

WI-FI
The Cedars Guest

PASSWORD
211WoodSt

CHECK-IN / OUT
3 PM · 11 AM

EMERGENCY
911



The Cedars · 1863

Self-directed writing residency — one writer at a time, 2 or 4 weeks. Housing, utilities, laundry, internet, and TV included. See your signed Residency Agreement for legal terms.

HOUSE RULES

- Quiet hours: 10 PM – 8 AM · no overnight guests without approval
- No pets · no smoking or vaping anywhere on the property
- No candles · no grilling on the back porches
- Arthur the orange cat may come inside — don't feed; careful when driving

SECURITY, CLIMATE & PARKING

- Lock front door · return key to hall table · lost key **\$100** replacement fee
- Thermostat: south wall of dining room
- Checkout thermostat: 80°F or 60°F
- Two-car driveway

ROOM BY ROOM

ENTRY HALL Front door; entry table for keys	LIVING ROOM Workspace; TV; porch access	DINING & OFFICE Desk; thermostat; dining table
FULL KITCHEN Stocked for cooking	SOUTH BEDROOM King bed; armoire; iron; shower	NORTH BEDROOM Queen bed; bathtub; back patio
WEST PORCH Covered; yard view	NORTH PORCH Laundry room	BASEMENT Arthur cat; letterpress

KITCHEN & LAUNDRY

- Full appliances; food on hand free to use
- Laundry: soap provided — clothes/towels only
- Iron and ironing board in south bedroom closet

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Bin by driveway — curb Wednesday night for Thursday pickup
- Tie bags closed; strap the lid shut (raccoons)
- No recycling (available in Oxford)

WRITING SPACES

- Living room and dining/office — primary workspaces
- Porches for reading
- Your work remains yours

EMERGENCIES

- **Dial 911 for emergencies**
- First-aid kits in bathrooms
- Fire extinguisher in every room
- notify hosts of concerns

THE LANDSCAPE

The Yocona/Yoknapatawpha valley — Faulkner's "postage stamp of native soil." The Cedars sits in downtown Water Valley, walking distance to groceries, coffee, and a bookstore. Twenty minutes from Oxford, an hour from Clarksdale, ninety from Memphis.



Downtown Water Valley — a few blocks from The Cedars

A small railroad town in the North Mississippi hill country — walkable, unhurried, and full of character. Most of what you need is within ten minutes on foot from 211 Wood Street.

WHERE TO EAT

- **The B.T.C.** — Groceries upstairs; lunch and coffee downstairs
- **El Charrito's** — Mexican; margaritas
- **Crawdad Hole** — Seafood and po'boys
- **Dunn's Main Street Treats · Hummingbird Bakery · Magnolia Coffee Co.**

GROCERIES & ESSENTIALS

- **B.T.C.** — Best local produce and staples
- **Lawson's Cost-Plus · Dollar General**
- **Turnage's Drug Store** — Pharmacy
- **Main Street Fitness**
- **Yalobusha General Hospital**

CULTURE & BROWSING

- **Violet Valley Bookstore** — Essential for writers
- **Water Valley Blackmuir Library**
- **Casey Jones Railway Museum**

A MORNING DOWNTOWN

- 8:00**
Magnolia Coffee
- 9:30**
Violet Valley Bookstore
- 11:00**
B.T.C. — lunch or groceries
- 3:00**
Walk back to The Cedars

Watermelon Carnival — Two-day festival, first Saturday of August. Parades, food, music — free and open to all.

VISITOR TIPS

- Everything downtown is walkable from The Cedars — no car needed for errands
- No Sunday alcohol sales; no dedicated bars in town
- Many shops keep limited hours — call ahead if unsure
- Cash helps at smaller spots; cards widely accepted

GETTING AROUND

- **Memphis Airport Shuttle** — Daily Memphis ↔ Oxford
- **Rideshare** from Oxford · **Rental car** for day trips
- Oxford ~20 min · Clarksdale ~1 hr · Memphis ~90 min via Hwy 7

Oxford (~20 min north on Hwy 7, then Hwy 6 east) is the literary capital of the South. Clarksdale (~1 hr on Hwy 7 to Hwy 49 north) is the heart of Delta blues country. Both make excellent day trips — or half-day escapes when you need inspiration away from the desk.

Oxford

~20 MIN · LITERARY SOUTH

Square Books — Three stores on the Square; signed editions, staff picks, readings. Start here.

Off Square Books — Events, Thacker Mountain Radio tapings, general trade titles.

Rowan Oak — Faulkner's home and woods; open Tue–Sat; allow 1–2 hours.

St. Peter's Cemetery — Faulkner's grave; bring pens for the tradition of leaving one.

The Square — City Grocery, Ajax Diner, Bottletree Bakery, Neilson's (since 1839).

Ole Miss campus — Lyceum, the Grove, Archives & Special Collections.

Blues Archive — On campus; one of the world's great blues collections.

Thacker Mountain Radio — Live literary/music broadcast; check thackermountain.com for schedule.

Lamar Park — Walking trails and lake; good for clearing your head.

Getting there — Hwy 7 north to Hwy 6 east; park near the Square and walk.

Clarksdale

~1 HR · DELTA BLUES

Delta Blues Museum — Mississippi's oldest music museum; Muddy Waters artifacts.

The Crossroads — Highways 61 & 49; the mythic Robert Johnson intersection.

Ground Zero Blues Club — Co-owned by Morgan Freeman; live blues most nights.

Red's Lounge — Authentic juke joint; raw Delta blues; cash helps.

Cat Head Delta Blues — Records, books, folk art; ask what's happening tonight.

Hopson Plantation — Commissary and blues history; mechanical cotton picker site.

Abe's Barbecue — At the Crossroads since 1924; tamales and BBQ.

Mississippi Blues Trail — Markers throughout town — pick up a map at the museum.

Getting there — Hwy 7 to Hwy 49 north; plan to stay past dark for live music.

SAMPLE DAY — OXFORD

Morning

Square Books → coffee on the Square → Rowan Oak

Midday

Lunch at Ajax or City Grocery → stroll Neilson's

Afternoon

St. Peter's Cemetery → Blues Archive or Lamar Park

Evening

Thacker Mountain taping if scheduled; dinner on the Square

OXFORD TIPS

- Game days (Ole Miss football) fill the Square — check the schedule.
- Rowan Oak closes at 4 PM; go early.
- The Square is compact — park once, walk everywhere.
- Square Books hosts authors year-round; check their events calendar.

SAMPLE EVENING — CLARKSDALE

4:00 PM

Delta Blues Museum — allow 90 minutes

5:30 PM

Cat Head — ask who's playing tonight

6:30 PM

Dinner at Abe's or Ground Zero

8:00 PM

Ground Zero or Red's for live blues

Late

Drive back via Hwy 7 — dark rural roads; take your time

CLARKSDALE TIPS

- Live music peaks Thu–Sat; some venues quiet on Mon–Wed.
- Red's is informal — expect smoke, heat, and real Delta atmosphere.
- Ground Zero has food and AC; good entry point for first-timers.
- Combine with a daytime Delta drive — cotton fields, silos, flat horizon.
- Fill your gas tank before you go; fewer stations on rural highways.

Memphis (~90 min via Hwy 7 to I-55 north) is likely your arrival or departure city — Memphis International (MEM) has the best flight options. Plan at least one full day for the city; two if you want Graceland and the major museums.

Memphis

~90 MIN · MUSIC & HISTORY

National Civil Rights Museum — Lorraine Motel; essential; allow half a day.

Stax Museum of American Soul — Soulsville USA; interactive and moving.

Sun Studio — Guided tours; birthplace of rock and roll.

Beale Street — Live music; best after dark; cover charges vary.

Graceland — Elvis's estate; plan 3–4 hours; buy tickets online.

Brooks Museum — Overton Park; Southern art collection.

Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum — On Beale; good overview if time is short.

Slave Haven / Burkle Estate — Underground Railroad history.

Getting there — Hwy 7 to I-55 north; MEM airport south of downtown.

SAMPLE DAY — MEMPHIS

Morning

Civil Rights Museum — arrive at opening

Midday

Central BBQ (Midtown or Downtown) or Cozy Corner

2:00 PM

Sun Studio tour — book ahead on weekends

4:00 PM

Stax Museum or Brooks in Overton Park

Evening

Beale Street — live blues and neon

BARBECUE SHORTLIST

- **Central BBQ** — Ribs and pork; several locations
- **Cozy Corner** — Dry-rub ribs; cash-friendly
- **Payne's** — Fried bologna sandwich legend
- **The Bar-B-Q Shop** — Local favorite on Madison

MEMPHIS & TRAVEL TIPS

→MEM is 90 min from Water Valley — allow buffer time for flights.

→Memphis Airport Shuttle runs Memphis ↔ Oxford daily; rideshare or hosts can bridge Oxford ↔ Water Valley.

→Downtown Memphis parking is manageable on weekdays; weekends get busy near Beale.

→Graceland is in South Memphis — separate from downtown museums.

→Summer heat is intense — carry water; many lines are outdoors.

→Cooper-Young and Overton Square neighborhoods worth a meal if you have time.

LIFE AT THE CEDARS

Between day trips, the house is yours — cook in the full kitchen, read on the west porch, work at the dining room desk. That's the point of a self-directed residency.

BEFORE YOU GO

Leave towels in shower or tub

Thermostat 80°F or 60°F

Key on hall table

Text or email hosts when you've left

Unplug chargers

Wednesday: trash to curb; strap lid shut

HOSTS & RESIDENCY

Daniel Uncapher · 662-473-7609 · Deirdre Uncapher · 662-202-2343 · apply@thecedarsresidency.org · thecedarsresidency.org · Off-season rental: thecedars.xyz

"To understand the world, you must first understand a place like Mississippi."

— William Faulkner

Thank you — and good writing.