



The Grand Deep South March 17 - 29, 2014

Highlights

Civil War Sights of Vicksburg

Antebellum Mansions &

Cotton Plantations

Lafayette Cajun Country Sights

3 nights New Orleans

Natchez Pilgrimage Tour of Homes

Natchez Luncheon Cruise

Court of Two Sisters Jazz Brunch

New Orleans Narrated Swamp River Tour

Biloxi Shrimping Expedition

Graceland Tour

*Civil War History • Cotton Plantations ‡
Antebellum Mansions •
Cajun Country • The French Quarter*

Map at a Glance



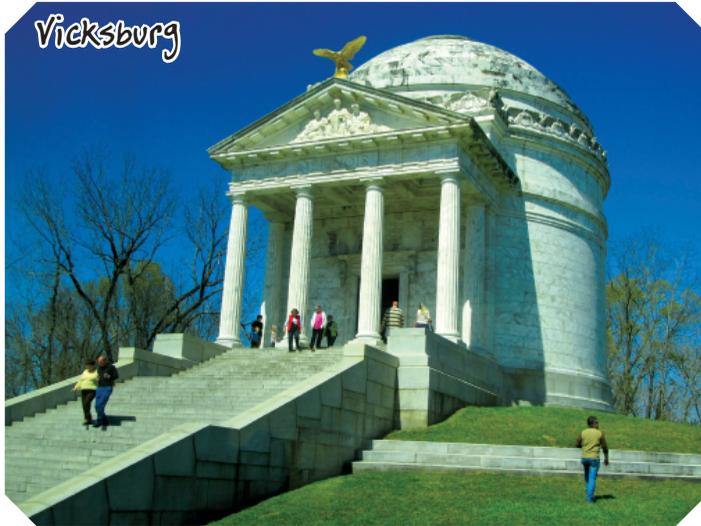


USS Cairo Museum

Day 4 - Natchez

A local guide joins us for the Natchez Pilgrimage Tour of Homes as we tour three of their beautiful antebellum mansions, which are more plentiful here than anywhere else in the United States. At this time we have not been told which homes we'll tour, but here are examples of past homes we've visited: Hawthorne, built in 1814 boasting outstanding architectural features including four doorways with identical elliptical fanlights and unusually high ceilings; Rosalie, built in 1820, located on the Mississippi Bluff. Rosalie was the headquarters of the Union Army during the War Between the States; and Elms Court, built between 1835-1840 and noted for being one of the most outstanding suburban villa residences in Natchez. Cross the Mississippi River and tour Frogmore Plantation, a 1,800-acre working cotton plantation from 1790. Experience slave culture, sharecropping, & more. Tonight enjoy a presentation called "Southern Exposure."

Included Meals: Breakfast



Vicksburg



Natchez

Day 1 - Home to Kansas City

Today we begin our journey to exciting Cajun Country and the deep south. Overnight in Kansas City this evening.

Hotel: Drury Inn

Day 2 - Kansas City to Little Rock

Take a scenic drive with sweeping vistas of the lovely Ozark Mountain country. We'll stop for a light lunch in Branson before our afternoon journey to Little Rock, Arkansas.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

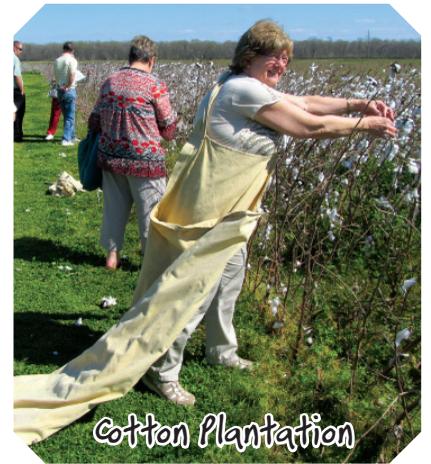
Hotel: Holiday Inn Conference Center

Day 3 - Little Rock to Natchez

Travel deep into the south to Vicksburg, steeped in ambiguous history. Tour the Vicksburg National Military Park, one of the best preserved Civil War Battlefields in America. It's here that one of the Civil War's most devastating battles took place. Tour the historic monuments, miles of reconstructed trenches, the restored Union gunboat USS Cairo, and the Vicksburg National Cemetery. Make our way to historic Natchez, featuring immense plantations and magnificent mansions from the booming days of the cotton industry. Experience true southern hospitality this evening at dinner at The Castle Restaurant. This evening the history of the South will come to life at the Confederate Pageant performance.

Included Meal: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Natchez Grand



Cotton Plantation



Confederate Pageant



Touring the beautiful Houmas House and enjoying its spectacular grounds & gardens

Day 5 - Natchez to Lafayette

Today with the help of a step-on guide we motor deep into the heart of Cajun Country to an area first settled by French Acadian farmers, historic Vermilionville, a restored Acadian village in the bayou. Local folk dressed in period costumes re-enact the colorful lifestyle of French settlers who moved here to escape British encroachment on Acadia. A scrumptious Cajun buffet is served, followed by workshops on Cajun/Creole music and their rural Cajun Mardi Gras. This evening R & J Tours has arranged for dance instructors to accompany us to Randol's, a cajun dance hall, for a delicious dinner and dancing. Enjoy live entertainment, good friends, and great conversation.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Hotel: Drury Inn & Suites

Day 6 - Lafayette to New Orleans

Travel the Old Spanish Trail, with mossy trees, swamps, and the misty, moody basin of the Atchafalaya River. Visit the beautiful Houmas House Plantation and Gardens on Louisiana's historic river road. Experience the original French provincial house, the mansion and carriage way to the grand home, described as "The Sugar Palace." Enjoy a delicious lunch and some time to walk through the beautiful gardens. Later, we will make our way to New Orleans. Your hotel is close by the French Quarter giving you opportunity to truly experience this exciting area.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Hotel: Drury Inn

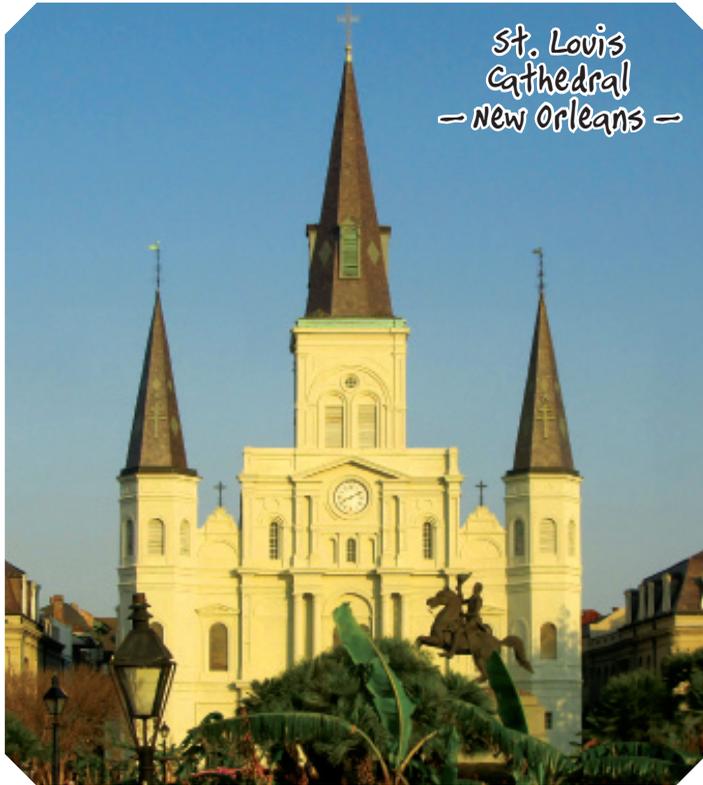


Day 7 - New Orleans

Our guide circles the sights of the French Quarter, including St. Louis Cathedral and its adjoining Cabildo, Bourbon Street Jazz District, French Market Place, Garden District, and the bustling harbor front. This afternoon we'll step on board the Steamboat Natchez for a lovely two hour cruise from the heart of the French Quarter back in time to when life was as slow and graceful as the current on the Mississippi. Along the way we'll enjoy a delicious creole lunch as we cruise along the river. The remainder of your day is at your leisure.



16 **Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**



St. Louis Cathedral
— New Orleans —

Day 8 - New Orleans

Experience a jazz brunch served at the famous Court of Two Sisters, where the food is great and the entertainment is grand. This afternoon we will take our swamp tour down the river and bayou area. Your captain is a native of the swamps and fully narrates your tour. Later in the day, you may have the option at your own cost to visit the WWII Museum or take a relaxing carriage ride through the French Quarter. Stop in at historic Cafe Du Monde for the famous cafe au lait and beignet's. Later stroll along Bourbon Street as the wonderful sounds of jazz and Dixieland music, and the delightful aroma of Creole and Cajun cooking fill the air.

Included Meals: Brunch

Day 9 - New Orleans to Biloxi

This morning we make our way along the sparkling Gulf Coast of Biloxi, a resort city famous for its shrimp and fishing fleets. We will stop at the Visitors Center before touring the Jefferson Davis Home & Presidential Library. Following lunch on our own, we are off for an unforgettable shrimping expedition. We will cruise along the scenic coastline and learn first hand the art of shrimping. Drive past picturesque harbors and the Biloxi Lighthouse. Tonight, stay at the Beau Rivage, perfectly placed on Biloxi's sparkling beachfront.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: The Beau Rivage Resort



Shrimping!



Day 10 - Biloxi to Memphis

We'll check into the Comfort Inn in downtown Memphis and freshen up for an exciting evening. Tour Graceland, the beautiful estate of the "King of Rock-n-Roll," Elvis Presley. Tonight visit famous Beale Street for a delightful dinner featuring southern delicacies at King's Palace.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Comfort Inn Downtown Memphis

Day 11 - Memphis to St. Louis

Our Step On Guide will take us on an exciting tour of Memphis, with a stop at famous St. Jude's Hospital. View beautifully restored mansions, breathtaking views of the mighty Mississippi River, and parkways lined with expertly sculpted trees. Imagine the music of Beale Street, Historic Entertainment District, with its enticing "Red, Hot, and Blue" rhythms. Along the way, our guide will tell of the adventures and tragedies that have made Memphis what it is today... and infused it with all its good old-fashioned Southern Charm.

We'll make our way to St. Louis for the evening.

Hotel: Drury Inn

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 12 - St. Louis to Iowa City, IA

This morning following breakfast, we'll discover St. Louis with our terrific local guide, bringing St. Louis to life. You'll learn and discover so much more than you ever imagined about St. Louis! Motor up through Missouri and into Iowa to Coralville, a suburb of Iowa City, where we will check into our hotel.

Included Meals: Light Breakfast

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express

Day 13 - Coralville to Home

After breakfast we make our final stretch home.

Included Meals: Breakfast



Jefferson Davis Home

Biloxi

"We have traveled with other tour companies - none of which are comparable to R&J Tours. Very well organized. All in all, a great experience!"
Henry & Twylla, Elk River MN

2014 DATES & PRICES

DATES:	March 17 - 29, 2014 (13 Days)	
PRICE PER PERSON:	\$2,499 Double \$2,299 Triple	\$3,249 Single \$2,199 Quad
PRICE INCLUDES:	20 Meals, Hotels & Activities as stated in brochure, Luxury Motorcoach	
DEPOSIT DUE PER PERSON:	\$100 deposit per person at time of reservation. Full payment due 30 days prior to departure.	
OPTIONAL TRAVEL PROTECTION PP:	\$149 double pp	\$205 single pp
TRAVEL BUCKS:	\$35 per person on future travel with R & J	
TOUR PACE:	Moderate Walking	