

Southern Swing

October 3-13, 2022



New Orleans - Biloxi - Nashville - Pensacola Beach

Day 1 (Monday): Home to Blue Springs, MO

We start our adventure heading south with comfort stops along the way to Blue Springs, MO to our first overnight. We arrive at our hotel for the evening “kickback” reception of appetizers and drinks. We’ll enjoy a relaxing evening getting to know our new friends in preparation of our next 10 days together!



Day 2 (Tuesday): Blue Springs, MO to Little Rock, AK

Today we head out of Missouri and on to Little Rock, AR. In the afternoon we will arrive at the Clinton Presidential Library. The exhibits you’ll see at the William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum reflect the events, ceremonies, day-to-day workings of the White House, the lives of the President and the First Family, and the accomplishments and work of the Clinton Administration. The rest of the evening will be yours to relax and enjoy the night at our hotel.



Day 3 (Wednesday): Little Rock, AK to New Orleans, LA

Today we head to New Orleans with stops along the way. After checking into our motel, this evening we will experience the authentic and legendary restaurant Mulate’s with a home-cooked Cajun meal, which is recognized throughout the world as the “King of Cajun Dine and Dance”.



Day 4 (Thursday): New Orleans, LA

Today we will explore the city of New Orleans and begin our tour at the birthplace of New Orleans – the French Quarter! You will see and hear the history of the city including Jackson Square, the Saint Louis Cathedral and the famous French Quarter balconies. We will then get an opportunity to explore Esplanade Avenue to the City of the Dead. Here you’ll see the graves of the St. Louis Cemetery up close as we walk through the well-known and highly visited New Orleans landmark. From there we head to the “American Sector”, the New Orleans Garden District. Alive and well with its live-oak trees lining St. Charles Avenue where we will get a great sense of the luxury and extravagance of old New Orleans. This is a true step back into the antebellum era, with highlights including the former homes of author Anne Rice with the New Orleans Warehouse & Arts District as our final stop. Following our city tour, we will head to the National WWII Museum to spend the rest of the day, which features a rich collection of artifacts that bring history to life. Here you will find thought-provoking and interactive exhibits that explore the American Experience in the war that changed the world. Following the WWII museum, we will then return to the hotel to relax for our kickback dinner and enjoy a free evening to explore the French Quarter on our own.



Day 5 (Friday): New Orleans, La to Biloxi, MS

We will begin our day visiting Louisiana’s most famous plantations and will journey down the historic River Road Region as we make our way to these historic landmarks. On this tour, we will see the grandeur and diversity of New Orleans by visiting a 200+ year old sugarcane Creole plantation called Laura. This plantation has a rich and unique history, from the home itself to the stories of the four women that ran it, one of which it was named for as well as the “Big House” and slave quarters. Next we headed to the Houmas House Plantation and Gardens, and you’ll find out why it is called “The Crown Jewel of Louisiana’s River Road.” At one time during the 19th century, Houmas House farmed sugarcane on tens of thousands of acres, and

became the largest producer of sugar in the country. In fact, this grand estate was so lavish that it was described by many as "The Sugar Palace". We will enjoy the ambience of a classic lunch buffet at the café Burnside. After lunch, we will depart for our Swamp tour excursion to meander through the bayous and swamps of the historical Manchac Swamp. As we drift through the waterways, you'll learn about the Louisiana Wetlands, the inhabitants of the swamp, (particularly the American Alligator), and learn about the unique history of the Cajun town of Frenier. You may actually come within a few feet of jumping alligators that peak out from underbrush and between moss-draped trees and shrubs! After our tour, we will check into the Palace casino for an evening of relaxing and gaming fun.



Day 6 (Saturday): Biloxi, MS to Pensacola Beach, FL

Today we will be making a stop at the USS Battleship Museum Memorial Park on our way to Pensacola Beach. You will voyage through time and revisit an era of adventure and bravery as you tour the many exhibits. Alongside the battleship is where the oldest America's Gato Class U.S. Submarine is displayed. After our tour, we will check into our beautiful Beach Front Hotel and you will have the evening and the next full day to explore the area and walk the beach. Several restaurants, bars, shops and of course the beach are all within walking distance. There is also a free Island Trolley available to take you around the island that stops at our hotel available from 4pm to midnight.



Day 7 (Sunday): Pensacola Beach, FL

A free day in Pensacola Beach to do as you would like. Our hotel is on the beach and has a restaurant and bar for your convenience. Take a stroll on the beach, relax around the pool or take a walk on the Pier and explore the many restaurants and shops in the area. You can also take the Free Island Trolley that is available daily from 4pm to midnight. The day is yours to explore this beautiful Island on the Gulf of Mexico!

Day 8 (Monday): Pensacola Beach, FL to Nashville, TN

Today we head north making comfort stops along the way to Nashville, TN where we will experience an Opry Country Classics show at the Ryman Auditorium. An exciting celebration of the songs that made Music City famous.



Day 9 (Tuesday): Nashville, TN to Bettendorf, IA

We head for Bettendorf, IA today crossing Tennessee and rolling along into Iowa to the Isle Casino for a change of pace with great food, fun and gaming for us to enjoy.

Day 10 (Wednesday): Bettendorf, IA to Home

As we make our way back home, we will stop at Russell Stover to pick up any last-minute sweets. Memories of "The Big Easy" Swamps, Plantations and sun in Florida will keep us warm through the fall and into the winter in Minnesota!

10 Included Meals + 3 Manager's Receptions

\$200 Deposit
Per person required
to hold your spot

Final Payment
Due
7/15/22

Price Per Person:
Coming Soon!

Personally Hosted
By:

*Patty Chmielewski
& Michael Bell*



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