



LOUDOUN COUNTY SENIOR TRIPS PROGRAM



New Orleans to Mississippi- Rhythms of the South

10 Days / 9 Nights

January 31 – February 9, 2023

Get away from the cold to the "Big Easy"! The Music, The Food, The Culture, The History and The Fun! This trip is infused with all of this and more. From Jazz Clubs to Riverboat Cruises to Historic Plantations and Gators. You will return with more than just a taste of this place. Louisiana to Mississippi, the tours, and experiences have been carefully planned to leave you tapping your toes to the Rhythms of the South long after you return home.

Day One – Arrive to New Orleans – January 31, 2023

- Fly to **New Orleans, Louisiana** & check-in to the **Drury Plaza Hotel New Orleans**. Baggage handling is included.
- Dinner this evening is at **The Court of Two Sisters**. Enjoy luscious Creole and Cajun cuisine. Pass through the Charm Gates, see the Devil's Wishing Well & hear the story of the two sisters who ran a notions shop here once upon a time in the French Quarter. **(Meals: D)**

Day Two – Guided Tour of The Garden District & French Quarter and Paddle-wheeler Creole Queen – February 1, 2023

- Today you'll enjoy a **Guided Tour of The Garden District in New Orleans**. Enjoy **lunch on own & free time** along the Riverwalk. Visit Café Du Monde for their famous coffee and beignet!
- Up next is a **Guided Tour of the historic French Quarter**. Often called the Crown Jewel of New Orleans, the French Quarter is one of NOLA's most historic neighborhoods. Return to your hotel to **rest and freshen up -OR- enjoy free time to visit The French Quarter**.
- This evening we have something special planned! Step back into the glamour and romance of the riverboat era with a cruise aboard the **Paddle-wheeler Creole Queen**! Experience the lively sounds & enjoy a **lavish Creole Buffet** in the dining room. After dinner & a little dancing, enjoy a classic **New Orleans cocktail** and sweet Mississippi River breezes on our promenade deck as the city skyline slips by under a canopy of stars. This nighttime cruise is pure New Orleans. Return to the hotel for the remainder of the evening. **(Meals: B, D)**

Day Three – Mardi Gras World, Riverwalk, & National WWII Museum – February 2, 2023

- This morning go behind the scenes at **Mardi Gras World** and **tour** the building that designs the sets and floats for the famous parade. This tour allows you to see firsthand what it takes to bring Mardi Gras to life year after year. Walk through the hard work and extensive planning that goes into this grand event. It's a treat for the eyes!
- Embark on a **Riverwalk along the Mississippi River**. Lunch is on your own today as you explore the beautiful city of New Orleans.
- Visit **The National WWII Museum** featuring immersive exhibits, multimedia experiences, and an expansive collection of artifacts.
- **Dinner on own** in the historic French Quarter of New Orleans this evening. **(Meals: B)**

Day Four – Airboat Tour & Oak Alley Plantation – February 3, 2023

- Start your day at **Ragin Cajun Airboat Tours**. Embark on an authentic **New Orleans Swamp Tour**!
- Tour beautiful Oak Alley Plantation and enjoy a delightful, included **lunch**.
- Check-in to the **Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott in LaPlace**. Freshen up for a fun dinner!
- **Dinner is included** at **Spuddy's**, a Cajun foods restaurant. Participate in an **interactive class on making andouille sausage!** This is not just a cooking class – it's an experience! PLUS, enjoy **Live Creole and Zydeco Music** and dance along! **(Meals: B, L, D)**

Day Five – Houma House and Gardens, Greenwood Gator Farms, & Down the Bayou Shrimp Tour – February 4, 2023

- Plantations in Louisiana are one of the most sought-after attractions throughout the state. Today you will visit the **Houmas House Estate and Gardens** and experience life on a sugarcane plantation in the 1800s. The mansion has been restored to the antebellum era, reflecting the opulence and wealth this sugarcane farm boasted in the 1880's. The guided mansion tour walks through the 250-year history, showing the architectural evolution of this manor house and how it became a grand estate. Rare and period artwork and artifacts are displayed and used to explain plantation life.
- Embark on a **Tour of Greenwood Gator Farms**, a land-based alligator tour. Learn all about how the alligator goes from the egg to boots and purses and sauce piquantes! Get up close and personal with gators from babies to adult gators. Enjoy an **included lunch** while visiting.
- Depart and experience the **Down the Bayou Shrimp Tour**. Learn the ins & outs of the seafood industry from this multigenerational family business.
- Next up, a **Tour, Tasting**, and a **"Down South Boil Dinner"** (Shrimp & Crawfish), at the **Houma Visitor Center**.
- Enjoy a presentation by the **Cajun Music Preservations Society**. Learn about the history of Cajun Music and enjoy the sounds. **(Meals: B, L, D)**

Day Six – Natchez National Historical Park & Visitor Center, Stanton Hall, & Longwood – February 5, 2023

- Today we are in **Natchez, Mississippi**.
- Arrive at the **Natchez National Historical Park & Visitor Center**. The exhibits at the Natchez Visitor Center are state-of-the-art, and a twenty-minute movie about the history of Natchez and the surrounding area can be viewed in a comfortable 65 seat theater.
- Tour **Stanton Hall**. Built in the 1850s, it is one of the most opulent antebellum mansions to survive in the southeastern United States. Enjoy **lunch included** at **The Carriage House Restaurant**. The Carriage House specializes in delicious southern food and is owned & operated by the Pilgrimage Garden Club.
- Following lunch, begin a Driving **Tour of the Natchez Antebellum District**.
- **Tour Longwood**, the largest octagonal house in the US, known for its octagonal design, byzantine onion-shaped dome, and the contrast between the finished first floor and the unfinished upper floors.
- Check-in to the **Natchez Grand Hotel** located in the historic downtown, just a couple of blocks away from the nearest attractions and entertainment.
- Enjoy **free time** to explore and admire the beautiful river views.
- **Dinner is included** at **Restaurant 1818**, an early 19th-century antebellum mansion set on 26 acres of manicured gardens. **(Meals: B, L, D)**

Day Seven – Delta Music Museum, Frogmore Plantation and Gins, & Cotton House – February 6, 2023

- Today, explore the **Delta Music Museum** offering exhibits on Rock and Roll & Blues musicians.
- After, depart for **Frogmore Plantation and Gins**. This 1800-acre early 19th century cotton plantation has been perfectly preserved, walk through authentically furnished slave quarters, a rare steam gin, and other plantation dependencies. Learn the **history of Gospel & Jazz** and enjoy a **Live Musical Performance!** A **Box Lunch is included** during your visit.
- Check-in to the **Cotton House** and freshen up before dinner on your own at the hotel. **(Meals: B, L)**

Day Eight – B.B. King Museum & Delta Interpretive Center, Delta Blues Museum, & Driving Tour – February 7, 2023

- Begin the day with a **tour of the B.B. King Museum & Delta Interpretive Center** which tells the story of King's life, his career, and stories of the Delta—its history and music, social mores & race relations, literature & legends, and adversities & successes.
- Depart for **Clarksdale, Mississippi**, arrive for **lunch included** at **Ground Zero Blues Club** and enjoy a wide variety menu from hamburgers to catfish while enjoying **live entertainment**.
- Explore the **Delta Blues Museum**, view preserved, interpreted music material from the surrounding area.
- Depart for a **Driving Tour** to include a **photo opportunity at the Crossroads** & see the **Muddy Waters Gravesite**.
- **Dinner is included** at **Levon's Bar and Grill**. Enjoy **Live Juke Joint Music** while you wait for your food. **(Meals: B, L, D)**

Day Nine – Dockery Farms, Grammy Museum, & Blues Archives at Ole' Miss – February 8, 2023

- After Breakfast this morning enjoy a **Mainstreet Stroll** and take in the beautiful city of **Cleveland, Mississippi**.
- Stop by **Dockery Farms** for a photo opportunity. See the 25,600-acre cotton plantation and sawmill on the Sunflower River.
- Arrive at the **Grammy Museum**, check out the exciting and interactive celebration of the power of music occupying a vibrant space.
- Depart with an **included boxed lunch** on your way to **William Faulkner's Home, Rowan Oak**.
- Visit the **Blues Archives at Ole' Miss**, see donations from BB King's private collection & enjoy a tour and presentation while visiting.
- Check-in to the **Hampton Inn & Suites Oxford/Conference Center** prior to an **included Dinner** at a local favorite. **(Meals: B, L, D)**

Day Ten – Breakfast & Depart – February 9, 2023

- Enjoy **breakfast included** this morning prior to checking out.
- **Lunch is on own** at the airport prior to departure home. **(Meals: B)**

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY: \$4194 Member / \$4239 Non-Member
SINGLE OCCUPANCY: \$5058 Member / \$5103 Non-Member

Tour Includes:

Round trip airfare and transfers to/from airport beginning Cascades Senior Center
Hotel Accommodations for NINE (9) Nights
NINE (9) Breakfasts, SIX (6) Lunches, & SEVEN (7) Dinners
Admissions and tours, motorcoach transportation, 9 nights' accommodation.
Luggage handling: 1 suitcase per person
Optional driver and guide gratuities not included
Airport baggage fees not included

Contact: Terry Fleming 571 258-3050 or Sonya Haynes 571 258-3051