Carolina Christmas November 7-18, 2025

Discover 12 days of Christmas with Southern Charm!

Friday, Nov 7: Minnesota to Peoria, IL (D)

We're off and on our way to a fabulous Southern adventure! Our first day is a travel day with comfort stops and lunch along the way to our first overnight in Peoria, IL. Once we arrive, check-in and have a chance to relax, we'll head over to dinner at everyone's favorite, Cracker Barrel to get to know our new friends and traveling companions.



Saturday, Nov 8: Peoria, IL to Louisville, KY (B,D)

After breakfast, we hit the road to Louisville, KY to take in the Kentucky Derby Museum, one of the premiere attractions in the Louisville region, celebrating the tradition, history, hospitality, and pride of the world-renowned event that is the Kentucky Derby. Each year, the museum welcomes over 230,000 visitors and you can enjoy two floors of family-friendly interactive exhibits, a 30-minute guided historic walking tour at Churchill Downs Racetrack and get your heart racing and emotions soring when watching

the museum's signature movie, "The Greatest Race" on a 360°, 4K high resolution screen. After our visit we'll check into our accommodation for the evening and have a time to relax before we go to the Derby Dinner Playhouse Theatre.

Sunday, Nov 9: Louisville, KY to Asheville, NC (B,D)

We begin our day traveling to Berea, KY to visit the Kentucky Artisan Center in the 25,000 sq. foot Kentucky Arts Center where you can shop for Kentucky crafts, fine art, and explore special exhibits and events. After our shopping extravaganza we will head to Asheville, NC to check-in our hotel and enjoy a relaxing evening with dinner.

Monday, Nov 10: Asheville, NC to Myrtle Beach, SC (B,D)

Breakfast awaits before heading to the magical and exquisite Biltmore Estate, America's largest private home. This grand estate was built by George Vanderbilt between the years 1889-1895. It is easy to see why he loved this area so much that he decided this was where he wanted to live. This magnificent mansion has 250 rooms filled with treasures collected from all over the world.





After our tour, we'll head to Myrtle Beach, SC and check into our beautiful resort, right on the beach for the next three nights! We'll have dinner at the Original Benjamin's Seafood Calabash before seeing the Carolina Opry Christmas Special. A holiday tradition for over 30 years, the long-standing Opry favorite offers an unforgettable holiday experience for the whole family. Featuring time-honored traditions, dance routines, award-winning vocalists, and musicians, more than 35 Christmas trees, 75 wreaths, snow and more, the show continues to live up to its "Top attraction in Myrtle Beach" title each year, according to CNBC.

Tuesday, Nov 11: Myrtle Beach, SC (B,D)

Today we'll head over to Barefoot Landing to shop and enjoy the beautiful tropical atmosphere. You will have plenty of free time to explore before the afternoon production of "The South's Grandest Christmas Show" at the Alabama Theatre. Year after year, this production amazes audiences with an incredible combination of talent, scenery, and special effects that will put anyone in the holiday spirit. This show is sure to instill the true meaning of Christmas with its combination of traditional Christmas classics and contemporary holiday favorites.



Wednesday, Nov 12: Myrtle Beach, SC (B,L,D)

Begin your day with breakfast before boarding the authentic 70-foot wooden Barefoot Queen Riverboat for a scenic and entertaining lunch cruise. As we sail, we will navigate the inland waterway to provide views of the Grand Strand's picturesque landscapes including waterfront homes, natural scenery and local landmarks.

Tonight, we'll celebrate all the things that make the holidays special as the Mystical Christmas Spirit takes Captain Scrooge on a journey through time and space to find the meaning of Christmas. Cheer along as giant Christmas toys come to life and perform amazing acrobatics high above the lagoon. You'll laugh at the comical castaway and their sea lion companion and gaze in awe and wonder at a live Nativity featuring three wise men on camels and an angel with a special message for landlubbers and pirates



alike. You will also be thrilled by an epic battle between the Crimson and Emerald pirates as they compete for the coveted Christmas treasure on land, on deck, in water and high above two full-sized pirate ships, all while enjoying a four-course holiday feast!

Thursday, Nov 13: Myrtle Beach to Charleston, SC (B,D)



After breakfast, our bags our packed and we're headed to Charleston, SC. Today we clippity-clop our way back to colonial times in a horse-drawn carriage tour and see 300 years of history, including antebellum mansions, churches, and gardens. Our guide will inform and entertain you with historical facts, lore, and humor and cover more than 2.5 miles and 30 blocks of historic Charleston. Tonight, we enjoy a local landmark in downtown for dinner at Hyman's Seafood Restaurant. You won't be leaving hungry with its comfortable menu of seafood and the owners will treat you like VIP customers.

Friday, Nov 14: Charleston, SC to Charlotte, NC (B)

We're back on route to Charlotte, NC to visit the Billy Graham Library and Museum. Discover the life and legacy of Billy Graham's journey from a humble farm boy to an international ambassador of God's love. The barn-shaped building is situated on 20 landscaped acres, only miles from where Billy Graham grew up. After our visit we'll check into our accommodation and have a relaxing evening.



Saturday, Nov 15: Charlotte, NC to Nashville, TN (B)



Rise and shine because our journey continues as we head to Nashville, TN with a short lunch stop on Broadway to get a taste of that Nashville vibe! Then we're off to the majestic and luxurious Gaylord Opryland Resort. Here you will be surrounded by 9 acres of indoor gardens, a winding river, pathways and sparkling waterfalls where you can unwind, explore, shop, dine and be entertained to your heart's content for the next 2 nights. You'll enjoy the evening taking in all the amenities this hotel has to offer.

Sunday, Nov 16: Nashville, TN (B)

Today is yours! Spend the day relaxing and enjoying the comforts of the incredible Opryland resort and surrounding areas.

Monday, Nov 17: Nashville, TN to Rockford, IL (B,D)

We say goodbye to Nashville, TN after breakfast and make our way to St. Louis, MO with comfort stops along the way. We'll visit the tallest man-made monument in the Western Hemisphere, and Missouri's tallest accessible building, the iconic Gateway Arch! After our visit we'll head to Rockford, IL for our final overnight. Later in the evening we will enjoy a farewell pizza party at our hotel.



Tuesday, Nov 18: Rockford, IL to Home (B)

Today is our final breakfast together before we head home with memories of our fabulous Southern Style Christmas!

<u>Highlights Include:</u> Kentucky Derby Museum, Derby Dinner Playhouse, Kentucky Artisan Center, Billy Graham Museum, Carolina Opry, Barefoot Landing, Alabama Theatre, Pirate Voyage Dinner Show, Biltmore Estate, Carriage tour of Charleston, Barefoot Queen Riverboat Cruise, Gaylord Opryland Resort, 20 meals and more!



Personally
Hosted Together
By:
Patty Chmielewski
& Wichael Bell

