Janis Joplin has passed into the realm of legend: an outwardly brash yet inwardly vulnerable personality who possessed one of the most passionate voices in rock history. Come along on a road trip through her life in Port Arthur, Texas.

"Mercedes Benz"

Oh Lord, won’t you buy me a Mercedes Benz? My friends all drive Porsches, I must make amends. Worked hard all my lifetime, no help from my friends, So oh Lord, won’t you buy me a Mercedes Benz?

Oh Lord, won’t you buy me a color TV? Dialing for Dollars is trying to find me. I wait for delivery each day until three, So oh Lord, won’t you buy me a color TV?

Oh Lord, won’t you buy me a night on the town? I’m counting on you, Lord, please don’t let me down. Prove that you love me and buy the next round, So oh Lord, won’t you buy me a Mercedes Benz?

That’s it!

Words and music by Janis Joplin - lyrics as recorded by Janis Joplin on the 1971 album "Pearl" (Columbia VCK-30322)

Janis Joplin was a force to be reckoned with in the world of 1960s music. Her passionate and soulful song stylings made her one of the iconic voices of her generation. Since her death in 1970, she continues to affect fans of all ages the world over. For fans who have the opportunity to visit her home town of Port Arthur, here is a list of important sites in the early life of Janis Joplin:

- St. Mary’s Hospital located at 3600 Gates Blvd. Janis Lyn Joplin was born here on January 19, 1943 to Seth & Dorothy Joplin. She was their first child.
- Texaco Refinery located on 25th Street At the time of Janis’ birth and throughout her childhood, her father was an employee of the Texas Company (Texaco). Though the refinery now bears the name of MOTIVA, a historical marker stands as a testament to that company’s history.
- Joplin’s first home located at 4048 Procter Street On August 19, 1947, the Joplin’s purchased this property at 3130 Lombardy in Griffing Park. The address was later changed in 1982 when Griffing Park consolidated with the City of Port Arthur.
- Joplin’s childhood home located at 4330 32nd Street On August 19, 1947, the Joplin’s purchased this property at 3130 Lombardy in Griffing Park. The address was later changed in 1982 when Griffing Park consolidated with the City of Port Arthur.
- Joplin’s baptismal church located at 620 Woodworth Blvd. In the early 1950s, Janis along with her mother and younger sister Laura were members of the First Christian Church. Janis was baptized by immersion in 1950 by the Reverend John M. Hughes. Her mother taught Sunday school and Janis sang in the Youth Choir. Some years later a small painting of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane painted by Janis was found in the church closet. It is currently on view in the Museum of the Gulf Coast’s Music Hall. First Christian Church is now located at 5856 9th Ave. and displays an autographed photo of Janis in the choir.

Everyone!

Oh Lord, won’t you buy me a Mercedes Benz? My friends all drive Porsches, I must make amends. Worked hard all my lifetime, no help from my friends, So oh Lord, won’t you buy me a Mercedes Benz?

That’s it!

Words and music by Janis Joplin - lyrics as recorded by Janis Joplin on the 1971 album "Pearl" (Columbia VCK-30322)
He y, hey, hey, Bobby McGee, yeah
He y, hey, hey, Bobby McGee, Lord!
I said I call him my lover, did the best I can, c'mon
He y, now Bobby, now, hey, now Bobby McGee, yeah
La-da la-da la-da la-da la-da la-da la-la
He y, my Bobby, Lord, my Bobby McGee, yeah
Lo-da-la-lo da-la-lo da-la-lo da-la-lo-da-la
Lo-da-lo da-la-lo-da-la-lo-da-la-
He y, my Bobby, Lord, my Bobby McGee, yeah
La-da-da La da-da La da-da La da-da
I pulled my harpoon out of my dirty red bandana
It rode us all the way into New Orleans
La-da-da La da-da La da-da La da-da
I’s playin’ soft while Bobby sang the blues, yeah
Bobby thumbed a diesel down just before it trained
And I’s feelin’ near as faded as my jeans
Bus ted flat in Baton Rouge, waitin’ for a train
Me & Bobby McGee
Through all kinds of weather, through everything we done
There Bobby shared the secrets of my soul
Yeah, Bobby baby kept me from the cold
But I’d trade all my tomorrows for one single yesterday
He’s lookin’ for that home and I hope he finds it
To be holdin’ Bobby’s body next to mine
One day up near Salinas, Lord, I let him slip away
You know, feelin’ good was good enough for me
Freedom’s just another word for nothin’ left to lose
And feelin’ good was easy, Lord, when he sang the blues
Good enough for me and my Bobby McGee
But if feelin’ good was easy, Lord, when he sang the blues
Hey, feelin’ good was good enough for me, mm-hmm
Good enough for me and my Bobby McGee
Nothin’, that’s all that Bobby left me, yeah

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Thomas Jefferson High School
Janis attended grades 10-11 here. The school now serves as Edison Middle School.

Thomas Jefferson High School located at 4040 Ferndale
Janis attended grades 1-6 here. In 1950 she joined the Bluebirds, a young Camp Fire Girls club.

Woodrow Wilson Junior High located at 1500 Lakeshore
Janis attended grades 7-9 here.

Thomas Jefferson High School located at 5801 12th Street
Janis attended grades 10-11 here. The school now serves as Edison Middle School.

Me & Bobby McGee
Burlaitt family on a tour, working to raise money for their education. Bobby studied a drawer and then a book before it raised the hammer.
I pulled my harpoon out of my dirty red bandana
You know, feelin’ good was good enough for me

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Janis Joplin

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Thomas Jefferson High School located at 2200 Jefferson Drive
Janis attended her senior year of high school at this location. Here she was the first class to graduate from the new campus in the spring of 1960. The school now serves as Memorial High School.

St. Mark’s Methodist Church located at 3131 South Park
In 1965, Janis along with her mother and sister moved their church memberships to this church.

Port Arthur College located at 1500 Procter Street
After high school Janis attended Port Arthur College where she earned a Key Punch certificate and her mother worked as the Registrar. Janis later went on to study at Lamar University in Beaumont as a liberal arts major and the University of Texas at Austin as an art major. Port Arthur College is now Lamar State College - Port Arthur.

Coffee House located at 3632-34 Guldway Drive
As a teenager and young adult, Janis enjoyed spending time here. This was a gathering place for young people to drink coffee, listen to music and read poetry.

K PAC radio station located on the campus of Lamar State College
Janis often visited the radio station where a classmate worked as a disc jockey. The radio station later became the bookstore for Lamar State College - Port Arthur, however the radio tower is still proudly on view.

Pleasure Island
Anis often joined friends here where they gathered for bonfires and parties in the fishing shacks along the highway toward Holly Beach, Louisiana. Pleasure Island and Louisiana were popular escapes for many teenagers in Port Arthur during the 1960s. On these trips across the “river” Janis would visit such music clubs as The Big Oak, Buster’s and The Stateline taking in the unique mix of soul, blues, gospel and rock and roll that emanated from this region. Unfortunately none of these venues are still around.

Museum of the Gulf Coast located at 700 Procter Street
The Museum’s Music Hall of Fame features a permanent exhibit on the life and career of Janis Joplin with a wide array of art work, personal effects, photographs and memorabilia as well as a replica of Joplin’s painted Porsche. Audio-visual touch screens allow visitors to see and hear samples of Janis’ soulful performances. This Museum’s gift shop offers a wide variety of souvenirs commemorating Joplin’s influence and worldwide impact. In addition, visitors are welcome to view “Southern Discomfort,” a documentary made for Biography, available for viewing in the Museum’s Lloyd Hayes Theater. We recommend that visitors schedule film screenings in advance by calling 409-982-7000.

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JANUARY 19, 1988
Janis Joplin was inducted into the Museum of the Gulf Coast Music Hall of Fame.

JANUARY 12, 1995
Janis Joplin was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame at the tenth annual induction dinner.

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