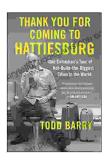
### Thank You for Coming to Hattiesburg: Unlocking the Hidden Treasures of the Hub City



Thank You for Coming to Hattiesburg: One Comedian's Tour of Not-Quite-the-Biggest Cities in the World

#### by Todd Barry

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Welcome to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, the vibrant and welcoming "Hub City" of the Pine Belt region. As you explore this charming destination, you'll discover a rich tapestry of history, culture, and attractions that will leave an unforgettable impression.

#### A Journey Through Time: Embracing Hattiesburg's History

Hattiesburg's origins can be traced back to the 1880s, when it was founded as a railroad town. Its strategic location at the crossroads of several major rail lines propelled its growth and prosperity. Over the years, Hattiesburg has witnessed significant events and played a vital role in the development of the region. One of the most notable historical landmarks is the Hattiesburg Depot Museum, which houses a fascinating collection of artifacts and exhibits that narrate the city's rich past. From the bustling days of the railroad era to the impact of the Civil Rights Movement, the museum offers a captivating glimpse into Hattiesburg's historical journey.

### **Unveiling the Cultural Treasures of Hattiesburg**

Hattiesburg is a melting pot of diverse cultures, each contributing its unique flavor to the city's fabric. The vibrant live music scene is a testament to the city's artistic spirit, with renowned venues such as the Saenger Theater and the Thirsty Hippo hosting a wide range of performances throughout the year.

Art enthusiasts will find themselves drawn to the Hattiesburg Arts Council Gallery, showcasing the works of local and regional artists. The University of Southern Mississippi's Cook Library houses a remarkable collection of art and artifacts, including a rare first edition of Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer." For a deeper immersion into the region's heritage, the Longleaf Trace Cultural Heritage Center provides an interactive and engaging experience.

#### Indulging in Hattiesburg's Culinary Delights

Hattiesburg's culinary landscape is a tantalizing blend of Southern hospitality and international flavors. From traditional Southern comfort food to innovative fusion cuisine, the city's restaurants cater to every palate.

Start your culinary adventure at The Depot Kitchen & Market, a charming eatery housed within the historic train depot. Enjoy classic Southern dishes with a contemporary twist, accompanied by live music on the weekends. For a taste of authentic Mexican flavors, head to El Agave Azul, known for its mouthwatering tacos and refreshing margaritas.

#### **Exploring Hattiesburg's Outdoor Retreats**

Hattiesburg offers a refreshing escape into nature with its beautiful parks and recreational areas. The lush Longleaf Trace, a 44-mile paved trail, invites visitors to embark on leisurely walks, bike rides, or inline skating amidst picturesque scenery. Within the city limits, Kamper Park provides a serene oasis with a serene lake, walking trails, and a playground, perfect for family outings.

For an immersive wildlife experience, visit the Mississippi Flyway Center. This state-of-the-art facility offers interactive exhibits and stunning views of the flyway, where millions of migratory birds rest and refuel during their annual journeys.

#### Family-Friendly Adventures in Hattiesburg

Hattiesburg is a family-friendly destination with a range of attractions and activities designed to entertain and educate children of all ages.

The Hattiesburg Zoo is a beloved attraction, home to a diverse collection of animals from around the world. Children will also enjoy the hands-on exhibits at the Mississippi Children's Museum, where they can engage in creative play and learn through interactive experiences.

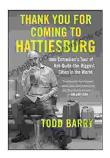
For an unforgettable outdoor adventure, visit the Hattiesburg Waterpark, featuring thrilling water slides, a lazy river, and a splash pad, providing endless fun for the whole family.

As you depart from Hattiesburg, we bid you farewell with heartfelt gratitude for your visit. We trust that you have experienced the warmth of our hospitality, the richness of our culture, and the allure of our natural beauty. May the memories you have made here linger in your hearts forever.

Hattiesburg, the "Hub City" of the Pine Belt, is a vibrant and welcoming destination that offers a wealth of experiences for every traveler. Whether you're a history buff, a culture enthusiast, a foodie, an outdoor adventurer, or a family seeking quality time together, Hattiesburg has something for you. We invite you to return and explore even more of the hidden treasures that await you in this captivating city.

#### **Explore More of Hattiesburg**

Hattiesburg Convention & Visitors Bureau



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