

Southern Belles Featuring Memphis, New Orleans, and Baton Rouge

10 Days / 9 Nights

Departure Date: Sept. 23-Oct. 2

Tour Code: BELL91

DAY ONE — L

Join us as we head to some of the most vibrant locations throughout the south. We begin our trip with lunch at the White Eagle Restaurant as we pass through the Chicagoland area. As we approach Springfield, IL we'll be sure to drive past the Old and New State Capitals checking into the Drury Inn & Suites right in Springfield

DAY TWO — CB

Before continuing south, we spend our morning at the Abraham Lincoln Museum and Library. Occupying an entire city block in downtown Springfield, Illinois, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum is the largest Presidential Museum. With over 50,000 square feet devoted to state-of-the-art full-immersion exhibits, special effects theaters and displays of original artifacts, it is also the first major experience museum of its kind. We will then continue our journey to Memphis, Tennessee, where we will spend two nights at the Drury Inn in Memphis.

DAY THREE — CB, L

We pay tribute to the King at our first stop today— Graceland. Take your group to the perfect Memphis sightseeing destination when you visit Elvis Presley's Graceland. One of the most popular Memphis tours allows you to explore Elvis' home and follow his amazing journey to super-stardom through exciting videos, personal mementos, displays of authentic clothing, an amazing showcase of awards and much more. We will also have lunch here at the Chrome Grille Restaurant. The afternoon is spent on your own exploring the famous Beale Street. In the heart of downtown Memphis with three blocks of nightclubs, restaurants and retail shops, the Beale Street entertainment district is a melting pot of delta blues, jazz, rock 'n' roll, R&B and gospel. With cold beer and hot music, Beale Street is one of the coolest places in Memphis.

DAY FOUR — CB, L

Today is the day we depart from Tennessee and travel south toward our next destination city. New Orleans is back and back in a big way. Making our way to the Gulf we make a stop for a very southern locale for lunch at The Dinner Bell. Known for its Lazy Susan family-style dining you will already be getting used to the slower pace of life that we all know engulfs the southern way of life. Later in the day we arrive in New Orleans, where we will spend the next three nights at the Drury Inn & Suites, located just a few blocks for Bourbon Street.

DAY FIVE — CB, L, D

We start the day in the comfort of our motorcoach, where a step-on guide will give us an informative and insightful tour of New Orleans. After stopping for lunch at the Lakefront Restaurant, we will spend the afternoon at the National WWII Museum. A must-see for history lovers and all patriots, it has been designated by the U.S. Congress as America's official World War II Museum. Powerful images and extraordinary artifacts bring to life the American Spirit, the courage, teamwork and sacrifice of the young men and women who won the war and changed the world. From the 1930s prelude to war, to the Normandy Invasion and the battles of the Pacific Islands, visitors trace America's role in the war and on the home front. After the museum and film presentation, get ready for a fantastic evening of traditional Cajun food and dancing at a local Cajun restaurant.

DAY SIX — CB, L

We'll get day six started off right with a trip to Café Du Monde. Since 1862 this has been the original French Market coffee stand serving cafe au lait and beignets. A New Orleans landmark, located directly across from Jackson Square and the Pontalba apartments, Cafe du Monde offers the original beignet, the state doughnut of Louisiana. We then begin our behind-the-scenes Mardi Gras tour at Blaine's, one of the largest warehouses in

the state. Learn about the many traditions surrounding Mardi Gras parades, balls and music, as well as the intricacies of float designing and building. Mardi Gras floats began rumbling down New Orleans streets in 1837 with mule-drawn carriages. Today the tradition continues with sophisticated mega-floats. We'll then board the Steamboat Natchez for a peaceful lunchtime cruise down the Mississippi River. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the scenery and jazz music that surround you on this voyage. Afterwards, you have a free afternoon to explore famous Bourbon Street. We will reconvene for dinner which includes a Cajun/Creole cooking demonstration.

DAY SEVEN — CB, L

See all the wonders of Louisiana swamps when we have a swamp tour nearby the city. For many years people have traveled extensively to Louisiana to explore the back country with its meandering bayous and swamps, hoping to see alligators, egrets, herons and ancient cypress trees covered with Spanish moss. For lunch we will enjoy a three course Cajun lunch and tour at the historic and beautiful Nottoway Plantation. Nottoway, the South's largest remaining antebellum mansion, is a stunning historic plantation that lies between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, Louisiana. A dramatic, multi-million-dollar renovation has restored this historic plantation to her days of glory as well as adding luxury resort amenities and corporate and social event venues. We'll continue on our journey then, spending the night at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Baton Rouge.

DAY EIGHT — CB, L

In the morning, we leave Louisiana and go north to Mississippi, where we will see some truly remarkable historic properties in the Natchez area. First we tour Magnolia Hall, the last home of its kind built before the Civil War. Then sit back and indulge in a delicious lunch at the Carriage House Restaurant before touring the adjacent Stanton Hall. The Hall offers a glimpse into the lives of wealthy Natchez families in the mid-to-late 1800s. We will spend the night at Holiday Inn in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

DAY NINE — CB, L

Today we will explore the Civil War in Vicksburg, which President Abraham Lincoln called "the key to the south." Few cities can claim the number of captivating contributions to U.S. history. With our licensed tour guide, we will tour the Vicksburg Battlefield. Our guide will share their excellent knowledge of civilian life, and the siege and defense of Vicksburg in the spring and summer of 1863. Before we continue our journey back north, we will stop for lunch at Walnut Hills Restaurant, in Olde Town Vicksburg. Tonight finds us in Hayti, Missouri and the Drury Inn & Suites.

DAY TEN — CB

Our journey together comes to an end. As we say farewell to our fellow travelers, we remember the history and culture we enjoyed while traveling through this unique and memorable area of the U.S.

PER PERSON PRICING:

\$2,430 Double | \$2,259 Triple | \$2,164 Quad | \$2,832 Single

Deposit: \$200 per person within 7 days of making reservation. Final payment due 60 days prior to departure. Luggage handling included for one suitcase.