Deep South Tour Houston to Atlanta 10 Day FIT Itinerary

Houston, Texas and the Deep South's convention bureaus look forward to working with you to customize an itinerary that suits your clientele. This sample itinerary is intended to provide options for a fly/drive tour through Houston, South Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Georgia.

Presented by: Visit Lake Charles, Kaitlyn Gallegos, kgallegos@visitlakecharles.org, http://www.visitlakecharles.org/



Day 1/Arrival

Arrive <u>Houston, Texas</u> via IAH airport. If time allows, visit the Houston Museum District—19 incredible museums, all in 4 walkable zones, ranging from art to health to natural sciences and much more. Enjoy a meal at any of Houston's over 10,000 diverse restaurants and fuel up for your upcoming adventures.

Day 2

After breakfast, head to <u>Space Center Houston</u>, an amazing museum full of space artifacts and interactive exhibits. It's the Texas gateway to NASA Johnson Space Center. For a truly unique experience, visit any Friday or Saturday and have lunch with an Astronaut (reservations required.) You can also lunch at <u>Kemah Boardwalk</u> on your way out. It is home to fabulous waterfront restaurants, charming retail stores, and amusement rides. Check out the <u>Houston City Pass</u> for package pricing of Houston attractions.

Next, head east for Lake Charles, Louisiana to check out great local craft beers at Crying Eagle Brewing. Grab a bite to eat in the Beer Garden or at one of numerous other local restaurants, maybe even choose one with live music. Or, enjoy

dining, shopping, nightlife and so much more at Lake Charles' world-class gaming resorts: L'Auberge Casino Resort or Golden Nugget Lake Charles

Day 3

After breakfast, Creole Nature Trail All-American Road, 337-436-9588

One of only designated 43 All-American Roads in the entire United States, the Creole Nature Trail is a journey into an untamed wilderness. Right from the vehicle you will see alligators, multiple birds and waterfowl (over 400 species spotted each year) and other marsh wildlife...all in their natural habitat. Several over water boardwalks also provide opportunities where you can stretch your legs and as well as get up close and personal with your nature. Free self-guided tour app (download and then just use your gps location to auto play content) in English, German, French, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese and Japanese, just search "Creole." Kick off your Creole Nature Trail journey at the new Creole Nature Trail Adventure Point—a free, fun attraction that immerses you in nature and Louisiana's unique culture, 2740 Ruth St., Sulphur, LA 70665, 337-502-4358

Next head to head to Louisiana Spirits, home of Bayou Rum for tour of this product made with all Louisiana ingredients – and tasting of course as you travel to Lafayette, LA for dinner (and dancing perhaps?) at a local eatery.

Day 4

After breakfast, learn about the Acadians "Cajuns" and Creole cultures at <u>Vermilionville</u> before heading south to New Iberia to visit the only place on earth where <u>TABASCO®</u> is grown and bottled. Continue east to <u>Baton Rouge</u>, the capital of this state, with discovery of the Capitol, the famous 'Louisiana State University' and the 'Rural Life Museum', recounting the daily life of the early 19th century. Overnight and dine in Baton Rouge.

Day 5

Visit amazing plantations such as <u>Nottoway</u>, <u>Oak Alley</u>, <u>Laura</u> and <u>Houmas House</u> on your way to the crown jewel of Louisiana, <u>New Orleans</u>. Dinner cruise on the Mississippi with live Jazz music on a typical paddle boat.

Day 6

Morning reserved for the walking tour of the <u>'Vieux Carré'</u>, the beautiful historic and colonial district, the heart of the city, with the discovery of the French Market, the St. Louis Cathedral and the Cabildo, remarkable Spanish building dating from the 18th century. Lunch in town before taking the tram in the <u>Garden District</u>. Next depart for <u>Natchez</u>, located in the state of Mississippi, pretty southern city of historic character to ante-bellum houses of the 19th century well preserved. Dinner and overnight in Natchez.

Day 7

Small Natchez tour and deep southward pursuit with <u>Memphis</u>, cradle of Blues and Rock n' Roll; lunch in route then visit the famous <u>'Sun Studios'</u> where the biggest stars of music started, from BB King to Elvis Presley. Dinner and free evening to enjoy the clubs and bars of the famous 'Beale Street'. Night in Memphis.

Day 8

The 'King' is honored this morning with the visit of <u>'Graceland'</u>, his last home turned into a delirious place of worship; Lunch then continue to <u>Nashville</u>, the country music capital, nicknamed "Music City USA". After dinner, free evening to discover music and country dancing in the many local bars. Night in Nashville.

Day 9

This morning is the famous <u>'Country Music Hall of Fame</u>' before continuing to <u>Chattanooga</u>; Lunch then departure for a beautiful historic steam train ride along the first railway lines of Chattanooga. Continuation to <u>Atlanta</u>, capital of Georgia; dinner and overnight in Atlanta.

Day 10

The city tour includes 'The Atlanta History Center' for a better approach to the area before lunch; the site of the famous 'Coca Cola Museum', followed by the television studios of the famous CNN station. Transfer to the airport. Dinner and overnight on board