1  VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI
We leave Knoxville this morning traveling south through Chattanooga and into the "Heart of Dixie" . . . Alabama. After lunch in the Birmingham area, we continue through Jackson, Mississippi to Vicksburg, Mississippi for the night.

2  EAST TEXAS OIL MUSEUM / WACO, TEXAS
This morning we depart Vicksburg and cross the mighty Mississippi River on our way through Louisiana to Kilgore, Texas for lunch. After lunch we will visit the East Texas Oil Museum located on the campus of Kilgore College. This fascinating museum houses the authentic recreation of oil discovery and production in the early 1930s from the largest oil field inside U.S. boundaries. Within the museum is a full scale town full of stores, people, animals, and machinery depicting the lively activity of a town booming in oil — a typical "Boomtown, USA." Our destination for the night is Waco, Texas situated along the Brazos River. Waco quickly becoming a destination unto itself due mainly to Chip & Joanna Gaines, creators and stars of the popular HGTV Fixer Upper show.

3  WACO MAGNOLIA MARKET AT THE SILOS / TEXAS BLUEBONNETS SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
Before departing Waco we will visit Magnolia Market at the Silos made famous by Chip & Joanna Gaines of the HGTV show "Fixer Upper". There's a little something for everyone at the Market. Shopping, games, the garden and even a bite to eat. The Market itself is staged and set up with one goal in mind: to inspire you to own the space you're in. Next we travel to the heart of Bluebonnet Country at Bryan and College Station, home of Texas A & M University, the state's oldest public institution of higher education. After lunch we travel Washington County's Bluebonnet Trail. The landscape mirrors the sky as brilliant patches of bluebonnets emulate a vibrant blue sky, and dazzling Indian paintbrushes evoke the warm colors of a sunset. You will see field after field of spectacular bluebonnets along the roadside. Lunch included at Bryan College at J.Cody's. Brenham is home to more than 120 historic sites and markers from the Texas Revolution era. Brenham's "Main Street" district is the heart and soul of Washington County. We continue south to San Antonio, Texas for a three night stay.

4  SIGHTSEEING SAN ANTONIO / ALAMO / RIVER WALK
San Antonio's old world Spanish flair and blend of cultures make it one of America's most picturesque cities. You'll want to enjoy an illuminated evening stroll along the famed Riverwalk. There's no city in Texas that compares to the city of San Antonio! Today a local guide joins us as we explore this fascinating city, from the Alamo, where Texas state history began, to the fabulous shops of the beautiful San Antonio Riverwalk, Market Square and the Mission San Jose—known as the "Queen of the Missions". We will step back in time as we visit the Alamo—the most famous spot in Texas. We will enjoy a 35-minute narrated history cruise on the San Antonio River of the beautiful San Antonio River Walk. Dinner included this evening.

5  THE RIO CIBOLO RANCH / FREE TIME SAN ANTONIO
The ranch is east of San Antonio on the banks of the Cibolo along the route that Spanish Conquistadors rode as they moved westward in the 1500s. This route was later designated the Old Spanish Trail in 1915. Cibolo is the Spanish word for buffalo and the waterway flowing through the ranch was also named Cibolo, thus the name of the ranch is Rio Cibolo. Their legacy as a working Longhorn ranch has deep roots. The Spaniards introduced cattle and horses to the area in the 18th century. The horses served as a new means of transportation for the Native Americans and early settlers. The cattle were called Longhorns and were a very Hardy breed. They multiplied so rapidly they became wild. The Longhorns were the mainstay of early Texas ranchers, many of whom were cowboys. The cowboys rounded up the cattle and drove them across uncharted rivers and over mountains to the markets in Kansas and Nebraska. The Ranch often holds rodeo events in keeping with our cowboy tradition. All this sightseeing sharpens the appetite, so saunter-on-up to the table for a mouthwatering Chuckwagon lunch. We return to San Antonio with time for shopping and exploring San Antonio.

6  JUDGE ROY BEAN VISITOR CENTER / ALPINE, TEXAS
This morning we follow the waters of the mighty Rio Grande through Del Rio to the Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center where we will visit the rustic saloon, courtroom and billiard hall of Judge Roy Bean, the colorful and controversial "Law West of the Pecos" in the 1860's. Be sure to explore the impressive cactus garden. We continue to Alpine, Texas for a two night stay. West Texas is majestic. And Alpine is right in the middle of everything. The town has an elevation of 4,475 feet, and the surrounding mountain peaks are over a mile high. The town sits on a high plateau, the Chihuahuan Desert, with the Davis Mountains to the north and the Chisos Mountains to the south.
7 TOUR BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
This morning after breakfast our local guide will take us on a tour of this vast area — monumental landscapes, huge overwhelming cliffs, far distant vistas, a feeling of power and majesty — the is Big Bend! Visitors can travel from the Rio Grande with its spectacular canyons and jungle-like floodplain up through Chihuahuan Desert, which constitutes the majority of the park, to Chisos Mountains with cool woodlands. Lunch is included at the Park Lodge. We return to Alpine for our last night. L

8 MONAHANS SANDHILLS STATE PARK / FORT WORTH STOCKYARDS
Just north of Ft. Stockton is Monahans Sandhills State Park — 4,000 acres of wind-sculptured sand dunes like the classical landscape of the Sahara. After a brief photo stop, we continue to Fort Worth, Texas for the night. It’s apparent that the Old West is thriving in the Stockyards National Historic District! Dinner included this evening in the Stockyards area. D

9 FORT WORTH SIGHTSEEING / THE HERD / DALLAS, TEXAS SIGHTSEEING TOUR
This morning’s tour of Fort Worth introduces you to the City of Cowboys and Culture. The tour covers the history of the City starting from a lonely outpost on the western frontier, to the days of cattle drives, to their importance in aviation over the last century, to the major cosmopolitan city of today. During the two hour tour, we visit the “red brick streets” parts of Fort Worth, including Downtown, the Historic District Near Southside, TCU/University Area, the Historic Northside and the Stockyards. The Texas Longhorn and the American cowboy are two of the most enduring symbols of the Old West. They’re a big reason why Fort Worth earned the nickname “Cowtown.” They formed the core of the great cattle drives of the late nineteenth century. Now, the romance and mystique of cowboys and cattle drives returns to Fort Worth. The Old West comes to life before your eyes during the Fort Worth Herd’s daily cattle drive. Genuine Texas cowhands drive a herd of Texas longhorns down Exchange Avenue in the Stockyards National Historic District every day at 11:30 AM and 4:00 PM. After lunch on your own in the Stockyards area we continue to Dallas where a local guide will show us all that Dallas has to offer — Dealy Plaza and the Sixth Floor Museum, Reunion Tower, Founders Plaza, Pioneer Plaza, Dallas City Hall, Fountain Plaza, Deep Ellum, Wilson Block, The Art District, Kyle Warren Park, West End and more as time permits. Overnight in Rockwall, Texas, a suburb of Dallas and part of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

10 MARLSGATE PLANTATION LUNCH AND TOUR / LITTLE ROCK
Today, we travel to Scott, Arkansas just fourteen miles southeast of the city of Little Rock. We will visit Marlsgate Plantation, a stately columned Greek Revival Mansion shaded by ancient oaks and a pecan grove overlooking the waters of Bearskin Lake. We enjoy a delightful luncheon prepared by their local chef. After lunch we will enjoy a tour of Marlsgate, now the private home of Martha Ellen and Beau Talbot. After our tour we return to Little Rock for the night.

11 MEMPHIS / GRACELAND / SUN STUDIOS’ TOUR / BASS PRO SHOPS AT THE MEMPHIS PYRAMID / BIG CYPRESS LODGE
Two hours takes us to Memphis to explore Elvis Presley’s home, Graceland Mansion. Fully immerse yourself in Elvis’ life and career like never before at Elvis Presley’s Memphis as you experience Elvis’ roots, his influences and his artistry. Walk among some of Elvis’ favorite automobiles, including his iconic Pink Cadillac, Stutz Blackhawk, 1956 Cadillac Eldorado, Dino Ferrari, Mercedes Benz limousine, Rolls Royce sedans and more. Step aboard Elvis’ customized airplanes to see how he traveled in luxury. The Lisa Marie includes a living room, conference room, private bedroom and features gold-plated seatbelts, leather-covered tables and 24-karat gold-flecked sinks. Plus, you can take a glimpse at Elvis’ smaller Lockheed Jetstar, the Hound Dog II. You will be free to enjoy lunch on your own at either Vernon’s Smokehouse Barbeque Restaurant or Gladys’ Diner. Be sure to also visit the Shake and Ice Cream station featuring hand-dipped ice cream, Root Beer floats and more! We’re off to downtown Memphis to Sun Studio—the most famous recording studio in the world. “If Music Was A Religion, then Memphis would be Jerusalem and Sun Studio, It’s Most Holy Shrine.” Hear some of Elvis’ greatest hits. Located within the new Bass Pro Shops Pyramid in downtown Memphis, TN, Big Cypress Lodge offers rustic, distinctively appointed rooms and suites fully immersed in the Bass Pro Shops outdoor lifestyle. The Lookout At The Pyramid is located at the top of the Memphis Pyramid. Dining with the Best View in Memphis! Overnight in Memphis.

12 HOMEWARD BOUND
We depart Memphis this morning for our return home stopping in the Nashville area for lunch. We must say this has been a memorable trip to see the Best of Texas — magnificent fields of Bluebonnets and Indian Paint Bush adorned the fields along the Bluebonnet Trail, Herds of Longhorn Cattle, horses and farm animals on the Texas Ranch and the beauty of Big Bend.

6 MEALS INCLUDED
B - Breakfast • L - Lunch • D - Dinner

Price Per Person:
Single $2490  Twin $1965  Triple $1895

13 day tour from these cities departing one day earlier: Decatur and Huntsville, AL; Lexington, KY and Nashville, TN. Add $130 to the above prices for twin and triple and $150 for single.