



New Orleans - Natchez - Biloxi

# The Grand Deep South



Longwood

March 25 - April 6, 2020 (13 days)



Enjoying the white sand of Biloxi's coast



Beautiful time of year to explore the South!

## MAP AT A GLANCE



## HIGHLIGHTS



**Civil War Sights of Vicksburg**

**Antebellum Mansions & Cotton Plantation**

**Lafayette Cajun Country Sights**

**3 nights New Orleans**

**Natchez Pilgrimage Tour of Homes**

**New Orleans Luncheon Cruise**

**Mardi Gras World with Mask Making Workshop**

**Court of Two Sisters Jazz Brunch**

**New Orleans Narrated Swamp Tour**

**Biloxi Shrimping Demonstration**

**Graceland Tour**



Vicksburg National Military Park

*"I know that traveling with R&J Tours is always a quality experience. This tour to the Grand Deep South definitely lived up to that expectation."*

Jerry, Rochester



# Civil War History Cotton Plantation Antebellum Mansions Cajun Country The French Quarter



Swamp tour discovery - anyone need a pelt? They're for sale here!

## Day 1 - Home to Independence, MO

Today we begin our journey to exciting Cajun Country and the Deep South. Enjoy the hotel's "Kickback" Reception this evening.

**Included Meals: Manager's Reception**

**Hotel: Drury Inn**

## Day 2 - Independence to Little Rock, AR

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 see the Vicksburg National Cemetery. Make our way to historic Natchez, with magnificent mansions from the booming days of the cotton industry. Experience true southern hospitality this evening at dinner at a lovely restaurant.

**Included Meal: Breakfast, Dinner**

**Hotel: Natchez Grand (2 Nights)**

## Day 4 - Natchez

A local guide joins us for the Natchez Spring 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. The homes we will tour are hand-selected by the garden clubs. Many of these historic homes are personally owned and lived in still today. We will be immersed in history when we enter these homes, complete with original furnishings, and listen to great stories about those who called these antebellums "home." Be sure to take in the beautiful lawns around you. One truly cannot get a better look at personally owned, historic antebellum homes than here in Natchez. This afternoon we travel out to Frogmore Cotton Plantation to experience the history of cotton and plantation life



Stanton Hall - also known as Belfast was built in the 1850s



2019 R&J Grand Deep South Group visiting the lovely gardens at the Houmas House



Frogmore - a hands on experience in the world of cotton



Elevator fun at Houmas!

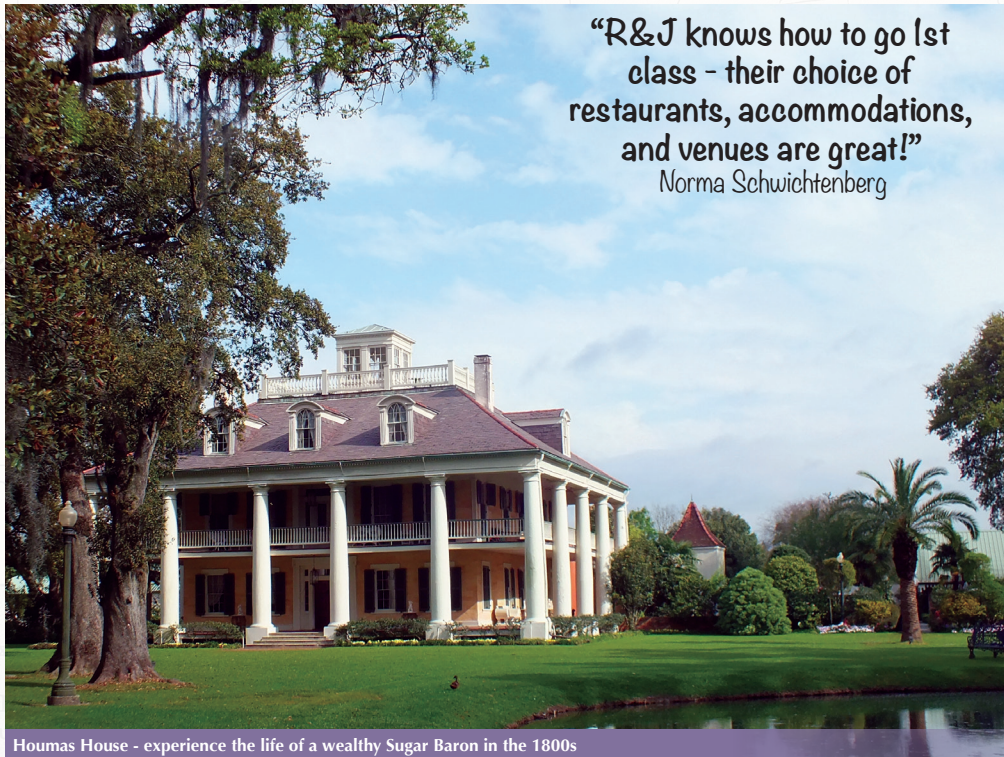
then and now. This evening the history of the South will come to life at one of the Spring Pilgrimage historic performances. The remainder of the evening is yours at leisure.

**Included Meals: Breakfast**

## Day 5 - Natchez to Lafayette

Today we motor deep into the heart of Cajun Country to an





**"R&J knows how to go 1st class - their choice of restaurants, accommodations, and venues are great!"**  
Norma Schwichtenberg

Houmas House - experience the life of a wealthy Sugar Baron in the 1800s

area first settled by French Acadian farmers. Our step-on guide then joins us. A scrumptious Cajun lunch is served, followed by workshops on Cajun/Creole music and dance lessons, and then a city tour of Lafayette. This evening our guide will accompany us to a cajun dance hall for a delicious dinner, crawfish sampling, and dancing. Enjoy live entertainment, good friends, and great conversation.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**Hotel: Drury Inn**

## 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 carriageway 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, Manager's Reception**

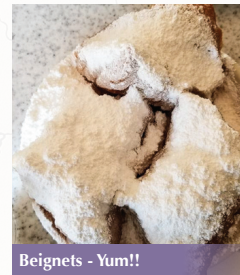
**Hotel: Drury Inn (3 Nights)**



Brave Traveler during our narrated Swamp Tour



Making some Creole music!



Beignets - Yum!!



Southern Belle



Is this Gator smiling at us?!



Shrimping Demonstration

## Day 7 - New Orleans

Today we begin with our guide circling 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. Then we'll step on board the "City of New Orleans" Steamboat for their jazz and brunch 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. You may have the option, at your own cost, to visit the WWII Museum or take a relaxing carriage ride around the French Quarter. Stop in at historic Cafe Du Monde for the famous Cafe Au Lait coffees and French beignets.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Brunch, Manager's Reception**

## 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 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! The rest of the day is at your leisure.

**Included Meals: Light Breakfast, Brunch, Manager's Reception**

## Day 9 - New Orleans to Biloxi

This morning you'll have a chance to see what Mardi Gras is all about when we tour Mardi Gras World and participate in a mask making demonstration. Then we make our way along the sparkling Gulf Coast of Biloxi, a resort city famous for its shrimp and fishing fleets. Following lunch on our own, we are off for a shrimping demonstration. We will cruise along the scenic coastline and learn first hand the art of shrimping. Tonight, stay at the Beau Rivage, perfectly placed on Biloxi's sparkling waterfront.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

**Hotel: The Beau Rivage Resort**







The Beau Rivage Resort - enjoy staying on the Gulf in Biloxi



Steamboat Natchez - can you see New Orleans' St. Louis Cathedral?



Mardi Gras World - so colorful & vibrant!



See Elvis' car collection at Graceland and step aboard his plane named Lisa Marie!

## Day 10 - Biloxi to Memphis

Arrive in Memphis and visit famous Beale Street. Listen to the music of Beale Street, Historic Entertainment District, with its enticing "Red, Hot, and Blue" rhythms. A delightful dinner featuring southern delicacies at King's Palace is planned. After our enjoyable evening, we'll check into the Guest House at Graceland.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

**Hotel: Guest House at Graceland**

## Day 11 - Memphis to St. Louis

This morning after breakfast we'll tour Graceland, the beautiful estate of the "King of Rock-n-Roll," Elvis Presley. We'll then make our way to St. Louis for the evening.

**Hotel: Drury Inn**

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Manager's Reception**

## Day 12 - St. Louis to Coralville, 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: Breakfast**

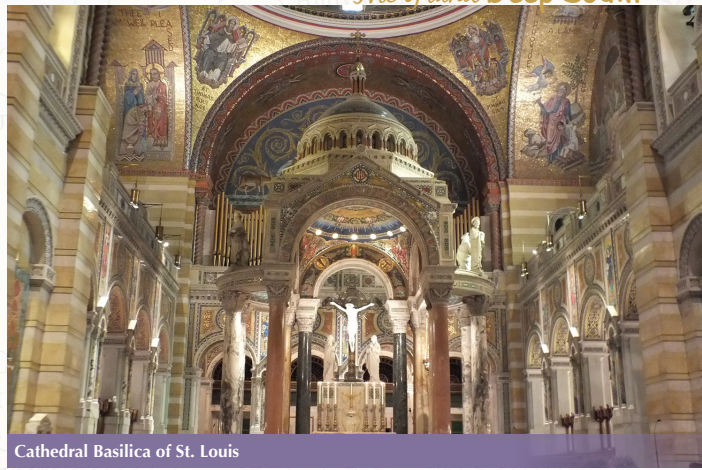
**Hotel: Holiday Inn Express**

## Day 13 - Coralville to Home

After breakfast we make our final stretch home.

**Included Meals: Breakfast**

*The Grand Deep South*



Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis

## 2020 DATES & PRICES

|                                 |   |                                |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| DATES:                          | March 25 - April 6, 2020 (13 Days)  |                                |
| PRICE PER PERSON:               | \$2,999 Double<br>\$2,779 Triple  | \$3,849 Single<br>\$2,669 Quad |
| PRICE INCLUDES:                 | 21 Meals & 5 Manager's Receptions, 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 P/P: | \$184 Double per person   | \$247 Single                   |
| TRAVEL BUCKS:                   | \$40 per person on future travel with R&J   |                                |
| TOUR PACE:                      | Moderate Walking  |                                |

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