

# Southern Charm History & Plantations

April 2 - 16, 2024

Tuesday - Tuesday

15 Days/14 Nights

Join **Judy's Leisure Tours** as we explore the Southern States. We will explore the history and charm of the **South** visiting **Smoky Mountains, Charleston, Savannah, New Orleans, and Natchez.** We will be visiting historic plantations and museums, to discover the charm of the South.



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**1** We depart this morning with pickups in route as we head to Illinois for our first overnight. Traveling through Minnesota our senses will marvel as we see Spring changing the countryside.

**2** We arrive in Louisville, Kentucky where we will visit the **Kentucky Derby Museum**, showcasing the thoroughbred industry and the Kentucky Derby. Two floors of exciting new exhibits including racing artifacts, interactive exhibits and fine art relate the tradition and exhilaration of **Derby Day**. Stroll to the paddocks to meet their resident thoroughbreds. We find our lodging in Lexington, KY.

**3** This morning we visit **Cumberland Falls State Park** to view the **water falls** and **Gorge overlook**. This afternoon we find ourselves in Gatlinburg at the foot of the Smoky Mountains. **Dolly Pardon's Dixie Stampede** is an extraordinary dinner show with thirty-two magnificent horses and a cast of top-notch riders. You will enjoy a barrel full of music, dancing, fun and a delicious meal.



**4** Today we are joined by a **local guide** who will tell you about the **history, life, and the legends of the Smoky mountains** in a fun entertaining manner, as we take in the beautiful views that only the **Great**

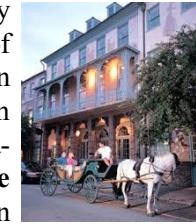
**Smoky Mountain National Park** can offer. Divided between North Carolina and Tennessee, a blue smoke-like haze almost always hangs over the mountains; hence the name. Our first stop is **Cherokee, North Carolina** where the Cherokee Indian Reservation is occupied by members of the Cherokee Indians who have made this area and the Smokies their home for centuries. This afternoon visit the Incredible **Biltmore Estate**, the largest privately-owned home in America. This 250 room French Chateau is a real life wonder, where we learn about the families who lived and worked here. Discover the mastery of landscape design through acres of beautiful **Gardens** and grounds. At the new **Antler Hill Village** delight in free **Wine tasting and tour of the Winery**. We find our lodging at the **Doubletree Biltmore hotel**.

**5** Our journey takes us to **Charleston, SC** where we will be joined by a **guide** who will take us on a tour of picturesque and exquisitely preserved Charleston. The city is a visual feast of antebellum architecture, cobblestone streets, flickering lanterns and historic landmarks. Our lodging is in historic **Charleston** for the next **two nights**. The evening is to explore this charming city.

**6** **Boone Hall Plantation**, NBC daytime television says is "a must see stop on any trip to Charleston". It is one of America's oldest working, living plantations. They have been continuously grown and produced crops for over three centuries. Once known for cotton and pecans, they are still actively producing strawberries, tomatoes, and pumpkins, as well as many other fruits and vegetables for their visitors to enjoy. The agricultural arm of the plantation today is known as Boone Hall Farms. After lunch (on your own) we will take a narrated cruise to visit **Fort Sumter** the site of the first shots fired in the American Civil War. Fort Sumter is a poignant part of our country's biography.



**7** Today we visit the only tea plantation in the United States. **The Charleston Tea Plantation** is the home of *American Classic Tea*, tea grown in America. It is located on picturesque Wadmalaw Island in the heart of South Carolina's Lowcountry. Its grounds include 127 acres of Camellia Sinensis tea plants, a working Tea Factory and a charming Plantation Gift Shoppe. Our next stop is **Angel Oak Tree** reportedly the oldest thing - living or man-made - east of the Rockies, Angel Oak is a live oak tree aged approximately 1,500 years. The old port town of **Beaufort, SC**, is about as Southern as it gets. It's tucked off the beaten path on the banks of the Intra-Coastal Waterway. Enjoy a **horse and carriage ride** through this town of historic antebellum homes and narrow oak-lined streets. In addition enjoy shopping at the art galleries, antique shops and modern boutiques that dot the entire downtown and uptown walking districts. We find our hotel in **Savannah** for the next **two nights**.



**8** This morning we start with a narrated Trolley Tour of **Savannah's Historic District**. You will ride along cobblestone paved streets beneath moss-draped oaks and experience the "Old South" with her stately mansions, beautiful squares, romantic riverfront and abundance of artifacts. Your afternoon is free to explore as your **trolley pass** is valid throughout the day. Dinner is on your own tonight.

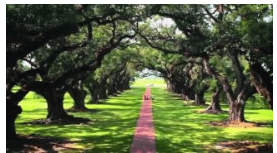
**9** Today our travels take us across Georgia into Mississippi and along the Gulf Coast into the Big Easy, the birthplace of Jazz. Here in **New Orleans** is where we find our lodging at the **Drury Inn** for the next **two nights**.

**10** A **local Guide** joins us for a **City tour**, which also travels to the **Ninth Ward**, one of many New Orleans neighborhoods devastated by Katrina. Under the shady oak trees of

Esplanade Avenue, retrace the route taken by carriages of yesteryear. After visiting the unique above-ground cemetery, it's on to Lake Pontchartrain. Follow the path of St. Charles Avenue past Tulane and Loyola Universities, across from Audubon Park, and the Garden District. Experience great food and entertainment with a **Jazz Brunch** at the famous **Court of Two Sisters restaurants**. This afternoon we visit the **National WWII Museum**.

**11** This morning we take a guided tour of the **Whitney Plantation**. You will learn the history of the Plantation and Slavery in Louisiana. Our next stop is the Famous **Oak Alley Plantation**. No other visual experience in America better exemplifies the "Old South" than Oak Alley's spectacular quarter-mile colonnade of centuries-old live Oaks framing her classic antebellum mansion. We enjoy a Southern **Lunch** at Oak Alley. We find our lodging for the next **two nights** at the **Natchez Grand Hotel**.

**12** A **local guide** joins us to share the **history of Natchez**, we see how cotton planters lived when cotton was king and money flowed freely, as we **tour** some of the beautiful **antebellum mansions**. Thirty antebellum mansions, most of them private residences, open their doors to visitors. Your guides are costumed family friends and descendants of the original owners, whose stories are as real as the bricks and mortar in their hearths. Each house is unique with 18th and 19th century furnishings, porcelain, silver, clothing, tools, documents and diaries. Enjoy a **Carriage Ride** this afternoon before **dinner** at the famous **Magnolia Hall**.



**13** This morning we visit to the **Vicksburg National Military Park**, where one of the **Civil War's** most devastating battle took place. Abraham Lincoln said



“Vicksburg is the key and without this key in our pocket we will not bring this conflict to a resolution. This afternoon finds us at **The William J. Clinton Presidential Center and Park**, which is the presidential library of Bill Clinton, the 42nd President of the United States. We overnight at the **Hampton Inn in Little Rock, AR.**

**14** Today is a travel day as we travel across Arkansas and Missouri to our lodging in **Council Bluffs, IA.** We have our overnight lodging at the **Country Inn & Suites.** The hotel is across the parking lot from the Casino so perhaps you will want to try your luck.

**15** This morning we sit back and remember all the wonderful sights and attractions that we have experienced these past days. With the magic and the beauty of the Southern states behind us, we look forward to our next excursion with **Judy’s Leisure Tours.**

***Inclusions:***

- ◆ **Quality Accommodations**
- ◆ **Deluxe Motorcoach**
- ◆ **Baggage Handling**
- ◆ **Tour Director**
- ◆ **Kentucky Derby Museum**
- ◆ **Cumberland Falls State Park**
- ◆ **Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge**
- ◆ **Dolly Pardon’s Dixie Stampede**
- ◆ **Smoky Mountains**
- ◆ **Biltmore Estate**
- ◆ **Charleston City Tour**
- ◆ **Boone Hall Plantation**
- ◆ **Fort Sumter Tour**
- ◆ **Charleston Tea Plantation**
- ◆ **Angel Oak Tree**
- ◆ **Buggy Tour Beaufort, SC**
- ◆ **Savannah City Tour**
- ◆ **New Orleans City Tour**
- ◆ **Jazz Brunch at The Court of Two Sisters**
- ◆ **National WWII Museum**
- ◆ **Whitney Plantation Tour**
- ◆ **Oak Alley Plantation w/ Lunch**
- ◆ **Natchez Pilgrimage Tour**
- ◆ **Vicksburg National Military Park**
- ◆ **Clinton Presidential Library**

***Rates Per Person:***

<b>\$4,600.00</b>	<b>Double</b>
<b>\$4,560.00</b>	<b>Triple</b>
<b>\$4,520.00</b>	<b>Quad</b>
<b>\$6,190.00</b>	<b>Single</b>

**A \$200 deposit will reserve your seat.  
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and **SAVE \$40**  
Final Payment due March 2<sup>th</sup>.  
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**JUDY’S LEISURE  
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*Group travel at its best.*