livingston and said our goodbyes as we knew the next stop for everyone would be their own driveway.

When it was all said and done, 1,303 miles, 4.5 cases of water, 1 case of Gatorade, about 40 bags of ice, and 1 dream come true!!



I've known Bob "Git-R-Done" Hillin for about eight years now. Some time ago he informed me that it was a childhood dream of his to ride a motorcycle to Elvis' house. For some reason, he doesn't call it Graceland. Last October, on a Saturday night in Git-R-Done's garage, we put together a new MeetUp.com motorcycle group, and as we were putting together ideas and rides for the new group. A ride to Elvis' house became a topic of our group's first road trip. We ride most every Sunday somewhere between 200-300 miles. In two years of riding together Git-R-Done and I had yet to take a road trip with an overnight stay.

When the logistics were worked out it was decided we'd make it a five day trip with two days to get there, a day to soak up the "Elvis experience" and two days to get back home. Bob is no longer a young pup but he isn't what you'd call an old man either, not in my book anyway. But as Bob set up the ride, it became known as the "BBLR" for Bob's Bucket List Ride. The BBLR was set to take place the first full week of June after the kids got out of school.

As we began working on a route and hotels for the BBLR, another member of our group Kriss (Tinker Bitch) played an instrumental roll in route planning and web surfing for places to stay. We wanted to avoid major highways and instead enjoy more of a scenic route with two of our four nights staying in small towns. It was decided our first night would be spent in Ruston, LA, followed by two nights in Memphis, and our last night in Vidalia, LA.

Our trip began on Sunday morning June 6th. We had nine members and one guest in all. Bob and his wife Carol (Puddin'), myself and my wife Becki (Trooper), Kriss and her husband Michael along with their son Scott. Also joining us were Vinny (Vinnybagadonuts), Kaz and Harmik. My wife



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