

# 8-Day Mid-South Mississippi Tour (Houston Airport Pick Up) ( APTI8 )

**Departure Date :** Thursday (All Year Round)

## Price List

1st & 2nd Person	3rd Person	4th Person	Single
\$923/person	\$295	\$645	\$1385

## Departure & Return Information:

Departure Date (Airport Pick-up)	Airport Drop-off Note	End Day
Thursday	ORD: Flight after 19:00 Paid airport drop-off service (below) MDW: Flight after 19:00	Thursday

- Free Airport Pick-up IAH and HOU ( George Bush Intercontinental Airport and William P. Hobby Airport ) 9:00AM-10:00PM;
- Paid Pick-up: Available 24hrs, \$120 for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, \$20 extra per guest starts from the 3<sup>rd</sup> guest.

## Itinerary Highlights

- I. Oak Alley Plantation, Swamp Tour, Garden District, National World War II Museum and Mississippi Steamed Jazz Cruise, fully discover the amazing New Orleans. In-Depth sightseeing within most of attractions.
- II. Get to know why everything is bigger in Texas or Texas size.
- III. Chances to see NBA games in Houston Dallas and San Antonio.

**Visiting:** Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Birmingham, Gatlinburg, Kentucky, Chicago

# Itinerary

## Day 1

**Hometown-Houston**

**Hotel :** Crowne Plaza Near Sugar Land or equivalent

Please choose IAH (George Bush Intercontinental Airport) or HOU (William P. Hobby Airport ) when you book your flight. Our professional tour guide will meet guests at the baggage claim area for the domestic

flight, or at the Passenger Waiting Area for the international flight. Hotel check-in time would be after 3pm, guests arrive before 3pm may secure their luggage to the front desk. You may rest in the lobby or shopping around mall or stores nearby. Our tour guides will have the room keys, terms and conditions for the tour, breakfast voucher (if needed) ready for you.

## Day 2

### Bayou Rum-Baton Rouge-French Quarter New Orleans

Hotel : Wingate by Wyndham Slidell/New Orleans East Area or equivalent

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We will depart in the morning and start the tour! Our first stop will be the Bayou Rum Distillery, the largest privately-owned rum distillery in the USA, utilizing traditional methods with state-of-the-art technology for all four steps: fermentation, distillation, maturation, and bottling. Cheers to our Captain Jack Sparrow with his favorite drink in the world. We will continue our visit in Baton Rouge, capital of the U.S. state of Louisiana and its second-largest city. The Louisiana State Capitol is the tallest capitol in the U.S., The Observation Deck on the 27th floor overlooks the city of Baton Rouge at a height of 450 feet. The views of the gardens are spectacular.

Next, we will head to our hotel for the night located at French Quarter district in New Orleans. Guests can enjoy the rest of your day exploring the area. You can find a live jazz performance bar around Bourbon Street; enjoy a cup of coffee and Beignets at the famous Café De Monde; or have some Cajun crawfish and fresh oyster for dinner. Visiting Jackson Square seems like a good idea too. It was built to commemorate General Andrew Jackson. Many festivals are going on there simultaneously.

The night is long, and the nightlife is on. Let your appetite take the lead on a memorable food tour through New Orleans that allows you to discover the vivid history of the French Quarter. See for yourself why New Orleans' Cajun cuisine the most distinct and sought-after food in the nation, and don't forget to grab a Café De Monde with you.

## Day 3

### New Orleans Garden District - Oak Alley Plantation

Hotel : Wingate by Wyndham Slidell/New Orleans East Area or equivalent

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Enjoy your breakfast before we start the tour!

There are plenty of tours in New Orleans, but only the Mardi Gras World tour offers a real, behind-the-scene look at how Mardi Gras is made. The secret mask of Mardi Gras will be taking off with an all-access tour, leading us through the massive studio where these magnificent floats are built from the ground up. Immerse yourself in all the faded grandeur and antebellum atmosphere of New Orleans' fabled Garden District. See the filming locations of Hollywood movies like Interview with a Vampire and Double Jeopardy and hear an entertaining tale or two about New Orleans' most noteworthy deceased residents.

When we reach Oak Alley Plantation, a U.S. National Historic Landmark located at the west suburban of New Orleans, our attention, right away, would be attracted to the astonishing beauty that the plantation presents. Visitors may even feel that they were taken into the scene of "Gone with Wind". The master's big house is contrasting with the slave quarter nearby. Two rows of 300-years-old oak trees are not only concealing the amazing quarter-mile-long garden road, but also the bitterness of the south had borne after Civil War. The natural environment of New Orleans is as distinctive as its local culture.

We will also have a Swamp Tour, a fun adventurous yet safe boat ride that showcases the unique eco system of New Orleans region. You'll have opportunities to see alligators, snakes, turtles, egrets, herons, ibis and many other species as well as many strange looking plants living in the swamp. It is like entering

a land of unknown. The natural disaster remains of Hurricane Katrina of ten years ago can still be seen. It is so fascinating of the untouched swamp wildness of the pristine beauty.

## Day 4

### **New Orleans - Birmingham**

**Hotel : Comfort Suites Gadsden or equivalent**

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New Orleans, built in 1718, is an important historical city in South US and one of the major ports, also well-known as the birthplace of jazz and French Creole culture. In its French Quarter, streets are narrow and crowded with French-style architectures, much like in France. It is up to you whether you like to start your day in the Café Du Monde with a most original French Coffee and their famed sugar-coated donut, or, immerse yourself in the liveliness of local street art. Feel free to visit the antique stores alongside the Royal Street, or randomly jump in a jazz bar on the Bourbon Street. Jackson Square was built to commemorate General Andrew Jackson. St. Louis Cathedral and steamboat are also within walking distance; and, if anything, don't miss out the chance to try some authentic Cajun food. We bid farewell to New Orleans and head to Alabama State by noon. Passing through Birmingham, the largest city in Alabama, where is one of the most intense "battlegrounds" during Civil Right Movement in 60s, you will learn and feel how much the tears and blood of demonstrators shed for human rights equality. The violent moments frozen in the silent statues in Kelly Ingram Park are depicting the unforgettable story passing through generations.

## Day 5

### **Chattanooga - Gatlinburg**

**Hotel : Clarion Inn & Suites West Knoxville or equivalent**

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Leave for Tennessee, we will arrive Chattanooga and explore the magnificent Lookout Mountain by getting on top of Rock City. It is said seven neighboring states might be seen from Lover's Leap, one of the scenic points in the Rock City - you can find out by yourself whether it is true or not. However, we are sure you will be amazed by the breathtaking panoramic views of natural landscape, massive ancient rock formations, and gardens with over 400 native plant species. We continually drive through the Great Smoky Mountains which is the habitat of a variety of animals. Then we will reach Gatlinburg, a charming mountain town with a variety of unique shops, restaurants and boutique hotels. Among them, some local stores will surely keep you busy where you can pick out souvenirs or local products such as Ole Smoky Moonshine and hand-made candies. Our Tennessee visit reaches the climax of the day by attending the most visited dinner attraction in America (at your own expense): Dixie Stampede, dine in a dinner theatre where you can watch a brilliant show with 32 horses and a cast of top-notch riders. They will thrill you with daring feats of trick riding and competition, pitting North against South in a friendly and fun rivalry. You will enjoy music, dancing, special effects and family friendly comedy along the way. With such a visual spectacular and taste buds satisfaction, the experience composed is second to none.

## Day 6

### **Kentucky Horse Park - Ark Encounter**

**Hotel : Clarion Hotel Conference Center Louisville North or equivalent**

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Visit Kentucky, where known as the "Bluegrass State" due to its fertile soil in many pastures. We stop by Kentucky Artisan Center, a state tourism agency celebrating Kentucky's charming local folk art wares. A

variety of handcrafts and artworks are one of a kind and such eye-candy. Later, arrive in Lexington, the "Horse Capital of the World". Kentucky's horse racing is world famed. We will visit Kentucky Horse Park. This equestrian facility is a 1,224-acre park dedicated to "man's relationship with the horse" with various shows and museums open to public. Kentucky Horse Park has also been home to many of the world's best competition horses, and a nursery ground to many rare horses (If Kentucky Horse Park closed, visitors would see the statue of champion horse and its championship career in front of the park.). At noon we will head towards the Ark Encounter theme park. The theme park is a \$100 million representation of Noah's Ark in Kentucky. The Ark itself claims to be the largest timber frame structure in the world. In the evening, we will head towards the historic Findley Market to enjoy local food for dinner.

## Day 7

### Purdue University - Chicago

**Hotel : Best Western Plus O'Hare International South Hotel or equivalent**

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After seeing Indiana state house in Indianapolis from outside and Indy 500, we travel to Lafayette, where Purdue University is located. Purdue University is a giant public flagship university founded in 1869 with a nearly 40,000 student enrollments. The West Lafayette campus offers more than 200 majors for undergraduates, over 70 masters and doctoral programs. Purdue has produced 23 astronauts who have been chosen for space flight. Its alumnus Neil Armstrong took his famous "small step" into history as the first human to set foot on the moon. We will reach Chicago later afternoon of the day.

## Day 8

### Chicago City Tour - Home

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This tour will show you the best of Chicago in one day. This is a world's top architecture city with bold architectures. You will take a walk in the **Millennium Park**, a combination of stunning architecture, sculpture and landscape design located in the heart of downtown Chicago; you will see **Cloud Gate**, the impressive signature urban sculpture and one of the best public spaces that you can find on earth. Take a break at the **Clarence Buckingham Memorial Fountain**, one of the world's largest artificial fountains. Stroll around the **Navy Pier**, the former Navy training center, which is the most visited lakeshore park in central United States now. You will also take an exclusive tour of the **Chicago Theatre**, an exquisite French Baroque style theatre.

Another stop is Michigan Avenue, the **Magnificent Mile**, where the Art Institute of Chicago, Grant Park, the historical Chicago Water Tower, shopping malls and boutique stores are located. To have the best view of this famous city, you will go up to the **360 CHICAGO** which soars 1,000 feet above Lake Michigan and the city's majestic skyline to offer the most breathtaking views of downtown Chicago, the lakefront and four neighboring states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. It newly presents an enclosed, glass and steel moveable platform that tilts outward 304 meters above the Magnificent Mile and safely holds up to eight visitors at a time, which will be another thrilling experience for whom like to challenge themselves. As the birthplace of skyscrapers, Chicago has a skyline bristling with skyscrapers. Chicago River flows backwards from Lake Michigan and is lined up with best architecture in town: the corncob shaped Marina City buildings, Trump Tower, Willis Tower etc. Take our river cruise to enjoy the beautiful urban view of Chicago.

# Special Remarks

**Scenic Spots Notes:**

1. Itinerary will be subject to traffic and weather. The sequence of the attractions might be changed according to actual and practical situation for better service.
2. In case of attraction closures (due to holidays or construction etc.), tour guide may make some necessary changes to the itinerary accordingly.
3. This tour doesn't accept any City Pass or your own tickets for the attractions. Guests must purchase admission tickets from tour guides.

**Refund Policy:**

1. If the weather condition, war, general strikes and other unforeseen circumstances interrupt the journey, our company reserve the right to rearrange the journey without refunding the tour fee.
2. If visitors cannot join the tour because of personal reason, the fee for hotels and transportation is not refundable.

**Tour fee notes:**

1. Tour fee only includes transportation & hotel.
2. Tour fee excludes the meals, attractions tickets, service fee (\$10/person/day), and any private expenses (such as hotel telephone charges, laundry etc.).

**Attraction Admission List**

Attraction	Adult	Senior (65+)	Children (3-12)
Chicago Night Tour	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$15.00
360 Chicago (incl. Tilt)	\$28.00	\$28.00	\$21.00
Chicago River Cruise	\$39.00	\$35.00	\$18.00
The Chicago Theater	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$10.00
The Art Institute of Chicago	\$25.00	\$19.00	Free (under 14 )
Chicago Theater In-depth Tour	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$10.00
Oak Alley Plantation	\$25.00	\$22.50	\$7(6-12) \$10(13-18)
Mardi Gras World	\$22.00	\$17.00	\$14.00
Swamp Boat Tour	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$16.00
Rock City	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$13.00
Dixie Stampede Dinner Show	\$67.00	\$67.00	\$41.50
Royal Carriages French Quarter	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00 (2-12yr)

Kentucky Horse Park	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$9.00
Purdue University Campus Tour	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$7.00
Ark Encounter	\$48.00	\$38.00	\$25.00 ( 13-17 ) \$15.00 (5-12)

Price and schedule are subject to seasonal change without notice