

# Great Day! Scheduled Tour Summary

**THE WILD WEST MEETS THE OZARKS      MON-MON JULY 23-30, 2018**

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Departures, as applicable, from Willoughby, Beachwood, Independence, North Olmsted, Middleburg Heights, Medina, Mansfield, Columbus North.



## A SPOTLIGHTED NEW MOTORCOACH TOUR FOR 2018

This new tour, The Wild West Meets the Ozarks, is a one-of-a-kind adventure that takes a step back in time and showcases “True Grit”, learning of issues, setbacks and failures that were generally overcome by a “firmness of mind and unyielding courage”. But, this tour is so inclusive, some of our staff felt that the title could be expanded to *“The Wild West Meets the Ozarks . . . From Simple Pleasures to Precious Moments”*. Best of all, it’s an entirely new package and something you have come to expect from Great Day! Tours & Charter Bus Service.

This tour has us visiting many fascinating locations that will, undoubtedly be new to you, ranging from Precious Moments, lush gardens and one-of-a-kind artwork to viewing Hanging Judge Isaac C. Parker’s gallows, court and frontier jail, aptly named “Hell on the Border”.

**MONDAY** – Our travels take us south along I-71 through Columbus with a luncheon stop near Richmond, Indiana. This evening we will be staying at a historic hotel not too many blocks from the Gateway Arch. Clad in stainless steel, this is the world’s tallest arch and is the internationally-recognized symbol of St. Louis as well as a popular tourist destination. The hotel is located in three buildings on the National Register of Historic Places (the International Fur Exchange Building, the Thomas Jefferson Building, and the American Zinc Building), the building has been carefully renovated and includes restored original features such as matching millwork, Italian marble, and Waterford crystal chandeliers. We will be greeted with a cocktail reception & supper upon our arrival at the hotel this evening. **(D)**

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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 will typically depart between 6 AM and 7:30 AM with the exact time shown on the itinerary you will receive approximately one to two weeks prior to the tour departure. Most tours return about 8 PM to 9:30 PM, although this may vary.



**TUESDAY** – This morning we will be enjoying the hotel’s expansive breakfast buffet . . . a “little extra” you’ll be finding on a Great Day! tour package. Today we will be heading to Carthage, Missouri, and the Precious Moments Visitors Center with its manicured gardens adorned with bronze statues, fountains, gift shop and chapel, the creation of artist Samuel J. Butcher.

The Chapel has often been described as “America’s Sistine Chapel” as an artful representation of Michelangelo’s own Sistine Chapel in Rome. We will be traveling along portions of the route that the Butterfield Stagecoach operated, but not stopping every 20 miles as it did back then. Later we will be arriving in Bentonville, Arkansas, where a unique, and delicious, dinner, with entertainment, awaits us at a gorgeous facility, “Simple Pleasures”; it will have you **“stepping back into Norman Rockwell’s world”**, preparing you even more for a visit we have included tomorrow.



Located in Bella Vista Arkansas, Simple Pleasures is a time capsule defining yesterday’s America where guests experience long lost feelings. Reminisce about years-past as we “re-experience” the iconic autos we drove, neon advertising that influenced our lives and even the toys we played with and music we danced to. Can you remember dining at formica-topped tables where you ate peanut butter sandwiches decades ago?

As a point of interest, did you know that Northwest Arkansas came to have more billionaires per capita than anywhere else in the United States, including those involved with Walmart, to Jones Trucking and J.B. Hunt Transport Service. **(B, D)**

**WEDNESDAY** – Breakfast is once again included at the hotel before we head out for a narrated tour of the city. We will be experiencing Bentonville and learning of the interesting history of a city that has had three major industries in just over 150 years. We



will be making a stop at the Walmart Museum on Bentonville Square. Located in Sam Walton’s original 5 & dime variety store, we will be tracing the growth of this company, where everything began; it’s a real, working store chock full of retro toys, candles and souvenirs. Its original tin ceiling and floor tiles are part of the warm and welcoming experience. You will also be learning details of Mr. Walton’s life. By lunchtime we will be exploring Crystal Bridges, the “preeminent American art museum in the country”. Alice Walton, the daughter of Sam

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Walton, spearheaded the creation of this museum complex that now covers 217,000 square feet and employs 300 people. The museum had amassed approximately \$500 million in assets as of August 2008, of which over \$317 million of the project's cost has been donated by Alice Walton. Ranging from the colonial era to modern day, we will be experiencing the evolution of American art. The permanent collection is incredible and includes iconic images such as Asher B. Durand's *"Kindred Spirits"*, Norman Rockwell's *"Rosie the Riveter"* and Andy Warhol's *"Coca-Cola"*.

The building, itself, is most impressive and stood out during the recent visit by the Great Day! Tours reps. It was named after a nearby natural spring and the bridge construction incorporated into the building, leading to its being hailed as one of the "best in the world".



Following this visit we will be traveling the short distance to the Museum of Native American History. We will be walking through five time periods, starting in pre-historic times as we get a glimpse into what life was like for America's first inhabitants.

Then we will be headed southward to Fort Smith, which lies on the Arkansas-Oklahoma state border. The city began as a western frontier military post in 1817 and would later become well known for its role in the settling of the "Wild West" and its law enforcement heritage, keeping with the theme of this new tour destination. For something unique, since the city is situated on the Arkansas and Poteau rivers, we have planned a BBQ dinner show along the river for your entertainment this evening; sit back and enjoy the comedic performance of "The Medicine Show on Hanging Day". **(B, D)**



**THURSDAY** – Today, after breakfast, we will be touring the Fort Smith area, seeing many of the highlights and some of the murals that decorate the city and highlight the past in the 22-block Belle Grove Historic District. Some murals are many stories tall.

The city is also home to the historic Clayton House, the beautiful 1850's Victorian home of Judge Isaac C. Parker's Prosecuting Attorney, William Clayton. At the "Grand Age of 130", it is more popular than ever! Standing regally in the Belle Grove Historic District, the Clayton House serves as a living history book of Fort Smith's elegant Victorian period during the city's frontier beginnings on the border of Indian Territory.

The Clayton House provides a step back to 1882, the year William Henry Harrison Clayton moved his family into the antebellum home that he doubled in size and shaped into an Italianate-style masterpiece. Coal-burning fireplaces and period furnishings in each room place you in a time that featured no indoor plumbing or electricity, but that was rich with austerity. Our guided tour provides a perspective of the mission to bring law and justice to the area from the home of the chief prosecutor of the famous court of Judge Isaac C. Parker.” As guests, we have been invited to enjoy either High Tea or a meal here this afternoon. Speaking of the “Judge”, we will be visiting the National Historic Site to tour Hangin’ Judge Parker’s courtroom, the jail that was once known as “*Hell on the Border*”, the remains of the very first fort, a replica of the Fort Smith gallows and a portion of the “*Trail of Tears Path*”. Later we will be meeting “Miss Laura” as she takes us on a guided tour through the first former bordello to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Out of seven houses of ill repute on “the row of Fort Smith’s early-1900’s red light district, Miss Laura’s is the only one still remaining “.



In keeping with the theme of this tour, and our preference to “dine locally”, we will be enjoying dinner at a popular restaurant located in the restored Romanesque 1887 home of J.M. Sparks, a druggist at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Some of the features of this home include hand-carved fireplaces, stained art glass windows and the original chandeliers. **(B, L, D)**

**FRIDAY** - We will be departing the city, but not before visiting the Elvis Barbershop Museum. Located at Fort Chaffee, this restored World War II army barber shop was the location where thousands of U.S. soldiers received their signature G.I. buzz cuts, just like the day that Elvis Presley reported for duty in 1958, after suspending his music career to serve his country in the U.S. Army. Period memorabilia and photographs document the “hair cut heard ‘round the world”.



Then it's back to the Trolley Museum where we will be boarding the train, heading to Winslow. A luncheon will be served during our rail journey along these historic tracks enroute to Winslow. The Arkansas & Missouri Railroad passenger train offers you 'A Window Seat to History' as we travel in the style of a bygone era. You can still enjoy the leisurely elegance of real train travel through the mountains and valleys of Northwest Arkansas, in refurbished antique passenger or parlor coaches. We will be crossing over the Arkansas River during this four-hour excursion. Upon our arrival we will disembark at the station and re-board the motorcoach for the short distance into Eureka Springs.



Eureka Springs is known for its peaceful winding mountainside streets and the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Eureka Springs as one of its "Dozen Distinctive Destinations." The streets of the town are lined with Victorian homes and manors hugging cliffsides. The central downtown area is on the National Registry of Historic Places.

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Interestingly, the streets wind around the town, and no two intersect at a 90 degree angle; it has no traffic lights.

After dinner, we are scheduled to be attending The Great Passion Play. Performed May through October by a cast of 150 actors and dozens of animals, it has been seen by over seven million guests, making it the largest-attended outdoor drama in the country. The Biblically-costumed actors come together to create the drama of Jesus Christ's last days on earth. **(B, L, D)**

**SATURDAY** - Today we will be enjoying a leisurely pace and, for something quite unique, seeing a collection of vehicles assembled by a fellow who grew up in a midwest farming community and had a successful career in farming and ranching and carried that love over to yet another venue. You'll be seeing classic and antique automobiles, trucks and, for something totally unique, farming implements and tractors. This afternoon we will be have reserved seats for a lively show with dinner. **(B, D)**



**SUNDAY – Good Morning!** Our tour department has included a unique visit this morning, the Fantastic Caverns of Missouri, America's only ride-through attraction of its type. The Jeep-pulled tram will be traveling through brightly lit passageways, as we see thousands of speleothems - cave formations that include stalactites and stalagmites, tiny soda straws, cave pearls, massive columns and flowstones, each one like no other, and all created by water, a drop at a time.



Afterwards, we will be heading eastward with a luncheon stop (included) at the Sirloin Stockade . . . where else should we be dining since this tour does have a "western-flavor"? After lunch we will continue on to Collinsville, Illinois for some (hosted) beverages, adult or otherwise, and a supper. **(B, L, S)**

**MONDAY** – Good Morning as we enjoy a breakfast buffet before continuing our trip homeward. We will be in Indianapolis midday and your Tour Director has an especially nice midday dinner planned for you. A mid-afternoon rest stop will be made enroute and we should be arriving back in the Columbus area about 6:30 PM and in Northern Ohio about 9:45 PM. **(B, D)**

## **THE WILD WEST MEETS THE OZARKS -- JULY 2018 18 MEALS, TRAIN AND 4 SHOWS/ENTERTAINMENT**

**\$1584 per person in a double**  
**\$1549 per person in a triple**  
**\$1514 per person in a quad**  
**\$1965 per person in a single**

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