The Mississippi River is one of the world’s great rivers, second only to the Amazon and the Nile. For more than 2,500 miles, it winds its way through seven states – Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi – offering a rich tapestry of natural beauty, cultural history, and diverse attractions. From the headwaters in Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico, the Mississippi River is a vital resource, providing a vital transportation corridor, a source of drinking water, and a breeding ground for countless species of fish and wildlife. Today, the river is a symbol of American ingenuity, as seen in the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, one of the world’s tallest freestanding structures, and in the modern marvel of the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway, the longest over-water bridge in the world. Along the banks of the Mississippi, visitors can explore national parks, historic sites, and vibrant cities, all connected by a network of scenic byways that follow the river’s flow. Whether you’re an outdoor adventurer looking for hiking trails or a cultural hound interested in the music of the Delta, the Mississippi River Valley has something for everyone.