

# NEW ORLEANS AND CAJUN COUNTRY

## Jazz - Creole - Beignets



9 DAYS • Tour 12021  
March 17-25, 2012



### Day 1, Saturday

Today is a day of travel through the spring landscape of Illinois. Our lodging is in **Carbondale, IL**.

### Day 2, Sunday

This morning we travel south to **Tennessee** for a stop at the **Graceland Plaza/Visitors' Center**. Spend a little bit of time browsing through the gift shops and take time out for a Dutch treat lunch.

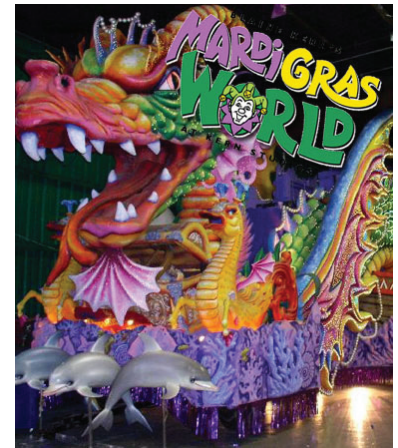
We leave Memphis and head further south to **Brookhaven, MS**, to check into our hotel for the evening. **B**

### Day 3, Monday

Today we make the short drive to **Natchez, MS**, where we **tour two antebellum homes**. Sitting high upon

### Tour Highlights...

*Graceland Visitor Center  
Natchez Antebellum Homes  
McIlhenny Tabasco Company  
Konrico Rice Company  
Cajun Bayou & Swamp Tour  
New Orleans Guided Tour  
Mardi Gras World  
WWII Museum  
Riverboat Jazz Dinner Cruise  
Bourbon Street/French Quarter  
Jimmie Rodgers Museum  
Kentucky Derby Museum  
Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre  
12 Meals*



a bluff above the Mississippi River, Natchez boasts the largest collection of antebellum homes in the U.S. The mansions and estates, built by 19th century plantation owners, were largely spared destruction during the Civil War. Enroute to Lafayette we enjoy a special treat as we tour **Martin Accordians** to see how accordians are made. Junior Martin and his family custom craft fine diatonic accordians used by amateur and professionals around the world. After checking into our hotel we enjoy **dinner and entertainment** at **Randol's Cajun Restaurant. B, D**

### Day 4, Tuesday

This morning we travel deeper into Cajun Country with our first stop at the **McIlhenny Company on Avery Island**. Learn the process involved in the making of Tabasco Sauce™. We continue on to **Konrico Rice Mill**, the nation's oldest operating mill in New Iberia. Our **guided tour** will take us through the old rice mill to see

packaging of rice and making of rice cakes.

This afternoon we arrive in Houma to take a **Cajun Swamp tour** where we see alligators and other bayou wildlife. Arriving in the "Crescent City" of **New Orleans**, we check into our hotel for three nights located within walking distance of the **French Quarter. B, D**

### Day 5, Wednesday

Our morning starts off with a **city tour of New Orleans**. See the beautiful buildings and all the rich history this beloved city has to offer as our guide takes us through all the "must see" areas of the Crescent City.

With the spirit of 'Nawlins still coursing through our blood, we head to **Mardi Gras World**. Enter a world of wonders created for you by the people who bring Mardi Gras to life every year — the artists of Blaine Kern Studios. This magical place lets us peek behind the curtain and see Mardi Gras in the making.



We head back to our hotel after a day full of the best New Orleans has to offer. Tonight the **evening is free** for you to explore the “Big Easy” any way you wish! **B**

**Day 6, Thursday**

Our morning begins at the **National WWII Museum** which chronicles the war years with exhibits detailing causes, warfare tactics and the war’s lasting significance. This museum is a Smithsonian Institution affiliate.

This afternoon we enjoy the **Audubon Aquarium of the Americas**. More than 15,000 specimens represent 530 species of marine life found throughout America. Other exhibits include the Caribbean Reef, Gulf of Mexico, Amazon Rainforest

and Mississippi River. This evening we enjoy a **Creole Queen Jazz Dinner Cruise**. **B, D**

**Day 7, Friday**

Today we begin our northward journey home. In Meridian, MS, we visit the **Jimmie Rodgers Memorial and Museum**. Known as the “Father of Music” and “The Singing Brakeman,” the museum is devoted to Rodgers’ musical career. Our lodging is in Huntsville, AL, tonight. **B**

**Day 8, Saturday**

Our travel route makes a stop in Louisville, KY, for a visit to the **KY Derby Museum at Churchill Downs**. Two floors of artifacts and interactive

exhibits relate to the tradition of Derby Day. Our accommodations are in Indianapolis tonight. After check-in, we enjoy the **Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre** (production to be announced). **B, D**

**Day 9, Sunday**

We settle into our seats this morning, chatting with our new-found friends about the wonderful things we have seen and how quickly the time has flown by. We arrive at our home destinations by late afternoon. **B**

*Tour Cost Per Person:*

\$1469 Double • \$1399 Triple  
\$1319 Quad • \$1799 Single

