

Great Day! Scheduled Tour Summary

THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES & ITS SOUNDS, TASTES, CRUISE & TRAINS, WITH ROOMS & SHOW AT GAYLORD'S OPRYLAND HOTEL FRI SEPT 22 – MON OCT 2, 2017

Departure locations, if applicable, include Willoughby, Beachwood, Independence, No. Olmsted, Middleburg Hts, Medina, Mansfield, Columbus, Grove City, Washington CH.

Each year our staff assembles a new Southern Tour so that those who have enjoyed it in the past, will have new travel experiences. This tour has been set up for the fall months as the days get a little cooler and the colors a little brighter. We think you'll find these inclusions fascinating. In addition, there are so many other great things to see, we have extended this tour to 11 days . . . with a stay at the fabulous Opryland Hotel in Nashville, the same property that we have used for many years on our "Nashville Aglow Holiday Tour". This year's tour has 5 unique shows, including the Grand Ole Opry, almost as many as some Branson tours.



FRIDAY - A coffee stop will be made at the Mansfield area and, a couple of hours later we will have a meal stop before continuing to Georgetown, Kentucky, home of the Toyota American Plant. Here the Avalon Hybrid, Lexus, Avalon and Camry are built. Dinner is included this evening and we will be staying in our Lexington hotel this evening. **(D)**



SATURDAY - After breakfast we will be enjoying the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, "the place" to get close to horses; it is one of the world's best equine competition facilities. We will have our lunch break here. Our next destination will be about an hour way, beautiful Renfro Valley in Mount Vernon, Kentucky, proudly known as "Kentucky's Country Music Capital". It's a tradition that started back in 1939 and offers classic country, southern gospel and bluegrass music. We will be here for both the afternoon and

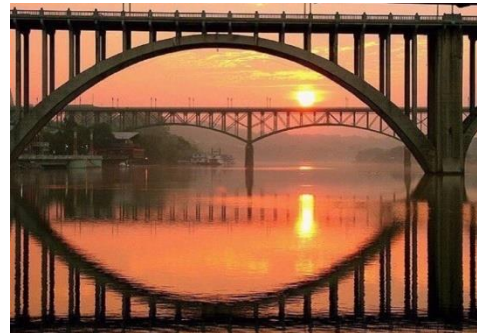
the evening show or headliner show, with a buffet dinner. This evening we will be staying in Mount Vernon. **(B, D, Shows #1, #2)**

SUNDAY – After breakfast we will visit the Kentucky Artisan Center and touring the city that is home to Berea College. It is distinctive among institutions of higher learning. Founded in 1855 as the first interracial and coeducational college in the South, Berea charges no tuition

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All tour details are anticipated at the time that the Scheduled Tour Brochure was prepared and specific stops and/or other inclusions are subject to change or elimination without notice. This tour typically departs between 7:30 AM and 8:30 AM with the exact time shown on the itinerary you will receive approximately one to two weeks prior to the tour departure. Tour typically returns about 7 and 8 PM, although this may vary.

as it admits promising students, primarily from Appalachia, who have limited economic resources. All students work at least 10 hours a week. Later we will be traveling into Cedar Bluffs near Knoxville, the first capital of Tennessee and founded in 1786. During the Civil War the city was bitterly divided over the secession issue and occupied by both Confederate and Union armies. We will be traveling to the dock to board a Southern sunset dinner cruise on an authentic paddle wheel riverboat. This is rather appropriate since the confluence of three major rivers in the Tennessee Valley brought flatboat and, later, steamboat, traffic to this area in the early 1900's when cotton was arriving from the Deep South. **(B, D, Cruise)**



MONDAY – We have a number of places in the Knoxville area that you should find interesting, not the least of



which was the focal point of a tour offering last year. If you watch The History Channel on television, you just might have heard of the “Secret City”, Oak Ridge, which was “born of war”. It grew quickly after its creation in 1942 and, for 7 years, was known as a “Secret City”. Under a cloak of secrecy, a city

and manufacturing plants were constructed. Although 3,000 people lived in about 1,000 homes, it did not appear on any map nor did it permit any visitors without special approval as it was home to the Manhattan Project which ultimately led to the winning of World War II. On the lighter side, we will be visiting places such as the Mast General Store (on the National Register of Historic Places), Bush’s Baked Beans Visitors Center (walking through a giant can of beans or) perhaps being greeted by “someone” you’ve seen on their television commercials who may just be about to “spill the beans” on the family recipes and even a winery at the historic Southern Railway Station. Dinner is included this evening. **(B, D, Rail Excursion)**



TUESDAY – We will be arriving at Falcon Rest Manor & Gardens, a structure that PBS has called the “Biltmore of Tennessee”. Back in 1896, entrepreneur Clay Faulkner told his wife Mary he'd build her "the grandest mansion in Tennessee" if she would move next to their woolen mill. She agreed and he built the 10,000 square-foot brick mansion you will be visiting . . . a mansion that was one of the first to have all the “modern conveniences” including electric lights, indoor plumbing and central heat. Since that time, it has been expanded even larger. We will be greeted by a “Victorian Gent and Lady” and then dining here as well as being entertained with a period-type mystery in Falcon Rest’s Victorian Carriage House. Our home for the next two nights near the Lookout Mountains region of Chattanooga where dinner awaits us at a new restaurant we discovered last year . . . it was a “real hit” with those on our last tour. **(B, L, D, Show #3)**

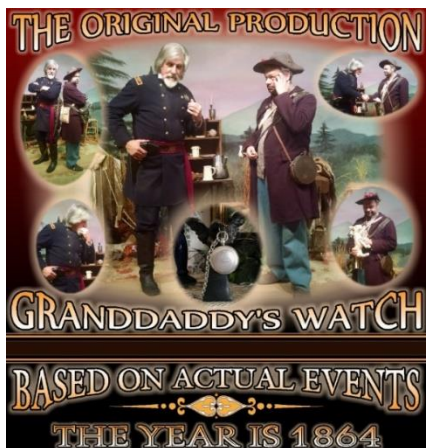


WEDNESDAY – Shortly after a hot breakfast we continue to “step back in time” as we travel to the Grand Junction train station to board the train that will be following one of the original lines of the railroad, traveling through the pre-Civil War Missionary Ridge Tunnel, completed in 1858 and we will be experiencing travel as it happened a hundred years ago when the conductor called out a mighty “All Aboard!” History abounds in this area as it was the site of two crucial Civil War battles and was the origin of the “Trail of Tears”.



While in more recent years, perhaps you recall riding along some of the highways in the country and seeing signs painted on barns throughout the Southeast and Midwest. Those paintings encouraged travelers to “See Rock City”. Located atop Lookout Mountain, just 6 miles outside Chattanooga, it is over the border in Georgia. It is a marvel of nature featuring massive ancient rock formations, gardens

with over 400 native plant species, and a breath-taking view to "See 7 States". Be sure to bring your camera to capture these unbelievable views.



This evening we will be doing something entirely new, the Buttonwillow Civil War Dinner Theater, located in a former Victorian-style church building. Rated “five-star” by TripAdvisor, you’ll be stepping back into 1864 to learn things you never knew recently or in school. The presentation has been acclaimed as presenting American History with Southern Humor”. You will be learning that “It is always to the victor that history belongs”. **(B, D, Show #4)**

THURSDAY– After breakfast we will travel into Birmingham with an interesting stop or two along the way. We have included several fascinating stops during our narrated tour of the city that has been referred to as the “Pittsburgh of the

South” due to the number of steel mills and associated businesses that were once located here. We will be checking in for a two-night stay at a hotel where supper and cocktails (or beer, wine or other beverages) await us. **(B, D)**

FRIDAY – We will depart with our guide to tour the city, attractions and historic sites. As with past tours, we will stop for lunch at the restaurant that played a key part in Fanny Flagg’s novel, “Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café”. This novel wove the past and the present through a blossoming friendship. This book was later made into a movie. A stop will also be made to visit the Vulcan Museum & Park, seeing the “Magic City” from a whole new

perspective. You'll hear how the city built a huge statue of a burly, bearded, bare-bottomed man to tower over its population. One can never forget the roots, as Vulcan, the Roman god of fire and forge, watches over all of Birmingham as a symbol of the city's iron origins. This evening we will be enjoying a cocktail or two (included) and then traveling to suburban Bessemer, to dine, once again, "Southern-style" at The Bright Star ". . .



recognized by CNN as "one of America's best historic restaurants". It has been recognized by the James Beard Foundation as an "American Classic Restaurant". Since 1907, it has served generations of customers its specialty dishes . . . some of which you will be enjoying as you select your entree. It's "top shelf . . . just what our customers have come to expect over the years. (B, D)



SATURDAY– Breakfast is again included at the hotel before we depart for a Nashville and our unbelievable rooms for the evening, at the Opryland Hotel. We will be "freshening up" and then dining at the Santa Fe Cattle Company before taking our seats for the world-famous Grand Ole Opry. (B, D, Show #5)



SUNDAY – A full breakfast is included at Opryland Hotel today before we head northward where we have reserved seats at the Louisville area's Derby Dinner Playhouse

matinee. (B, D, Show #5).



MONDAY – After breakfast we will be touring Louisville's popular Louisville Slugger Bat Factory and Museum and then learn about the history of this area at the nearby Evans Williams Bourbon Experience, admissions are included to this new attraction that talks about the Kentucky Bourbon Trail. Lunch is included today as we say "Good-Bye" to the South, but with great memories of our dining, visits and experiences. (B, L)

SOUTHERN UNITED STATES & ITS SOUNDS, TASTES - SEPT 2017

Package has been expanded to 11 days and includes 20 meals & 5 shows

\$1948 per person in a double

\$1898 per person in a triple

\$1848 per person in a quad

\$2269 per person in a single

Deposit to book, \$100 per person; we accept credit cards and checks.

Tours can now be booked on-line, 24 hours a day with a credit card.

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