

BEAL STREET

IVIC MEMPHIS

BLITZ 2025



FRIDAY, MAY 23RD - SATURDAY, MAY 24TH

Overview

Beale Street dates back to 1841 when it was established by developer Robertson Topp, who named it after a forgotten war hero. Initially, Beale Street served as a bustling commercial district filled with shops, saloons, and theaters, attracting a diverse array of visitors.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Beale Street evolved into a crucial center for African American culture and commerce. It became a hub for Black-owned businesses, clubs, and newspapers. This period also saw the birth of the Beale Street Baptist Church, the first Memphis church built for Blacks and home to the first Black newspaper, *The Memphis Free Speech*, edited by Ida B. Wells. An Ida B. Wells Plaza & Statue now sits outside the church.

The emergence of the blues cemented Beale Street's legendary status. Musicians such as W.C. Handy, known as the "Father of the Blues," played a pivotal role in popularizing the genre from this very street. Beale Street clubs and bars became the launching pad for many blues legends like the "King of the Blues" B.B. King, Albert King, Memphis Minnie, Howlin' Wolf, and so many more. Today, you can visit the WC Handy Home and Museum at the end of Beale Street. An outdoor music venue on the street, Handy Park on Beale, is also named in his honor.

The mid-20th century brought challenges that left the area in disarray. Yet, in the 1980s, a concerted effort to revitalize Beale Street began, transforming it into a thriving entertainment district once again. Today, Beale Street stands as a testament to Memphis's rich musical legacy and cultural history, drawing millions of visitors who come to experience its unique blend of history, music, and vibrant nightlife.

Demographics/ Public Officials

Governor of Tennessee



Bill Lee
Republican Party

<https://www.tn.gov/governor/about-bill-lee.html>

Mayor of Memphis, TN



Paul Young

<https://memphistn.gov/government-mayor/#:~:text=Mayor%20Paul%20Young&text=Paul%20Young%20was%20sworn%20in,the%20late%20Bishop%20William%20Young.>

City Council Members: <https://memphistn.gov/city-council/>



Rhonda Logan
District 1



Jerri Green
District 2



Pearl Eva Walker
District 3

City Council Members: <https://memphistn.gov/city-council/>



Jana Swearengen-Washington
District 4



Philip Spinoso
District 5



Edmund Ford, Sr.
District 6

City Council Members: <https://memphistn.gov/city-council/>



Michalyn Easter-Thomas
District 7



JB Smiley, Jr. - Chairman
District 8-1



Janika White
District 8-2

City Council Members: <https://memphistn.gov/city-council/>



Yolanda Cooper-Sutton
District 8-3



Chase Carlisle
District 9-1



J. Ford Canale
District 9-2

City Council Members: <https://memphistn.gov/city-council/>




Jeff Warren
District 9-3

Schools In Area

University of Memphis : [Share](#)

Memphis, TN · Public · 4-year

[Overview](#) [Majors](#) [Admissions](#) [Cost](#) [Notes](#)



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Acceptance rate	Total enrollment
94.6% 2022 IPEDS	20,585 2015

3720 Alumni Ave, Memphis, TN 38152


Closed · Opens 8AM Tue

(901) 678-2000

Rhodes College : [Share](#)

Memphis, TN · Private, non-profit · 4-year

[Overview](#) [Admissions](#) [Cost](#) [Majors](#) [Notes](#)



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Acceptance rate	Students
53.9% 2022 IPEDS	2,008 (Fall 2022)

2000 North Pkwy, Memphis, TN 38112

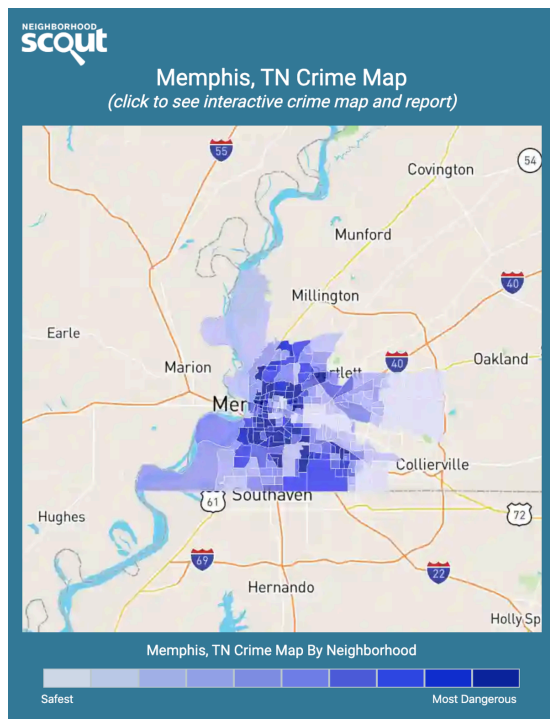
Community Crime Report





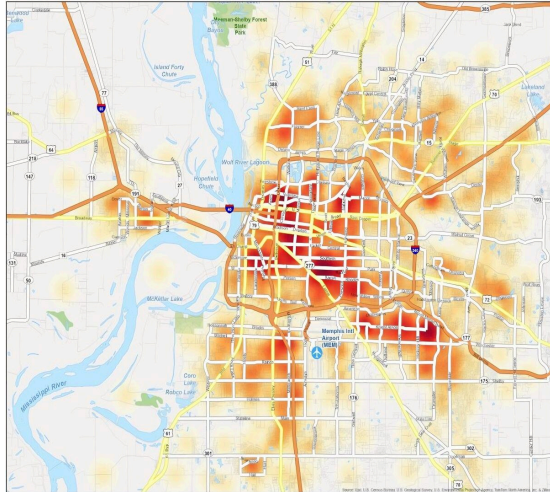
<https://crimegrade.org/safest-places-in-memphis-tn/>

NEIGHBORHOOD
scout



<https://www.neighborhoodscout.com/tn/memphis/crime.amp>

GISGeography



<https://gisgeography.com/memphis-crime-map/>

SpotCrime



<https://spotcrime.com/TN/Memphis/Downtown>

areavibes



<https://www.areavibes.com/memphis-tn/crime/>

Man arrested for shooting wife at apartment complex in South Memphis



<https://www.actionnews5.com/2025/04/21/man-arrested-shooting-wife-apartm ent-complex-south-memphis/>

Man being held on \$5 million after deadly shooting in Frayser, DA's Office says



<https://www.actionnews5.com/2025/05/15/man-being-held-5-million-after-deadly-shooting-frayser-das-office-says/>

Woman dead after shooting in Frayser, police say



<https://www.actionnews5.com/2025/05/18/woman-dead-after-shooting-frayser-police-say/>

Man seriously injured in Frayser shooting, MPD says



https://www.fox13memphis.com/news/man-seriously-injured-in-frayser-shooting-mpd-says/article_73eceb0f-26e6-4f64-afb4-6dd4cf1f1daf.html

Man admits to shooting man in the back, dumping his body in McKeller Lake, police say



https://www.fox13memphis.com/news/man-admits-to-shooting-man-in-the-back-dumping-his-body-in-mckeller-lake-police/article_1990329f-517b-4790-863f-aca0034cf3ed.html

Two people dead after gunfire in South Memphis, police say



https://www.fox13memphis.com/news/two-people-dead-after-gunfire-in-south-memphis-police-say/article_a8f10581-6501-47fa-a1b7-254cc324744c.html

Community News



‘Behavior has become intolerable’: Mayor Harris’s team will no longer attend commission meetings

https://www.actionnews5.com/2025/05/16/behavior-has-become-intolerable-mayor-harriss-team-will-no-longer-attend-commission-meetings/?utm_source=taboola&utm_medium=organicclicks&tbref=hp



FBI Director Kash Patel targets Memphis in Fox News show: How homicide rate factors in

<https://www.commercialappeal.com/story/news/2025/05/19/kash-patel-memphis-fbi-office/83723087007/#>



3 former Memphis police officers found not guilty in the death of Tyre Nichols

<https://www.npr.org/2025/05/07/nx-s1-5388488/three-memphis-police-officers-found-not-guilty-in-the-death-of-tyre-nichols#:~:text=Personalize%20Your%20Experience-,3%20former%20Memphis%20officers%20not%20guilty%20in%20death%20of%20Tyre,charge%20of%20second%2Ddegree%20murder.>



Elon Musk's xAI accused of pollution over Memphis supercomputer

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/apr/24/elon-musk-xai-memphis>

Here's a more detailed breakdown of the concerns:

Air Pollution:

The data center is expected to use a large number of methane gas turbines, which generate significant air pollution. These turbines release smog-forming pollutants and hazardous chemicals like formaldehyde, potentially impacting the health of nearby residents.

Lack

of Transparency:

Residents and environmental groups have raised concerns about the company's lack of transparency and public input in the permitting process for the turbines. They argue that community input has been limited and the company has not been open about its plans.

Environmental Justice:

South Memphis, where the data center is located, is already a historically disadvantaged area with high levels of industrial pollution. Residents are concerned that the new data center will further exacerbate these issues, leading to disproportionate health risks for the community.

Pending Air Permits:

xAI has applied for air permits for the facility, but they are pending, and some community groups are urging local officials to deny the permits.