



## Tourism

**Yes,** on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

### *Coast Convention Center Doubles in Size*

This summer the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center in Biloxi, Miss. will complete a \$57 million expansion of its convention center, adding more than 200,000 square feet of flexible meeting and exhibition space to the existing 180,000 square feet.

Originally built in 1977, the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center is already the largest beachfront facility of its kind. With the expansion, it will be able to compete with other centers across the country.

The new state-of-the-art facility, which coliseum Executive Director Bill Holmes refers to as a “diamond” and “economic engine,” has higher ceilings; larger loading docks; and sound proof, moveable walls. The new hall has the flexibility of being used as one to four rooms, and there are seven private meeting rooms, which will open into the hall and lobby area.

The expansion will allow for larger events, more elaborate exhibitions and ultimately, more visitors to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. It will also provide new office space for the Harrison County Tourism Commission.

The facility was designed by Eley Guild Hardy Architects and has a unique ‘wave’ roof over the east and west concourses. The giant ribbon-shaped structure varies from 40 to 60 feet high. General contractor for the project is W.G. Yates Construction.

Following completion of the expo hall, an east lobby will be added to the building. The final project will be the addition of a parking garage on the coliseum grounds, which should be completed by January 2010.

For more information on the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center, go to [www.mscoastcoliseum.com](http://www.mscoastcoliseum.com).



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