

TASTES & SOUNDS OF SOUTHERN USA



Journey through America's South



Music is at the heart and soul of the southern states and virtually every modern musical genre can trace its roots to the sounds of the south. Deriving from the West African rhythms, work songs and spiritual music, Jazz and the Blues emerged from the Louisiana countryside and New Orleans became the centre of this musical revolution in the late 18th century. This musical legacy is still deeply rooted in New Orleans with live music playing in clubs and bars throughout the city. As the musical lifeblood spread up the arteries of America's great rivers it was quickly absorbed and adapted with Country (and Western), R & B, Rock and Roll and Motown evolving over the course of the century. The 'Music City' of Nashville remains the home of country music, and there are plenty of foot stomping venues to feel the country vibe, including the Grand Ole Opry and the Ryman Theatre. Memphis became the spiritual home of Rock 'n' Roll with the emergence of the Memphis Recording Service (forerunner of Sun Studios) and with Elvis making the city his home, there is no shortage of musical legacy to keep the visitor entertained.

The south is much more than just music; the food is full of flavour and warmth, as are the locals who are gregarious and charming in equal measure. The southern states are also full of poignant reminders of a troubled past; antebellum plantations built on slavery, Civil War sights and the landmarks of the civil rights movement.



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American Airlines

American Airlines, together with regional partner American Eagle, offer an average of nearly 6,700 flights daily to 350 destinations in 50 countries.

With direct services from Dublin to Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas and Philadelphia, American Airlines offers connections to every major city in the USA.

With a three class service on their transatlantic routes there is something for every budget.

Main Cabin: more than just a seat – your trip includes meals, drinks from the bar and snacks throughout the flight. Not only that, but we have unbeatable inflight entertainment with up to 300 movies and hundreds of TV shows to choose from.

Whilst flying across the Atlantic you'll enjoy meals, as well as our delicious ice cream service. You can order soft drinks and alcoholic drinks to enjoy with your meals.

Premium Economy: With more legroom and wider, adjustable leather seats with extendable foot and head rests, why not treat yourself to an upgrade to Premium Economy.

Business: Relax with wider seats and more legroom in the Business cabin, enjoy premium dining choosing from a larger menu and pair your meal with award-winning wines.

BRITISH AIRWAYS

British Airways is a full service global airline, with an extensive global route network connected from Belfast and Dublin by over 60 flights a week via London Heathrow (LHR) and more than 20 weekly flights via Gatwick (LGW).

No matter how you choose to travel with BA, you can be sure of an enjoyable and special journey. The new World Traveller Class is available on the newest aircraft in the fleet; A380, Boeing 787 and Boeing 777-300ER, which means more luxurious seats with greater recline, 35 percent larger flat entertainment screen, in-seat power supply and much more. Including complimentary drinks and a delicious assortment of fine food designed by world renowned chefs (international flights only).

With an on-demand entertainment system available on most international flights, you can sit back and watch the latest Hollywood blockbusters, television shows or listen to music, or play games.



World Traveller Plus offers: wider seats and more legroom; small, intimate cabins with expert, attentive service; delicious meals and full bar service; personal entertainment system with noise-reducing headphones; larger free baggage allowance; and priority boarding.

Club World combines premium levels of comfort and service with the freedom and flexibility to make every journey unique and unforgettable. Whether you're travelling for business or pleasure, there's a Club World seat with your name on it.



Airline Partners

Nashville - Music City

Tennessee's state capital, Nashville, rightly lives up to its nickname of 'Music City'. The city pretty much revolves around music with an abundance of live performances, legendary musicians and historic venues. The vibe is country with a bit of western, and there are plenty of places to indulge:



Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum

This modern facility offers incredible views of the city and a contemporary insight into American history through the characters and sounds of country music.

Johnny Cash Museum

Devoted to the 'Man in Black', the museum hosts the largest collection of Johnny Cash artefacts and memorabilia in the world.

Grand Ole Opry and Museum

The launchpad for many country music stars, this is the premier country music stage and home of the world's longest running live radio program. Enjoy one of the many live concerts or join one of the many backstage tours.

Ryman Auditorium and Museum

Another historic venue, the Ryman is known as "The Mother Church of Country Music," and its exhibits offer an insight into the history of country music through the eyes of its biggest stars.

RCA Studio B

Once frequented by artists such as Elvis, Willie Nelson and Dolly Parton, the studio is now part of the Country Music Hall of Fame, and offers guests a taste of the "Nashville Sound".

Musicians Hall of Fame and Museum

A celebration of performers from all genres that have passed through the city.

Where to stay? - 4* Renaissance Nashville Hotel

Located in the heart of Nashville close to Ryman Auditorium, Bridgestone Arena and the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Renaissance Nashville Hotel is our recommended vacation hotel.

Facilities:

- Indoor pool
- Jacuzzi
- Restaurant
- Bar
- Lounge
- Fitness Facilities



Other recommended hotels:

- 3* The Capital, Nashville, Downtown
- 4* Gaylord Opryland Hotel



Memphis

Also known as 'Soulville', Memphis has deep music roots and is home to Elvis' Graceland as well as being the birthplace of the blues, soul, and rock 'n' roll. There are plenty of attractions to explore this musical heritage:

Graceland

The highlight of any visit to Memphis, Graceland, is the quirky home of Elvis Presley. In addition to exploring the Graceland mansion, you can get an in-depth look at Presley's life through a variety of exhibits, including one featuring his extensive car collection, another covering his comeback performances in Las Vegas, and one on his love for Hawaii.

Memphis Rock N' Soul Museum

Pay a visit to the Memphis Rock N' Soul Museum for a comprehensive overview of the city's storied music history. Just off Beale Street, the museum features seven galleries and three audio-visual elements that tell of the development of rock and soul in Memphis.

Memphis Music Hall of Fame

A sister site to the Memphis Rock N' Soul Museum, the Memphis Music Hall of Fame pays tribute to the city's many influential native sons, including Elvis Presley, Isaac Hayes, and Justin Timberlake.

Gibson Guitar Factory

Set on Beale Street, the Gibson Guitar Factory is where some of the world's finest guitars are crafted. Tour the facility to see the process first hand, from binding to tuning.

Beale Street Historic District

The heart and soul of Memphis' live music scene lies on Beale Street. The clubs and restaurants lining this historic district have played host to legends B.B. King, Louis Armstrong, and Muddy Waters.

Sun Studio

Sun Studio, known as the birthplace of rock 'n' roll, was where Elvis, B.B. King, Johnny Cash, and Jerry Lee Lewis recorded some of their first tracks to launch their music careers. Today, the humble studio is a museum and national historic landmark offering tours every half hour.

Stax Museum of American Soul Music

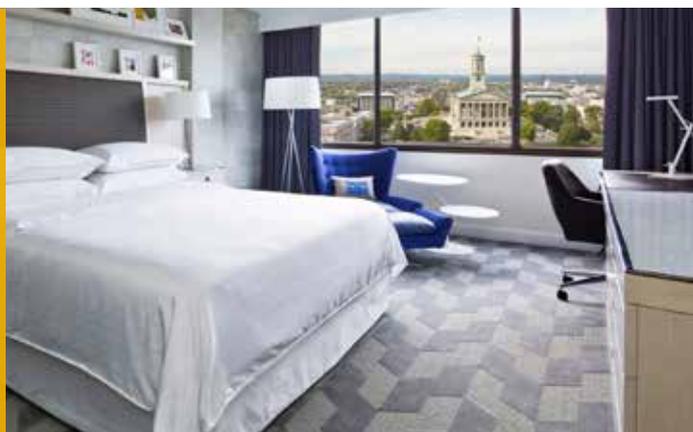
Housed in the former home of Stax Records, where Aretha Franklin, Otis Redding, and Isaac Hayes once recorded, the Stax Museum of American Soul Music traces the history of this important house of music.

Where to stay? - 3* Sheraton Memphis Downtown

Located right in the heart of downtown Memphis, the Sheraton is designed for relaxation and fun. Savour quintessential American cuisine in the chic Crossroads Tavern & Grille, or step outside and explore the local attractions courtesy of the Main Street Trolley.

Facilities:

- Internet Access
- Indoor heated pool
- Sheraton Club Lounge
- Crossroads Tavern & Grille
- Fitness center



Other recommended hotels:

- 3* The guesthouse at Graceland
- 4* The Peabody Hotel

New Orleans

Known as the birthplace of jazz, New Orleans is where the genre grew and matured into homegrown American music. With its European influences and Creole food, New Orleans is like no other city in North America and it doesn't take long to understand why it is referred to as 'The Big Easy'. Take a stroll around the city and you'll find jazz music inside bars and out in the street.



Jazz Concerts and Music Tours

The biggest names in jazz have spent time in New Orleans, and it is easy to follow in their footsteps by visiting some of the many venues on a walking tour around town.

Get a feel for the sounds and history of jazz as you hear stories and visit the spots where their unique sounds were perfected.

Jazz Cruises

Enjoy a truly authentic experience listening to live jazz as you cruise up the Mississippi River on a paddle-wheel steamboat. Watch the sunset on one of the many evening dinner cruises or start your day of with a festive brunch on the water.

Jazz Dining Experiences

There are plenty of options when it comes to dining experiences in New Orleans, but nothing beats sitting in the front row at an intimate bar sampling Creole food while listening to jazz at brunch or dinner.

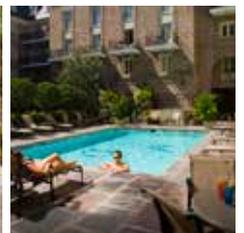


Where to stay? - 4* Maison Dupuy

The Maison Dupuy Hotel is located at the centre of the French Quarter, New Orleans. It has a newly renovated courtyard, featuring one of the French Quarter's largest swimming pools. The hotel is ideally situated near a variety of restaurants, shops and the local attractions.

Facilities:

- Free Internet Access
- Business Centre
- Fitness Facilities
- Restaurant
- Bar
- Lounge



Other recommended hotels:
3* Wyndham New Orleans French Quarter
4* Le Pavillan Hotel



Steamboat Natchez Jazz Dinner Cruise - Price From **£25pp**

Experience the dazzle of New Orleans at night with a romantic dinner cruise aboard the famous Steamboat Natchez. Journey through time on this 2-hour float along the mighty Mississippi. Stroll the deck, cosy up with family and friends and delight in the sparkle of the urban shoreline at dusk. This excursion includes a Creole-inspired dinner and live jazz music.

Sightseeing Hop on - Hop - off Tours - Price From **£31pp**

Discover historic New Orleans in an open-top double-decker bus on this hop-on hop-off sightseeing tour. With your full-day ticket, design a personal itinerary with 18 possible stops, including the French Market, Jackson Square, St. Louis Cemetery and the Garden District. Enjoy unobstructed views and fun onboard commentary as you soak up 'The Big Easy'.

New Orleans Cemetery and Voodoo walking tour - Price From **£21pp**

Tour the St. Louis Cemetery, one of the most haunted cemeteries in New Orleans. Visit the tomb of the 'Notorious' Voodoo Queen, Marie Laveau and learn about her life and how she reportedly could be in two places at the same time. Learn about the evolution and development of voodoo and how it has become such a big part of the Crescent City. Follow your guide and explore the unique above ground tombs - commonly referred to as the 'Cities of the Dead'.

Oak Alley Plantation Tour - Price From **£50pp**

Experience the grandeur of New Orleans antebellum south on a half-day tour of Oak Alley Plantation. Take a journey through time to the manicured estate and into the gorgeous home, built in 1839. View stunning architecture, oak-lined esplanades, and enduring sugar cane fields while learning about the plantation's fascinating – and often sombre – histories from expert guides.

New Orleans Swamp & Bayou Tour - Price From **£39pp**

Explore one of Louisiana's last protected wetlands on a 2-hour boat tour that includes round-trip hotel transport in New Orleans. Depart in the morning or afternoon for Honey Island Swamp, a wildlife preserve teeming with critters such as 'gators, wild boar, snakes and birds. Ride through the swamp dripping with lush foliage and visit a boat-accessible Cajun village with an informative local guide who sheds light on the area's inhabitants.

New Orleans & Excursions

There are many ways to enjoy the sights and sounds on New Orleans and the surrounding bayous.



Self Drive Holidays

The Amtrak network offers an excellent opportunity to explore America's biggest cities independently. Tailor the itinerary to fit your holiday requirements, or check out one of our recommended itineraries.



American Music & Movie Trails

Chicago - Memphis - New Orleans

A wonderful way to explore the great music cities as you let the train take the strain. Explore the famous blues scene in Chicago before you enjoy the relaxing train journey to Memphis, birthplace of rock 'n' roll and home to the 'King'. Finish your vacation in the 'Big Easy' with its jazz bars and creole cuisine.

Day by Day

Day 1 - Chicago Arrival

Day 2 - Chicago

Day 3 - Chicago - St. Louis

Day 4 - St. Louis - Memphis

Day 5 - Memphis

Day 6 - Memphis - Vicksburg

Day 7 - Vicksburg - New Orleans

Day 8 - New Orleans

Day 9 - New Orleans - Birmingham

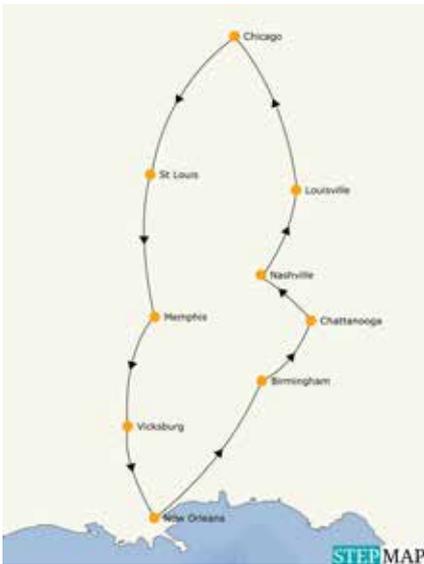
Day 10 - Birmingham - Chattanooga

Day 11 - Chattanooga - Nashville

Day 12 - Nashville - Louisville

Day 13 - Louisville - Chicago

Day 14 - Chicago Departure



Bluegrass & Bourbon Trail

Memphis - Nashville - Memphis - New Orleans

Explore the musical notes of the southern USA by car and train, visiting the homes of the Blues, Country and Jazz on this 10 day tour. The history unwinds around every corner as you discover the close affinity music had to the events of the 20th Century.

Day by Day

Day 1 - Memphis Arrival

Day 2 - Memphis

Day 3 - Memphis - Lynchburg

Day 4 - Lynchburg - Chattanooga

Day 5 - Chattanooga - Gatlinburg

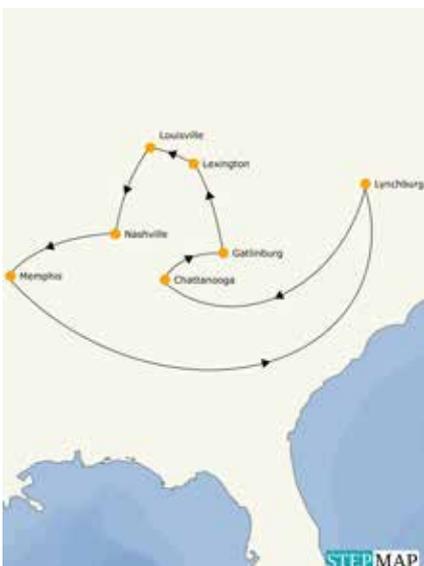
Day 6 - Gatlinburg - Lexington

Day 7 - Lexington - Louisville

Day 8 - Louisville - Nashville

Day 9 - Nashville

Day 10 - Nashville - Memphis Departure





Jazzy Jambalaya Adventure

New Orleans - Natchez - New Orleans

Turn the engine on, choose the playlist and hit the road. Explore the musical highlights of the south, from Blues to Country and Jazz to Rock 'n' Roll; visit the studios and the venues that gave birth to legends.

Day by Day

- Day 1 - New Orleans Arrival
- Day 2 - New Orleans
- Day 3 - New Orleans - Baton Rouge
- Day 4 - Baton Rouge - St. Francisville - Natchez
- Day 5 - Natchez - Vicksburg
- Day 6 - Vicksburg - Natchitoches
- Day 7 - Natchitoches - Alexandria - Lafayette
- Day 8 - Lafayette - Cajun Country - New Orleans
- Day 9 - New Orleans Departure



American Rhythms

New Orleans - Nashville - Vicksburg - New Orleans

There are plenty of overnights to enjoy the delights of the Kentucky Bourbon Trail, as you head from the home of the Chicago blues to the country sounds of Nashville, and the jazzy notes of New Orleans.

Day by Day

- Day 1 - New Orleans Arrival
- Day 2 - New Orleans
- Day 3 - New Orleans - Biloxi - Mobile - Montgomery
- Day 4 - Montgomery - Birmingham - Nashville
- Day 5 - Nashville
- Day 6 - Nashville - Memphis
- Day 7 - Memphis - Vicksburg
- Day 8 - Vicksburg - Natchez
- Day 9 - Natchez - Lafayette
- Day 10 - Lafayette - Cajun Country - New Orleans
- Day 11 - New Orleans Departure



Fly Drive Holidays

Create your own tour and experiences of the south with our suggested fly-drive itineraries. The accommodation is pre-booked so all you need to worry about is getting from A-2-B via the best sights you can see.

We can tailor make your own itinerary for you if none of our recommendations fit your holiday plans.

Escorted Tours

What's Included:

- Return flights to the USA with British Airways or American Airlines
- 7 nights' accommodation
- Welcome Reception
- 1 Dinner
- Transportation via air-conditioned vehicle
- The services of a professional Tour Manager
- Sightseeing as detailed in the itinerary

Hotels:

New Orleans - Hotel Indigo

Memphis - Hotel Napoleon

Nashville - The Aertson

Birmingham - The Tutwiler



A Southern Story 8 Days / 7 Nights

This small group tour offers an opportunity to explore the history, sights and sounds of the south, with highlights including New Orleans, Memphis, Nashville and Birmingham, Alabama which was at the heart of the civil rights movement.

Itinerary

Day 1 - New Orleans

This evening, there will be a chance to meet your fellow travellers at a reception hosted by your Tour Manager.

Day 2 - New Orleans

Steeped in a history of influences from Europe, the Caribbean, Africa and beyond, New Orleans is one of America's most culturally and historically rich destinations. This morning we'll visit some of the city's varied neighbourhoods and meet the locals who'll engage you with fascinating stories of "their" New Orleans. This afternoon we'll take a walking and tasting tour of the French Quarter, led by a local culinary expert. The evening is free to enjoy some of New Orleans vibrant nightlife.

Day 3 - New Orleans – Jackson - Memphis (640km)

We'll depart for Memphis this morning, visiting Jackson, the capital of Mississippi en route. On arrival in Memphis there will be time for a visit to Sun Studio, the birthplace of Rock 'n Roll, and the Rock 'n Soul Museum. Tonight, stroll along iconic Beale St, for a dose of authentic blues, soul and rock n' roll at one of the many music clubs where you can dance to the wee hours.

Day 4 - Memphis

No trip to Memphis would be complete without a tour of Graceland. Our Experience Tour will include the Mansion, exhibits showcasing Elvis' career, his automobiles, his wardrobe, his gold records and much more from the Graceland Archives. Later today there will be a choice of tours to further explore the city.

Day 5 - Memphis - Nashville (342km)

Upon arrival in Nashville, we'll visit Ryman Auditorium, most famous as the home of the Grand Ole Opry from 1943 – 1974. A special Backstage Tour has been arranged for the group. After dinner, you are free to explore sounds of the night between Broadway and 2nd Avenue.

Day 6 - Nashville

This morning we will enjoy a driving tour through the neighbourhoods of country music greats and famous Nashvillians who call Music City USA their home. See the homes of such stars as Dolly Parton, Garth Brooks & Trisha Yearwood, Ronnie Milsap, and more. After lunch we will visit the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum and tour Historic RCA Studio B – where Elvis and others recorded over 35,000 songs. The night is yours to enjoy more of the local music and entertainment venues.

Day 7 - Nashville – Muscle Shoals - Birmingham (400km)

Today our destination is Birmingham, with a stop enroute in Muscle Shoals, where we'll see FAME Studios, home of the Muscle Shoals Sound. We'll also visit the Alabama Music Hall of Fame to discover the stories behind the songs from Alabama's music legends. We'll end the day in Birmingham, which gained national and international attention as a center of activity during the Civil Rights Movement. Bring an empty stomach to the table tonight for our final night dinner because there's nothin' like authentic Alabama BBQ from Dreamland, cooked up low and slow.

Day 8 - Birmingham – Atlanta (235km)

This morning we will enjoy a brief tour of Birmingham's Civil Rights District where we will see important sites in the city's fight for Civil Rights. We'll arrive Atlanta late afternoon for airport and city drop-offs.

2019 Tour Dates

12 April | 10 May | 13 September | 18 October



Cruise & Stay

New Orleans is an excellent gateway for Caribbean cruising, so why not take in the thrills of the city before chilling on your cruise; or better still extend your vacation by tagging on a self-drive tour (page 8) or fly drive (page 9).

Norwegian Cruise Line

The chilled atmosphere on board one of Norwegian Cruise Lines' Caribbean cruises is an ideal accompaniment to a city break in New Orleans, or a tour of the southern states.

7 Night Western Caribbean Cruise from New Orleans

Ship: Norwegian Getaway

Itinerary

- Day 1 - Depart New Orleans
- Day 2 - At Sea
- Day 3 - Cozumel, Mexico
- Day 4 - Rotan Bay, Handuas
- Day 5 - Harvest Caye, Belize
- Day 6 - Costa Maya, Mexico
- Day 7 - At Sea
- Day 8 - Arrive New Orleans

Added Value
Premium All - Inclusive
Gratuities all Included

Departures: November 2019 – March 2020



Carnival Cruise Line

Set the tone for your Carnival cruise with an independent rail tour from Chicago to New Orleans, or just enjoy the tastes and sounds of the 'Big Easy' before you take it easy on your cruise.

7 Night Western Caribbean Cruise from New Orleans

Ship: Carnival Glory

Departures: May 2019 – October 2019

Itinerary (choice of two)

- Day 1 - New Orleans, Louisiana
- Day 2&3 - Fun Days At Sea
- Day 4 - Montego Bay, Jamaica
- Day 5 - Georgetown, Grand Cayman
- Day 6 - Cozumel, Mexico
- Day 7 - Fun Day At Sea
- Day 8 - New Orleans, Louisiana



Simple Steps To Easy Booking

Telephone our Customers Care Team

T: 028 9045 5030

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm

Saturday 10.00am to 4.00pm

A member of our team is waiting to assist you.

Contact your local Travel Agent

Who will be pleased to make a booking on your behalf.

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