

Tom's Christian Tours

presents

Southern Hospitality in Texas and Louisiana

Proposed Itinerary

April 11-25, 2023
\$XXXX per person double

DAY 1---Tuesday, April 11 (D)--Today we'll drive south, heading for warmer air and greener grass. It's a day to get acquainted, begin to unwind, and enjoy the countryside zooming by our deluxe coach windows. By evening, we'll be in **Sykeston, MO** and enjoy dinner at **Lamberts Café**, home of the "thrown" rolls. After dinner, we will move on down the highway another 45 minutes and spend the night in Hayti, MO.

DAY 2---Wednesday, April 12 10 (B,L)--Today we'll take a break in **Little Rock, Arkansas** for an **included lunch** and visit the **state capitol**. Then we'll continue driving south, entering the **Lone Star State**. We will spend the next two nights in Arlington, TX.

DAY 3---Thursday, April 13 (B,D)-- This morning we'll head to downtown **Dallas**. First is a three hour tour of this great metropolitan area and what makes it so exciting. Lunch will be on your own in the downtown area. Then we will spend a couple of hours at the **Sixth Floor Museum**, an interesting exhibition on the life, death, and legacy of President John Kennedy. We'll see the spot there in the former **Texas School Book Depository** where Lee Harvey Oswald supposedly fired the fatal shot. Also, down the street, we'll walk to Memorial Park, where the memorial to JFK is located. The afternoon will continue with a VIP guided tour of **Cowboy Stadium**, built at a cost of \$1 billion. An **included dinner** will follow. Night in Arlington.

DAY 4---Friday, April 14 (B,D)-- This morning we travel back to Southern Methodist University in Dallas to visit the **George W. Bush Museum and Library**. After a fast food lunch we'll cross the metroplex to **Fort Worth**. In Fort Worth, we'll take a guided tour of the **Fort Worth National Historic District and stockyards**. An **included dinner** waits us as we enter the **Austin** area. We will enjoy our night in the Austin area.

DAY 5---Saturday, April 15 (B) - This morning we'll visit the **Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum** which houses many of the artifacts from his presidency. From there, we will make our way to the **Texas State Capitol**, made from pink Texas granite. Then we move west to visit the **LBJ National Historic Park** before going on to **San Antonio**. Our hotel is right on the **Riverwalk** for your enjoyment. We will spend the next two nights on the Riverwalk in San Antonio.

DAY 6---Sunday, April 16 (B,L) - Today begins with an **IMAX film, "Alamo . . . the Price of Freedom,"** followed by a visit to the Alamo. In 1836, 192 brave men stood bravely against the odds to defend this former church. We'll see exhibits on the history of the Alamo, and walk the battlements where Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie fought. Our **included lunch** will be at the top of the **Tower of the Americas in HemisFair Plaza** where we will also enjoy the observation deck and experience a 4D movie. This afternoon it's off to **Mission San Jose**, founded in 1720, the largest of the area Spanish missions. Late afternoon and evening are free time, except for our cruise along the lovely river, the **Paseo del Rio**. It is the pride of the city, located in the heart of downtown San Antonio. Afterward you may want to stroll along the 2.5 mile, tree-lined Riverwalk. Night in San Antonio.

DAY 7---Monday, April 17 (B,L)- Today, we head south. On the way we'll take a drive to Kingsville, Texas, and the famous **King Ranch** which we'll tour. Recognized as the birthplace of the American ranching industry, King Ranch is one of the largest ranches in the world. Lunch **at the Ranch is included**. Then we move on to **Corpus Christi**, one of the largest port cities in Texas. The next two nights will be spent on the shores of Galveston Bay in Corpus Christi, TX.

DAY 8---Tuesday, April 18 (B,L) - This morning a **local guide** will board our coach for a city tour, including **Padre Island**. This afternoon we will visit the **USS Lexington**, a 910-foot carrier nicknamed the Blue Ghost by Japanese since it was reported sunk four times during WWII. **Lunch will be included** at the USS Lexington. There will be free time for shopping or strolling along the beach. Night in Corpus Christi.

DAY 9---Wednesday, April 19 (B,L) - A four-hour drive will bring us to **Galveston**. This afternoon we'll visit **Moody Gardens**, with time to explore the **Rainforest Pyramid, 3-D IMAX theater, and the Aquarium** after an **included lunch** at Moody Gardens. We may have time to drive through Galveston to see The Strand, Galveston's National Historic Landmark District. A short drive will bring us to **Houston** for the night. Our next two nights will be spent in Houston.

DAY 10---Thursday, April 20 (B,L) - This morning a **local guide** will show us the sites of Houston. After an **included lunch** we will "blast off" for an afternoon at the **Johnson Space Center** in Houston and their **NASA Tram Tour**. Night in Houston

DAY 11---Friday, April 21 (B,L) - This morning we will depart our beloved Texas and enter bayou country. Our lunch stop will be a spicy one as we go to **Avery Island**, home of Tabasco Sauce. We will enjoy an **included lunch** as well as tour the Tabasco factory. The island also has numerous gardens that will be included in our tour. Our stop for the night will be near Lafayette, LA.

DAY 12---Saturday, April 22 (B,L) - This morning, we'll join a **Cajun swamp guide** for an adventure in the bayous of Terebonne Parish. On our boat tour, we'll see giant cypress trees and dozens of alligators. Our next stop is **Houma, gateway to Cajun Country**. There we'll feast on some Cajun cooking with an **included lunch**. Late afternoon, there will be an opportunity to explore the **French Quarter**, the original New Orleans settlement. **Bourbon Street** is probably the most famous street in this 70-block district. Our next two nights will be spent in New Orleans, LA.

DAY 13---Sunday, April 23 (B,L) - Our day begins with an experience at the newly opened **National World War II Museum**. We will enjoy this masterpiece including a 4-D movie. Early afternoon we'll jump on the **Cajun Queen** for an **included lunch** tour on this great riverboat. We will take a tour of the Mississippi River having great views of downtown, plantation homes and the site of the 1815 Battle of New Orleans. Late afternoon more free time is available in the **French Quarter** to stroll and find dinner. Night in New Orleans.

DAY 14, Monday, April 24 (B,L) - It is time to work our way back north. After a stop for an **included lunch**, we will stay for the night in Sikeston, MO.

DAY 15, Tuesday, April 25 (B) - Today we'll take time to talk to friends old and new. We can relive all the fun we've had on our trip to Texas as we relax and watch the **Midwest scenery** zip by our coach windows. By early evening we will be in **Wisconsin**, happy to spend the night in a familiar bed.

INCLUDED MEALS (B) breakfast (L) lunch (D) dinner

Drury Inn Kickbacks are a relaxing meal of hot food along and drinks both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. The Kickbacks last from 5:30-7:00 p.m.