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New Orleans & Plantations of the Delta

A Journey of the Foods, Rhythms & Soul of the South

9 Nights - 10 Days

Day 1 - The CITY OF SOUL: JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Arrive to **Jackson, Mississippi Airport**. Depart for the capital of Mississippi, **Jackson**, called "The City of Soul" because it has seen many historical events that have shaped the country from Civil Rights to Civil War, to music, to world class museums. Enjoy **lunch** at one of the many restaurants located in the historic **Founders District** including barbecue, New Orleans style seafood, or at an old-time drugstore soda fountain. This afternoon, visit two of Jackson's world-renowned museums: the **Mississippi Civil Rights Museum** and the **Mississippi History Museum**. Enjoy our evening meal in an historic Colonial Revival mansion, circa 1908. (Meals: D)

Day 2 - MEDGAR EVERS, MALACO RECORDS & EUDORA WELTY

After **breakfast**, meet our local Guide who will take us on a **Discovery Tour of Jackson**. We'll see such sites as the **Medgar Evers House** and the **Greyhound Bus Station**. Enjoy a tour of the **Governor's Mansion** and tour **Malaco Records**, one of the country's largest gospel, blues, and contemporary Southern rhythm and blues music recording studios. **Lunch is on own** before our last tour experience for the day: a visit to the **Eudora Welty House and Gardens**, the home of a writer of international acclaim whose novels and short stories earned numerous literary awards, including the 1973 Pulitzer Prize for her novel *The Optimist's Daughter*. Return to the hotel to prepare ourselves for **dinner** at a top Jackson restaurant given 5 Stars by Open Table reviews. Housed in a historic 1898 building that once was a grocery store, this farm-to-table menu promises to be one of the best you'll ever experience. (Meals: B, D)

Day 3 - NATCHEZ & AN ANTEBELLUM CLASSIC

After **breakfast** at the hotel and checking out, we'll depart for Natchez. Enjoy **lunch** in the **Carriage House**, followed by a tour of **Stanton Hall**, an Antebellum classical revival mansion and one of the most opulent mansions to survive in the Southern United States. Meet our Guide and enjoy a tour of **Natchez**. Pass by many Antebellum homes in this charming and beautiful town. Stop at several interesting locations such as **First Presbyterian Church** and the **African American Museum**. Check in to **Natchez Grand Hotel** on bluffs that look out over the beautiful Mississippi River. Enjoy **dinner included** in one of the most magnificent Antebellum Mansion found anywhere in the South. (Meals: B, D)

Day 4 - NUTT'S FOLLY, JERRY LEE LEWIS & A WORKING CLASS PLANTATION

Enjoy **breakfast** before our touring today. Our first stop is **Longwood**, also known as **Nutt's Folly**. The historic Antebellum octagonal mansion is a fascinating house with an equally fascinating history. Then we'll visit the **Delta Music Museum** where a guided tour will enlighten us. Learn how Conway Twitty became a baseball star, and why Aaron Neville wears a St. Jude earring. Located in Ferriday, Louisiana, home of Jimmy Swaggart, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Mickey Gilley, the museum endeavors to educate the public on the musical heritage of the Mississippi River Delta Region. Meet our Guide and depart for a tour of a working **farm and cotton plantation** to learn both old and new cotton farming methods. Selected by **Rand McNally** as a 'must see site', it is one of the **Top 3 attractions**



in **Arkansas, Louisiana, & Mississippi**. Learn the history of Gospel and Jazz and enjoy a musical performance including “Ole Man River”, and more. Enjoy a **boxed lunch** at the plantation. Later this afternoon, return to your hotel and enjoy the evening on your own to explore local restaurants and taste the flavors of Natchez. (Meals: B, L)

Day 5 - OAK ALLEY PLANTATION & ZYDECO

Enjoy **breakfast** at the hotel prior to checking out. Then, we'll Tour **Longwood**, followed by **lunch included** at **Oak Alley Plantation**, a historic sugarcane plantation on the west bank of the Mississippi River, named for its distinguishing canopy path created by a double row of southern live oaks. Tour **Oak Alley**. Then, learn how to make Gumbo and Andouille Sausage at our **Cajun Cooking Experience**, a hands-on Louisiana kitchen, where you will enjoy a **Louisiana Gumbo dinner** and **dance to a live Zydeco band** before checking in to our hotel. (Meals: B, L, D)

Day 6 - TWO PLANTATIONS & AN ELEGANT DINNER

After **breakfast**, tour historic **San Francisco Plantation**, one of the most architecturally distinctive plantation houses in the American South, with opulent, Creole open-suite style. Enjoy **lunch on own** at the home of the famous Cajun burger, plus Fege brownies and GumBo. Tour **Houmas House & Gardens**, a circa-1840 Greek revival mansion and Antebellum plantation that includes gardens, lodging and elegant restaurants. See the Crown Jewel of Louisiana's River Road! Enjoy **dinner included** at one of the most beautiful dining rooms in America, for classic Southern Plantation dining at its best. Return to hotel. (Meals: B, D)

Day 7 - SHRIMP, SEAFOOD & SOME GATOR

After **breakfast**, visit a **Gator Farm** for a tour where you can learn the history of Louisiana swamps and find out how alligators are part of your life. Enjoy an **included lunch** at the Gator Farm, then tour a local **Seafood Company** and hear about and see demonstrations to learn about their trade. Visit **Ardoyne Plantation**, built in 1894 and listed as possibly the largest and most elaborate examples of Victorian Gothic architecture in Louisiana. Enjoy **dinner included** at a local favorite **Seafood Restaurant**, where traditional boils are the

specialty at this down-home, friendly Cajun staple. Return to hotel. (Meals: B, L, D)

Day 8 - MARDI GRAS & JAZZ DINNER CRUISE

After **breakfast**, check out of hotel and head for **New Orleans**. Visit the **National WWII Museum** and enjoy **lunch on own** while visiting. Tour **Mardi Gras World**, a warehouse where floats are made for Mardi Gras parades, located along the Mississippi River. Check in to our local hotel. Board the **Mississippi River Jazz Dinner Cruise** on the **Creole Queen**. Step back into the glamour and romance of the riverboat era with a cruise aboard the **Paddlewheeler Creole Queen!** Experience the lively sounds of the amazing **Sullivan Dabney, Jr.** and the **Muzik Jazz Band** while enjoying a lavish **Creole Buffet** in our elegantly appointed dining room. After dinner, and maybe 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. (Meals: B, D)

Day 9 - THE BIG EASY, A CONCERT & A COURT

After **breakfast**, depart on a **Guided tour** of the 134-acre **Garden District** neighborhood, where oak-shaded streets line a diverse mix of homes from single-story cottages to grand historic mansions and lavish gardens of St. Charles Avenue, on the Mardi Gras parade route. Lafayette Cemetery is filled with ornate, 19th-century tombs, while boutiques and antique shops sit alongside fine restaurants, casual cafes and bars of Magazine Street, where Audubon Park provides expansive beautiful green space. The air's opulent with the scent of jasmine and a slower, grander age. Enjoy a **walking and orientation tour** of the **French Quarter** with your guide. Explore and enjoy **lunch on own** in the French Quarter. Don't forget to get a **beignet** at **Café du Monde**. Later, arrive to Preservation Hall and enjoy a concert at this jazz venue in the French Quarter. Return to the hotel to refresh before enjoying a **Farewell dinner** in a French Quarter courtyard. (Meals: B, D)

Day 10 - FAREWELL TO NEW ORLEANS & THE DELTA

After **breakfast**, enjoy a free morning in New Orleans before departure. (Meals: B)

To receive a detailed or customized proposal of this tour, contact today!

Mid-Atlantic Tours & Receptive Services

Post Office Box 1390 Stephens City, VA 22655 Phone: 540-869-1864 Fax: 540-869-1826

Tour Includes: 9 nights' hotel accommodation; 9 breakfasts; 3 lunches; 8 dinners; admissions & tickets to events and guide service as stated in the itinerary.

Artists and performers using celebrity names will be tribute performers. Local and regional entertainers will perform as themselves.

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