

Day 1

Atlanta

Arrive at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and transfer independently to your hotel. Depending on your time of arrival you might have time to explore the city before meeting with your tour leader at the hotel. During the Civil War, Atlanta was one of the most important Southern Cities as it provided war materials to the South. In 1864, General Sherman marched into Atlanta and burned the entire city. The city recovered from its losses and today is one of the most dynamic in the South, boasting a successful cultural and business hub.

Overnight Atlanta

Duration 2 nights

Day 2

Atlanta

This morning, enjoy a comprehensive city tour of Atlanta, including a visit to the boyhood home of Martin Luther King. You also learn about another of Atlanta's most famous residents, Margaret Mitchell, who wrote the historical novel that became a masterpiece of American cinema, 'Gone with the Wind' and visit the Road to Tara Museum and Stately Oaks Plantation, which was the inspiration for plantation in the film. You even have an opportunity to see memorabilia from the movie including costumes worn by the stars Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh. In the evening, enjoy a welcome reception and meet your fellow travellers over a drink.

Overnight Atlanta

Day 3

Atlanta - Augusta - Charleston

Leave Atlanta today and head west to Augusta. Augusta is the second oldest city in Georgia and is home to the prestigious Masters golf tournament. In the late afternoon, you arrive in Charleston one of the most historic and charming cities of the South. For evening activities, just consult your Tour Director who can suggest places to see and where to have dinner.

Overnight Charleston

Duration 1 night

Day 4

Charleston - Savannah

In the morning, enjoy a locally guided tour of Charleston Walk which is Charleston's preserved historic district, the best protected in the nation. Natural disasters, the Revolutionary War, and the Civil War all took their toll on this beautiful city, yet it stands out as a historic gem of the South. In the afternoon, you may wish to participate in an optional excursion to historic Boone Hall Plantation with its famous Avenue of Oaks. The property has appeared in numerous American movies, among them "North and South". Enroute to Savannah, stop at Port Royal Island and see Beaufort, South Carolina's second oldest city. Its impressive Antebellum architecture has been the backdrop for many shows and films, including 'Forrest Gump.'

Overnight Savannah

Duration 2 nights

Day 5

Savannah

Today, enjoy the charm of Savannah, once the world's largest cotton port. When cotton was king, Savannah controlled the prices of the world cotton market at her cotton exchange. Founder James Oglethorpe laid out the famed city squares. The Civil War destroyed a large portion of Georgia, but Savannah was spared. Numerous buildings around the tree-shaded squares are hundreds of years old; providing the setting for the popular novel "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil."

Overnight Savannah

Day 6

Savannah - Montgomery

Set course west across the state of Georgia and into the heart of the Deep South, Alabama. Upon arrival in Montgomery, Alabama's capital city and a central backdrop of the American Civil Rights Movement, visit the Rosa Parks Library and Museum. Learn about the Montgomery Bus Boycott inspired by Parks, which ignited the Civil Rights movement and changed American history. You may also wish to visit the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, where Martin Luther King Jr. led the Boycott with his powerful sermons.

Overnight Montgomery

Duration 1 night

Day 7

Montgomery - Selma - New Orleans

Depart Montgomery this morning to discover Selma, Alabama, another centerpiece of the Civil Rights Movement. Visit the Edmund Pettis Bridge where the historic March from Selma to Montgomery began and where the brutal events of Bloody Sunday took place. Experience another historic site of the Civil Rights Trail, the Brown Chapel AME Church before heading south through Mississippi to New Orleans, a city immersed in Creole culture. Today, the city is a unique blend of Spanish, French, Caribbean, African and Anglo-Saxon influences which comes across strongly in the food, architecture and of course, the music. Experience this melting pot aboard a Riverboat Dinner Cruise (optional) and enjoy the rhythms of a Dixieland jazz band.

Overnight New Orleans

Duration 2 nights

Day 8

New Orleans

The day is yours to explore the charm and excitement of one of America's most unique cities and for you to take in the French flavor and grandeur of New Orleans. We suggest starting the day with a visit to a working plantation (optional) before you explore the French Quarter with its trademark wrought iron balconies overlooking the narrow cobblestone streets.

Overnight New Orleans

Day 9

New Orleans - Baton Rouge - Natchez

In the morning, you travel to the capitol of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, where you can enjoy a brief city tour. From there, travel via the historic Natchez Trace Parkway to Natchez, the oldest European settlement on the Mississippi River. The parkway is a 444-mile drive through exceptional scenery and years of Native American and European history. Before the Civil War, wealthy plantation owners from Louisiana built magnificent Antebellum homes here because the area was considered safer from flooding. This afternoon, you visit one of the homes and learn about the wealth of these 19th century millionaires.

Overnight Natchez

Duration 1 night

Day 10

Natchez - Mississippi River Valley - Memphis

Leave Natchez and drive on to Memphis, which as a large river port was one of the most important links in the cotton trade before the Civil War. Memphis is also known as the 'home of the blues' as well as the home of 'Sun Records', the famous studio where Elvis, Roy Orbison and Johnny Cash recorded their early music. A brief city tour takes you to the city's liveliest street, Beale Street, where blues and other forms of music are played nightly in almost a dozen clubs. Travel along historic Front Street, known as Cotton Row in the days when cotton traders and merchants conducted business here. Of course, no visit to Memphis would be complete without a visit to Graceland, the home of Elvis Presley (optional).

Overnight Memphis

Duration 1 night

Day 11

Memphis - Nashville

Continue to Nashville, known as the capital of country music. The city earned its title with the very first airing of the WSM Barn Dance radio program, the forerunner of the Grand Ole Opry. The newly renovated Ryman Auditorium in downtown Nashville, once home of the Grand Ole Opry, the studios near Music Row, and Opryland itself attest to Nashville's reputation as the most important city in country music.

Overnight Nashville

Duration 2 nights

Day 12

Nashville

Begin your day in the dynamic and thriving state capital of Tennessee with a morning city tour. While exploring the Nashville's landmarks, perhaps you might discover a new country music classic before they

even hit the charts while visiting one of the many recording studios around town. Perhaps enjoy dinner and a show in the evening as an optional excursion.

Overnight Nashville

Day 13

Nashville - Chattanooga - Atlanta

Leaving Music City, you head to Chattanooga, home to the famous Choo Choo, which has received national recognition for the renaissance of its beautiful downtown and redevelopment of its riverfront. In the afternoon, you return to Atlanta where you may want to check out any of the sites you were unable to experience at the start of the tour, such as the Georgia Aquarium, World of Coca Cola, or CNN Center.

Overnight Atlanta

Duration 1 night

Day 14

Atlanta

Make your way independently to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport for your flight home unless you plan to extend your stay in the area.