

HEART OF DIXIE FEATURING NORTHERN ALABAMA

SEPTEMBER 16 – 22, 2021

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

Partnering with Plus 55 Club

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

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ 12 Meals: 6 Breakfasts & 6 Dinners
- ❖ Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation with Full Time Tour Director
- ❖ Cost of Freedom Tribute Wall
- ❖ U S Space & Rocket Center
- ❖ Weeden House
- ❖ Alabama Constitution Hall Park
- ❖ Lawrence County Home of General Joseph Wheeler
- ❖ Harrison Brothers Hardware Store
- ❖ Burritt on the Mountain
- ❖ Civil Rights District National Monument
- ❖ Sixteenth Street Baptist Church
- ❖ Birmingham Civil Rights Institute
- ❖ Kelly Ingram Park
- ❖ Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame and Carver Theatre for the Performing Arts
- ❖ Negro Southern League Museum
- ❖ Arlington Antebellum Home & Gardens
- ❖ Vulcan Park and Museum

Your Tour Price:

\$1945.00 per person – 4 to a room

\$2019.00 per person – 3 to a room

\$2249.00 per person – 2 to a room

\$2565.00 per person – single

Your Tour Includes:

Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, 6 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 Guides

Not Included:

Travel Protection Plan, Gratuities to Tri-State Travel Tour Director and Motorcoach Driver or Items of a Personal Nature

Day #1 Thursday, September 16, 2021

Getting acquainted with your traveling friends is first on our agenda as we travel to Clarksville, TN. After we check in to our hotel, time will be given to freshen up before reboarding our coach to participate in a special and moving tribute at the Cost of Freedom Tribute Wall, an 80% replica of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC. The ceremony will include a “Massing of the Colors” with 10-15 Military Color Guards presenting the Nations colors, special music, dignitary speakers and a wreath laying at the traveling wall. Dinner is included this evening after the ceremony. (D)

Day #2 Friday, September 17, 2021

Breakfast today will be in a buffet format at the hotel. After breakfast we check out and make our way to Huntsville, Alabama. We will take you from the first steps toward Alabama becoming a state to the first steps on Mars, with detours for some awesome art, beautiful botanical gardens, and of course fantastic food. Lunch is on your own at the Bridge Street Town Center where there are a variety of restaurants. After lunch we will visit the world’s largest space museum U.S. Space & Rocket Center, the birthplace of the U.S. space program. What better way to start your tour of the city than here? This is sure to be an out of this world experience! Visit the past which has been preserved for the future Twickenham Historic District, Alabama’s largest district of antebellum homes. It is time to check into our hotel. Get ready to transition from the solar system to the supernatural, as we visit the Huntsville Historic Depot, a museum that showcases local Civil War History, houses rare trains and cars, and may well be the most haunted building in Huntsville. Enjoy a lantern-lit tour and a spirited dinner served in the lobby of the depot. (B,D)

Day #3 Saturday, September 18, 2021

Begin your day with breakfast at the hotel and prepare for an early start of your Huntsville adventure. We meet our step on guide in the lobby. After admiring the outside of so many beautiful historic homes don’t you wish you could go inside one. Your wish is granted as we have made arrangements to visit the Weeden House. Built in 1819 this house was home to the 19th century poet and artist, Maria Howard Weeden. Now that you have a sense of what life is like in Huntsville our next stop will let you experience what life was like 200 years ago! Alabama Constitution Hall Park, the birthplace of Alabama dates to 1819 and is the actual site where forty-four delegates gathered to forge the way for Alabama’s statehood. Become a part of history as villagers dressed in period costume take you through eight reconstructed Federal style buildings. Lunch in on your own. A tour of Lawrence County home of General Joseph Wheeler is an outstanding lesson in American history. He was a General for the Confederacy and then a U.S. General in the Spanish-American War. His personal items including his uniforms and weapons are on display in this wonderfully restored home. Next, we visit the oldest continuously operating hardware store in Alabama, Harrison Brothers Hardware. Founded in 1879 Harrison Brothers is more than a glimpse of old Huntsville, it is a shopper’s delight. Dinner this evening is included at Rhythm on Monroe. Serving locally sourced ingredients, the menu provides delicious urban fare. (B,D)

Day #4 Sunday, September 19, 2021

Breakfast is included at the hotel prior to checking out. We conclude our visit to Huntsville at a living history museum, Burritt on the Mountain. The vista from atop the mountain is unmatched and offers a primer in the city's story. Start with Dr. William Henry Burritt's eclectic mansion, add a historic park with restored 19th century houses including barnyard and animals and finally throw in the artistic side with concerts, plays, and exhibits and you have a delightful mixture of old and new. We bid farewell and make our way to Birmingham. Upon our arrival we start with a comprehensive look at Birmingham's most difficult and triumphant times. Birmingham's Civil Rights District National Monument encompasses historic sites downtown that were significant to the revolution that took place in the streets of Birmingham in the 1960's. Next, you will visit Birmingham's most famous civil rights landmark, the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. On Sunday morning, September 15, 1963 a dynamite bomb set by Ku Klux Klansmen ripped through the side of the church killing four African American schoolgirls. The bombing horrified the nation and the world and was a turning point in race relations in the country. Lunch in on your own at Pitiz Food Hall offering a variety of food choices. Birmingham Civil Rights Institute documents the rise of the Civil Rights Movement and the succession of events it bore around the nation: the 1955 arrest of Rosa Parks on a Montgomery bus; James Meredith's 1962 admission to the University of Mississippi and the violence in 1963 in the streets and churches of Birmingham. Adjacent to the institute and church and part of the national monument is historic Kelly Ingram Park. The park served as a congregating area for demonstrations in the early 1960s. Sculptures throughout the park depict the events. Next, we visit the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame and Carver Theatre for the Performing Arts which honors jazz greats with ties to the state of Alabama showcasing the accomplishments of the likes of Nat King Cole, Duke Ellington, and Sun Ra. The Negro Southern League Museum tells the story of African American baseball in America. The museum features the largest collection of original Negro Southern League baseball artifacts in the country. We check into our hotel and freshen up for tonight we will dine at a local favorite, Jim N' Nicks Community Barbeque. (B,D)

Day #5 Monday, September 20, 2021

Breakfast is included prior to meeting our local guide for a day of touring. Pig Iron, which fed Birmingham's foundries and steel mills was the force that gave birth in the late 1800s to the South's foremost industrial center. Though today Birmingham has an economy rooted in health care, the history of her famous iron and steel industry is fascinating. The story unfolds with a tour through the massive furnaces and smokestacks at Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark. From furnaces, our tour moves to Arlington Antebellum Home & Gardens. The two-story frame structure escaped the 1865 Civil War destruction when General James Wilson arrived with more than 13,000 cavalymen. Wilson refrained from burning Arlington but destroyed Confederate facilities at Irondale, Oxmoor, Selma and Tuscaloosa. Today Arlington stands in graceful symmetry as an 1840s example of Greek Revival architecture with its collection of 19th century Selma and Tuscaloosa. Today, Arlington stands in graceful symmetry as an 1840s example of Greek Revival architecture, a special museum house with its collection of 19th century antiques, decorative arts, textiles, and paintings. The garden features a restored garden room that is used for special events. Enjoy lunch on your own. One suggestion would be

the original Whistle Stop Café as featured in the 1992 movie Fried Green Tomatoes. Our tour now moves up the mountain to Vulcan Park and Museum. Vulcan is the largest statue ever cast in iron and is the city's iconic and unofficial symbol. We return to the hotel to freshen up for our included dinner. (B,D)

Day #6 Tuesday, September 21, 2021

After breakfast, we check out and depart for Gallatin, Tennessee. Enjoy lunch on your own on the Gallatin Square. After lunch we have time to visit and tour the Reese Brothers Mule Farm which dates to the 1920s and provides mules for the military, many farms, events and even the Grand Canyon. We stop at Hendersonville Memory Gardens to pay respect to the legendary power couple Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash. We check into our Hendersonville hotel. Dinner tonight will be served at the Red Barn at Crafton Farms, presenting a delicious farm to table meal including live entertainment. Our evening entertainment includes the best songs and duets of Johnny Cash's years as a late-night talk show host. (B,D)

Day #7 Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Breakfast is included prior to our checking out. Before we depart for home let us look at a Classic Car Collection. Cliff Ernst purchased his first collector car in the mid-1970's and he's never stopped. He is recognized for having one of the most impressive collections of Yenko Chevrolets and he also has Corvettes, Impalas, Packard's, factory super charged Thunderbirds, Shelby's and more. Time to make our way back to our original departure points. (B)