

# *The Many Faces of Louisiana*

## *October 17-24, 2021*

*Boarding in Davenport & Dubuque, IA and Galena and Moline, IL*

*Partnering with Plus 55 Club*

**TO MAKE A RESERVATION, PLEASE CONTACT US AT 1-800-779-4869**

### **TOUR HIGHLIGHTS**

- ❖ 16 meals: 7 breakfasts/4 Lunches/5 Dinners
- ❖ 7 nights' accommodations
- ❖ Admission to and tour of the Kent Plantation
- ❖ Visit to Marksville Courthouse Square, site of the Solomon Northup Trial
- ❖ Visit to Cottonport Museum & Cultural Center
- ❖ Full day tour of Baton Rouge
- ❖ Swamp Boat Tour at McGee's Landing
- ❖ Admission to the TABASCO® Factory Tour
- ❖ Guided tour of the Mansion at Houmas House
- ❖ Self-guided tour of the gardens at Houmas House
- ❖ Guided tour of Leesville Area
- ❖ Guided tour of Natchitoches area

#### **Your Tour Price:**

\$2285.00 per person – 3 to a room

\$2389.00 per person – 2 to a room

\$2975.00 per person – single

Quad Accommodations not available on this tour

#### **Your Tour Includes:**

Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, 7 Nights' Accommodations, Full Time Tour Director, Luggage Handling for One Suitcase Not to Exceed 50#, Taxes and Gratuities on Included Accommodations, Attractions, Meals and Step on Guide

**Not Included:** Travel Protection Plan, Gratuities to Tri-State Travel Tour Director and Motorcoach Driver or Items of a Personal Nature

### **Day #1: Sunday, October 17, 2021**

Come be a part of the adventure as we experience the many faces of Louisiana. Our first night is in Sikeston, MO with dinner included at Lambert's Café, home of the throwed rolls. (D)

## **Day 2: Monday, October 18, 2021**

We depart after an included breakfast for Alexandria, LA. Lunch and rest breaks will be made along the way prior to checking into The Hotel Bentley of Alexandria. Time will be allowed to freshen up before a welcome reception with remarks and stories by Richard Moran about the history of the hotel and the Louisiana Maneuvers. During World War II the United States military trained over a half a million troops in the Alexandria area. We depart for dinner and entertainment. Enjoy a Southern buffet as a local DJ takes you through the many styles and the history of Louisiana music. (BD)

## **Day 3: Tuesday, October 19, 2021**

Breakfast is included at the hotel before we depart for Kent Plantation House. The Kent Plantation is the oldest standing structure in Central Louisiana. It is an authentic Creole Plantation house built circa 1796 prior to the Louisiana Purchase. We arrive in downtown Marksville, Courthouse Square, the culture of central Louisiana between 1795 and 1855. Enjoy an included catered lunch as Charles A Riddle III, Author of Life and Diaries of John P Waddil (the lawyer who freed Solomon Northup), tells the story of Solomon. This story depicts the story of a free man of color who was kidnapped and sold into slavery in 1841. We continue to the Cottonport Museum and Cultural Center to enjoy dessert and a hands-on experience of "Pacqueing" Easter Eggs. Easter Egg knocking remains a favorite Avoyelles tradition. We check into our hotel and time will be given to freshen up before we have dinner with "Huey Long". "The Kingfish" was an American politician who served as the 40<sup>th</sup> governor of Louisiana and as a member of the United States Senate. A controversial figure, Long is celebrated as a populist champion of the poor. (BLD)

## **Day 4: Wednesday, October 20, 2021**

Breakfast Voucher is included at the hotel. This morning we have arranged a riding tour of historic downtown Baton Rouge. Our tour includes a stop at the State Capitol Building with its bird's eye view of the city. Lunch and entertainment are included at the Rural Life Museum. This museum is dedicated to the preservation and exhibition of materials from the cultures of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century rural Louisiana. Travel back in time and experience the lifestyles and lifeways of these remarkable people. This afternoon a stop will be made at the Capitol Park Museum before continuing to the LSU campus. A drive through an older neighborhood gives you the best view of the LSU Lakes and with Mother Nature's cooperation, the white pelicans will be visiting the lakes. Tour the campus with its live oak trees and football stadium, home to the fighting tigers. Dinner this evening is on your own at one of the restaurants at the hotel. (BL)

## **Day 5: Thursday, October 21, 2021**

After an included breakfast we make our way to McGee's Landing where we board a boat to become immersed in Louisiana's beautiful, vast, and mysterious Atchafalaya Swamp. Time to leave the swamps and make our way to Avery Island, home to the Tabasco Factory. The McIlhenny family has made TABASCO Sauce on Avery Island for over 5 generations. Located between Baton Rouge and New Orleans Houmas House and Gardens is our next stop. This circa 1840 Greek revival mansion and plantation includes gardens, lodging and elegant restaurants. A docent joins us to share the 250-year history of this manor house and how it became a grand estate. The Inn at Houmas House is a collection of quaint cottages nestled along an alley of ancient oak trees and surrounded by lush gardens. You will be staying

in one of the 21 luxurious cottages. Dinner is included at your leisure in the Carriage House, voted one of the top places to dine in the country. (BD)

### **Day 6: Friday, October 22, 2021**

Breakfast is included and at your leisure. Your morning is free to continue enjoying Houmas House & Gardens. An early lunch is included at Houmas House before departing for Leesville, LA. Sit back and relax as we enjoy the countryside before arriving at Strother's Country Store. Here we will meet our step on guide to learn of Louisiana's "Upland" known as "No Man's Land" in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. We continue to Fort Polk (a valid government issued ID is required to visit). Fort Polk served as the Army's largest infantry training center from 1962 until 1976. This mission involved preparing most of the infantry soldiers for combat in Vietnam. It was during the Vietnam War that Fort Polk became famous for its mock Vietnam villages, known as Tiger Land. Dinner is included tonight at BubbaQues. This part of Louisiana is cattle country. Since BubbaQues BBQ was founded by "rednecks" in a redneck environment, they parody all things in that rural southern environment. Following dinner, we depart for Natchitoches, LA for our overnight stay. (BLD)

### **Day 7: Saturday, October 23, 2021**

Breakfast is included at the hotel before departing for downtown Natchitoches (Nack-a-tish). We meet our local guide who will share with us the charm of this original French colony in Louisiana. It is the oldest settlement in the Louisiana Purchase. Established in 1714 Natchitoches retains its European flavor through its architecture, heritage, and lifestyle. We continue to Melrose Plantation. Discover the two-hundred-year history of beautiful Melrose Plantation founded in 1796 by Louis Metoyer, one of the ten Franco-African children of slave, Marie Therese CoinCoin, and Claude Thomas Pierre Metoyer, a merchant at Ft St. Jean Baptiste. Explore the wonders of the early 20th century artists retreat founded by Carmelite "Cammie" Garrett Henry, and follow the discovery of Clementine Hunter, one-time Melrose cook, as she emerged to become a celebrated Louisiana folk artist. See her acclaimed murals in African House, designated a "National Treasure" in 2015 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. A traditional Cane River area lunch is included in the Barn at Melrose Plantation. Following lunch, we depart for Jonesboro, Arkansas. Dinner is en route with an evening check in at your hotel. (BL)

### **Day 8: Sunday, October 24, 2021**

Breakfast is included at the hotel before we depart for the last leg of our adventure. The day passes as we reflect on the "Many Faces of Louisiana". (B)