



Springtime in the South

March 29 - April 5, 2025

New Orleans



**Natchez Spring
Pilgrimage**





SATURDAY, MARCH 29 (DINNER)

We'll board a deluxe motor coach this morning to begin our eight-day trip to experience Springtime in the South! Enjoy the companionship of friends old and new as we make our way to **Grenada, Mississippi**, where we will check into the **Hampton Inn**. Dinner is included this evening at a local restaurant.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30 (BREAKFAST, DINNER)

Today we'll first travel to **Vicksburg, Mississippi**, where we will tour the **Vicksburg National Military Park**. The park commemorates the campaign, siege, and defense of Vicksburg during the Civil War. Our **guided tour** will bring the battle to life as we view over 1,340 monuments, a restored Union gunboat, and the National Cemetery. Our tour ends at the Visitor's Center, which houses informative displays and a gift shop. This afternoon we will continue our journey and arrive in **New Orleans, Louisiana**, where we will check into the lovely **Astor Crowne Plaza** for the next three nights. Located at the Gateway to the French Quarter where Canal Street meets Bourbon Street, we'll find the excitement of the French Quarter right outside our door! After getting settled in our rooms and relaxing for a bit, we'll visit **The New Orleans School of Cooking** for some fun, food, and folklore! Located in a renovated molasses warehouse built in the early 1800s, this cooking school teaches its students that the prime ingredient in any recipe is FUN! Watch our expert chef cook up a variety of tasty items that will be served to our group for dinner.

MONDAY, MARCH 31 (BREAKFAST, DINNER)

This morning we'll enjoy a **guided city tour** of New Orleans. Learn about the history, legends, and people of this famous city as we travel along the **French Quarter** and past **Jackson Square**. Visit **St. Louis Cemetery #3** and learn about the unique burial system of the city. Every visit to New Orleans must include a stop at **Café Du Monde**, a New Orleans tradition! Savor their famous chicory coffee served black or with hot milk, "au lait," or indulge in a hot chocolate. Both go great with the delicious French-style doughnuts - beignets. After time for shopping and lunch at Riverwalk, we'll step aboard the majestic **Creole Queen paddle-wheeler** for an immersive experience that sails through 300 years of rich history. The narrated cruise, hosted by a captivating local historian, brings Mississippi River history to life as we sail downriver to the **Jean Lafitte National Historical Park** at the historic **Chalmette Battlefield**. Step ashore and join National Park rangers for a **guided tour**, delving deep into the pivotal events that shaped America's destiny. On our return trip to New Orleans, settle into the mood of a bygone era as you stroll on the outer decks and watch the approaching skyline. We will enjoy dinner this evening at a local restaurant.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1 (BRUNCH)

This morning, we will enjoy a scrumptious **Live Jazz Brunch Buffet** at the legendary **Court of Two Sisters**. Tap your toes while dining on breakfast classics, lunch lagniappe, and New Orleans' favorite dishes. After brunch, we will visit the **National WWII Museum**, which houses exhibits that cover the epic and global scale of the war that changed the world. Explore letters, weapons, models, and film to experience the war through the men and women who lived it. On our return to the hotel, the evening is free for you to have dinner on your own and explore the French Quarter!



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2 (LUNCH, DINNER)

Today, our journey will take us to **Natchez, Mississippi**, but before we bid farewell to vibrant NOLA, we will dive into the dazzling heart of Mardi Gras with an insider's tour of **Mardi Gras World**. Witness the magic behind the floats and shop for unique souvenirs - all in one unforgettable New Orleans experience! Our next stop is **Oak Alley Plantation**. The plantation, located on the Mississippi River, has been called the "Grande Dame of the Great River Road." The giant oak trees, believed to be nearly 300 years old, form an impressive quarter-mile avenue leading up to the classic Greek-Revival style antebellum home. Here we'll enjoy a lunch of traditional, Louisiana-style dishes. After lunch, enjoy one of the most beautiful plantation home settings in the South as we're taken on a **guided tour** of the plantation home. After our visit, we continue our journey north and check into the **Holiday Inn Express** in **Natchez, Mississippi** for two nights. Dinner this evening will be in the **Lansdowne Home**, circa 1853. Step into America's history through stories of the family who still live in this home built by their great-great-grandparents on land first occupied by family members in the 1780s. Gorgeous treasured family heirlooms are displayed throughout the home.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3 (BREAKFAST, DINNER)

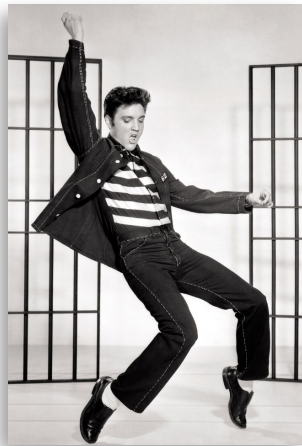
This morning we'll take a **guided tour of Natchez**. The mansions, streets, and gardens of Natchez are never more beautiful than during the **Natchez Spring Pilgrimage**, when more than twenty antebellum mansions - most of them private residences - open their doors to visitors during four weeks every spring. Your guides are costumed family friends and descendants of the original owners, whose stories 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. We will visit **Longwood**, also known as **Nutt's Folly**, circa 1861, which is the largest octagonal house in the country with a history unlike any other in the area. Enjoy free time for lunch and shopping downtown before we tour **Stanton Hall**, circa 1857. This palatial, Greek Revival antebellum residence, originally named the Belfast House, is furnished with period antiques and original Stanton family pieces. Before dinner, we will visit **The Burn** to relax in this historic private residence for a **Home, Piano, Garden, & Wine Tour**. This is one of Natchez's most significant purely Greek Revival homes. Following the tour, we'll be served a delicious dinner at the **Carriage House Restaurant**.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4 (BREAKFAST, KICKBACK RECEPTION)

After breakfast, we will take a **horse-drawn carriage ride** to take in the sights and sounds of downtown Natchez one last time. We will also visit the First Presbyterian Church's **Natchez in Historic Photos exhibit**, containing more than 500 photographs taken in Natchez between the Civil War and World War II. Printed from glass plates and negatives rescued after many years on the back porch of a local home, the collection chronicles everything from riverboats to hairstyles and offers a fascinating snapshot of everyday life along the Mississippi River. After our visit, we'll begin our journey towards home. We'll check into the **Drury Inn & Suites** in **Southaven, Mississippi** this evening. Enjoy the hotel's complimentary **Kickback Reception** featuring hot food and cold drinks.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5 (BREAKFAST)

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before we depart for nearby **Memphis, Tennessee** to visit **Graceland**, the home of **Elvis Presley**. You have heard the music, now you will visit the place Elvis called home. You can see the legendary costumes, artifacts, and personal mementos of Elvis and his family. Stroll through the gardens and tour his custom airplanes, car museum, and beautiful mansion. You can find lunch, including a fried peanut butter and banana sandwich (Elvis' favorite!), at Graceland Plaza. After lunch, waving goodbye to Cajun charm and southern smiles, we head homeward, full of great memories of our wonderful journey.



Tour Cost (per person)

DOUBLE: \$2,959

SINGLE: \$3,465

TRIPLE: \$2,775



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TRAVEL PROTECTION:

An Optional Travel Protection Plan premium is available for **\$213** per person in double occupancy, **\$249** in single occupancy, and **\$200** in triple occupancy.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

All payments are fully refundable for cancellations received by **December 9, 2024**. Although every effort will be made to refund passenger payments, cancellations received after this date will be subject to the penalties imposed by our suppliers, as well as a **\$150 cancellation fee**. It is highly suggested that all travelers help protect their vacation investment by purchasing an optional travel protection plan. Your group representative can provide information on a plan offered by Travel Guard. Should the passenger purchase travel protection and need to cancel after **December 9, 2024** a travel protection claim must be filed with Travel Guard. Please note that we encourage all travelers to purchase a plan at the time of initial trip deposit and that the premium is refundable for cancellations received before **December 9, 2024**.

*Insurance is underwritten by National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, Pa. a Pennsylvania Insurance Company (NAIC #19445), currently authorized to transact business in all states and the District of Columbia.

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INCLUDED

DELUXE MOTOR COACH TRANSPORTATION
SEVEN NIGHTS HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS
FIVE BREAKFASTS, ONE BRUNCH,
ONE LUNCH, FIVE DINNERS
& ONE KICKBACK RECEPTION
ALL ACTIVITIES AND ADMISSIONS AS LISTED
BAGGAGE HANDLING WHERE AVAILABLE
ALL TOUR-RELATED TAXES & GRATUITIES
SERVICES OF A BRADFORD NATIONAL BANK
REPRESENTATIVE
SERVICES OF A CRUISES AND TOURS
WORLDWIDE TOUR MANAGER
NOT INCLUDED
OPTIONAL TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN

RESERVATIONS

Please complete a reservation form and mail it with your **\$100 per person deposit plus travel protection premium**, if desired, to:

**Bradford National Bank
Attn: Carmen Caldieraro
P.O. Box 279, 100 E. College
Greenville, IL 62246**

Phone: 618-664-2119

Email: carmencaldieraro@bradfordbank.com

Please make checks payable to:

Bradford National Bank

BALANCE DUE: DECEMBER 9, 2024

