

Draft Itinerary: PRE TOUR for NSWCWA Delegation to the Associated Country Women of the World Conference 2010, Arkansas, USA

This itinerary has been exclusively prepared for NSW Country Women's Association.

Tour outline: Sydney/New Orleans/Natchez/Birmingham/Memphis/Little Rock/Hot Springs. 10 days touring in Louisiana, Tennessee and Arkansas ending in Hot Springs for the ACWW Conference 2010

ITINERARY

Day 1 DEPART AUSTRALIA and ARRIVE NEW ORLEANS Monday 12th April 2010

Assemble at Sydney Airport for the morning flight departure for the USA.
Arrival at New Orleans International (MSY) Airport and meet your tour manager who will accompany the tour until arrival in Hot Springs. Transfer to hotel for to freshen up after the flight.
Afternoon tour of New Orleans with local guide including the French Quarter, Garden District, Lake Front and Business District.
Welcome dinner jazz cruise.
Overnight New Orleans (D)

Day 2 NEW ORLEANS/BAYOU Tuesday 13th April 2010

Early departure to Houma, heart of America's wetlands and Cajun culture and take a boat tour through Louisiana swamps.
Visit to the rural- sponsored Head Start program. Head Start is a government supported program for pre-school aged children in underserved and rural communities.
This afternoon, visit with a farming family that lost crops and land to Hurricanes Katrina, Ike or Gustav. Lunch on their farm.
Overnight New Orleans (B,L)

Day 3 NEW ORLEANS Wednesday 14th April,2010

Morning visit to a local food bank and assist in the distribution / packing of goods. Here you will meet some of the key women involved in the food bank efforts.

This afternoon visit some of the Habitat for Humanity projects in progress in New Orleans. One project, called Musicians' Village, will house displaced musicians from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita forced many musicians to flee New Orleans. Jazz, blues, and other genres that are the city's musical score, cannot return until the musicians return. Facing rising housing costs, a shortage of decent units, and a national mortgage crisis, the Musicians' Village is providing local musicians and other qualifying partner families the opportunity to own a home in a thriving community of committed individuals and families. Conceived by Harry Connick, Jr. and Branford Marsalis, the Musicians' Village will consist of 72 single-family, Habitat-constructed homes and 10 rental units for the older "music masters" of New Orleans. Its center-piece will be the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music, dedicated to the music education and development of homeowners and others who will live nearby.
Overnight New Orleans (B)

Day 4 NEW ORLEANS to NATCHEZ Thursday 15th April 2010

Depart after breakfast and travel to Natchez, Mississippi for a historical narrated tour of Natchez and the opportunity to tour two famous Natchez mansions, such as Stanton Hall, Longwood Mansion, Rosalie Mansion or The Parsonage.
There's also time to enjoy some shopping in the downtown area.
This evening meet with local Farm Bureau women's group for dinner and socializing to learn about projects that they are administering in their area.
Overnight Natchez (B,D)

Day 5 NATCHEZ to BIRMINGHAM Friday 16th April 2010

Today we travel to Birmingham and en route, visit a rural county health office to learn about community, organization, church and government supported programs for underserved communities in rural Northwest Mississippi. In accordance with the group's interest, learn about programs such as domestic abuse, drug abuse, teen pregnancy, emergency medical response systems, etc. Lunch included.

After lunch visit the well known Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Here the group will attend a special session on horticulture therapy. Horticulture therapy utilizes gardens and the practice of gardening as a modality suitable for a diverse population that may include persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities, physical limitations, mental or emotional impairment, and people of all ages. Such gardening programs are now becoming more common in nursing homes, psychiatric facilities, hospitals, and botanical gardens because of their positive results. The HT program at Birmingham Botanical Gardens is especially designed to promote the well-being of our special needs population. After the session, see the program in action as a special needs group will visit the garden for their session.

Later in the afternoon, visit the Grow Alabama distribution center. With less than 5% of fresh produce in grocery stores from Alabama, Grow Alabama gives citizens the opportunity to have locally grown vegetables, fruits, eggs, dairy products, even fresh meats delivered directly to their home, office, or to a central pick-up point, from Alabama's family farms. These programs are gaining popularity in the United States.
Overnight Birmingham (B,L)

Day 6 BIRMINGHAM to MEMPHIS Saturday 17th April 2010

This morning depart for Tupelo, Mississippi. Stud farm visit en route.

Visit Elvis Presley's birthplace and museum in Tupelo, Mississippi. Enjoy a tour of the humble two-room house where the "King of Rock and Roll" was born, and visit the memorial chapel and the Elvis Presley Museum. You can also see the sites in Tupelo important to Elvis' early life - the school where he won his first talent contest for singing "Old Shepp," the hardware store where he bought his first guitar and the fairgrounds where he performed early in his career.

Picnic Lunch

Visit the national fish hatchery to learn about national conservation efforts and restoration of depleted fish populations.

Overnight Memphis (B,L)

Day 7 MEMPHIS Sunday 18th April 2010

Earth Day celebrations to be announced.

Tour Graceland the 14 acre estate of Elvis Presley where you will see his amazing jumpsuit collection, car collection, awards, jewelery and his private jet airliner.

Afterwards take a tram across the Mississippi River to Mud Island. Here you can visit the Mississippi River museum to learn about this vital waterway and see a walkable replica of the entire Mississippi ecosystem.

The day will end with a tour of the Gibson guitar factory. *This memorable tour of Gibson's Memphis guitar factory consists of an intimate viewing of the facility as Gibson's skilled Luthiers craft some of the finest guitars in the world. An opportunity to witness the intricate process of binding, neck-fitting, painting, buffing, and tuning that creates these incredible musical instruments. See and hear how Gibson has helped shape the world of music for over 100 years and continues to set the pace for the musical innovations of tomorrow.*

Time at Beale Street for shopping, restaurants and live blues music.

Overnight Memphis (B)

Day 8 MEMPHIS Monday 19th April 2010

Free day in Memphis OR Travel north to Randolph County, Arkansas, where British native, Pam Rankin, will lead the group on a tour of agricultural enterprises including rice farming and cotton farming.

Overnight Memphis (B,L)

Day 9 MEMPHIS to LITTLE ROCK Tuesday 20th April 2010

Today we tour Heifer International.

Heifer International is a non-profit, humanitarian organization dedicated to ending world hunger and caring for the earth by providing livestock, trees, training and other resources to help struggling families around the globe. Since 1944, Heifer has helped 7 million families in more than 125 countries improve their quality of life and become more self-reliant. Headquartered in Little Rock, the new Heifer International Center reflects Heifer's dedication to sustainability in every square foot. Innovative environmental techniques are used to reduce energy and water consumption, and to conserve resources whenever possible through the use of local and recycled materials. In a 30 minute tour, visitors will learn about Heifer's mission, the "green" features of the building and Heifer's commitment to responsible use of resources.

Visit Clinton Library. The Clinton Presidential Center and Park includes the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum, the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service, and the Clinton Presidential Foundation, Little Rock office. The Clinton Presidential Library and Museum is administered by the National Archives and Records Administration and serves as the repository for the official records of the Clinton Presidency. In addition to the archival collection and research facilities, it features exhibits and other educational opportunities. The museum includes 20,000 square feet of exhibit space on two levels and features replicas of the Oval Office and the Cabinet Room. Permanent exhibits utilizing photographs, videos and interactive stations include a 100-foot-long timeline presenting the day-to-day work of the President and alcoves highlighting domestic and foreign policy efforts and achievements. Other exhibits focusing on life in the White House include displays of presidential gifts and other objects related to state visits, holidays and cultural celebrations

Overnight Little Rock (B,D)

Day 10 LITTLE ROCK to HOT SPRINGS

Wednesday 21 April 2010

Travel to Hot Springs, Arkansas. Hot Springs is the hometown of Bill Clinton. A remarkable array of thermal springs in a valley of the Ouachita Mountains prompted Congress in 1832 to set aside the site as a federal reservation. Though it officially became America's 18th national park in 1921, the site is believed to be the oldest in the national park system protected by law. On Bathhouse Row, the park's most celebrated feature, the Fordyce Bathhouse serves as the park's visitors center and a museum of the thermal bathing industry. The park also features a working bathhouse, a mountain observation tower, an open cascade spring and hiking trails.

End of services. Hotel not included in Hot Springs. (B)

Check into conference hotel for seven nights for Associated Country Women of the World 26th Triennial Conference 2010.

Day 17 DEPART LITTLE ROCK for SYDNEY

Wednesday 28 April 2010

Day 18 In Transit

Day 19 ARRIVE SYDNEY

Friday 30 April 2010

Price Includes:

- Motorcoach transportation as described
- English speaking female tour manager with agricultural background
- Accommodations in first class hotels, such as Drury, Fairfield Marriott, Hampton, Comfort Suites.
Note: Some overnights will be 2 ½ star hotels due to location of cities.
- Breakfast each day, 4 lunches, 3 dinners including Jazz dinner cruise in New Orleans.
- Local guide for tour of New Orleans and Memphis
- Entrances: Swamp boat tour, 2 plantation / mansion visits, Elvis birthplace, Graceland, Mud Island, Gibson Guitar.
- All taxes and charges
- Arrangement of farm visits and technical visits in line with interests of group.

Price Does NOT Include:

- Tips for driver and guide
 - Entrances and meals not listed
 - Personal expenses
 - Visa fees if required
 - Airline & airport taxes
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