

Great Day! Scheduled Tour Summary

BEST OF THE GULF COAST

SUN-MON MARCH 5-13, 2023

Departures, as applicable, from Beachwood, Independence, Middleburg Heights, Medina, Mansfield, Columbus, Grove City.

This tour has been expanded over our previous packages and has additional days in an area typically enjoying temperatures in the low 70s this time of year which should be most appreciated based on the Ohio temperatures experienced during March. Most importantly, we have extended the number of days in this “Best of the Gulf Coast Tour” to make it even more relaxing, more inclusive and even more interesting. ***As a Special Incentive, please see our pricing offer at the end of this Tour Summary . . . to save you even more money!***

This tour includes great places that you may still have to discover . . . New Orleans, Louisiana; Biloxi, Mississippi; Mobile and Montgomery, Alabama; Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee; and Bowling Green and Louisville, Kentucky. There is something for everyone in these exciting new tour destinations.

Sunday We will be enjoying the sights along the way as we travel to the Southeastern portion of the country, arriving in Franklin where a relaxing meal and cocktails await us.

Monday After breakfast we will continue on into New Orleans, known as the “Big Easy”. This part of the tour has been expanded to allow three nights to enjoy so much of what this fascinating city has to offer. We have reservations for all three nights at the Wyndham French Quarter Hotel, located on Royal Street near Canal Street, one of the main streets of the city. Named Rue Royale when the French occupied this area, it is one of the original streets, dating from the early 18th Century, and is known today for its antique shops and art galleries. It is located about a block from Bourbon Street.

For those wanting to “get into the mood”, there will be time to enjoy the evening at Pat O’Brien’s, one of the French Quarter’s favorite “establishments”. It’s like an old-fashioned club with its mirrored bar backs, ornate ironwork and over 500 beer steins hanging from the ceiling. Our favorite is to follow the slate walkway to the Patio, its most popular bar. The appeal of this place is evident with its open air to the New Orleans sky and glass and iron tables set among lush foliage. It has been said that the Patio exudes the feeling of “Southern Living at its best”, quite appropriate for our “Best of the Gulf Tour”. At the center stands the landmark “Flaming Fountain”, designed to resemble a champagne glass. Its copper fountain hosts a brilliant flame amid streams of water. It is a fabulous setting to enjoy one of their famous “Hurricanes” that most everyone enjoys.

GREAT DAY! TOURS & CHARTER BUS SERVICE . . . (440) 526-5350 . . . (800) 362-4905

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. Tours typically depart between 6:30 AM and 8 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 10 PM, although this may vary.

Three Nights in New Orleans . . . Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

There will be plenty of inclusions for you while we are in New Orleans, especially since our hotel is just off Canal Street with all of its activities, including Harrah's New Orleans Casino and great restaurants which you will have time to enjoy on the evening of our arrival. During our first full morning, we have included an experience that should be most memorable as we enter The Court of Two Sisters. It is more than a restaurant as it is "a legend", and part of all our tours to the city. We will be entering through the Charm Gates to enjoy their renown Jazz Brunch. During the next two days we will be visiting the Mardi Gras Museum and the National WW II Museum, with experiences and exhibits that were created to cover the "epic & global scale of the war that changed the world".

During our visit to the French Market, there will be time to perhaps purchase beignets or café au lait at this New Orleans tradition. Just in case you did not already know, an oh-so-delicious beignet is a smaller version of a donut, however the inside of it is a little more "puffy" with a soft middle and is sprinkled with confectioners' sugar. Enjoy this pastry with some Café Au Lait, another New Orleans specialty.



Of course, we will be touring the area with our Guide, seeing some of the historic churches, the above-ground "reusable" plots in the cemeteries, hearing of Voodoo in its history and seeing other points of interest as we learn the differences between the Cajuns and the Creoles, all of whom left their mark on this colorful area. Of course, food is what made the French Quarter over the years and we will be enjoying some of it during our Wednesday evening dinner!

Thursday has us traveling into Biloxi. While many visitors appreciate its beaches and casinos, the city is home to one of the first cast-iron lighthouses built in the South; the Biloxi Lighthouse is one of the city's most revered landmarks, dating back to 1848. Upon our arrival in Biloxi we will be enjoying an early lunch at a popular restaurant. Following lunch there will be two choices to select from:



- *Several hours of gaming at the beautiful Beau Rivage Resort & Casino with its MGM Rewards. Currently this casino offers complimentary beverages to all guests playing on the gaming floor and at video poker bars (always subject to change, of course).*
- *Or, if you prefer, we will be visiting Beauvoir, the Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library that is now a Mississippi Historic Landmark.*

Following our visit, we will continue on to beautiful Mobile in time for our third meal of the day, a casual dinner and the cocktails that have been included this evening at the hotel. Possibly you'll be ready to enjoy a dip in the outdoor swimming pool & hot tub this evening, weather-permitting.

Friday After breakfast, we will be touring Mobile, Alabama. This colorful coastal city has a lot to see and do, with a vibrant 300-year history with lots of stories to tell and long-standing traditions celebrated on a regular basis. Once called “*the Paris of the South*”, Mobile has long been the cultural center of the Gulf Coast and was actually the location of the very first Mardi Gras in the South. We will be touring the area and stepping aboard the *U.S.S. Alabama*, anchored in the harbor of Battleship Memorial Park. We’ve also included the Aircraft Pavilion where you will be seeing airplanes from all wars on display and then seeing the U.S.S. Drum, a submarine. It is anticipated that our second of three meals today will be a luncheon served in the Ward Room of the battleship.

Saturday Our tour destination today will be Montgomery, Alabama, with stops along the way as we travel northward from Mobile. Our first stop this morning will be at a courthouse built in the 1930s and was the model for the courtroom settings in “*To Kill A Mockingbird*” starring Gregory Peck. It remains one of the most recognized courtrooms in America due to the popularity of the film version of the book.



After we depart, with a lunch stop along the way, we will be arriving in Montgomery, the capital of Alabama. Here we will be learning part of the city’s history at the Troy University’s Museum with its Rosa Parks story and memorabilia, including the 1955 Bus Boycott in the city. It is anticipated that we will be having a musical cruise this evening.

Sunday Following a leisurely breakfast we will be traveling to the United States Space & Rocket Center. This is a Smithsonian Affiliate and the Official Visitors Center for NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center. They have one of the largest collections of space memorabilia in the world. This evening we will be having dinner and entertainment at Ole

Red, created by Blake Shelton and Ryman Hospitality in Downtown Nashville. Sit back and enjoy yourself at this popular destination in Music City.

Monday After breakfast we will depart, making an early stop in Bowling Green at the National Corvette Museum. Enjoy these beautiful American-made sports cars and, perhaps, grab a cup of java at the Corvette Café. While we have been traveling through the South on this tour, we will be enjoying our mid-day dinner at a restaurant that represents “southern”, but from Germany this time. Bon Appetit!

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Special Offer Being Extended

While all reservations and pricing are being finalized at the time that this tour is being outlined, we have an offer for you. To assure that you are not “shut out” from a seat on this new, expanded “Best of the Gulf Tour”, we invite you to sign-up with just a \$100 deposit to “hold a seat”; this deposit is fully refundable until December 5th, 2022 if, for any reason, you change your mind about participating. There is no risk to you or your money with this offer, being made during August to give you as much advance notice as possible, as we await our pricing and confirmation from our suppliers in the South since inclusions could be subject to change.