

New Orleans!

After departing Hendersonville, we will head south, stopping for lunch near Atlanta. Next, we continue to LA (Lower Alabama!) until we arrive in the city of Mobile to spend the night. Mobile is a port city on Alabama's Gulf Coast. The WWII-era USS *Alabama* battleship is anchored in Battleship Memorial Park. The steel industry played a huge role in Mobile's history, as during and after World War I, manufacturing became increasingly vital to its economic health, and shipbuilding and steel production became two of the most important industries. Our next stop is a visit to the beautiful Bellingrath Gardens, with hopes of catching the blooming azaleas that springtime brings to this lush 65-acre garden, part of the grand estate home of Walter and Bessie Bellingrath.

New Orleans, LA

The next 3 nights will be spent in New Orleans, LA. With so much to see and do, we choose to begin with a comprehensive city tour to familiarize our guests with the town. Our guide will show us the city landmarks, which include the French Quarter, St. Louis Cathedral and the Garden District. We'll see the protective levee system and stop for some beignets at City Park. Join us for a scenic jazz cruise on an authentic Mississippi River paddle wheeler and take your time exploring the National World War II Museum.

We will dine in style during our stay in New Orleans and enjoy some of our favorite restaurants, which may include Mr. B's Bistro, the Bon Ton Café, Muriel's (of course), and Café Du Monde. We'll seek out some cool jazz on Bourbon Street to top off our stay in The Big Easy.

This tour's itinerary also includes visits to at least two of the beautifully restored plantations that make up the famous River Road. We always enjoy getting out in the bayou with some real Cajuns to learn about the Swampers and their interesting and colorful life stories. All this fun to be had along the river road that winds its way through The Big Easy!

Natchez, MS

We'll enjoy our final morning at the InterContinental before heading to Natchez, the jewel of the Mississippi River. With over 1,000 structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Natchez is rightfully proud of its extraordinary preservation efforts. We invite you to experience this history first hand as you explore some of the most well preserved and architecturally stunning historic homes in the American South, enjoy the magnificent views over the mighty Mississippi and take in the quaint streets and cafes of this historical treasure.



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