## **Travel Is Fun Tours**

919 Tyrone Boulevard (WWW.TIFTOURS.COM) St. Petersburg FL 33710 (727) 347-1600

## Best of the West

## Grand Canyon South Rim



16 DAYS September 10-25, 2020

INCLUDES: 26 Meals\*\* (15B, 2L, 9D) Full Day at Grand Canyon with Imax Movie, Step On Guide, time at Cameron Trading Post. City tours with step-on guides in Austin, TX, Santa Fe, NM, Oklahoma City, OK, Dallas, TX, Plus See the National Cowboy Museum, Southfork Ranch (From TV's "Dallas") & The Petrified Forest \*\*As noted, all our hotels feature an included Breakfast & two Lunches & nine Dinners are included as noted, bus will be stopping at all mealtimes whether meal is included, or "on your own".

<u>DAY ONE</u> - Our travels begin with **Mobile, Alabama** as today's destination. Our route today includes a lunch stop (on your own) in Lake City, and then, later traveling through FL's State Capital, Tallahassee. Enjoy the scenic countryside as we travel along Florida's panhandle crossing three major rivers – the **Apalachicola, Black & Escambia Rivers**. We'll pass near Pensacola, home to the amazing **U.S. Navy's Blue Angels**. Our home for the night is the **Drury Inn**. Drury Inns are offering their guests an incredible array of amenities including: arrival refreshments, complimentary in-room coffee, deluxe continental breakfast (hot & cold), free long-distance calls (60 minutes per room, per night) also, evening beverages and the **FREE 5:30 KICKBACK!** from 5:30 – 7:00 PM. Drury has increased their evening food offerings to always include salad and baked potato bar, nacho bar, snack mix, chips, carrots, celery and dip. There will also be items such as broccoli cheddar soup, macaroni and cheese, breaded chicken strips, boneless buffalo-style chicken wings, and chili dogs offered on a rotating basis. We will call this our "**Drury Dinner**". The delicious, very deluxe continental breakfast Drury has always offered includes eggs, sausage, self-serve waffle maker, yogurt, fresh fruit, juices, milk & cereal, bagels, biscuits and gravy & more. Relax this evening and prepare for tomorrow's adventures.

<u>DAY TWO</u> – After enjoying your **Drury Breakfast**, we leave Mobile and will soon be crossing into Mississippi and later into Louisiana. We will visit the **Louisiana Welcome Center**. Today's **lunch is included** at the **Piccadilly Cafeteria** in **Baton Rouge** – Louisiana's State Capital. A bit further down the road we'll have a rest break this afternoon at the **Cajun Welcome Center**. The setting for this stop is lovely, set up to resemble a Cajun Village along the Atchafalaya River. Our home for tonight is **Comfort Suites in Lake Charles, LA.** In the morning, enjoy a delicious, hot breakfast.

<u>DAY THREE</u> – This morning, our journey takes us to **Texas**. We'll arrive early in the day, stopping at the **Texas Welcome Center**. A very scenic stop, set in a wet area with boardwalks, nature, birds etc. Our tour will take us thru Houston and into **Austin** – the **Texas State Capital**. Next, an early arrival in **Austin** will afford us time to tour. We will pick up our local, professional step-on tour guide and we're off to see the sights! After an informative city tour, we check into tonight's hotel - **Drury Inn & Suites Austin**. Please enjoy the **5:30 Kickback!** tonight & **hot Breakfast** tomorrow.

<u>DAY FOUR</u> – We'll depart Austin after breakfast, and today's routing will provide a variety of Texas scenery – from the very green hill country and on thru **Johnson**City, home to the Johnson Ranch. Continuing thru hill country, you'll see Fredericksburg – a town settled by German residents. Today's lunch stop (on your own) is in Sonora TX. This small town is known for its great year-round temperatures and beautiful caverns. After lunch, we're on the move again – see if you can spot a Roadrunner. These fast-moving birds are usually found in abundance in this area. Our destination for tonight's hotel is Ft. Stockton TX – home of the "Paisano Pete"

– Worlds Largest Roadrunner Statue. You'll want to get a picture with this 20 ft. long, 11ft. tall Roadrunner! We'll check in to **Best Western Plus** in **Fort Stockton TX**, a comfortable, modern hotel with an included **breakfast**. Tonight, **Dinner is included at K-Bob's**. This steakhouse is a local favorite since 1966!

**DAY FIVE** – Today, after breakfast we will seek out more adventure as we travel to **New Mexico** - **Land of Enchantment!** New Mexico is blessed with stunning desert landscapes, breathtaking snowcapped mountains, bubbling hot springs, and remarkable national monuments. With its mix of European American, Native American, and Mexican heritage, the state is a unique and colorful place to visit. Given all that, perhaps it is little wonder that New Mexico is known as "the Land of Enchantment." Our routing will take us near the small Military town of **White Sands NM** followed by an early arrival into **Las Cruces.** We will visit the **New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum** - the state's rural life and its 4,000-year-old farming history are explored here. Our hotel for tonight is **Springhill Suites** in Las Cruces NM. You'll enjoy modern touches & **hot breakfast incl.** at this nicely appointed, smoke-free, comfortable hotel - where every room is a suite!

<u>DAY SIX & SEVEN</u> – Today, after our **hot breakfast** we depart **NM** and head into **Arizona** – ever closer to the **Grand Canyon!** This day of travel features many great sights as we pass thru Lordsburg NM and cross into Arizona. The sights keep coming as we pass thru Tucson, where giant **Saguaro Cactus** abound. Next, we'll pass thru a number of retirement towns including Mesa, Tempe & Phoenix with its large business area downtown - similar to FL. The scenery continues as we pass thru **Sedona** – featuring **Oak Creek Canyon** – considered to be some of the most beautiful Canyon scenery. Many travelers miss this gem because it's so close to Flagstaff & the Grand Canyon. On to **Flagstaff AZ** and our hotel for <u>two nights</u>, another lovely **Springhill Suites** with modern touches and **hot breakfast included.** <u>Next morning</u>, after breakfast, we head out to pick up our local, professional, <u>all-day</u> step-on tour guide for today's exciting **Grand Canyon Tour!** We'll enter the **South Rim of the Grand Canyon** from the east with many scenic photo stops. Today's stops are to include - Cameron Trading Post, Grand Canyon, Grand Canyon Village for lunch (on your own) Imax Film & Giftshop. Tonight's **dinner is included** upon our return to Flagstaff at local favorite **Coco's**. After our big day of sightseeing we return to **Springhill Suites**, for a good night's sleep.

<u>DAY EIGHT & NINE</u> – Today, after our **hot breakfast** we depart Flagstaff and our first feature - touring through **The Petrified Forest National Park** – with photo stops, of course. The touring continues to **Albuquerque**, **New Mexico** and our home for two nights – the **Quality Inn**. On our second day here, after our **included breakfast**, we'll drive to **New Mexico's State Capital**, **Santa Fe.** Here, we'll pick up our local tour guide for an informative **Santa Fe City Tour**. We will have lunch (on your own) as well as stops for local shopping including The Silver Market, Turquoise & more in this friendly town known for it's Art Scene. **Dinner is included** at local Albuquerque favorite, **Furr's Buffet**. Then, back to our hotel for a good night's rest.

<u>DAY TEN</u> – After breakfast, at our hotel, we will depart for our day's travels. Before leaving **New Mexico**, we will stop for lunch (on your own) in **Tucumcari NM**, a quaint town which was once a transit point for cross-country train journeys. Our destination today is **Amarillo TX** and just before arriving in town, we'll stop for photos at the famous **Cadillac Ranch**. Then, a drive along nostalgic **Route 66** before checking in to **Drury Inn in Amarillo** for a one-night stay. **5:30 Kickback! where have you been? Enjoy! Hot Breakfast too.** 

<u>DAY ELEVEN & TWELVE</u> – This morning, after a <u>Drury Breakfast</u>, we depart for <u>Oklahoma City OK</u> – the State Capital of <u>Oklahoma</u>. However, there is one last sight to see in <u>Amarillo</u> – "<u>The Big Texan"</u> – <u>Home of the 72 oz. Steak Challenge!</u> We will have a photo-op stop, and maybe the gift shop will be open too. As our journey continues, we travel to our next destination, Oklahoma and its <u>State Capital</u> - <u>Oklahoma City</u>. **Hyatt Place** in <u>OKC</u> is our home for two nights.

You'll relax and enjoy this newly remodeled hotel with **hot breakfast included** each morning. While here, we will have a very informative step-on guide for our **Oklahoma City Tour**. We will also pay a visit to the **National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum**. This is America's premier institution of Western history, art and culture. Founded in 1955, the museum collects, preserves and exhibits an internationally renowned collection of Western art & artifacts while promoting interest in the enduring legacy of the American West. After our day of getting to know the American West & OKC, **Hyatt Place** will be a very cozy spot to rest tonight.

<u>DAY THIRTEEN</u> - We are travelling from **Oklahoma City to Dallas**, **TX** today. Our day in Dallas is a treat! We are visiting the famous "**Southfork Ranch**" as seen in the wildly popular 1980's TV show "**DALLAS**"! Can anyone tell me "**who shot JR**?" Not only are we touring Southfork Ranch today, **lunch is included** at **Miss Ellie's** at the Ranch. This visit is sure to bring back the memories. Then, this afternoon, we will enjoy an informative **Dallas City Tour & Kennedy Tour** with a local, knowledgeable step-on guide. This tour will feature the "**Chisholm Trail**" with its famous, painted cattle statues. You'll need your camera today, for sure! Our home for tonight is the **Drury Inn** in nearby **Richardson TX**. Enjoy the **5:30 Kickback! & hot breakfast.** 

<u>DAY FOURTEEN</u> – After today's **Drury breakfast** it'll be time to continue traveling toward home...however, we will make our home tonight in **Mississippi**. Some of the points of interest to see today include: the towns of Longview and Marshall TX (yes, the Marshall High School famous for football). Then crossing into **Louisiana**, we'll pass through Shreveport and Bossier City and on into the state of Mississippi at **Vicksburg** and the **Mississippi River**. Our trip through **Mississippi's State Capital – Jackson** will include seeing both the Old and New State Capitols and a visit to the **Old Capitol Museum**, time permitting. Tonight, for one night, we are staying at the **Drury Inn** in **Ridgeland MS**. Enjoy the final **5:30 Kickback!** for the tour and of course, **hot breakfast** in the morning.

<u>DAY FIFTEEN</u> – After a **Drury breakfast**, our tour continues toward home and we'll be in three states today! Mississippi to Alabama to Florida! Once we get on Interstate 10, this will be the only part of the entire tour route we are repeating. We plan to stop for lunch (on your own) in **Mobile Alabama**. This afternoon, continuing toward home, we stop for our last night away from home at the **Comfort Suites** in **Marianna Florida with an included, hot breakfast**. Travel Is Fun Tours is hosting a **Pizza Party Dinner** tonight! Enjoy your travelling companions, new and not as new, share your pictures, show each other how to look up the Travel Is Fun Tours website at: WWW.TIFTOURS.COM and get started planning your next adventure!

DAY SIXTEEN – After breakfast, our travel day ending at our respective homes will feature a lunch break in Ocala (on your own), followed by a rest break at the Russell Stover Candy Outlet in Wildwood, with its great Ice Cream Counter!! Thank you for choosing Travel Is Fun Tours!

<u>COST</u>: \$2369 per person twin, <u>Or</u> \$3079 per person single. Travel Protection offered through our office at \$155 twin or \$184 single. Please pay deposit of \$100 to secure a seat, **balance due 7/14/2020** (Seats will continue to be sold after balance due date if space is available)

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