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DISCOVER THE OLD SOUTH

OCTOBER 16-25, 2019

Take a journey on this unique excursion to the Old South featuring Southern hospitality, delicious cuisine, fascinating history, amazing sights, and lots of excitement. This tour takes you through Louisville, Memphis, Charlotte, Jackson, New Orleans & more with lots to experience along the way!

Departure/return times and pickup location are as follows:

	<u>DEPART</u>	<u>RETURN</u>
Kohl's, Westminster Rt. 140 & Market St. (Rear of parking lot)	5:00 AM	9:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16: We will begin our travels south making regular meal and rest stops en route. Upon arrival in Frankfort, Kentucky, we will check into our overnight accommodations: **HAMPTON INN FRANKFORT** (502)223-7600  
 1310 U.S. 127 South  
 Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dinner will be on own this evening.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17: Following breakfast at the hotel, we're off for fun and excitement in Louisville at **Churchill Downs** and the **Kentucky Derby Museum**. Experience the most dynamic and unique celebration known worldwide as the "Greatest Two Minutes in Sports." Get an up close and personal view of the event that has WOW-ed the world for over 141 years. During a self-guided tour of the **Kentucky Derby Museum**, enjoy two floors of interactive exhibits and a 360-degree film "The Greatest Race" that puts you in the heart of Derby action. We will have lunch before visiting the **Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory** this afternoon, where Major League Baseball's official bats are crafted. The museum celebrates the extraordinary role Louisville Slugger baseball bats have played in the sport's past, present, and future since 1884. From the forest to the field, you'll follow the timber that's turned into hard hitting history. Our lodging for this evening will be at:

**DRURY INN BOWLING GREEN**  
 (270)842-7100  
 3250 Scottsville Road  
 Bowling Green, Kentucky 42104

Dinner will be on own this evening.





**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18:** Following breakfast at the hotel, we will rock ‘n roll to Memphis to experience **Elvis Presley's Graceland!** In the **mansion**, you will explore the personal side of Elvis Presley with an audio-guided tour which includes the living room, his parents’ bedroom, the kitchen, TV room, pool room, the famous Jungle Room, his father’s office, the newly-enhanced Trophy Building, the Racquetball Building – newly-restored to how it looked in 1977, and Meditation Garden. Enjoy full access to the all-new **Elvis Presley's Memphis**, a state-of-the-art entertainment and exhibit complex over 200,000-square-feet in size, which enables you to follow the life path that Elvis took, surround yourself with the things that he loved, and experience the sights and sounds of the city that inspired him. Experience Elvis’ life and career like never before – his roots, his influences and his artistry. The Elvis Presley’s

Memphis experience includes the **Elvis the Entertainer Career Museum** featuring hundreds of artifacts and photos from significant events in his life, the extensive Graceland Archives, including Elvis’ amazing collection of gold and platinum records, his stunning jumpsuits, and other clothing, memorabilia from his movies, and more; **Presley Motors Automobile Museum**, where you can 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; and the **Elvis Discovery Exhibits** showcasing Elvis’ influences, important facets of his incredible life, and his role in launching a music and pop culture revolution. Enjoy a self-guided tour of **Elvis' Airplanes** as you 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*. We will then check into our luxurious accommodations for the night at:

**GUEST HOUSE HOTEL AT GRACELAND** (901) 443-3000  
3600 Elvis Presley Blvd.  
Memphis, Tennessee 38116

Opened in late 2016, the Guest House Hotel is an unprecedented resort experience inspired by Elvis Presley, located just a few steps from the gates of the iconic Graceland Mansion. This world-class resort reflects Elvis’ personal style and the unique charm of Graceland, and is inspired by the warm hospitality that Elvis always showed his guests. The Southern hospitality, royal treatment and luxurious amenities offered by the hotel would make the king proud! Dinner will be on your own this evening at one of the restaurants on property.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19:** This morning after breakfast, we will depart for Jackson, Mississippi, where we will visit the **Mississippi Civil Rights Museum**. Explore the movement that changed the nation. Discover stories of Mississippians like Medgar Evers, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Vernon Dahmer – as well as those who traveled many miles to stand beside them, come what may, in the name of equal rights for all. We will travel to Baton Rouge where we will check into: **DRURY INN & SUITES BATON ROUGE** (225)766-2022

7939 Essen Park  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809

Dinner will be included at a local restaurant this evening.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20: This morning, we will depart for Vacherie, Louisiana where we will tour **Oak Alley Plantation**, the Deep South's most spectacular antebellum setting. Built in 1839 and located on the Mississippi River between the historic Louisiana cities of New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Oak Alley Plantation has been called the "Grande Dame of the Great River Road." Experience a bygone era in one of the South's most spectacular settings as you marvel at the unbelievable view of a quarter-mile alley of giant live oak trees, believed to be nearly 300 years old which form an impressive avenue leading to the classic Greek-revival style antebellum home. Grab a bite for lunch on your own on property & perhaps a mint julep too! Enjoy a guided tour of the Big House with a historical interpreter in period costume. We will head on to New Orleans where we will check into our accommodations for the next three nights:

**BIENVILLE HOUSE** (504)529-2345  
320 Decatur Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Our boutique hotel is perfectly situated in the heart of the New Orleans' historic French Quarter, offering guests a historic experience with premium accommodations. We will top off the day with a fun cooking demonstration dinner at the **New Orleans School of Cooking**, located in a renovated molasses warehouse built in the early 1800s in the heart of the French Quarter. Learn about the wonderful food and rich culture of New Orleans and Louisiana, and shop the General Store for a selection of locally sourced Louisiana food items, gifts, cookbooks, & more.



MONDAY, OCTOBER 21: After breakfast, we will enjoy a unique and informative **sightseeing tour of New Orleans** that combines the history, beauty and splendor of the city. Our guide will point out landmarks and splendid architecture that made New Orleans famous. Venture through **St. Louis Cemetery**, one of the unusual "Cities of the Dead," and learn about this unique above-ground burial system. Travel on **St. Charles Avenue** described most aptly as "The Jewel of America's Grand Avenues," passing the homes of former Kings and Queens of Mardi Gras, stately mansions, and the world-famous Garden District. **Jackson Square** will provide many spots to have lunch on your own before visiting **Mardi Gras World** this afternoon. Get a real, behind-the-scenes look at New Orleans Mardi Gras as the tour gives you an insider's view of how Mardi Gras is made, including a video on the history of Mardi Gras and background on the real traditions of Mardi Gras in New Orleans, and see Carnival dens where artists and sculptors build and design floats for the annual event. This evening, we will dine at the **Court of Two Sisters**, one of New Orleans' premier restaurants which offers an authentic blend of food, history, and music. Its beautiful dining rooms and a picturesque old-world courtyard with its gardens, gas lamps, and flowing fountains add to the unique history of this French Quarter building. Be sure to discover the legend of the charmed gate while there!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22: Following breakfast this morning, we will visit the **National World War II Museum** which deploys artifacts like authentic Sherman tanks, fighter planes, and the New Orleans-made Higgins boats which enabled the amphibious invasions that won the war. Powerful images and extraordinary artifacts bring to life the American spirit, the courage, teamwork and sacrifice of the young men and women who won the war and changed the world. From the 1930s prelude to war, to the Normandy Invasion and the battles of the Pacific Islands, visitors trace America's role in the war and on the home front. While at the museum, have the



opportunity to experience **Victory Theater**, described as “a multi-sensory cinematic experience.” See the 4-D film, *Beyond All Boundaries*, produced by Hollywood star, Tom Hanks, which will unfold on a giant panoramic screen and include special, in-theater effects. The rest of the day is at your leisure to absorb the sights and sounds of the historic **French Quarter**, America's oldest and most unique living neighborhood, featuring many delicious options for dinner on your own.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23: We depart New Orleans this morning and begin the day with a unique and educational journey on a **Cajun Pride Swamp cruise**. As the boat drifts through the waterways, we will learn about the Louisiana Wetlands, the inhabitants of the swamp, particularly the life and habits of the American Alligator, as well as the unique history of the Cajun town of Frenier within the Manchac Swamp. Swamp creatures peek out from underbrush and between moss-draped trees and shrubs as we cruise along the privately owned swamp for an authentic experience. We will then travel to Birmingham, Alabama where we will overnight at:

**DRURY INN & SUITES BIRMINGHAM**  
(205)940-9500  
160 State Farm Parkway  
Birmingham, Alabama 35209

Dinner is on your own this evening.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24: After breakfast, we depart for a day of travel to Charlotte, North Carolina, where we will check into our final accommodations at:

**DRURY INN & SUITES CHARLOTTE NORTHLAKE**  
(704)599-8882  
6920 Northlake Mall Drive  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28216

This evening, we will have a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25: This morning, we will visit the **Billy Graham Library & Museum** which showcases inspiring exhibits, films, and memorabilia retracing Billy Graham's dynamic journey from a North Carolina dairy farm to stadiums and arenas all across the globe. We will then complete our travels homeward making regular meal and comfort stops en route and sharing fond memories with new friends of our Southern adventure!

**PRICE PER PERSON:**

SINGLE	\$3,490.00	(PRICE INCLUDES: motorcoach transportation,
DOUBLE	\$2,770.00	lodging, luggage handling, 9 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 dinners,
TRIPLE	\$2,590.00	admissions, boat ride, guided tours & gratuities,
QUAD	\$2,490.00	and tax & gratuities on meals included)

A DEPOSIT OF \$500 PER PERSON IS REQUIRED WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF BOOKING. ALL RESERVATIONS AND FINAL PAYMENT MUST BE MADE BY SEPTEMBER 2, 2019. Luggage tags and itineraries are mailed about 10 days prior to the trip. Bills are not mailed for balances due.

\*We will be staying at several Drury Inn & Suites properties while on this tour for accommodations. Please be advised that on evenings when dinner is on your own, all Drury hotels feature hot food and cold beverages from 5:30-7:00 which is included with your stay. It can be used as a snack for some people, and a meal for others.

Our motorcoach is equipped with restroom, reclining seats, air-conditioning/heating as needed, luggage compartments, and electrical outlets.

In order to accommodate our tour members who are non-smokers or who cannot tolerate cigarette smoke, we must insist that no smoking be allowed on board our coach. The consumption of alcoholic beverages by any tour member while onboard our coach is strictly prohibited. Rill's Bus Service reserves the right to change itineraries and reservations, if in the best interest of the customer.

In the event of a cancellation, any non-refundable expenses for reserved seat tickets, admissions, meals, or lodging may be forfeited. Rills will guarantee full refund only if the cancelled reservations can be resold to another customer.

Trip cancellation insurance is available through Travel Guard Insurance. An application and coverage information will be mailed to you upon request to Rill's Bus Service. A completed application with payment should be mailed to: Travel Guard, 3300 Business Park Drive, Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54482. For specific questions regarding cancellation insurance, call Travel Guard at (800)826-1300. You will need to refer to Agency #50810 (Rill's Bus Service as agent).

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