



*presents*

# ***The Heart of the South:***

## **Magnolias & Mocking Birds From Memphis to Monroeville**

**May 5 - 13, 2019**

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

Our tour begins this morning 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 Rowan Oak Estate**, set amid a grove of cedars, oaks, pines and magnolias. A special Welcome Dinner, then overnight at **The Chancellor's House** in Oxford.



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

After breakfast we head 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 visit **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." Lincoln remarked "Vicksburg is the key to victory." Later, we'll explore **USS Cairo**, recovered from the Mississippi River and restored. Dinner at **The Gumbo Pot**, then overnight in Vicksburg.



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

We'll breakfast at the hotel this morning before touring the battlefields of **Vicksburg National Military Park**. 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 is at **The King's Arms Tavern**. Overnight at **Dunleith Historic Inn**, built in 1856.



*Over, please ...*

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



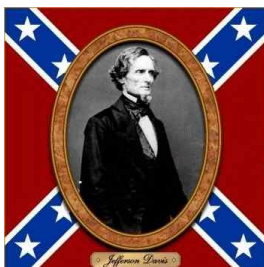
After breakfast at the hotel we travel to **Baton Rouge, LA**, and the **Louisiana State Capitol**, site of **Huey Long's** virtual dictatorship and his subsequent assassination in 1935. On the capitol grounds we'll also pause at Long's gravesite. Then, it's on to "**The Big Easy**" – **New Orleans, LA** where we'll tour the **National World War II Museum**. Dinner tonight is at New Orleans' world-famous **Brennan's Restaurant**. Our lodgings for the night (the first of two) is the **Omni-Royal Orleans Hotel** in the heart of New Orleans' colorful **French Quarter**.

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

We'll breakfast at the hotel this morning before visiting **Jackson Square** and historic **St. Louis Cathedral**, the oldest Cathedral in North America, founded as a Catholic Parish in 1720. After lunch we'll enjoy a steamboat ride up the Mississippi on the **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. A second night at the **Omni-Royal Orleans**.



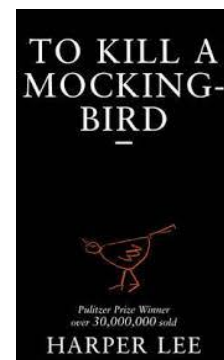
**Friday, May 10, 2019 ~ New Orleans, LA ~ Mobile, AL ~**



After breakfast at the hotel we'll head east to **Biloxi, MS**, where the **Jefferson Davis Home and Library** are on the itinerary today. Built in 1852, we'll tour the antebellum home that became the retirement estate of President Davis. On to **Mobile, AL** and a visit to the **History Museum of Mobile**. Dinner this evening is at **Dauphin's Seafood**. Overnight in Mobile.

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

After breakfast we tour **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 secured front-row VIP seats (we've managed to secure 30 tickets) for the annual dramatization of **To Kill a Mocking Bird** – one in the Courthouse and the other outside on its lawn. A second night in Mobile. An exclusive VIP dinner at **The Prop and Gavel** proceeds the play.



**Sunday, May 12, 2019 ~ Mobile, AL ~ Montgomery, AL ~**

We'll breakfast at the hotel before heading to **Montgomery, AL** where we'll explore **The Legacy Museum and Memorial** to the victims of lynching. 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 Montgomery's **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.

**PRICING TO BE ANNOUNCED**