

since done a "takeover" of another small town, revitalizing Wetumpka, Alabama, a river town near Montgomery.

Must-See Attractions

If you only have time for one stop, make it Laurel Mercantile, the Napier's storefront that sells curated goods like Ben's own line of coffee, Erin's candles and copies of their book. It's the perfect spot for a souvenir! A few blocks away is The Scotsman General Store, which is attached to Ben's workshop in the old train depot. The store is stocked with snacks like popsicles along with gifts like bandanas for your fourlegged friends. There's also a glass window into the workshop where you might see the show being filmed! Lott Furniture Company is another local merchant, open since 1917.

Erin finds inspiration at the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, which opened in 1923 in a Georgian Revival building with metal columns forged locally. The collection includes works from all over the globe, including rare Native American baskets and first edition books by Mississippi native William Faulkner. But that's not the only place to see Laurel's artists. Murals can be found throughout downtown, including the "Welcome to Laurel" mural designed by Erin Napier and another proclaiming "Laurel Looks Good on You."

Another spot to visit is Landrum's Homestead & Village, a preserved 1800s farm, set on 30 acres with

over 85 intact buildings. The living history museum has been open since 1984, where visitors can learn about early life in Jones County. The homestead also hosts seasonal events and a holiday market.

Where to Eat

In the South, you're never far from a good meal and that certainly applies to Laurel. Despite its relatively small size, with under 20,000 residents, Laurel has a number of locallyowned restaurants. Bird Dog Cafe is a favorite of residents and visitors, featured as a design project in the fourth season of Home Town. By day, enjoy coffee and sandwiches in the cozy space filled with reclaimed wood and local artwork. By night, the cafe serves cocktails and hosts live music.

Open since 1948, Phillips Drive-In claims to have one of America's best burgers. Decide for yourself at this popular spot, which originated as a Dairy Queen before it was taken over by a local family. If you want a taste of New Orleans, visit Cafe la Fleur. The Cajuninspired menu includes dishes like boudin balls, seafood gumbo and po bous. They also have pasta and burgers.

Nearby Shopping

If you haven't yet gotten your fill of shopping in Laurel, the towns nearby have even more to choose from. Hattiesburg is a 30-minute drive south and is home to The Lucky Rabbit, a quirky shop featured on the show.



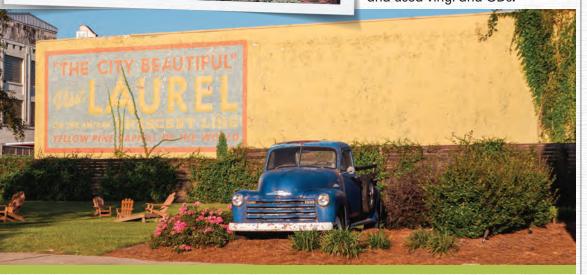






You'll find salvaged signs from restaurants, offbeat gifts, antiques and pop culture pop-up rooms. They've previously transformed spaces modeled after Schitt's Creek, Stranger Things and Home Alone.

Also in Hattiesburg is T-Bones Records & Café where you can find students from the University of Southern Mississippi doing homework over coffee as well as a selection of new and used vinyl and CDs.



The Carpenter Bros Emporium of Wonderful Whatnots & Hole In The Wall Food Joint in Ellisville is equal parts flea market and restaurant, with everything from clothing to books to kitschy artwork. Laurel, and its neighboring towns, is the perfect place to discover the appeals of small-town life and what can happen when communities come together.

Local Campgrounds

- Sleepy Hollow RV Park, Laurel (RV and tent sites, cabins) rvparklaurel.com
- Big Creek Park, Soso (RV and tent campsites, cabins) phwd.netl
- Hattiesburg KOA, Hattiesburg (RV and tent campsites, cabins) koa.com/campgrounds
- Turkey Fork RMA, Richton (RV and tent sites) fs.usda.gov