

**St. Charles Parks & Recreation  
Magnolias, Mansions & More.....  
March 22-29, 2010  
Itinerary**

***ALL TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS NECESSARY  
ALL ROOMS REQUESTED ARE NON-SMOKING ROOMS***

**Monday, March 22, 2010**

**7:00am** Depart Blanchette Park, St. Charles, MO for Grenada, MS with rest stops and a lunch stop in route. (lunch on your own).

**3:30pm** Check into lodging with baggage handling and welcome reception.

**Country Inn & Suites  
255 SW Frontage Road  
Grenada, MS 38901  
Phone: 662-227-8444**

**5:30pm** Depart for dinner at Shoney's Restaurant.

**Shoney's Restaurant  
1526 Sunset Drive  
Grenada, MS 38901  
Phone: 662-226-5360**

*Menu: Buffet with entrée items to include **Fried Chicken, Baked Chicken, Shrimp Pasta & Meatloaf.** Buffet will also include salad items as well as a selection of fresh vegetables and a dessert. *Drinks:* **Iced Tea, coffee or soda.** (menu subject to change).*

**Tuesday, March 23, 2010**

**7:00am** Luggage out and Deluxe Continental Breakfast at Hotel.

**8:00am** Depart for Vicksburg, MS

**10:45am-12:15pm** Lunch on your own and shopping in Historic old town Vicksburg.

**12:15pm** Depart for Vicksburg Tourist Information Center

**Vicksburg Tourist Information Center  
3300 Clay Street  
Vicksburg, MS 39181  
Phone: 601-883-9939**

**12:30pm-3:00pm** Learn the history behind the Vicksburg National Military Park with a docent led tour by a professional who has excellent knowledge of civilian life, siege and defense of Vicksburg in the spring and summer of 1863 during the civil war. The National Military Park consists of 117 acres and includes over 18,000 interments of which almost 13,000 are unknown casualties of the civil war. The *Virtual Museum Exhibit* depicts life in Vicksburg and hardships of civilians & soldiers in a besieged city during the devastating 47-day siege of 1863. The tour begins with an 18 minute video in the Tourist Information Center.

**Vicksburg National Military Park  
3201 Clay Street  
Vicksburg, MS 39183  
Phone: 601-636-0583**

**3:00pm** Depart for Natchez, MS

**5:00pm** Check into lodging with baggage handling.

**Country Inn & Suites**  
**111 N. Broadway Street**  
**Natchez, MS 39120**  
**Phone: 601-446-9994**

**6:15pm** Depart for dinner at Magnolia Hall

**6:30pm-8:30pm** Enjoy a candlelight dinner and tour of *Magnolia Hall*, a circa 1858 splendid example of Greek Revival architecture and the last great mansion to be completed in Natchez before the outbreak of the civil war. This magnificent home is furnished with beautiful antiques of the period and showcases an imposing mahogany staircase that ascends from an expansive entrance hall to the upper floor. Upstairs is housed an exhibit of the only costume museum in Natchez to include Pilgrimage costumes with regal gowns of former queens. Also on display is an intriguing antique doll collection and an archive museum room containing “*A Tale of Two Natchez Families.*”

**Magnolia Hall**  
**215 S Pearl Street**  
**Natchez, MS 39120**  
**Phone: 601-442-6672**

*Menu: 1<sup>st</sup> Course Corn Chowder 2<sup>nd</sup> Course Green Salad with Ranch or Vinaigrette Main Course Chicken Roll-Ups with Magnolia Hall green beans, cheese grits and dinner roll. Drinks: Iced Tea or coffee. Dessert: Bread Pudding with Vanilla Sauce.*

**8:30pm** Return to Country Inn & Suites.

### **Wednesday, March 24, 2010**

**7:00am-9:00am** Full Buffet breakfast at your leisure at the hotel.

**9:00am-12:30pm** A local Step-on-Guide will join us on the bus and enlighten us about the history, culture and beauty of Historic Natchez as we tour three Historic homes (yet to be determined) in Natchez. Each home will be presented by a docent dressed in period costumes and well versed in the rich history and architecture of that particular estate. The tours will not only cover the inside of the homes but the gardens & grounds of these magnificent estates as well.

**12:30pm-2:15pm** Free time for shopping and lunch on your own in downtown Historic Natchez.

**2:15pm** Depart for Longwood Estate.

**2:30pm-3:30pm** Enjoy a docent led tour of what is reputed to be the “grandest octagonal house in America”—*Longwood Estate*. Construction on this historic antebellum mansion began in 1859 but was halted 1861 by the outbreak of the civil war and consequently was never completed. Listed on the *U.S. National Register of Historic Places* and as a *National Historic Landmark*, Longwood has become one of Natchez’s most popular attractions.

**Longwood Estate**  
**140 Lower Woodville Road**  
**Natchez, MS 39120**  
**Phone: 601-442-5193**

**3:45pm-5:45pm** Rest time at hotel.

**5:45pm** Depart for dinner at Lansdowne Estate.

**6:00pm-7:30pm** Dinner this evening is at Lansdowne, nestled within 100 park-like acres and still occupied by direct descendants of the builder, George M. Marshall. Constructed in 1853, it is one of the

most authentic houses in the area and contains original furnishings and a collection of old silver and Zuber wallpaper. Following dinner direct descendants of George Marshal will be present to greet us and give a tour of their home and recount tales of its history.

**Lansdowne**  
**17 Marshall Road**  
**Natchez, MS 39121**

*Menu:* Dinner this evening will begin with a **Mixed Green Salad** followed by **Boneless Roast Loin of Pork** along with Sweet Potato Pone in Orange Halves and seasonal vegetables & French Bread. Beverages will include **Iced Tea or Coffee**. For dessert a generous helping of **Fruit Cobbler with Ice Cream**. A complimentary Glass of Wine will also be served and entertainment of Old Time Spirituals is included during the meal service.

**7:30pm** Depart for Natchez City Auditorium for *Historic Natchez Pageant* show.

**8:00pm-10:00pm** Presented by over 200 local performers in elaborate costumes, *The Historic Natchez Pageant* recreates the romanticized eras of old. So faithfully does the presentation recreate the diversity and grandeur of historic Natchez that the pageant has become as famous as the old Natchez houses.

**Natchez City Auditorium**  
**207 Jefferson Street**  
**Natchez, MS 39120**

**10:00pm** Return to Country Inn & Suites

#### **Thursday, March 25, 2010**

**7:00am** Luggage out the door and full Buffet Breakfast at hotel.

**8:30am** Depart for Baton Rouge, LA

**11:00am-1:00pm** Shopping and lunch on your own at *Main Street Market*.

**Main Street Market**  
**501 Main Street**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70801**

**1:00pm-2:30pm** A local Step-on-Guide will join our group and enlighten us about the history, culture and beauty of Historic Baton Rouge. Enjoy a tour of the *Louisiana State Museum* featuring thematic exhibits on the diverse aspects of Louisiana history, industry and culture. The museum includes two permanent exhibitions, entitled *Grounds for Greatness: Louisiana and the Nation*, and *Experiencing Louisiana: Discovering the Soul of America*.

**Louisiana State Museum**  
**660 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70802**  
**Phone: 225-219-0726**

**2:30pm-3:30pm** We tour the *Louisiana State Capitol*, the tallest state capitol in the United States standing 450 feet high with 34 floors and constructed of limestone & marble imported from Italy.

**Louisiana State Capitol**  
**900 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70802**

**4:00pm** Depart for Hotel

**4:15pm** Check into Lodging with baggage handling.

**Drury Inn & Suites**  
**7939 Essen Park**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70809**  
**Phone: 225-766-2022**

**5:15pm** Depart for White Castle, LA for Dinner.

**6:15pm** Arrive at *Nottoway Plantation House* for Dinner and Candlelight tour. This magnificent palatial mansion, constructed in 1858 and one of the largest antebellum plantation houses in the south, is composed of 64 rooms, 165 doors, 200 windows, 7 staircases, 22 massive square columns and 5 galleries consisting of 53,000 square foot. Nottoway is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of the very few antebellum plantations that survived the Civil War and is the largest remaining plantation home in existence.

**6:30pm-7:15pm** Candlelight tour of *Nottoway Plantation House*.

**7:20pm-8:45pm** Dinner at *Nottoway Plantation House*.

**Nottoway Plantation House**  
**31025 La Hwy 1**  
**White Castle, LA 70788**  
**Phone: 225-545-2730**

*Menu: Appetizer: Nottoway mix of Greens w/House Vinaigrette (tomato wedges, hard boiled eggs, artichoke heart & heart of palm) Soup: Seafood Gumbo Main Course (choice of): **1. Roasted Prime Rib “Au Jus”** Roasted medium rare, Nottoway Potato Au Gratin, Broccoli. **2. Grilled Pork Tenderloin Medallions** Rosemary Port Wine Plum Sauce, Nottoway Gratin Potato, Fresh Asparagus. **3. Breast of Chicken Roulade “Breaux Bridge”** Stuffed w/Crawfish Dressing & Bacon, Served on a bed of Angel Hair Pasta & Crawfish Cream Sauce. **4. Grilled Seafood w/Butter Sauce** (Based on Market Availability) **Center Cut Swordfish** or **Salmon Steak** or **Sea Bass Filet** or **Grouper Filet** Served on a bed of mini Ratatouille & Pecan Rice Pilaf. *Drink: Iced Tea, Soda or Coffee Dessert (choice of): Poach Peach w/ice cream, melba sauce, Chantilly & toasted almond or Chocolate Mousse Nottoway w/orange liquor**

**8:45pm** Return to Drury Inn & Suites

### **Friday, March 26, 2010**

**7:00am-8:15am** Deluxe Continental Breakfast at Hotel.

**8:15am** Depart for Rural Life Museum.

**8:30am-10:15am** Enjoy a docent led tour of the *LSU Rural Life Museum* and enjoy the lifestyles and life-ways of the rural people of Louisiana. The museum includes more than 25 buildings spread over five acres with literally thousands of artifacts. The LSU Rural Life Museum has the largest collection of material culture of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Louisiana and is Louisiana's oldest museum to interpret slavery.

**LSU Rural Life Museum**  
**4560 Essen Park (park entrance)**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70898**  
**Phone: 225-765-2437**

**10:15am** Depart for *Houmas House Plantation and Gardens*.

**11:00am-12:00Noon** Lunch at *Café Burnside* located inside *Houmas House Plantation*.

*Menu: Choice of: **1. Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad** served with tender romaine lettuce and parmesan cheese. **2. Turkey and Brie Sandwich** thinly sliced turkey breast, brie cheese, leafy lettuce and Louisiana fig spread on toasted gourmet bread, served with Louisiana Kettle Chips. Both entrees*

choices include Bread and Butter. *Drinks: **Iced Tea, Soda or Coffee** Dessert: **Cheesecake*** (Menu subject to change).

**12:00Noon-1:00pm** Enjoy a unique, historical glimpse into the resplendent world of Southern Plantation Life and the days of glory with a docent led tour of the crown jewel of Louisiana's river road- *Houmas House*. Constructed in the late 1820's and designed in Greek revival architecture, this magnificent mansion is commonly referred to as the "*Sugar Palace*". *Houmas House Plantation* at one point the nation's number one producer of sugar, once boasted 300,000 acres and was the center of the largest slave holding in Louisiana with over 800 slaves.

**Houmas House**  
**40136 Highway 942**  
**Darrow, LA 70725**  
**Phone: 225-473-9380**

**1:00pm-1:45pm** Browse the 32 acres of lush gardens or perhaps visit the gift shop at your leisure.

**1:45pm** Depart for Laura Plantation

**2:45pm-4:15pm** Step back in time as we enter the Creole world of Louisiana at *Laura Plantation*, a historic plantation built in 1805 and the center of Louisiana's Creole culture. On this 70 minute escorted tour, a professional interpreter will expose us to compelling, real-life accounts of generations of owners, women, slaves and children who called this typical Creole sugarcane farm their home.

**Laura Plantation**  
**2247 Highway 18**  
**Vacherie, LA 70090**  
**Phone: 225-265-7690**

**4:15pm** Depart for Drury Inn & Suites

**5:15pm-6:15pm** Rest period at Hotel

**6:15pm** Depart for Dinner

**6:30pm-8:00pm** Dinner at Boutin's Restaurant

**Boutin's Restaurant**  
**8322 Bluebonnet Blvd.**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70884**  
**Phone: 225-819-9862**

*Menu: Choice of: **1. Seafood Platter** stuffed crab, stuffed bell pepper, fried shrimp, fried crawfish tails, and fried catfish served with jambalaya, corn maque choux, French fries and hot French garlic bread.*

***2. Catfish Boutin** broiled farm-raised catfish, topped with crawfish etouffee served with stuffed potato, jambalaya, corn maque choux and hot French garlic bread. **3. Fried Shrimp** butterflied & battered served with jambalaya, corn maque choux and hot French garlic bread. **4. Ribeye** 14 ounce cut served with stuffed baked potato, jambalaya, corn maque choux and hot French garlic bread. **5. Grilled***

***Chicken** served with jambalaya, stuffed potato, corn maque choux and hot French garlic bread. All entrees come with a fresh tossed salad. *Beverage: **Iced Tea, Soda or Coffee**. Dessert: **Homemade****

***Bread Pudding with Praline Sauce.** (Menu subject to change)*

**8:00pm** Return to Drury Inn & Suites

**Saturday, March 27, 2010**

**7:00am** Luggage out the door and Deluxe Continental Breakfast at Hotel.

**8:00am** Depart for Henderson, LA

**9:30am-11:00am** Enjoy an authentic Louisiana experience on a 90 minute escorted swamp tour on the *Atchafalaya Basin* in Louisiana Cajun Country. The sights of moss draped trees, egrets and alligators will be narrated by guides that are informative and amusing, able to blend history, myth, opinion and practical lore in a one and a half hour tour.

**McGee's Landing**  
**1337 Henderson Levee Road**  
**Henderson, LA 70517**  
**Phone: 337-228-2384**

**11:00am-12:30pm** Lunch at McGee's Landing

*Menu: Choice of:* **1. Grilled Chicken Salad** **2. Grilled Shrimp Salad** **3. ½ Grilled Chicken Po-boy & Gator Tators** **4. ½ Fried Shrimp Po-boy & Gator Tators** **5. ½ Fried Catfish Po-boy & Gator**

*Beverage:* **Lemonade or Iced Tea**

**12:30pm** Depart for Natchitoches, LA

**3:00pm** Check into lodging with Baggage Handling.

**Hampton Inn**  
**5300 University Parkway**  
**Natchitoches, LA 71457**  
**Phone: 318-636-4447**

**4:00pm** Depart for Natchitoches Tour Company

**4:15pm-6:00pm** Enjoy a 40 minute narrated Trolley Tour of Historic Natchitoches, established in 1714 and the oldest settlement in Louisiana. This quaint little town with its mixture of Queen Anne and Victorian architecture, along with Creole style cottages is the film location of the award winning movie "*Steel Magnolias*". Before and after the Trolley Tour browse through the many shops of Historic downtown Natchitoches.

**Natchitoches Tour Co.**  
**100 Rue Beauport**  
**Natchitoches, LA 71457**  
**Phone: 318-729-8282**

**6:30pm-8:00pm** Dinner at The Landing Restaurant & Bar

**The Landing Restaurant & Bar**  
**530 Front Street**  
**Natchitoches, LA 71457**  
**Phone: 318-352-1579**

*Menu:* Unavailable at this time.

**8:00pm** Return to Hampton Inn

### **Sunday, March 28, 2010**

**7:00am** Luggage out and Deluxe Continental Breakfast at Hotel.

**8:00am** Depart for Little Rock, AR with rest stops and a lunch stop in route. (lunch on your own)

**3:00pm** Check into lodging with Baggage Handling.

**Comfort Inn & Suites**  
**707 Interstate 30**  
**Little Rock, AR 72202**  
**Phone: 501-687-7700**

**5:00pm** Depart for Scott, AR for dinner

**5:30pm-7:30pm** This evening we visit *Marlsgate Plantation* for dinner and an unforgettable journey into the past with a fascinating tour of this stately columned Greek Revival Mansion shaded by ancient oaks and a pecan grove overlooking the waters of Bearskin Lake. Marlsgate, listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*, is a reflection of the opulent plantation era when cotton was king and where a privileged class of wealth existed in the Arkansas Delta.

**Marlsgate Plantation**

**2695 Bearskin Lake Road**

**Scott, AR 72142**

**Phone: 501-961-1307**

*Menu: Main Course: Roast Pork Tenderloin with Fruit Chutney, a Three Wild Rice Blend grown on the farm, Fresh Green Beans and Carrots Grenadine. Meal accompanied with Homemade Yeast Rolls.*

*Beverage: Coffee, Tea, Soda & Wine (Wine is included with the meal). *Dessert: Fresh Strawberry Shortcake (Meal subject to change).**

**7:30pm** Return to Comfort Inn & Suites

**Monday, March 29, 2010**

**7:00am** Luggage out and Deluxe Continental Breakfast at Hotel.

**8:00am** Depart for St. Charles, MO with rest stops and a lunch stop in route (lunch on your own).

**5:00pm** Arrive at Blanchette Park, St. Charles, MO