Memphis Fun!

Below are just a FEW ideas/suggestions. There are SOOO many great culinary, arts and adventure experiences available to enjoy here in Memphis so feel free to explore!

Restaurants (Family/Big Group Friendly)

Soul Fish Café - The Southern food you love but the fried food is not greasy, the vegetables are not overcooked, the service is fast and they are not too expensive. Vegetarians, pescatarians and carnivores rejoice! Po-Boys, catfish tacos, seafood and veggie platters, Cuban sandwich and all the desserts are highly recommended. 862 Cooper St. in Cooper-Young is closest to church. (901) 725-0722. soulfishcafe.com

Central BBQ - Ask two people from Memphis where the best barbecue is and you are likely to start a fight! The BBQ-nachos are popular (try 'em with the home-made potato chips instead of tortilla) table treats while the dry-rubbed ribs, pork shoulder and smoked turkey sandwich often win "best of" awards. The portabella mushroom sandwich is a delicious vegan option. They have multiple locations. This one is very close to the National Civil Rights Museum. 147 East Butler St. 901-672-7760. cbgmemphis.com

Young Avenue Deli - We've been a Cooper-Young favorite for 20 years. Come grab some delicious eats, enjoy a cold drink, catch up with old friends, and listen to some live music with us. 2119 Young Ave, Memphis, TN 38104 http://www.youngavenuedeli.com/

Memphis Pizza Cafe - Enduring parlor dispensing thin-crust pizzas & calzones in casual quarters or to go. Located in Midtown. 2087 Madison Ave, Memphis, TN 38104 https://www.memphispizzacafe.com/

Huey's - Another institution in Memphis. Always voted as the best burgers in town. Reasonably priced, too! They have many locations, including this one right downtown. (Thursday night is trivia night!) 1927 Madison Ave, Memphis, TN 38104. hueyburger.com

RP Tracks - R.P. Tracks near the Highland Strip has been a U of M favorite for more than 30 years. They have good vegan and vegetarian options and are open until 1 a.m. for lateish night Memphis food. - 3547 Walker Ave, Memphis, TN 38111 - https://rptracks.com/

The Half Shell - With East Memphis and Southwind locations, Half Shell is a great option for dining late out East. They're open until 3 a.m. most nights serving up a big variety of seafood dishes, poboys, Food rec: The shrimp bruschetta is tasty, a Memphis favorite. - 688 S Mendenhall Rd, Memphis, TN 38117 http://halfshell-memphis.com/

Jerry's Snow Cones - After a hot day, and we have plenty of them, there is no more effective cool-down than Jerry's! This family-run Memphis tradition has a custom-crafted ice machine that makes uber-smooth snow cones. The "supreme" is a snow-cone with a layer of soft-serve vanilla ice cream in the middle. Yes, you want it. Its cult-like following means that sometimes there's a line. WARNING: CASH ONLY! If you get there and the line is too long, fret not. Simply drive 5 minutes to La Michoacana below. 657 Wells Station Rd.901.767.2659. jerryssnowcones.com

Taconganas - If you haven't tried these by now, stop what you're doing and go find the nearest Taconganas (or any spot that serves tacos with the consume / birria tacos / tacos de birria) and order them and eat them. 2120 Central Ave, Memphis, TN 38104 - https://taconganas.com/

Tourist Attractions

Stax Museum - Worth the drive to see this amazing place of history and race relations in Memphis. Knowns as "Soulville USA" Staxx was where numerous famous soul musicians made hit after hit. Artists who recorded there include Sam and Dave, Otis Redding, and Isaac Hayes. The tour is well done, with interesting videos, memorabilia, and an inspiring story

of black and white musicians coming together in a time when race barriers were keeping people apart. \$13 adult, \$10 child (9-12) Open 10-5. 926 McLemore Ave. staxmuseum.com

Sun Studio - A true landmark in music history, though you would never know it by the outside of the place. Set in a very non-tourist part of town, this is where Sam Phillips found blues musicians on Beale Street and had them come over to record with him in the early 1950's, like BB King and Howlin' Wolf. He also started recording with some white guys who were into the Beale Street and rockabilly sounds— folks like Elvis, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Johnny Cash. (In the late 80's the band U2 also recorded there.) Admission \$12 Open 10am-6pm. The place is not very big, so if you have a large group you might want to call ahead. 106 Union Ave. 1-800-441-6249 sunstudio.com

Memphis Rock and Soul Museum - A great interactive museum that gives a broad history of music coming out of Memphis. It includes early rock, blues, gospel, soul, and all the artists of those genres coming out of Memphis. If you are only going to do one music history museum, this is a pretty good one because it is so comprehensive and inclusive. Admission \$12 adults, \$9 for 17 and under. Open 10am-7pm. 191 Beale Street. 901-205-2533. memphisrocknsoul.org

Graceland - It pretty much speaks for itself. If you are an Elvis fan, it's like a pilgrimage to Mecca. \$39 for adults, \$35 for youth. Open 9am-5pm. graceland.com

National Civil Rights Museum - A complex of museums and historic buildings, its exhibits trace the history of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States from the 17th century to the present. 450 Mulberry St, Memphis, TN 38103 http://www.civilrightsmuseum.org/

Pink Palace Museum and Planetarium - serves as the Mid-South's major science and historical museum and features exhibits ranging from archeology to chemistry. http://www.memphismuseums.org/

Outdoor Fun

Shelby Farms Park (25-minute drive from church)

One of America's largest urban parks, groups can take zip-line tours and rent bikes, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards. The frisbee golf course is popular and there are trails overlooking a bison range (the babies are precious) as well as a 2-mile lakeside trail. The visitor center has a great snack bar and large, shaded porch with oversized fans. http://www.shelbyfarmspark.org/

Memphis Zoo (Overton Park-10 minute drive from church) - Memphis is one of just 5 zoos in the U.S. with pandas! Teton Trek is a new exhibit with grizzlies and an erupting geyser (yes, you can get wet and splash in it!). Located within historic Overton Park which has hiking trails and a summer concert series. Open 10am - 5pm. memphiszoo.org

Levitt Shell (Overton Park) - FREE evening concerts Thursday-Sunday in newly renovated outdoor amphitheater next to the zoo and Brooks Museum of Art. Many locals set up blankets and coolers on the grassy, sloped lawn. Groups might consider arranging takeout from a local deli and picnicking. Food trucks are available as well. levittshell.org

Memphis Redbirds Baseball (Downtown - 10 minute drive from church) - Autozone Park, home of the St. Louis Cardinals' AAA Redbirds, often wins "best minor league park" awards with its big-league feel. Tickets start at \$9 and groups can spread out on the grassy right-field lawn rather than sit church-pew-style in seats. Try the "chicken on a stick." Frequent fireworks shows and other promotions.

memphisredbirds.com

Indoor Fun

Bass Pro Pyramid (10 minute from church) - An architectural "turducken," it's a Bass Pro superstore set amidst an indoor cypress swamp complete with monstrous aquariums, a lodge, a bowling alley and restaurants set inside a pyramid that used to be the city's basketball arena. Topping it all off is an observation deck (the \$10 fee can be redeemed for beverages at the top) with stunning views of the Mississippi Delta.

Rec Room (Midtown - 10 minute drive from church) - Rec Room is a family-friendly game room on Broad Avenue in Memphis, Tennessee. Rec Room is packed with old-school arcade games, foosball, table tennis and air hockey. Leave your quarters at home, all arcade games are free to play. Large rooms are available to rent for groups and parties (\$25-40 per hour).

Main Event (Cordova - 25-minute drive from church) - Main Event Entertainment Memphis features chef-inspired dining, a full-service bar, over 100 virtual and interactive games, multi-level laser tag, gravity ropes, billiards, shuffleboard and state-of-the-art bowlingMain Event offers daily and weekly game-play offers and a host of value-driven promotions for every occasion. Plus, we have free WiFi available for our guests.