

Natchez, MS

Spring Pilgrimage of Homes

March 29 - April 2, 2017

(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, the dazzling Historic Natchez Pageant and *Southern Exposure* all help to keep the rich history alive in Natchez.

Wed, March 29

Shreveport, 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 Shreveport, our first overnight.

Thursday, March 30

Natchez, MS

From Shreveport 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 stop by the Visitor Center to view *The Natchez Story*, our orientation to the town of less than 16,000. With a local tour guide we set off to tour Elgin, a quintessential plantation home built in 1792. After checking into our hotel we will enjoy dinner at Magnolia Hall before attending the *Historic Natchez Pageant*. The elaborate costumes and scenes of the Old South will take the audience to the days of long ago.

Friday, March 31

Natchez, MS

With a local guide aboard our motorcoach we continue our visit of antebellum homes to include

Highlights Include:

- Tour Antebellum Homes:
 - Elgin (1792)
 - Hawthorne (1814)
 - Texada (1798)
 - Choctaw Hall (1836)
- *Natchez Historic Pageant*
- *Southern Exposure*
- Lunch at the Carriage House
- Dinner at Magnolia Hall
- Frogmore Cotton Plantation (an 1800-acre working plantation)
- Delta Music Museum

Hawthorne (1814), a beautiful home filled with family heirlooms and Natchez-made antiques and set among magnificent live oak trees on park like grounds. Next we tour Texada, (1798) the most highly valued home on the 1805 city tax roll. Built by a Spaniard and later used as Mississippi's first capitol building, this family home was finely restored in the 1960s and furnished with appropriate period antiques. We stop for lunch at the Carriage House, famous for its Southern Cuisine, before continuing our tour to Choctaw Hall (1836). This transitional style home moves from Federal to Greek Revival architecture and is filled with William IV and Early American Empire furnishings. You will also view a collection of signed Jacob Petit French Porcelain and many family silver pieces. 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 for *Southern Exposure*, a hilarious performance that is a spoof on the homes, homeowners and tourists of the Pilgrimage.

Bilbrey Tours, Inc.
3262 South 27th Street
Abilene, Texas 79605

(325) 692-1308
1-888-692-1308
www.bilbreytours.com

Frogmore Cotton Plantation



Sat, April 1

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 their slaves, the tour includes a rare Smithsonian quality steam cotton gin and furnished slave quarters. The Delta Music Museum, located in nearby Ferriday, LA honors the musical traditions of the Mississippi Delta: gospel and blues to jazz, bluegrass to country and rock'n'roll to rockabilly. This afternoon we will return to the Shreveport area to overnight.

Sun, April 2

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, Midland and San Angelo
- 4 nights hotel accommodations
- Baggage handling for 1 piece of luggage
- Meals: 4 continental breakfasts
3 lunches or dinners
- Admissions to all included attractions per itinerary
- Services of a tour escort
- Gratuities for driver and local guides

Cost:

\$1049 per person (2 people per room)

\$1283 per person (1 person per room)

\$25 deposit due upon booking

Final due February 8, 2017

Travel Protection Insurance is optional and available at a cost of \$137 per person. A complete outline of coverage is available upon request. All insurance payments must be received with or before final payment of tour. Purchasing Travel Protection Insurance at the time of deposit will cover pre-existing medical conditions for you. We strongly urge you to purchase this insurance to protect yourself in the event of a **medically related cancellation**. **All cancellations must be reported to Bilbrey Tours, Inc. within 72 hours of the problem causing the need to cancel. All claims must be completed by attending physician.**

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

Bilbrey Tours, Inc.
3262 South 27th Street
Abilene, Texas 79605

(325) 692-1308
1-888-692-1308
www.bilbreytours.com