

# **STLCC TRIP: BLUES HIGHWAY TO NOLA**

Music, Culture, History & Food tour of the Deep South

Wednesday, March 13, 2024-Sunday, March 24, 2024

Tentative Itinerary

## **Wednesday, March 13, 2024, St. Louis to Tunica, MS**

Drive from St. Louis to Memphis. Lunch at BB Kings on Beale Street. Possible visit the Memphis Music Hall of Fame, Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum or Sun Studios. Drive to Tunica on US Route 61 the Blues Highway for an overnight. See a show, gamble, rest, eat. Possibly eat at the Hollywood Cafe which was immortalized in the song "Walking in Memphis."

## **Thursday, March 14, 2024, Tunica to Vicksburg, MS**

Stop at the Gateway to the Blues Museum in Tunica, a must-see attraction for all music lovers. It tells the story of how The Blues was born in the Mississippi Delta area. You can even record your own blues song in their recording studio. Stop at various landmarks along the way that paint the history of the Blues. One place being, Dockery Farms which is considered the birthplace of the Blues. Other sites may include BB King Museum, Grammy Museum Mississippi, Delta Blues Museum, Crossroads in Clarksdale. Continue on to Vicksburg for dinner and an overnight.

## **Friday, March 15, 2024, Vicksburg to Natchez, MS**

Stop at the Civil War Museum in Vicksburg and/or see historic homes in the area. From Vicksburg, take a portion of the Natchez Trace Highway on our way to Natchez. Natchez is considered one of the country's best small towns with its Antebellum homes and gardens. This will be during the Spring Pilgrimage when more than 25 homes will be open for tours. Overnight in Natchez for two nights. Dinner in Natchez.

## **Saturday, March 16, 2024, Natchez, MS**

Tour Antebellum homes and/or see historical sites. Dinner in Natchez.

## **Sunday, March 17, 2024, Natchez to Lafayette, LA**

Enjoy a wonderful Sunday brunch at The Carriage House Restaurant on the grounds of an Antebellum home in Natchez. Continue on to Lafayette, LA for two nights. Take a Swamp Boat Ride in the area on Lake Martin and see lots of wildlife. Enjoy a Cajun dinner, possibly at Bon Temps Grill in Lafayette.

## **Monday, March 18, 2024, Lafayette, LA**

Enjoy visiting various sites in the area. Lunch at Rip Van Winkle Gardens on a beautiful lake and tour the gardens afterwards with peacocks roaming the area. Dinner in downtown Lafayette which is known for being a foodie paradise filled with a number of unique restaurants and shops.

**Tuesday, March 19, 2024, Lafayette to Baton Rouge, LA**

Drive across the Atchafalaya Swamp which is the largest swamp in the US to Louisiana's Capital City, Baton Rouge. Located on the banks of the Mississippi River it is a very charming southern city. When in Baton Rouge visit the USS Kidd and Veterans Museum, and Louisiana's Old State Capitol with its beautiful stain glass window dome, and much more. Overnight and dinner in downtown Baton Rouge.

**Wednesday, March 20, 2024, Baton Rouge to New Orleans, LA**

Drive to see some of the old southern plantations on our way to New Orleans. Tour one or more of the following plantations—Oak Alley, Whitney or Laura. Drive to New Orleans for dinner and three overnights.

**Thursday, March 21, 2024-Friday, March 22, 2024, New Orleans**

Stay somewhere outside the French Quarter with secure parking for our cars. Take the St. Charles Streetcar around town and to the French Quarter. Lots of things to do in New Orleans—French Quarter, Jackson Square, Cafe Du Monte, National WWII Museum, live music, great food, take a Food Tour, Ghost Tour or a Cemetery Tour, and much more. We may do activities in small groups according to your interests.

**Saturday, March 23, 2024, New Orleans to Lake Horn, MS**

Drive home on I55 and stop about half way in Lake Horn, MS which is just south of Memphis. Overnight in Lake Horn.

**Sunday, March 24, 2024, Lake Horn, MS to St. Louis, MO**

Drive home to St. Louis.

Some may wish to do the drive home in one day, that's completely up to you. Also, if you want to extend your trip to Gulf Shores and beyond, that would be fun too. You can also choose do only a part of the trip that interests you.

Hope you will consider this trip to NOLA in the spring of 2024. Please let me know if you have any suggestions of things to do, places to stay and eat in each of these areas. I know some of you have been to some of these places in the past and we would love to have your input.

THANK YOU!

Ken and Barb Payne

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