



## Central South Full-Experience 7-Day Tour

New Orleans, Tennessee

Tour Code: CS7

Departure Date: Every Thursday (4/1/2019 – 12/31/2019)

Additional departure date (2019): 1/3, 1/17, 1/31, 2/14, 2/28, 3/14, 3/28

Price list:

Standard price per person is based on double-bed room.

1st & 2nd Person	3rd Person	4th Person	Single
\$768/Person	\$637	\$637	\$1158

Departure time: 8:00AM

Pick-up location: 207 W Cermak Rd. Chicago, IL 60616

Drop-off Location: 207 W Cermak Rd. Chicago, IL 60616, or, O'Hare International Airport (ORD). Note:

Please book your flights departing from ORD after 7:00PM.

### Itinerary Highlights:

1. The Ark Encounter theme park ----the largest timber frame structure in the world
2. Travel across the Central US from North to South.
3. Experience the distinctive culture of the Central and South US up close.
4. Exclusive tours in Purdue University
5. New Orleans and Tennessee
6. Famous cities and spectacular natural landscape; music and equestrian events; modern beauty and pristine wildness; gourmet foods and shopping

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Chicago - Springfield - St. Louis

**Hotel: Comfort Inn Festus or equivalent**

First, we will go south to Springfield, hometown of Abraham Lincoln and see his former home where Lincoln lived in for 17 years. Right behind his residence, there is the State Capitol of Illinois. Then we will head for St. Louis, the largest metropolitan area of East Missouri, which is well known for being the beginning point of the Westward Movement visiting its Gateway Arch and Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis.

#### Itinerary:

Chicago → Springfield → Lincoln Home National Historic Site ( Outside Visit ) → Old Illinois State Capitol

( Outside Visit ) → St. Louis → Gateway Arch ( 30 mins ) → Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis ( 20 mins )

### **Lincoln Home National Historic Site**

This historic location, a house and the surrounding four blocks, was the home of President Abraham Lincoln from 1844 to 1861, when he left for the White House in Washington. Lincoln's home has proved irresistible to visitors since it first opened to the public in 1887 and beautifully restored to its 1860 appearance.

### **Old Illinois State Capitol**

This historic site served as the state capitol building for the state of Illinois from 1840 to 1876, built in the Greek Revival Style. Both Abraham Lincoln and Barack Obama announced their candidacy for president here.

### **Gateway Arch**

This iconic stainless-steel monument in St. Louis is the tallest arch in the world. It was built as a homage to the westward expansion of the United States and sits on the site of St. Louis' founding. The monument opened to the public on June 10, 1967. And it has become to the well-known landmark building since then. The visit to the Gateway Arch is an experience that never fails to inspire.

### **Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis**

Located in the central West End of St. Louis, this Roman Catholic cathedral was designed in a mix of Neo-Byzantine and Romanesque Revival architectural styles. It was consecrated on June 29, 1926. Installation of mosaics in the interior began in 1912 and completed in 1988, the mosaics collectively contain 41.5 million glass tesserae pieces in more than 7,000 colors. Covering 83,000 square feet (7,700 m<sup>2</sup>), it is the largest mosaic collection in the world outside Russia.

## **Day 2: Memphis – Jackson**

**Hotel: Ramada Pearl/Jackson Airport or equivalent**

After going across Mississippi River, the second time during this tour, we reach Memphis, the biggest city of Tennessee, the land of music. Memphis is a city of reminiscence. We will visit Graceland, the mansion home of Elvis Presley, commonly regarded as “the King of Rock and Roll”, “the most significant cultural icon of the 20th century”. Elvis' hit songs can be heard everywhere in Graceland to pay homage to this beloved superstar. Later, go to the hotel near Jackson.

### **Itinerary:**

Memphis → Graceland ( Optional, 120 mins )

### **Graceland**

This massive, opulent mansion in Memphis, Tennessee was the home of Elvis Presley. It is a National Historic Landmark and today serves as a museum. Guests can visit the site of Elvis' grave and tour the thirteen-acre estate.

## Day 3: Oak Alley Plantation - New Orleans (Night Tour)

**Hotel:** La Quinta Inn New Orleans Veterans/Metairie or equivalent

When we reach Oak Alley Plantation, a U.S. National Historic Landmark located at the west suburban of New Orleans. We will also have a swamp tour, a fun adventurous yet safe boat ride that showcases the unique eco system of New Orleans region. You'll have opportunities to see alligators, snakes, turtles, egrets, herons, ibis and many other species as well as many strange looking plants living in the swamp. After going to the hotel, it is recommended to take an optional New Orleans night city tour .

### **Itinerary:**

Oak Alley Plantation ( Optional, 90 mins ) → Swamp Tour ( Optional, 90 mins ) → New Orleans Night Tour ( Optional, 180 mins )

### **New Orleans Night Tour:**

New Orleans is a city with rich French and Spanish heritage. In between corners of every old French style townhouse, you may find a live jazz performance; every narrow block you turn to, there might be an oyster cocktail bar. It feels like many festivals are going on simultaneously. The night is long, and the nightlife is on.

### **Oak Alley Plantation**

Oak Alley Plantation is a U.S. National Historic Landmark located at the west suburban of New Orleans, our attention, right away, would be attracted to the astonishing beauty that the plantation presents. Visitors may even feel that they were taken into the scene of "Gone with Wind". The master's big house is contrasting with the slave quarter nearby. Two rows of 300-years-old oak trees are not only concealing the amazing quarter-mile-long garden road, but also the bitterness of the south had borne after Civil War. The natural environment of New Orleans is as distinctive as its local culture.

### **Swamp Tour**

A fun adventurous yet safe boat ride that showcases the unique eco system of New Orleans region. You'll have opportunities to see alligators, snakes, turtles, egrets, herons, ibis and many other species as well as many strange looking plants living in the swamp. It is like entering a land of unknown. The natural disaster remains of Hurricane Katrina of ten years ago can still be seen. It is so fascinating of the untouched swamp wildness of the pristine beauty.

## Day 4: New Orleans – Birmingham

**Hotel: Comfort Suites Gadsden or equivalent**

New Orleans, built in 1718, is an important historical city in South US and one of the major ports, also well-known as the birthplace of jazz and French Creole culture. In its French Quarter, streets are narrow and crowded with French-style architectures, much like in France. Feel free to visit the antique stores alongside the Royal Street, or randomly jump in a jazz bar on the Bourbon Street. Jackson Square was built to commemorate General Andrew Jackson. St. Louis Cathedral and steamboat are also within walking distance. Passing through Birmingham, the largest city in Alabama, we will head to Alabama State.

### **Itinerary:**

New Orleans → French Quarter → Cafe Du Monde (Optional) → Royal Street → Bourbon Street → Jackson Square → New Orleans Cathedral-Basilica of Saint Louis, King of France → Birmingham → Kelly Ingram Park

### **French Quarter**

The historic heart of the city is the French Quarter, known for its French and Spanish Creole architecture and vibrant nightlife along Bourbon Street. It is also the oldest. Dating back to the city's founding in 1718, this National Historic Landmark district is known for its nightlife, restaurants, and celebrations. Its most famous locale is Bourbon Street.

### **Bourbon Street**

Extending 13 blocks in the French Quarter, Bourbon Street is the most famous thoroughfare in New Orleans, a top destination for generations of partygoers. It is home to some of the best bars and restaurants in the city.

### **Jackson Square**

This historic park in the French Quarter is home to the St. Louis Cathedral. It's history dates all the way back to 1721, when it was built by French colonists in the area.

### **Cathedral-Basilica of Saint Louis, King of France**

The Cathedral-Basilica of Saint Louis, King of France, also called St. Louis Cathedral, is the seat of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans and is the oldest cathedral in the United States.

## Day 5: Chattanooga - Great Smoky Mountains Gatlinburg

**Hotel: Clarion Inn & Suites West Knoxville or equivalent**

Leave for Tennessee, we will arrive Chattanooga and explore the magnificent Lookout Mountain by getting

on top of Rock City. we are sure you will be amazed by the breathtaking panoramic views of natural landscape, massive ancient rock formations, and gardens with over 400 native plant species. We continually drive through the Great Smoky Mountains which is the habitat of a variety of animals. Then we will reach Gatlinburg, a charming mountain town with a variety of unique shops, restaurants and boutique hotels. Our Tennessee visit reaches the climax of the day by attending the most visited dinner attraction in America (at your own expense): Dixie Stampede, dine in a dinner theatre where you can watch a brilliant show with 32 horses and a cast of top-notch riders.

**Itinerary:**

Chattanooga → Across Lookout Mountain → Rock City ( Optional, 75 mins ) → Gatlinburg ( 100 mins ) → Pigeon Forge → Dixie Stampede ( Optional, 120 mins )

**Rock City**

On the top of the Rock City, it is said seven neighboring states might be seen from Lover's Leap - you can find out whether it is true or not. However, we are sure you will be amazed by the breathtaking panoramic views of natural landscape, massive ancient rock formations, and gardens with over 400 native plant species.

**Dixie Stampede**

Dine in a dinner theatre where you can watch a brilliant show with 32 horses and a cast of top-notch riders plus a mouth-watering four-course feast complete with a delicious dessert! They will thrill you with daring feats of trick riding and competition, pitting North against South in a friendly and fun rivalry. You will also enjoy music, dancing, special effects and family friendly comedy along the way.

**Day 6: Kentucky Horse Park – Ark Encounter theme park**

**Hotel: Clarion Hotel Conference Center Louisville North or equivalent**

Visit Kentucky, where known as the "Bluegrass State" due to its fertile soil in many pastures. We stop by Kentucky Artisan Center, a state tourism agency celebrating Kentucky's charming local folk-art wares. Later, arrive in Lexington, the "Horse Capital of the World", visiting its famous horse racing. At noon we will head towards the Ark Encounter theme park. In the evening, we will head towards the historic Findley Market to enjoy local food for dinner.

**Itinerary:**

Kentucky Artisan Center ( 30 mins ) → Kentucky Horse Park ( Optional, 75 mins ) → Ark Encounter theme park ( Optional, 210 mins )

**Kentucky Horse Park**

Kentucky Horse Park is a working horse farm and an educational theme park opened in 1978 in Lexington, Kentucky. It is located off Kentucky State Highway 1973 and Interstate 75, at Exit 120, in northern Fayette County in the United States. Visit the museums for a comprehensive look at horse history and culture around the world.

### **Ark Encounter**

Ark Encounter is a world-class theme park featuring the most authentic full-size replica of Noah's Ark in the world. Spanning 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high, this modern engineering marvel amazes visitors young and old. We'll take a wild adventure and soar across gorgeous valleys on a zip line tour. Then spot some exotic animals at Ararat Ridge Zoo or relax with your friends and family.

## **Day 7: Purdue University – Chicago**

After seeing Indiana state house in Indianapolis from outside, we travel to Lafayette, where Purdue University is located.

### **Itinerary:**

Indianapolis → Indiana State House ( Outside Visit ) → The West Lafayette → Purdue University  
( Optional, 90 mins , Including Lunch Time ) → Chicago

### **Purdue University**

Named for business leader and philanthropist John Purdue, Purdue University consists of 6 campuses, the main location of which is situated in West Lafayette, Indiana. Notable highlights include the Purdo Mall, Memorial Mall, and South Campus, which offers visitors pristine lawns and a horticulture garden. Purdue is a member of the Big Ten Conference and enrolls the largest student body of any university in Indiana, as well as the fourth largest international student population of any university in the United States.

### **Notes:**

Upon completion of the tour, we will send you to the O'Hare International Airport (ORD) for flights home. See "Airport Pick-up/Drop-off Notes" for more details. (If you need to leave at any other places on the way back to Chicago, please confirm it with your tour guide in advance.)

## **Special Remarks**

### **Scenic Spots Notes:**

- (1) Itinerary will be subject to traffic and weather. The sequence of the attractions might be changed according to actual and practical situation for better service.

- (2) In case of attraction closures (due to holidays or construction, etc.), tour guide may make some necessary changes to the itinerary accordingly.
- (3) This tour does not accept any City Pass or your own tickets for the attraction. Guests need to purchase admission tickets from tour guides.

**Refund Remark:**

- (1) If the weather condition, war, general strikes and other unforeseen circumstances interrupt the journey, our company reserve the right to rearrange the journey without refunding the tour fee.
- (2) If visitors cannot join the tour because of personal reason, the fee for hotels and transportation is not refundable.

**Tour fee exclude:** the meals, attractions tickets, service fee (\$10 per person per day), and any private costs (such as hotel telephone charges, laundry etc.).

Attraction Admission List	Adult	Senior (65+)	Children(3-12)
<b>Memphis</b>			
<b>Graceland (Elvis Presley Mansion)</b>	\$40.00	\$36 (62+)	\$19.00 (7-12) FREE (under 6)
<b>Tennessee/New Orleans</b>			
<b>Oak Alley Plantation</b>	\$25.00	\$23.00	\$7 (6-12) \$10 (13-18)
<b>New Orleans Night Tour</b>	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$15.00
<b>Swamp Boat Tour</b>	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$16.00
<b>Rock City</b>	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$13.00
<b>Dolly Parton' s Stampede</b>	\$66.84	\$66.84	\$39.25 ( 4-11 )
<b>Kentucky/Indianapolis</b>			
<b>Kentucky Horse Park</b>	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$9.00 (6-12)
<b>Purdue University Campus Tour</b>	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$7.00
<b>Ark Encounter</b>	\$48.00	\$38.00	\$25 (13-17) \$15 (5-12)

\*Price is subject to seasonal change without prior notice