



***MANY FACES OF LOUISIANA  
2 NIGHT STAY IN NEW ORLEANS  
SEPTEMBER 10-17, 2022***

**Day 1: Saturday, September 10, 2022**

Our first day takes us as far as Sikeston, MO. We check into our hotel in time to enjoy the kick back Reception. (Kick Back Reception)

**Day 2: Sunday, September 11, 2022**

Breakfast is included at the hotel. We depart for Alexandria, LA where our overnight accommodations will be at 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 Bentley hotel and the Louisiana Maneuvers. During World War II, the United States military trained over a half a million troops in the Alexandria area. Dinner is included at the hotel. A local DJ will take you through the many styles and the history of Louisiana music. (B,D)

**Day 3: Monday, September 12, 2022**

After an included breakfast we depart for Cottonport, LA. We arrive at the Cottonport Museum and Cultural Center to enjoy a morning snack and a hands-on experience of "Pacqueing" Easter Eggs. Easter Egg Knocking remains a favorite Avoyelles tradition. Meet the Mayor of Cottonport who will conduct the famed contest. Louisiana legislature has declared by proclamation, Avoyelles Parish as the Egg Knocking Capital of the World. Our travels continue as we make our way to the capital city of Louisiana, Baton Rouge. Lunch today is with "Huey Long" at the Rural Life Museum. "The Kingfish", was an American politician who served as the 40th governor of Louisiana and was a member of the United States Senate. After lunch we are joined by a local guide for a tour of historic downtown Baton Rouge. The tour includes a stop at the State Capitol Building with its bird's eye view of the city. It is just a short drive to New Orleans where we check into our French Quarter hotel for the next two nights. French Quarter remains the most exciting neighborhood in the world with attractions like Bourbon Street, Jackson Square, and the French Market. Dinner is scheduled at The Court of Two Sisters. This restaurant has charmed and delighted guests for more than half a century. It is more than a restaurant – it's a legend. (B,L,D)

#### **Day 4: Tuesday, September 13, 2022**

Breakfast is included at the hotel. Depart for a stroll through the historic French Quarter with an experienced and locally licensed tour guide. Marvel at the history and architecture of America's most fascinating neighborhood. The Walking Tour (complete distance less than 1 mile) includes Jackson Square, the St. Louis Cathedral, Pirates Alley and a visit to the most classic French Quarter Courtyard. Continue with a motorcoach tour of the city. Experience the history, culture and charm of neighborhoods like the French Quarter, Ninth Ward, Tremé, City Park, Garden District, and American Sector. On a guided tour of one of the historic cemeteries you can learn about New Orleans' unique local burial practices. Walk through one of the so-called Cities of the Dead (above ground cemeteries) and see tombs of rich granite and marble along with stunning sculptures. The tour includes a stop at Café du Monde for one of their famous beignets. The tour concludes at the National WWII Museum. Lunch is on your own at either one of the restaurants at the museum or in the nearby area. Designated by Congress as the official WWII museum of the United States, The National WWII Museum is located in downtown New Orleans on a six-acre campus, where five soaring pavilions house historical exhibits, on-site restoration work, a period dinner theater, and restaurants. The movie "Beyond all Boundaries" is included in the Solomon Victory Theater in the museum. It is a dramatic 4D cinematic journey through the war that changed the world. **(Elements of *Beyond All Boundaries* may aggravate certain medical conditions. These elements include loud noises, flashing lights, fog effects, and sudden chair movements. Stationary seating is available. Please advise at least a week in advance if you want this).** We make our way to the Mississippi River where we board the Creole Queen for your Dinner Jazz Cruise. Savor the beauty and romance of the New Orleans skyline. (B,DC)

#### **Day 5: Wednesday, September 14, 2022**

Breakfast is included at the hotel. Depart for McGee's Landing. Become immersed in Louisiana's beautiful, vast, and mysterious Atchafalaya Swamp as you board a boat for a swamp tour that is entertaining, eco-sensitive and educational. We make our way to Avery Island where lunch is on your own. Join us for a VIP tour of the Tabasco Factory. The McIlhenny family has made TABASCO® Sauce on Avery Island, Louisiana for over 5 generations. Built on a salt dome, it's a mysteriously beautiful place where the red peppers grow and the factory hums. We arrive at the Houmas House Plantation for our overnight stay. Located between Baton Rouge and New Orleans this circa-1840 Greek revival mansion & plantation includes gardens, lodging & elegant restaurants. The Houmas House Estate allows visitors to experience the life of wealthy plantation owners in the 1800's. The Inn at Houmas House is a collection of quaint cottages nestled along an alley of ancient oak trees and surrounded by lush gardens, allowing guests to get lost in the tranquility of the South. You will be staying in one of the luxurious cottages. Dinner is included at your leisure in The Carriage House. This restaurant redefines the luxury dining experience, combining intimacy and comfort in a breathtaking atmosphere. The cuisine in this restaurant offers traditional Louisiana dishes with a twist. Golf cart transportation is available throughout your stay to take you to the various venues. (B,D)

#### **Day 6: Thursday, September 15, 2022**

After an included breakfast your morning is free to continue enjoying Houmas House & Gardens. The guided mansion tour walks you through its 250-year history, showing the architectural evolution of this manor house and how it became a grand estate. Rare and period artwork and artifacts are displayed and used to explain plantation life. The mansion has been restored to the antebellum era, reflecting the opulence and wealth. Lunch is at one of the restaurants here at Houmas House. Depart for the "Upland South" tradition of Louisiana in Leesville, LA. A stop will be made at Strother's Country Store to pick up your guide. Learn about Louisiana's "Upland" known as "No man's land" in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Its proximity to the border between the then Spanish territory of Texas and the Louisiana territory recently purchased by the Americans made the area disputed and attractive to runaway slaves, military deserters, and criminals. Visit the unique Talbert-Pierson Cemetery with its picturesque "grave house" and learn the traditions that created them.

Continue to Fort Polk. (A valid government issued ID is required to visit Fort Polk) 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: over one million infantry recruits trained at Fort Polk. It was during the Vietnam War that Fort Polk became famous for its mock Vietnam villages, known as Tiger Land. Dinner tonight is at BubbaQue's. This part of Louisiana is cattle country. Since BubbaQue's BBQ was founded by "rednecks" in a redneck environment, they parody all things in that rural southern environment. It is truly meant as a compliment to great southern hospitality---and good cooking as well. Following dinner depart for Cypress Bend Resort for our overnight stay. (B,L,D)

**Day 7: Friday, September 16, 2022**

Breakfast is included at the hotel before boarding our motorcoach for Shreveport, LA and our last full day of touring. We are met by a local guide who will share the stories, sights and sounds that make Northwest Louisiana so special. Discover the contributions that helped shaped American culture. Your route today takes you past the restaurant Bonnie and Clyde visited just before they were ambushed and killed. Drive by the famous auditorium where Elvis Presley, Hank Williams, Johnny Cash and many other iconic artists were first introduced to the world. This is just a few of the stories you will enjoy enroute to lunch. Lunch today is with Chef Hardette Harris. Her dream is to start an eternal love affair between North Louisiana dishes and the rest of the world by making sure everyone who visits Louisiana tastes what they eat up north. Learn about Northwest Louisiana Cuisine. Following lunch we depart for Poplar Bluff, MO for our overnight accommodations. (B,L)

**Day 8: Saturday, September 17, 2022**

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)

To assist the traveler in understanding the general physical activity levels associated with a tour, we have assigned a ***Physical Activity Rating*** to this program.

**LEVEL 3** Walking associated with two or more city blocks, including airport terminals and security lines or climbing stair wells on sightseeing cruise boats and observation areas that may not be equipped with elevators and handling their own carry-on bag.