



# MEMPHIS

## BBQ TRAIL

### IN MEMPHIS, WE KNOW HOW TO THROW DOWN.

Let's face it, The World Barbecue Championship is here for a reason.

Whether it's savory pulled pork, racks of succulent ribs, or a plate with it all plus mouth-watering sides, there's so much to eat and so little time!

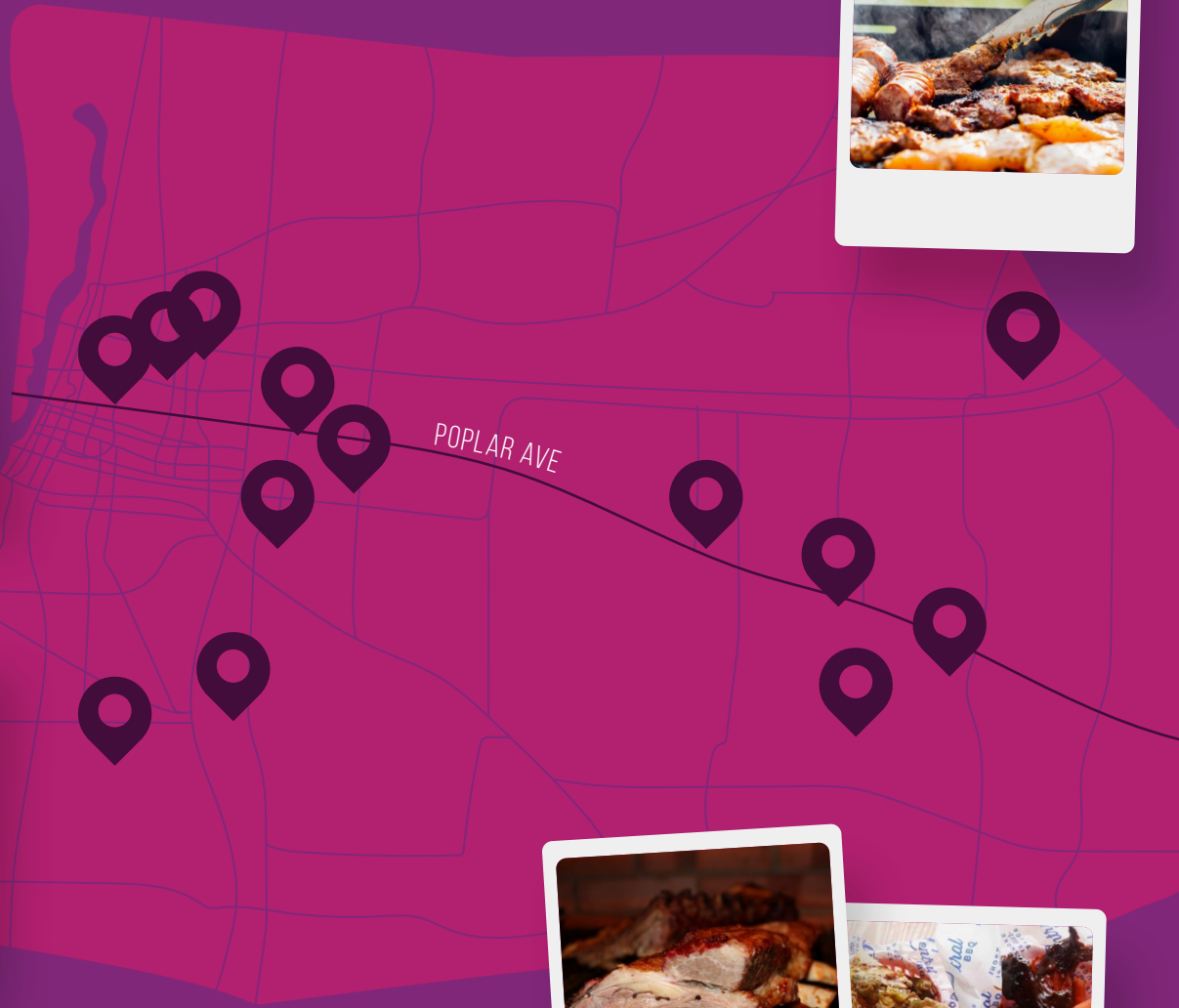
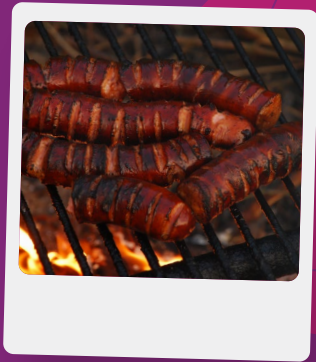
We've taken off the BBQ adventure planning pressure and have laid out the perfect trail to enjoy the most of Memphis' most iconic food. There's over 100 BBQ restaurants in the city

and, even though we can't add them all, this is the perfect start to your Memphis culinary adventure.

Get ready to dig in!

We want to see your trail photos! Tag **@wearememphisfood** and use the hashtag **#memphisbbqtrail** to show off your food photo skills!





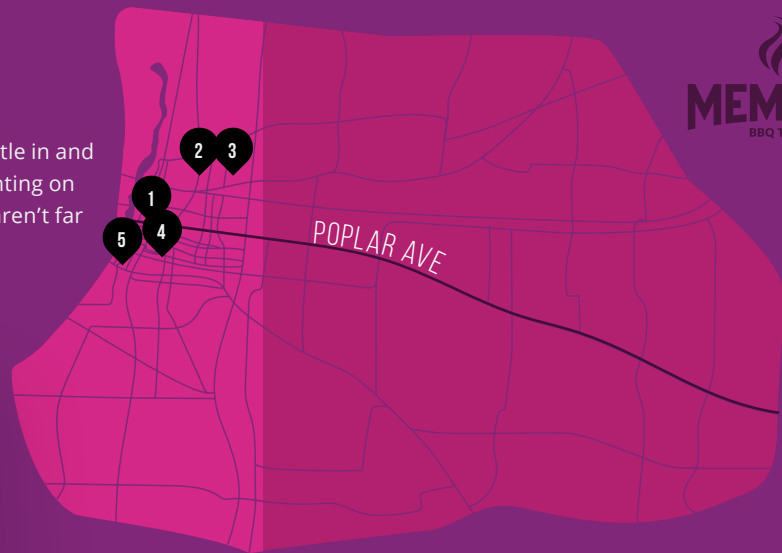
# WHAT MAKES MEMPHIS BBQ UNIQUE

There are other cities who do BBQ, but none do it like we do. In Memphis, you'll get a wide range of BBQ to try-- whether you like your ribs "wet" (slathered in a sweet, savory, and spicy sauce) or dry (rubbed down with spice mixes that can vary from restaurant to restaurant), you're bound to find your favorite on your trail trek. Don't just stick to

the traditional 'que! Memphis is also known for putting their own spin on these smoky classics. From BBQ nachos and bologna sandwiches to BBQ spaghetti and smoked wings, we don't just play the game, we reinvented it!

# DOWNTOWN

This trail starts right in the middle of the hustle and bustle in and around Downtown Memphis. Whether you're mural hunting on Main Street or checking out the Bass Pro Pyramid, you aren't far from some great Memphis 'que.



## 2 COZY CORNER

Y'all know all about ribs and pulled pork, but have you had a barbecued cornish hen? Even if you have, you haven't had it done right until you've tasted the ones from Cozy. The American Royal Barbecue Hall of Fame knows what's up- In 2020, pitmaster Desiree Robinson was inducted into their ranks!

**Pro Tip:** Even though Memphis' dry rubs can't be beat, Cozy turns up the heat with some deliciously spicy sauces. Try them out!

735 North Pkwy, Memphis, TN 38105  
(901) 527-9158

## 4 BLUES CITY CAFE

This spot is right at the entrance to Beale, so it makes sense that it's such a popular spot! Focus on the ribs, but don't be afraid to get into all the other Southern favorites (if you have the room). If you're looking for succulent, fall off the bone, authentically Memphis ribs, this local spot is sure to please.

**Pro Tip:** Stop here before getting your Beale Street party on! With all the fun to be had on Beale, you're going to want to fill up.

138 Beale St, Memphis, TN 38103  
(901) 527-9158

## 1 THE RENDEZVOUS

With over 70 years of cooking up some great barbecue under their belt, The Rendezvous is the perfect addition to your Memphis barbecue experience. The Vergos family has perfected their spice blend and you can't miss it. It's right across the street from The Peabody Hotel and right next to the Canopy Hotel (be sure to take a photo in front of the mural)!

**Pro Tip:** Fridays are perfect for trying out their spicy, savory red beans and rice!

52 S 2nd St, Memphis, TN 38103  
(901) 523-2746

## 3 JIM NEELY'S INTERSTATE BAR-B-QUE

The Neelys aren't just a household name in Memphis, this famous family is known nationwide! Whether you've seen them on tv or heard about them from a local who knows good food, you're in for one of the best BBQ meals.

**Pro Tip:** Come hungry! At Interstate, the meat is key. The menu is packed with favorites to try, so definitely make sure you have the room!

1023 Jackson Ave, Memphis, TN 38107  
(901) 425-3115

## 5 SMURFEY'S SMOKEHOUSE FOOD TRUCK

Why not mix things up and add a can't miss food truck to your BBQ adventure? Smurfey's is a local favorite! The truck has all the Memphis BBQ staples, but you'll also find some signature dishes too!

**Pro Tip:** Get the loaded potatoes! From chopped chicken to a veggie medley, you can't miss one of these savory show-stoppers!

Check Facebook for Rotating Locations  
(901) 230-7055

## SHARE YOUR BBQ STORY!

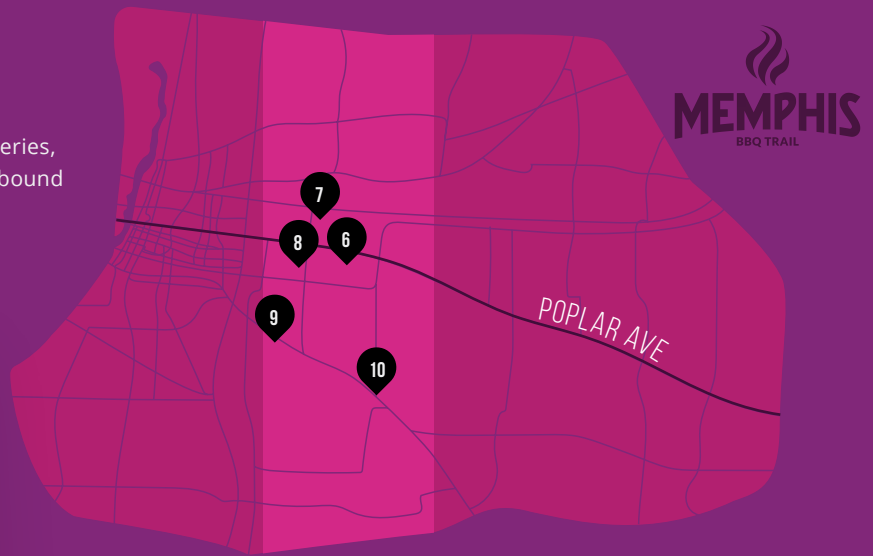
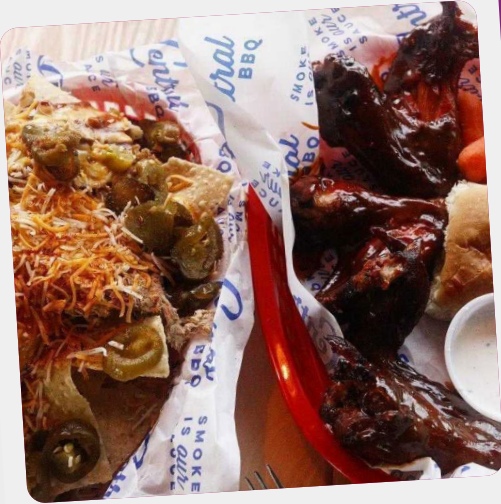
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# MIDTOWN

Look at you, making your way through the 901! With breweries, shopping districts, museums, and so much more, there's bound to be some amazing barbecue around the corner.



## 6 CENTRAL BBQ

A Memphis barbecue trail wouldn't be a Memphis barbecue trail without including a stop at Central Barbecue. There are so many things you can't miss at this spot--from the barbecue nachos to their smoked wings (which we recommend getting smothered in Memphis' favorite Honey Gold sauce), you've got so many options for a killer meal!

**Pro Tip:** The barbecue nachos are A-1 as is, but, if you really want to shake it up, ask to switch out the tortilla chips with their house chips. Top. Tier.

2249 Central Ave, Memphis, TN 38104  
(901) 272-9377

## 8 PAYNE'S BAR-B-QUE

Payne's is a Memphis institution and is the definition of a Southern barbecue experience. There are no frills at Payne's--all you need is their amazing food. Their smoked shoulder sandwiches are a must have, but don't miss out on getting smoked sausage or bologna!

**Pro Tip:** If you think you don't like coleslaw, think again. Payne's slaw is the perfect balance of sweet, tangy, savory goodness that brings their sandwiches to a whole 'nother level!

1762 Lamar Ave, Memphis, TN 38114  
(901) 272-1523

## 10 BALL HOGGERZ BBQ

Ball Hoggerz may be one of the newer spots on the trail, but they can definitely keep up with the BBQ royalty. This spot has quickly become a local favorite and is perfect for some Memphis 'que done right!

**Pro Tip:** If you need something extra to add to your meal, grab some honey gold wings!

1404 Airways Blvd, Memphis, TN 38114  
(901) 279-1758

## 7 THE BAR-B-Q SHOP

While you're at Overton Square for some local shopping, make sure you stop into The Bar-B-Q as soon as you get hungry! The name probably sounds familiar as stores across the South keep the Vernon family's famous Dancing Pig sauces and seasonings in stock! You have to taste the mouthwatering flavors on their ribs-- The Food Network rated them as a top spot for a reason!

**Pro Tip:** The Bar-B-Q Spaghetti. Don't ask, just do. Your tastebuds will thank you later!

1782 Madison Ave, Memphis, TN 38104  
(901) 272-1277

## 9 A&R BBQ

A&R is the definition of a local favorite and for good reason! Their menu features all of the classic barbecue dishes that we know and love (plus a few with their own special twist).

Memphians will tell you to make sure that their rib tips make it on your plate. Whether you get the sandwich, fries, or all on their own, you can't go without them!

**Pro Tip:** Patience is a virtue! In Memphis, we all know that the best food can take a minute plus, who doesn't want their plate to be fresh and piping hot? Call in that order and hang out around Midtown until it's ready.

1802 Elvis Presley Blvd, Memphis, TN 38106  
(901) 774-7444

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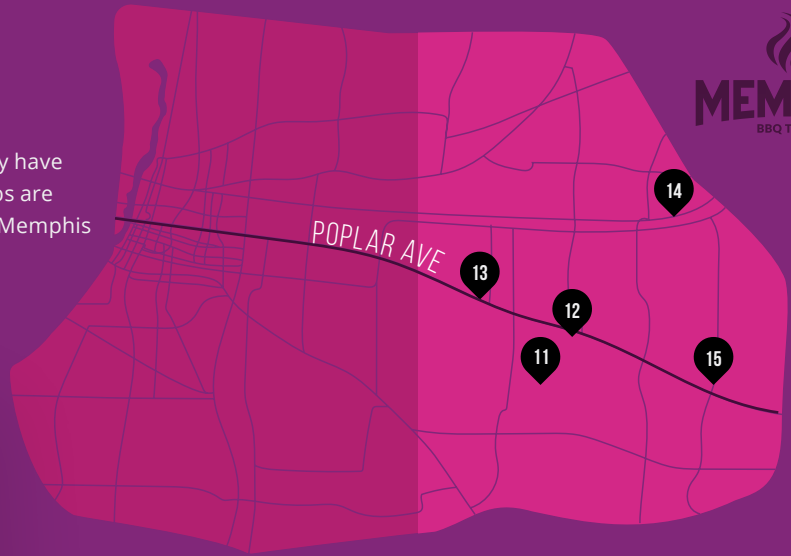
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# OUT EAST

The adventure continues! Downtown and Midtown may have more nightlife, but the restaurants in Memphis' suburbs are among the best. Keep heading out east for even more Memphis BBQ goodness!



## 12 ONE & ONLY

Flavorful and tender meat is the name of this barbecue shop's game. Whether you're going in for a pulled chicken sandwich, a barbecue quesadilla, or any of the classic faves, you'll quickly understand why some Memphians make a stop at least once a week.

**Pro Tip:** Millie's Banana Pudding is nothing to play with! Your meal isn't done until you top it off with this Southern staple.

1779 Kirby Pkwy #1A, Memphis, TN 38138  
(901) 751-3615

## 14 LEONARD'S PIT BARBECUE

When you talk about Memphis institutions, you can't leave out Leonard's. This spot is not only a local favorite, but their food is off the charts! From mouth watering ribs to knock your socks off sandwiches, there's a reason Leonard's has been loved since 1922.

**Pro Tip:** If you're a fan of the thickest cut bologna sandwiches, Leonard's is your heaven. It's a must have!

465 N Germantown Pkwy #116, Cordova, TN 38018  
(901) 509-2360

## 11 TOPS BBQ

Ready for one of the most convenient stops on the trail? There's no need to get out of the car for great BBQ with Tops' drive through! Whether you're getting barbecue classics or kicking in up a notch with their Flaming Hot Cheetos Nachos, you're in for a super savory treat.

**Pro Tip:** You should definitely try their barbecue options, but any Memphian knows that Tops makes one of the meanest burgers in town!

2857 Kirby Rd Suite 119, Memphis, TN 38119  
(901) 529-7798

## 13 CORKY'S

With multiple locations across the state (and the country), Corky's may be a pretty familiar name.

**Pro Tip:** You may be looking for all the ribs, pulled pork, and smoked chicken you can eat, but don't skip over the appetizers. The sauce and cheese plate is the Memphis version of grazing board and makes the meal even more delicious!

5259 Poplar Ave, Memphis, TN 38119  
(901) 685-9744

## 15 THE COMMISSARY BBQ

The Commissary is the furthest away from the city center, but you're going to want to make the drive for their delicious BBQ. Being out east means that so many Memphians grab some 'que for family dinner and get together--it's a tradition! They've got the classics but, if you're going for something more unique, this is your sign to try out their BBQ pizza!

**Pro Tip:** The Commissary knows how to make some sides! When you order your meal, be sure to load up!

2290 S Germantown Rd, Germantown, TN 38138  
(901) 754-5540

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# SHOP MEMPHIS

Now that you've got the trail map, all that's left is the perfect 'fit! Whether you're looking to make everyone jealous back home or a local foodie wanting to rep our local 'que, you can't go wrong with a t-shirt! Check out the merch!



MEMPHIS TEE  
[SHOP](#)



MEMPHIS TEE  
[SHOP](#)



MEMPHIS TEE  
[SHOP](#)



CLASSIC PULLOVER HOODIE  
[SHOP](#)

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