



AZALEAS, PLANTATIONS & CAJUN COUNTRY

FEATURING LOUISIANA & MISSISSIPPI SPRING PILGRIMAGE, NEW ORLEANS, BATON ROUGE, NATCHEZ

MARCH 25-31, 2015 ~ 7 DAY TOUR



TOUR PACE Leisurely On the Go ACTIVITY LEVEL Low High

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Stay two nights in New Orleans' French Quarter and tour the French Quarter, the Garden District, Jackson Square, Bourbon Street and an above-ground cemetery
- ◆ Travel the Mississippi River Road and tour three Civil War-era plantations including Houmas House, Oak Alley and Nottoway
- ◆ Tour Louisiana's Cajun Country in Baton Rouge and tour the unique Capitol building
- ◆ Visit Natchez during the 'Spring Pilgrimage' – when spring blooms are most likely – and tour the Antebellum mansions, enjoy a carriage tour and dine in a private residence
- ◆ Tour the Civil War battlefield at Vicksburg National Military Park and visit Vicksburg's Old Court House Museum
- ◆ Embark on a swamp boat tour in search of alligators and other wildlife
- ◆ Led by geographer-guide, Dennis Napier

FINE HOTELS / GREAT LOCATIONS

- ◆ Nights 1-2 **Bienville House**
New Orleans, LA
- ◆ Night 3 **Embassy Suites**
Baton Rouge, LA
- ◆ Nights 4-6 **Natchez Grand Hotel**
Natchez, MS

TOUR INCLUSIONS

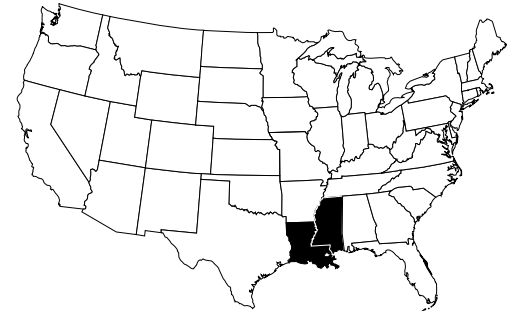
- ◆ 6 Nights deluxe hotel accommodations
- ◆ 12 Meals – 3 dinners, 3 lunches, 6 breakfasts
- ◆ Services of a professional tour director/ geographer-guide
- ◆ Comprehensive sightseeing with a local guide
- ◆ Admissions per itinerary
- ◆ Roundtrip airport-hotel transfers (with purchase of group air)
- ◆ Transportation on a deluxe motorcoach
- ◆ Luggage handling throughout the tour

PER PERSON LAND PRICES

Double **\$1,399** / Single **\$1,849** • Deposit \$250
 Roundtrip group airfare available from \$495
 Optional LAX airport transfers – see reverse
 Travel Protection/Cancellation Plan – see reverse

~DAY BY DAY ITINERARY~

Immerse yourself in the grace and elegance of the antebellum South on this journey that highlights the plantations, spring blooms, Cajun cuisine and famed southern hospitality of both Louisiana and Mississippi. From the magic of New Orleans' French Quarter and a cruise through Louisiana's bayou, to a Civil War battlefield, the stately plantation homes along the Mississippi River and the Spring Pilgrimage in Natchez, each day of this journey provides insider experiences that bring you closer to one of America's most distinctive regions.



Oak Alley Plantation

◆DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE NEW ORLEANS◆

Our journey begins with optional transfers from our departure points this morning to LAX for a nonstop flight to **New Orleans, Louisiana**. Onboard throughout this tour is geographer, **Dennis Napier**, former professor at Long Beach City College. His extensive knowledge and diverse background will make your journey an enlightening one. Upon our arrival in New Orleans a deluxe motorcoach will be waiting to transport us for the next seven days. New Orleans is a soulful city that abounds with rich history, mouth-watering Cajun and Creole cuisine and is known as the "Jazz Capital of the World". We'll check into a boutique hotel located in the heart of the historic **French Quarter** for a two- night stay. This truly distinctive establishment which just underwent a multi-million dollar renovation has a sense of style and grace only to be found in America's most interesting city. Join your fellow travelers for an included **Welcome Dinner** at one of New Orleans' local favorites. (Dinner)

Square, and the majestic **St. Louis Cathedral**. We'll continue on to the bustling and exotic **French Marketplace** to explore **Pirates Alley**. As we travel along stately **St. Charles Avenue** in the lovely **Garden District** you'll gaze upon the decadent and exclusive homes in what is one of the best-preserved collections of southern mansions in the United States. Then, a visit to one of New Orleans' unique **above-ground cemeteries**, commonly referred to as "Cities of the Dead" for their elaborate architectural tombs. The afternoon is set aside for you to explore New Orleans at your leisure. Our hotel is in a prime location and within walking distance of the city's finest antique shops on Royal Street, Bourbon Street, jazz clubs, world renowned restaurants, museums and voodoo shops. Grab a po' boy or some fresh beignets and a café au lait at Café du Monde. Perhaps visit the National World War II Museum or test lady luck at one of the local casinos. Take a stroll down Bourbon Street or a leisurely walk along the Mississippi River... laissez les bon temps rouler! (Breakfast)



New Orleans

◆DAY 2 ~ NEW ORLEANS◆

This morning enjoy an included breakfast at the hotel before we begin our sightseeing tour in the "Big Easy". A **local guide** will join us as we embark on a leisurely walking tour of the French Quarter including **Bourbon Street, Jackson**

◆DAY 3 ~ CAJUN & PLANTATION COUNTRY◆

This morning, after an included breakfast we'll depart New Orleans and head into Louisiana's Cajun Country for an included lunch at **The Cabin**, a unique restaurant that has to be seen to be believed. Traditional Cajun fare awaits – fried stuffed crabs, fried catfish fingers, baked chicken,

RESERVATIONS

Santa Ana College
Community Services Program
1530 W. 17th St., Room S-201
Santa Ana, CA 92706

Phone (714) 564-6594
www.sac.edu/cms

Tour operated by *Good Times Travel*
California Seller of Travel License #: 2018390-40

PAYMENT INFORMATION

♦ Deposit due at time of booking to the address above (*Good Times Travel* will contact you for the travel protection)

♦ *Good Times Travel* will invoice you for the balance payment 6-8 weeks prior

TRAVEL PROTECTION / CANCELLATION

Travel protection/cancellation insurance is highly recommended for all multi-day tours. If travel protection has not been purchased, only recoverable funds less a cancellation charge of \$50 will be reimbursed once payment has been made. Amount of reimbursement depends on the date of cancellation.

If travel protection has been purchased and you must cancel prior to departure or leave the tour enroute for a reason approved by the insurance company, you will receive a full refund (or partial if enroute), minus the cost of the premium. Other benefits of travel protection include medical expenses for illness and injury, emergency transportation, and lost/stolen/damaged luggage. Pre-existing medical conditions are only covered if protection is purchased at the time of deposit. See travel protection plan for full details and exclusions.

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Roundtrip airport transfers are available as follows:

From our departure points: \$69 p.p.

Fountain Valley - Good Times Travel office

Long Beach City College Lot "O"

From home: \$159 and higher (contact us for quote)

Exact times are provided 2 weeks prior to departure

LAND ONLY PRICES

We've listed land only rates with the optional airfare price separately. You have the option of taking advantage of our group discount or making your own air arrangements. Generally air prices get higher as the departure date approaches so it's best to book early.

FURTHER INFORMATION / TERMS

See *Good Times Travel* catalog
or www.goodtimestravel.com

green beans, dirty rice, cornbread, buttermilk pie, and bread pudding. This afternoon we begin our exploration of Louisiana's **Plantation Country** as we travel along the River Road. Although other states have their own River Roads, perhaps none is more evocative or famous than this one. Louisiana's fabled **Great Mississippi River Road** stretches approximately 70 miles from New Orleans to Baton Rouge and is home to the most famous and monumental plantation mansions, most built by wealthy sugar planters in the Greek Revival style. This time of year generally brings an explosion of spring blooms and fragrances. At the **Oak Alley Plantation** we'll marvel at the canopy of 300-year-old live oak trees. Known as the "Grande Dame of the Great River Road", you'll learn about the lives of the plantation owners on a guided tour conducted by a docent dressed in period costume. We then visit the **Houmas House Plantation**, known as the Crown Jewel of Louisiana's River Road. Experience the southern splendor of this grand antebellum estate on a docent-guided tour of the 16 rooms filled with period antiques and Louisiana artwork. Enjoy the breeze off the Mississippi River and navigate through the shadows of ancient oaks as you explore the 38 acres of lush gardens featuring azaleas that should be in bloom this time of year. This evening we arrive in Louisiana's capital city of **Baton Rouge** for an overnight stay. An included dinner this evening at a local favorite. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

♦ DAY 4 ~ CAJUN COUNTRY, PLANTATIONS ♦

Following an included breakfast this morning we'll join a docent-guide for a tour of the **Louisiana State Capitol Building** and learn about the state's most influential political figure, Governor Huey Long. Later we'll arrive at the **Nottoway Plantation**, the South's largest remaining antebellum mansion. This "American castle" recently underwent a dramatic multi-million dollar renovation to restore her to her days of glory. We'll enjoy a docent-guided tour and an included lunch here. This afternoon we journey to lovely **Natchez, Mississippi**, the first settlement on America's great river. Founded by the French in 1716, Natchez was home to a flowering of antebellum culture and to this day it personifies the grace and elegance of the South with its preserved antebellum mansions. We'll enjoy a three-night stay at a hotel conveniently located in downtown Natchez within easy walking distance of restaurants and the Mississippi River. Enjoy dinner at leisure this evening. (Breakfast, Lunch)

♦ DAY 5 ~ VICKSBURG ♦

Following an included breakfast this morning we follow the **Natchez Trace Parkway** through exceptional scenery and 10,000 years of North American history to Vicksburg. General

Andrew Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Ulysses S. Grant, James Audubon and Meriwether Lewis (who died on the Trace in 1809) are among the famous Americans who have traveled the route you will travel today. Upon our arrival in Vicksburg we'll visit the historic **Old Court House and Museum**. The Old Court House, built in 1858, stands today as Vicksburg's most historic structure. Within the museum you'll find Confederate flags, including one that was never surrendered, the tie worn by Jefferson Davis at his inauguration as Confederate President, fine portraits, china and silver, exquisite antique furniture, and an original Teddy Bear given to a local child by Theodore Roosevelt. Following an included lunch at a local favorite in Vicksburg, a **licensed National Park guide** will join us as we tour the Civil War battlefield at **Vicksburg National Military Park**. The Military Park commemorates the campaign that took place here 150 years ago and its significance as a critical turning point of the Civil War. We return to Natchez with the balance of the evening at your leisure. (Breakfast, Lunch)

♦ DAY 6 ~ NATCHEZ SPRING PILGRIMAGE ♦

Following an included breakfast this morning we take part in an annual Southern tradition, the **Natchez Spring Pilgrimage** – a celebration of spring at the time of year when the azaleas and other blooms are most likely. During the Pilgrimage, there are 30 antebellum mansions, most of them private residences that open their doors to visitors. Within the mansions, costumed guides who are family friends and descendants of the original owners relay stories that are as real as the bricks and mortar in their hearths. Each house is unique with 18th and 19th century furnishings, porcelain, silver, clothing, tools, documents and diaries. During the day you will tour three Antebellum homes and take a **guided carriage tour** through historic Natchez. Enjoy a memorable **farewell dinner** this evening in a lovely privately-owned antebellum plantation home. (Breakfast, Dinner)

♦ DAY 7 ~ FINAL FAREWELL ♦

Following an included breakfast this morning we'll travel south towards New Orleans with a stop in **Bayou Country** to go deep into the mysterious bayous and swamps haunted by alligators and lined with moss draped trees on a **guided "authentic" swamp boat tour**. Your knowledgeable guide will point out the alligators, birds and other wildlife in this remote area. We return to the airport in New Orleans for our nonstop return flight to Los Angeles. Those with pre-arranged transfers will be returned to their respective drop-offs. Memorable experiences of spectacular southern hospitality, spring blooms and spectacular sights not soon forgotten. (Breakfast)