



Gladstone Parks & Recreation 50+ Travel ***THE ANTEBELLUM SOUTH*** May 2-8, 2017

On this exciting trip you will experience the rich history of the south by touring antebellum homes, enjoying guided tours of historic sites and eating some delicious southern food!

Tuesday, May 2nd

Today you'll travel to Little Rock, Arkansas where you will enjoy a tour and dinner at Marlsgate Plantation. Built in 1904, the home has over 30 antique-filled rooms. Your hotel is the Comfort Inn Presidential. *(Dinner is included today)*

Wednesday, May 3rd

This morning you will tour the Arkansas State Capitol building, built over a century ago as a replica of the US Capitol. The building features Arkansas granite and six bronze doors and three chandeliers crafted by Tiffany's of New York. Your next stop is The Clinton Presidential Library - America's 12th Presidential Library is located on the banks of the Arkansas River in the River Market District of downtown Little Rock. The \$160-million-dollar structure contains 20,000 square feet of library and museum space, including an authentic replica of the Oval Office and the Cabinet Room. Later, travel to Vicksburg, Mississippi and have dinner at Cedar Grove Mansion. Finished in 1852, the mansion was used as a Union hospital during the Civil War. Your hotel for the next two nights is the Ameristar Hotel. *(Breakfast and dinner are included today)*

Thursday, May 4th

A full day of touring in Vicksburg awaits. You will enjoy a guided tour of Vicksburg with a stop at Vicksburg National Military Park, commemorating the campaign, siege, and defense of Vicksburg in 1863. The park features over 1,340 monuments, markers and plaques, a restored Union gunboat, and a national cemetery. You will tour the Old Court House Museum, Vicksburg's crown jewel both architecturally and historically, this National Landmark towers above the city on a hill hallowed by history. It was on these grounds that Jefferson Davis launched his political career. You will visit the Biedenharn Coca-Cola Museum, housing a wide variety of exhibits interpreting the beginnings of Coca-Cola, the process used to first bottle Coca-Cola, and a reproduction of the equipment first used to bottle Coke, and you will see Church of the Holy Trinity boasting six Tiffany stained glass windows, and the only known windows to honor those who died on both sides in the Civil War. You will enjoy a tour and dinner at Anchuca. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this impressive Greek Revival landmark represents the first columned mansion in Vicksburg. Anchuca, named for the Choctaw word for "happy home," began as a two-story wood frame cottage built around 1830. *(Breakfast and dinner are included today).*

Friday, May 5th

Your first stop today is the Old Depot Museum; the museum is home to over 100 models of Civil War gunboats and the only collection of ships that carry Mississippi names as well as the only diorama of the battle of Vicksburg. On your way to Natchez, you will visit Port Gibson, Mississippi. Port Gibson escaped the fiery fate of other Mississippi towns. In a famous legend, General Grant reportedly stated that the town was "too beautiful to burn." He left Port Gibson mostly unscathed on his northward trek to Vicksburg. You will visit Bethel Presbyterian Church where Grant regrouped his troops and see the Windsor ruins, an eerie and beautiful group of columns marking the site of a grand mansion lost to time and fire. Arrive in Natchez, Mississippi and enjoy dinner at the Castle Restaurant located in Dunleith Mansion's original carriage house and stables, built in the 1790s. Your hotel for the next two nights is the Magnolia Hotel. *(Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included today).*

Saturday, May 6th

Natchez, the birthplace of Mississippi, is known as a quaint, Southern town with a rich culture and heritage shaped by people of African, French, British and Spanish descent. Its first inhabitants, however, were the Natchez Indians. Today you will enjoy a guided tour of the area and visit two antebellum homes, Stanton Hall and Longwood Plantation. Construction began on Stanton Hall in 1857. Marble mantel pieces were imported from New York, ornate gasoliers were purchased from Philadelphia, and immense mirrors were ordered from France. The home was completed in 1859 and was occupied by Union troops during the Civil War. Longwood Plantation, also known as Nutt's Folly, is an historic antebellum octagonal mansion listed on the National Register of Historic Places and survived decades of neglect and near-abandonment to become one of Natchez' most popular attractions. You will visit Stratton Chapel Gallery which houses "Natchez in Historic Photographs", a collection of astonishing photographs of early Natchez. Stratton Chapel is located in the First Presbyterian Church which was constructed in 1828. Your dinner this evening is at The Carriage House located at Stanton Hall. *(Breakfast and dinner are included today)*

Sunday, May 7th

You will depart Natchez for Hot Springs, Arkansas and visit the Fordyce Bathhouse Museum. The Bathhouse has been restored to look as it was in the early years of business, complete with beautiful stained glass ceilings, marble walls and statues. You can tour the building, look at exhibits and watch movies on taking the baths and the park story. You will enjoy a dinner cruise on the Belle of Hot Springs. Sit back and relax aboard the Belle, a 250 passenger riverboat, and enjoy the captain's narration as he unfolds secrets of America's "Spa City." You will see million dollar mansions, natural islands, quaint resorts and panoramic views of the Ouachita Mountains, all while enjoying a delicious dinner. Your hotel is the historic Arlington Resort Hotel. *(Breakfast and dinner are included today)*

Monday, May 8th

Head back to Gladstone today with a lunch stop and rest stops on the way. *(Breakfast and lunch are included today)*

**Per Person Tour Price: \$1300.00 Double
 \$1650.00 Single**

Price includes motor coach transportation, hotel accommodations, tours, 14 meals, and driver's gratuity. A deposit of \$100.00 per person is required to hold space, with final payment due March 23rd. A full refund will be issued in the event of a trip cancellation due to insufficient enrollment. Refunds are available up to the final payment date. A \$5.00 processing fee will be deducted if a refund check is required. If you have to cancel after final payment has been made, we will get back for you what we can, it is at the discretion of the hotel, restaurants and attractions.

For reservations or further information, please contact:

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