

Spring Pilgrimage of Homes

Natchez, MS

March 20 - 24, 2024

(5 days - 4 nights)



Spring Pilgrimage of Homes has been a Southern tradition for over 70 years in this charming town located on the Mississippi River. Hostesses in period costumes all help to keep the rich history alive in Natchez.

Wed, March 20

Bossier City, LA

Today will be an exciting day for passengers as we begin our tour to Natchez, MS and the Spring Pilgrimage of Homes. Routing east across Texas we will continue to Bossier City, our first overnight.

Thursday, March 21

Natchez, MS

From Bossier City we turn south toward Alexandria, located almost in the geographical center of Louisiana. Moving eastward by noon we will be arriving in beautiful Natchez, the oldest city on the Mississippi River. The town's golden era came in the 19th century when cotton was a leading industry and Natchez became an important river port. Vast plantations with magnificent homes reflect the prosperity of the period and many of these houses will be open to the public during the Spring Pilgrimage. After lunch we will visit St. Mary's Basilica, constructed as a place of worship in 1842 and recognized as an architectural masterpiece among Catholic churches in the south. With a local tour guide we set off to tour Elgin. After checking into our hotel we will enjoy dinner at beautiful the Georgian Revival architectural styled, Lansdowne Home (1853).

Friday, March 22

Natchez, MS

With a local guide aboard our motorcoach we continue our visit of antebellum homes to include Rosalie Mansion & Gardens (1823), Our Lady on the

Highlights Include:

- Tour Antebellum Homes:
 - Lansdowne (1853)
 - Stanton Hall (1857)
 - Longwood Hall (1861)
 - Rosalie Mansion & Garden (1823)
- St. Mary Basilica
- Natchez Little Theatre production
- Lunch at the Carriage House
- Dinner at Lansdowne
- Frogmore Cotton Plantation (an 1800-acre working plantation)
- Duck Commander

bluffs was a major influence on Antebellum architecture in the region. Additionally, Rosalie served as a Union headquarters during the Civil War. We also will tour Stanton Hall, (1857) one of the most opulent antebellum mansions to survive in the southeastern US, which occupies an



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entire city block of Natchez, MS. While at Stanton Hall, we will enjoy lunch in the Carriage House, famous for its Southern Cuisine, before continuing our tour to Longwood, also known as Nutt's Folly Hall (1861). Longwood is the largest octagonal house in the United States with the original furnishings and tools still intact. This afternoon you may choose to return to the hotel for a brief period of rest or enjoy shopping at one of the many antique stores or unique shops in downtown Natchez. An entertaining evening awaits us as we take our seats at Natchez Little Theatre for a light-hearted local production.

Sat, March 23 **Bossier City, LA**

Located just west of the Mississippi River is Frogmore Cotton Plantation, an 1800-acre working plantation with 18 restored antebellum structures that date from the early 1800's. Along with history of the early Natchez planters and the enslaved, the tour includes a rare Smithsonian quality steam cotton gin. Made famous by the TV show, *Duck Dynasty*, we will visit the warehouse and gift shop Duck Commander, where most of the action and antics of the show take place. Duck calls are still being produced daily by the Robertsons and friends on the site. This afternoon we will return to the Shreveport area to overnight.

Sun, March 24 **Return home**

Today we return to Texas and re-route through the Metroplex, stopping for lunch. As we continue to

West Texas this afternoon we will be bringing home with us many memories of our Spring Pilgrimage Tour and our time spent in both Louisiana and Mississippi.

Thank you for traveling with Bilbrey Tours!

Price Includes:

- Roundtrip motorcoach transportation from: **Abilene, Big Spring and Midland**
- 4 nights hotel accommodations
- Baggage handling for 1 piece of luggage
- Meals: 2 breakfasts, 2 continental breakfasts
4 lunches or dinners
- Admissions to all included attractions per itinerary
- Services of a tour escort
- Gratuities for driver and local guides

Cost per person:

\$1419 (2 people per room)

\$1759 (1 person per room)

\$25 deposit due upon booking

Final payment due January 25, 2024

Travel Insurance

An optional Travel Insurance plan is available for purchase on overnight tours through TripAssure. Bilbrey Tours encourages the purchase of a Travel Protection Plan to help protect your investment, your belongings and most importantly you! Bilbrey Tours makes the Tour & Cruise Travel Protection Plans easily available. For complete details and to purchase a plan, follow this link:

<https://atc.tripassure.com/main/?welcome=BILB3262TX>

Cancellation Policy

All cancellations must be reported to Bilbrey Tours, Inc. and TripAssure when the problem causing the need to cancel arises.

Tour Activity Level: EASY 1 2 **3** 4 ACTIVE

Luggage tags and a detailed itinerary will be mailed 2 weeks prior to the tour.

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