

presents

The Heart of the South: **Magnolias & Mockingbirds**

May 5 - 13, 2019

Sunday, May 5, 2019 ~ Memphis, TN ~ Oxford, MS ~

Our tour departs this morning from the lobby of **The Guest House at Graceland** in **Memphis, TN**. Our first stop today is at the newly renovated **National Civil Rights Museum** at the site of the **Rev. Martin Luther King's** 1968 assassination. Lunch today is at **Central BBQ**. Then, it's off to **Oxford, MS**, where we'll tour **William Faulkner's** beloved **Rowan Oak Estate**, set amid a grove of cedars, oaks, pines and magnolias. A special **Welcome Dinner** before overnighing at **The Chancellor's House** in Oxford.



Monday, May 6, 2019 ~ Oxford, MS ~ Vicksburg, MS ~



After breakfast at the Chancellor's House we travel to **Vicksburg, MS**, the onetime Confederate stronghold to which **Ulysses Grant** laid siege in 1863. To Jefferson Davis, Vicksburg was the "*nail head that holds the South's two halves together.*" President Lincoln believed "*Vicksburg is the key to victory.*" Here, we'll explore the battlefields of **Vicksburg National Military Park**. We'll also visit **USS Cairo**, one of the first American ironclad warships produced and recently recovered from the Mississippi River and restored. Dinner, then overnight at the **Courtyard by Marriott** in Vicksburg.

Tuesday, May 7, 2019 ~ Vicksburg, MS ~ Jackson, MS ~ Natchez, MS ~

We'll breakfast at the Marriott before heading to **Jackson, MS**, site of the widely acclaimed **Mississippi State History Museum** and its companion **Mississippi Civil Rights Museum**, recounting the fight for civil rights in Mississippi between 1945 and 1970. This afternoon we are introduced to the antebellum charms of **Natchez, MS** where we'll tour **Melrose Plantation** and the **William Johnson House** (home of the freed slave known as "the barber of Natchez"). Dinner tonight at **The Castle Pub**, built in 1790. Overnight at **Dunleith 1856 Historic Inn**.



Wednesday, May 8, 2019 ~ Natchez, MS ~ Baton Rouge, LA ~ New Orleans, LA ~



After breakfast at the Dunleith we travel to **Baton Rouge, LA**, and the **Louisiana State Capitol**, site of **Huey Long's** virtual dictatorship and his subsequent assassination in 1935. On the capitol grounds we'll also pause at Long's gravesite. Then, it's on to "*The Big Easy*" – **New Orleans, LA** where we'll tour the **National World War II Museum**, telling the story of *the war that changed the world* – why it was fought, how it was won, so future generations may better understand the price of freedom. Dinner tonight is at New Orleans' world-famous **Brennan's Restaurant** (rated among the *Best Restaurants in the World* by Conde Nast Traveler). Our lodgings for the night (the first of two) is the **Bourbon Orleans Hotel**, situated in the heart of New Orleans' colorful **French Quarter**.

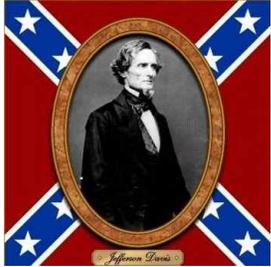
Over, please ...

Thursday, May 9, 2019 ~ New Orleans, LA ~

We'll breakfast at the Bourbon Orleans before visiting nearby **Jackson Square** and historic **St. Louis Cathedral**, the oldest Cathedral in North America, founded as a Catholic Parish in 1720. Next, we're treated to a special luncheon cruise and steamboat ride up the Mississippi on the legendary **Natchez** paddle wheeler to the site of the **Battle of New Orleans**, won by Andrew Jackson in 1815. This afternoon is free to relax or explore. Dinner is on our own this evening, then a second night at the **Bourbon Orleans**.



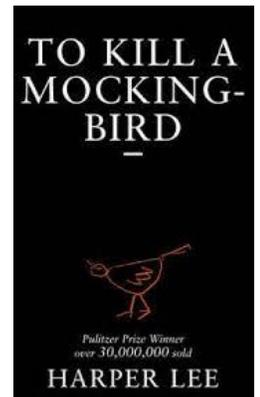
Friday, May 10, 2019 ~ New Orleans, LA ~ Mobile, AL ~



After breakfast at the Bourbon Orleans we'll head east to **Biloxi, MS**, and the **Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library**. We'll tour **Beauvoir**, the antebellum home that became Davis' retirement estate. On to **Mobile, AL** and a visit to the **History Museum of Mobile**, where we'll get an up close glimpse of Confederate Naval history and the history of Old Mobile, as well as a trip back in time to explore Mobile's early Native American inhabitants. Dinner this evening is at **Dauphin's Seafood**. Overnight at the historic **Battle House Renaissance Hotel**, former military headquarters of Gen Andrew Jackson during the **War of 1812**.

Saturday, May 11, 2019 ~ Mobile, AL ~ Monroeville, AL ~

After breakfast at the Battle House we'll visit **Battleship Memorial Park**, home to the famed warship **USS Alabama** as well as the WWII submarine **USS Drum**, plus the park's aviation pavilion featuring **Marine One**, the Navy chopper used by Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan and Bush 41. For many, today may well be the trip's most memorable chapter: We head to **Monroeville, AL**, home of authors **Harper Lee** and **Truman Capote**. There, we'll visit the famous Courthouse and have front-row VIP seats (we've managed to secure 30 tickets) for the annual dramatization of **To Kill a Mockingbird** – one act in the Courthouse and the other outside on its lawn. An exclusive VIP dinner hosted by the Mockingbird Company at **The Prop and Gavel** proceeds the play. Our lodgings for the evening are at **The Mockingbird Inn**.



Sunday, May 12, 2019 ~ Monroeville, AL ~ Selma, AL ~ Montgomery, AL ~

We'll breakfast at the Mockingbird Inn before traveling to **Selma, AL**. There, we'll walk the **Edmund Pettus Bridge** where, on March 7, 1965, voting rights marchers were violently confronted by law enforcement, a day that became known as **Bloody Sunday**. On to **Montgomery, AL**, where we'll explore the recently opened **Legacy Museum** and **National Memorial for Peace and Justice**. From enslavement to mass incarceration, this museum tells the story of slavery and racism in America, including the enslavement of African-Americans, racial lynchings, and segregation. This afternoon we check in to the **Montgomery Renaissance Hotel and Spa**. A very special **Farewell Dinner** concludes the evening.



Monday, May 13, 2019 ~ Montgomery, AL ~

Breakfast is again included this morning before departing Montgomery, AL per our own schedule.

This unique tour is personally led and hosted by noted author and presidential historian Richard Norton Smith. Reservations are taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Your deposit of \$1,000 will secure your reservation. Please reply before February 15TH as after this date hotel deadlines may affect availability.

\$4,575 pp DOUBLE OCCUPANCY / \$5,395 SINGLE OCCUPANCY

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