

The Garden Series Presents:

Gardens of the Deep South

New Orleans & more

March 15-24, 2018

Itinerary

Thursday, March 15, 2018

En route to Charlotte we'll stop at the *Hahn Horticulture Garden*. The Garden encompasses nearly six acres of teaching and display gardens on the campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. Established in 1984 by Horticulture faculty, the garden serves undergraduate students and the local community as a learning resource for plant material, landscaping concepts, and environmental awareness. The garden features perennial borders, water gardens, shade gardens, a meadow garden, and the Peggy Lee Hahn Garden Pavilion. We will travel on to the Charlotte, NC area for an overnight stay. All meals are on your own today.

Friday, March 16, 2018

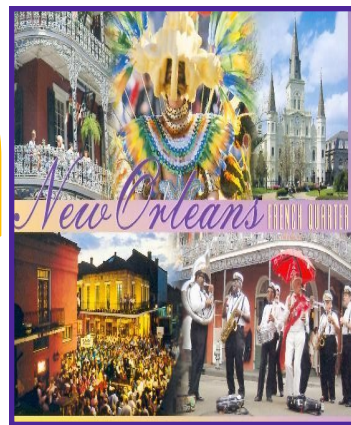
Breakfast included at the hotel. Our 1st visit will be to the *South Carolina Botanic Gardens*. From a humble beginning as a camellia collection in the 1950s, the South Carolina Botanical Garden has blossomed into a 295-acre sanctuary for diversity. The Garden serves as an interdisciplinary resource, focusing on teaching, research and outreach to advance awareness and understanding of plants, animals, minerals and South Carolina's culture. Furthermore, the SCBG is a refuge for life. We will enjoy a 2 night stay at *Callaway Gardens Lodge & Spa*. Open since 1952, Callaway Gardens is nestled in the southernmost foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Founders Cason and Virginia Callaway longed for a place where man and nature could abide together for the good of both. More than six decades later, their retreat continues to offer solace, inspiration and discovery for all who come here. Arriving late in the day, we'll check into the lodge and freshen up before our on site dinner, prepared by their chef, classically trained in France. (B,D)

Saturday, March 17, 2018

Breakfast included this morning. Today we will begin with a tour of the property and then the rest of the day is yours to explore all that Callaway has to offer. This expansive property has several gardens, lakes, hiking trails, education centers, shops, restaurants and Spa Prunifolia. Some of the things you can do at Callaway are geocaching, zip lines, ropes course, tree top adventure, canoe & kayak rentals, watersports, birds of prey program, butterfly house, hiking, biking, spa treatments, shopping and circus training to name a few! Dinner is included on site tonight. (B, D)

Sunday, March 18, 2018

After Breakfast, check out & depart for Mobile, Alabama. Meet our step on guide for an architectural highlights tour of one of America's oldest cities. Two of the oldest churches in the South are seen, The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, actually proclaimed a Minor Basilica by Rome, of which there are only 64 on Earth, and Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral. We'll see 600 square blocks of historic districts containing over 6,000 listings on the National Register of Historic Places. We will visit the city's oldest graveyard and Joseph Stillwell Cain's grave, usually covered in Mardi Gras beads and doubloons. Cain revived Mardi Gras after the War of the Northern Aggression. Did you know Mardi Gras began in the Americas in Mobile 311 years ago? Overnight stay and a local dinner in Mobile. (B, D)



Monday, March 19, 2018

Today we will tour the *Bellingrath Home & Gardens*. This means experiencing 65 acres of year-round beauty. Within this beautiful estate are several gardens and landscapes that showcase their own specific variety of wonder. The Bellingrath Museum Home was built in 1935 as the Bellingraths' permanent residence. The Bellingraths' made their future early in the Coca Cola Company. The 15-room home was built using bricks dating to 1853 and ironwork from the 1870s salvaged from historic structures in Mobile. It is completely furnished with the antiques collected by Mrs. Bellingrath. Take time after your tour to grab lunch in the café "on your own" before we depart for New Orleans. Upon arrival in New Orleans, meet your guide for a tour of the city. See the French Quarter, Garden District, Marigny, Tremé and more. Route includes stops to get out and have a closer look at the sculpture gardens and even a chance to indulge in a beignet if you like. You will check into Hampton Inn & Suites New Orleans Downtown/French Quarter Area and freshen up before your authentic New Orleans dinner this evening at Mulate's. (B, D)

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Meet your guide for a day of touring. George has picked some lovely gardens in this city full of rich culture and history. We will visit *Longue Vue Mansion & Gardens*—In a city rich with beautiful gardens, Longue Vue is an unrivaled jewel. Begun in 1935 by Ellen Biddle Shipman, known as "the dean of American women landscape architects," Longue Vue's gardens have an important place in the history of horticulture design in the United States. At the time of Longue Vue's creation, a bold new garden movement was taking place, setting the stage for the creation of breathtaking garden estates across America. During this period called the Country Place Era, traveling Americans looked to Europe for inspiration for their own retreats that seamlessly integrated indoor and outdoor spaces. Ellen Biddle Shipman was much sought after as a designer of gardens of the Country Place style. She possessed a keen ability to create garden rooms with an ease and expressive romanticism that made her stand out among her more formal contemporaries.

The Audubon Park—Seated in historic uptown New Orleans Audubon Park is a favorite spot. For more than a century, people have enjoyed this urban oasis with allees of ancient live oaks and the sights and sounds of New Orleans' most prominent rookery. Ochsner Island, more commonly known as Bird Island, has been a part of Audubon Park for over a century. Bird Island sits in the center of Audubon Park Lagoon and houses one of the most prominent rookeries in the region. Some species of birds found on Bird Island include Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Cattle Egrets, Little Blue Heron, Tri-colored heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Double-crested Cormorant and Anhinga.

New Orleans Botanic Gardens.—The Botanic garden is a carefully cultivated twelve acres of gardens and art. We will have a 1 hour tour that is a meandering walk through the grounds of the historic garden. The tour covers the history of the garden and various exhibits and plant collections throughout the garden.

Between Garden visits your New Orleans guide will point out your local sights and give you interesting history and stories of this area. Tonight you will experience the Court of Two Sisters for dinner, the ambiance is not to be missed. This New Orleans restaurant named for sisters, who once had a thread shop here. (B,D)

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Enjoy Breakfast at your hotel and then take a bayou tour of the famous Honey Island Swamp. You'll glide through gator territory on a small, flat-bottomed boat and hear all about the swamp and its natural inhabitants from a local, expert captain. They will give you an authentic tour of one of America's most unique ecosystems. Many of the captains have lived on the water for most of their lives and have earned field degrees to give you the best experience possible. As a member of the Nature Conservancy, they believe that we all have a responsibility to protect the environment around us. On your tour, you'll have the chance to see alligators, wild boar, raccoons, snakes, owls, egrets, and more – all in their natural habitat, and just a few feet from your boat! Return to the hotel after your swamp tour for the rest of the day & evening "on your own". (B)

Thursday, March 22, 2018

Say farewell to NOLA as we check out and depart. We will stop for a Luncheon and tour at *Nottoway plantation* and tour *Rosalie Plantation*, as we make our way east.

Nottoway Plantation—Costumed tour guides lead you through the Mansion's spectacular rooms and will share with you the details of Nottoway's lavish construction and the stories of her fascinating history, including her survival through the Civil War. Completed in 1859, Nottoway's 53,000 square foot palatial mansion awes thousands of visitors a year who come to see such extravagant features as soaring 15 1/2' ceilings, enormous 11-foot doors, 22 massive exterior columns, hand-carved Italian marble fireplaces, exquisitely detailed plaster frieze moldings, and a pure white oval ballroom.

Rosalie Plantation—In 1716 the French built a fort on the bluffs of Natchez and named it Rosalie in honor of the Countess of Pontchartrain. In 1820 Peter Little, who came to Natchez from Pennsylvania in 1798 at the age of 17, purchased a portion of that land on which to build his home. He decided to keep the name Rosalie in honor of the fort and its settlers.

Overnight in Meridian MS. (B, L)

Friday, March 23, 2018

Enjoy breakfast at hotel. Depart for Lookout Mountain GA, here we will tour the Rock City Gardens and a buffet luncheon on site. Rock City is America's oldest roadside attraction—Your visit to Rock City will include a stroll through the 4,100-foot Enchanted Trail, where you'll encounter incredible rock formations, caves, and beautiful flowers, along with a few other surprises. Next stop is in Chattanooga, TN at Ruby Falls. In 1928, Leo Lambert and a team of excavators found a breathtaking waterfall located over 1,120 feet below the surface of Lookout Mountain in Chattanooga, TN. Lambert named the falls after his wife, Ruby, and opened the area as a public attraction in 1930. The 147 foot waterfall inside the caverns at Ruby Falls is amazing to see. We travel to Abington, VA for an overnight stay. (B, L)

Saturday, March 24, 2018

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before we depart for Bedford VA, Here you will tour the National DDay Memorial. This memorial is tribute to all the loses on DDay, however it has a special meaning in Bedford as they suffered the highest per capita losses of any town in the US.

Next we will tour Poplar Forest, the country home of Thomas Jefferson. Hailed as a masterpiece of landscape and architecture, your visit to Poplar Forest will shed new light on Thomas Jefferson's creativity and curiosity, his enslaved community, and his private world. Tour Jefferson's retreat house to learn about its meticulously restored architecture, and what it tells us about daily life for one of the most prominent figures of the 19th century.

Departing for home after this tour, you should arrive in Harrisburg area about 7PM. (B, L)

Trip Includes:

Trip includes: Motorcoach Transportation, 9 Nights Lodging, Luggage handling, 9 Breakfast, 3 Lunches, 5 Dinners, Hahn Horticulture Gardens, South Carolina Botanic Gardens, Callaway Gardens, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral, Bellingrath Home & Gardens, NOLA Tour, The Audubon Park, New Orleans Botanic Gardens, Longue Vue, Swamp Tour, Nottoway Plantation, Rosalie Plantation, Rock City Gardens, Ruby Falls, National D-Day Memorial, Poplar Forest, Guide Service, Meal Gratuities and Taxes.

Deposit Requirements

An initial deposit of \$100 is required to confirm reservation.

Cancellation

You may cancel your tour up until January 15, 2018 for a full refund. No refunds will be given after this date without travel insurance.

Baggage

If a hotel has baggage handling, it will be included in program, it is based upon a maximum of 1 piece of standard baggage per person. You may bring a carry-on.

Gratuities

Meal Gratuities are included. Guides , driver, escort and housekeeping gratuities are not included.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that all passengers be adequately insured for medical expenses, baggage loss or damage and trip cancellation or interruption. This is the responsibility of individual tour participants. Cost: \$145pp, Insurance must be purchased at the time of reservation.

Gardens of the Deep South ~ March 15-24, 2018

Package Price:

\$1,999pp Double Occupancy / \$2,699pp Single Occupancy

Enclosed please find a deposit in the amount of \$ _____ (\$100 pp) to secure reservation for _____ # people

I (We) wish to purchase Travel Insurance Yes _____ No _____

Enclosed please find payment in the amount of \$ _____ (\$145pp) to secure Travel Insurance.
Travel insurance must be purchased with original deposit to cover pre-existing conditions.

Total Payments \$ _____

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth if taking insurance: \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth if taking insurance: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact / Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

**Meal selections - Please circle one for each location:**

Court of Two Sisters—Chicken Oscar (w/ crab)—or—Beef Tenderloin

Poplar Forest— Tuna Salad sandwich—Club Sandwich—Veggie sandwich—Mandarin Chicken salad

Please make checks payable to Lowee's Group Tours and mail to:

Lowee's Group Tours

PO Box 6658

Harrisburg PA 17112

Questions: Call 717-657-9658 or Email [ckelly@lowees.com](mailto:ckelly@lowees.com)

Payment by Credit Card (circle one)      Visa      MasterCard      Discover

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_ CID Code \_\_\_\_\_

Amount to be Charged : \_\_\_\_\_ Signature : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit due with registration \$100 per person / Final payment due by January 15, 2018