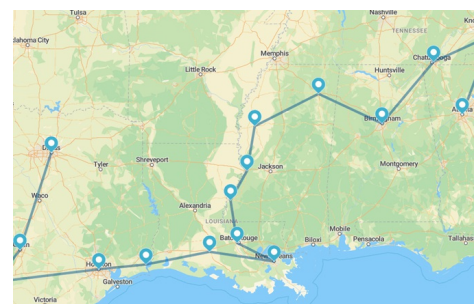




US, 18 Days · Tailor-made by car

## Musical Roots of the South Route

If this tour were a piece of music, it would be full of major notes and few rests. Choosing this itinerary is like setting out on a very diverse musical journey, but with one common denominator: soul. Blues, soul, rock & roll and country are the four major genres found in the cities you'll be visiting. Dallas, Houston, Austin, New Orleans and Atlanta are just an intro for what's awaiting you. Cities to explore during the day and that cherish hidden treasures at night. Dozens of venues where live music is your holy grail. That's why we suggest two nights in some of the big cities, allowing you enough time to squeeze in as many venues as possible. You'll have time to visit the Grammy Museum or the B. B. King Museum, the house where Elvis was born or one of the businesses of Dolly Parton, the Queen of Country. We also propose a day unwinding at the beach in Houston for a day of at-oneness with nature before arriving in Atlanta. What's more, you can see the plantation where blues music was born and the place where legend has it that Robert Johnson sold his soul to the devil to become the best guitarist of all time. Fortunately, you won't be needing to reach a pact with Satan to embark upon this unforgettable trip across eight states. So, hit the road and discover the fascinating Musical Roots of the South tour.



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CULTURAL

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**Departure date:** Departures from June 2026 till May 2027

**From:** Dublin, Shannon, Cork

### Travel details

#### ● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - DALLAS

Flight departure from the city of origin to Dallas.

After the necessary arrivals and customs formalities, you can pick up your rental car and start enjoying your holiday. (Note: In April, the city plays host to one of its most important musical events: the "Deep Ellum Arts Festival". This is a free event with more than 25 years of history that attracts the greatest talents of the moment from various genres. Another of the city's great musical attractions is the "Morton M Meyerson" Symphony Centre, ranked one of the world's greatest orchestra and opera halls. Concerts of the Dallas Chorus and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra are also hugely popular in the city).

Overnight stay in Dallas.

## ● DAY 2 · DALLAS

You can spend the morning exploring the city and leave the music for after lunch and for the evening. Getting to know the city will help you better understand its historical ties with music. We suggest visits to the Reunion Tower, the Sixth Floor Museum (which chronicles the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on 22 November 1963), Chinatown, and the Six Flags Over Texas theme park with its thrilling roller coasters. Also have a stroll around Pioneer Plaza, pop into the Cathedral or take a ride on the McKinney Avenue tram. At lunchtime, nothing better than savouring the local speciality of barbecued meat. You'll find hundreds of restaurants that serve it. Ask around for a recommendation and you'll be sure to have a mouth-watering experience. Walking through Park City and the Cultural District may well be the perfect link between sightseeing and music, so it could be the ideal plan for after lunch. You can visit theatres, gardens, the Performing Arts Centre and a host of museums (such as Nasher or Meadows) and art galleries devoted to the latest trends. (Note: Check the opening times of the cultural centres that most interest you before planning out your day. They tend to close around 5 or 6 pm. Admission not included). And make sure you plan out your night very well. The choice of venues should be made in advance, checking out which bands and musical performances are on during your stay in the city. If you haven't heard of them, you've got time to get to know them and even learn some of their songs. Remember that the most popular gigs sell out quickly, so try to buy tickets online before before making the trip. Any recommendations? The main venues in the city include "Trees", "House of Blues" (under every stage here is a metal box filled with Delta Mississippi mud), "Bomb Factory" (near Deep Ellum), "Magnolia", "Dada", "The Balcony Club" and "Lakewood Theater". Off the well-trodden circuit, don't forget to check out what's happening at the "American Airline Center". The most important voices of the international music scene have performed here and your visit will most probably coincide with a concert by a major star.

Overnight stay in Dallas.

## ● DAY 3 · DALLAS - AUSTIN

Once you leave Dallas behind, it'll take you about 3½ hours to get to Austin, your next destination. You'll be driving along the 35E and the 35, comfortable roads with no dangerous stretches. Our advice is to leave early to avoid any traffic, stop off at West for breakfast and have a mid-morning snack in Gourddough. Austin is a young and hip city, which translates into an vibrant cultural and musical scene. So much so that there are more than 200 venues where you can listen to live music. It's considered the live music capital of the United States and, quite likely, the world. Most of them are located near Congress Avenue, around 4th and 6th. Although the city never sleeps, there's always someone singing or busking on a street corner. Talent just oozes through every pore of the city. There are dozens of festivals, concentrated mainly during the summer, although there are also some in other months of the year, such as "South by Southwest". You'll be surprised to see how even places like "Mellow Johnny's Bike Shop" often stage concerts with well-known artists. The gig by Jovanotti was a huge success! When it comes to sightseeing, you can start off your visit to the city at the Capitol and its surroundings. The building is majestic, both outside and inside. The dome is simply stunning and is one of the largest in the country. Also superlative is the star that welcomes you to the next stop, the Texas State History Museum. In these parts, food is something almost sacred. Hundreds of fashionable restaurants are complemented by the "food trucks" and street stalls that populate the downtown area in particular. You can set aside the afternoon to visit the neighbourhoods of East Austin and South Congress, also known as SoCo, the two most modern and hipster areas in the city. For dinner, head back over to Congress Avenue. The range of options is enormous and you'll be close to all the main music venues. Our recommendations include "The Elephant Room" (315 Congress Avenue), "Jazz Austin Acoustical Cafe" (no alcohol and no smoking), "Shoal Creek", "The Hole in the Wall", "Garage Cocktail Bar", "Continental Club", "The Broken Spoke", "Sahara Lounge" and "The Nook Amphitheater".

Overnight stay in Austin.

## DAY 4 · AUSTIN

Any excuse is good to spend another day in Austin and have the chance to discover more live music venues. But that will be when the night sets in. After breakfast, you can continue with your tour of the city. If it's a bit too hot, you can go shopping on 2nd Street and take refuge in blissfully air-conditioned stores or seek out some shade in Zilker Park, where you can have a swim in its pool or rent a boat to sail along the picture-postcard River Colorado. Don't go too far, though, because you should really try out a Texas barbecue for lunch, and the best places are around the park. You can try the pork or the beef, or both if you want to push the boat out. Taking advantage of the car, you can drive out to the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library Museum (which has free parking), where you can see a replica of the Oval Office during his time in Washington. The building is devoted to former President Johnson, but you can also find out many secrets linked to several other presidents. From the outside, the building is a true beauty. Before night falls, you can set off in search of graffiti art around the city. It won't be difficult to find because it covers quite a few of the buildings in Austin. But keep an eye on the time, because at sunset you should really be on the Congress Avenue bridge. Every day in spring there's an impressive natural spectacle here. More than a million bats come out of hiding to find their first meal of the day, forming the largest urban colony of this type of animal in the country. If that doesn't seem enough, you can always take the experience to the limit and embark on one of the cruises that zip along the river to admire the scene. At night, you can continue discovering music venues, although if you're there in October, you really shouldn't miss the "Austin City Limits Musical Festival". Tickets tend to sell out even before the line-up is announced, because artists such as Lana del Rey, Eminem, Manu Chao, Lorde and Sam Smith have all performed here...

Overnight stay in Austin.

## DAY 5 · AUSTIN - SAN ANTONIO

You'll probably leave Austin with a hint of melancholy, although there's still quite an experience ahead with many surprises waiting to be revealed. One of them is San Antonio, which is approximately an hour and a half away on the 35. You can cover the 130 kilometres in one go or with stops, if you fancy, in Gruene or Buc-ee's, which are both halfway. To enjoy the music in San Antonio, it's best to spend a night here, as most of the venues only have live music and performances in the evening. Until then, take advantage and go out to see the city, which has many attractions to offer.

One of the most popular is "The Alamo". Also known as the "San Antonio de Valero Mission", it is free to enter. If you want to know what happened here in 1836, there's nothing better than watching John Wayne's western 'The Alamo', which perfectly narrates the battle for independence. Neither will you have to pay out to enjoy the ever-so-pleasant River Walk along the River San Antonio. It's one of the city's true treasures. Basically, it's a network of roads and walkways surrounded by bars, restaurants and many works of art. In fact, just wandering around here will satisfy any desire to visit a museum. Besides The Alamo, there are a further four missions that you can visit if you fancy. What's more, the city boasts an array of stores if you want to do a bit of shopping. At lunchtime, you can head over to Pearl Brewery, a culinary mecca. Pearl is a complex with signature restaurants, local stores and a campus of the Culinary Institute of America.

It also features a brewery and simply oozes passion for food and drink. Everything here is meticulously tended, from the restaurants to the river walk itself. In the afternoon, you can head to the surroundings of San Fernando Cathedral. This stunning building is also famous for the spectacular light shows on its facade.

At sunset, you'll start to feel the musical vibes of the city. San Antonio is one of the best places to listen to music styles as diverse as heavy metal or jazz. Its most iconic venues include "Paper Tiger" and "Jazz TX".

Overnight stay in San Antonio.

## DAY 6 · SAN ANTONIO - HOUSTON

You've got two days and two nights ahead to live it up in Houston, so you can bid farewell to San Antonio with peace of mind. If you have anything left to see from yesterday, take advantage of the morning before setting out for your next destination. However, if you're keen to explore Houston, head straight towards the 10, a wide and fast-flowing motorway, and you'll be arriving in Houston some 320 kilometres later. To make the journey more enjoyable, you can stop off in Schulenburg to have a snack and continue the journey to the most populated city in the whole of Texas. Another alternative is to load up your music player with one of the artists that have recently played in your next destination. "Ben Harper", "The Lumineers" and "Alice Cooper" are just a few suggestions. Houston is a musical powerhouse, although it definitely peaks after sunset. That's why we suggest two nights in the city, so you have time to visit as many live music venues as possible. If you're there over a weekend, you can start off at Traders Village, an open-air market that has no rival in the city. It's magical and, as well as being an ideal place to go shopping, it's a venue for festivals and live performances, so you'll get warmed up for everything that lies ahead. It's only open on Saturdays and Sundays, so if you arrive on another day, you can head directly to Little White Oak Bayou, where you'll arrive almost unintentionally as it's the end of the Interstate 10 (which you'll have been on for the last few hours). Park the car and enjoy a ride along the Buffalo Bayou. There are forty kilometres of trails and paths, so decide what you're most interested in visiting and remember that you'll have to get there and back, as you'll be leaving your car parked at the starting point. It's a very pleasant walk and you'll feel great breathing in some fresh air in a metropolis of this size. When you're finished, head to Downtown and the Central Business District, where you'll feel tiny being surrounded by so many skyscrapers. Main Street (beware of the train!) the City Hall are some of the must-sees, as is the Joan Miró sculpture 'Personage and Birds', which was installed in 1982. When you finish your visit to the financial hub, you can pop over to Buffalo Bayou Park, which was recently redeveloped at a cost of 58 million dollars. The investment has paid off and it's the perfect place for a bit of sport. You can rent a bike, or even canoes and kayaks to explore the Buffalo Bayou River. And then it'll be time for lunch. A good place to go is Green Street, where you'll find a great range of restaurants. If you want some fast food, you'll have plenty of options. But if you prefer to eat at a restaurant, there's also a wide range of possibilities. After lunch, you can play at being a cowboy and look for a boot store. You'll probably enter the shop with no intention of buying anything, but it's highly likely that the cowboy spirit takes you over and you end up coming out with your boots on or wrapped up as a gift. Afterwards, head over to the NASA Space Center, where you can learn all about space and the different missions that have blasted off from Planet Earth. There's a section dedicated exclusively to Mars and another to the International Space Station, among many others. Very close to here, and taking advantage of the fact that it's getting close to sunset time, you can pop over to Kemah Boardwalk. Here it's all about fun, rides and waterfront strolls. Looking out over Galveston Bay, dozens of themed restaurants will tempt you with freshly-caught seafood. But remember to head back downtown to experience why exactly you've come to Houston: the music. There are dozens of high-quality clubs and venues where you can listen to live music, so check out their websites for the evening line-up and pick the one that best suits your musical preferences. The more select ones include "The Continental Club" and "White Oak Music Hall", where major concerts are often held. In fact, Ben Harper, The Lumineers and Alice Cooper are just some of the artists who have performed here recently. Need any more recommendations? Well, make a note of "Fitzgerald's", "House of Blues", "Bohemeo's", "Café 4212", "Cézanne Jazz Club", "Catbirds", "Firehouse Saloon" and "The Redneck Country Club". Get ready for a memorable night!

Overnight stay in Houston.

## DAY 7 · HOUSTON AND SURROUNDING

Houston and its surroundings are huge, so there's a whole host of leisure and entertainment options to choose from. Having a car means that you can think about leaving the city to visit some of the fascinating places that are relatively close by. Yesterday was a busy day, so if you missed out on anything, now is a good time to see it. Otherwise, we suggest one of these five trips: Galveston, Corpus Christi, Port Aransas, Mustang Island or The Woodlands. Galveston is an island located an hour away from downtown Houston. To get there, you'll have to cross the Galveston Causeway, which will whisk you directly into a universe of fun and frolics. It has a theme park that opens 365 days a year. Known as the Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier, you'll feel the hours flying by. Equally intrepid and fun is the Schlitterbahn Galveston Island Waterpark, which opens all year round because it becomes an indoor park in the cooler months. What's more, the island is home to twelve other great attractions between museums and leisure facilities. Meanwhile, Corpus Christi is more than three hours away from Houston, so you should view it as a full-day excursion. It's synonymous with the beach and the most famous area is North Beach. Parking here is free and there are all kinds of services. Here you can visit the aircraft carrier "USS Lexington", one of the largest ships in the United States Navy. Near Corpus Christi is Port Aransas, another beach resort. It's less lively than its neighbouring town, but that also means that the sand is usually less crowded. Some of the car park is free, while you have to pay for the other section, so make sure you don't get the wrong one. Corpus Christi and Port Aransas are both close to Mustang Island State Park, a very natural beachfront haven. It's ideal for surfing, swimming or even fishing. In fact, if you're a keen angler, this is the perfect place for some hefty catches. Mustang Island State Park is also a great location for spotting birds on their migratory journeys. All of these destinations are to the south, but if you don't fancy some sun and sand, you can always discover The Woodlands, thirty minutes north of the city on the 45. Its amphitheatre is the envy of any world capital. In fact, it has been voted the second best in the world and only last year it welcomed 64,000 people to plays and more than 350,000 to concerts. It's very active throughout the year and there's a good chance of there being a top-flight performance on when you're there. It's called the "Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion" and usually offers a series of free seats. Stay tuned and enjoy! And the last suggestion is not to leave the city at all, visiting - for example - the zoo, the aquarium or any of the water parks, which also means that you can save some energy for the night. (Note: As well as smaller clubs, Houston has a vast network of music halls and major venues designed for larger-scale concerts: Toyota Center, Minute Maid Park, Stereo Live, Arena Theater and the Revention Music Center are just some examples).

Overnight stay in Houston.

## DAY 8 · HOUSTON - PORT ARTHUR - LAFAYETTE - NEW ORLEANS

We hope it wasn't too late a night yesterday because today you've got a full day ahead. Lots of driving and lots of things to see, so have a hearty breakfast and hit the road early on.

The first stop is Port Arthur, 144 kilometres away on Interstate 10. It's worth stopping here, especially to visit the Museum of the Gulf Coast. And what's interesting about this museum? The answer is its "Music Hall of Fame". A space that tells the story of sixty musicians of styles as diverse as rock, blues, soul or jazz and with such illustrious names as Janis Joplin, Jimmy Johnson or Robert Rauschenberg. At the end of your visit, head back on the road over to Lafayette. There are two options: cover the 215 kilometres on the inland road or opt for the coastal route, which at 260 kilometres is a bit longer but has much better views. Take your pick!

Lafayette is synonymous with Cajun and Zydeco music and food. Impromptu music sessions with Cajun and Zydeco dancing are commonplace.

Beautiful buildings include St. John's Cathedral and the Vermilionville, a living museum of Cajun and Creole culture.

The town is also a great place for dining, especially on seafood, crayfish and fish.

With your stomach pleasantly full, you can head over to the day's final destination: New Orleans.

There are 220 kilometres of road ahead that you'll probably cover in just over two and a half hours. After so many hours of driving, we suggest that you unwind at the hotel, freshen up and venture out in search of some food and good music. You'll have all day tomorrow to visit the city, but only two nights to enjoy the countless places that make New Orleans one of the most fascinating American cities from a musical point of view.

Overnight stay in New Orleans.

## ● DAY 9 · NEW ORLEANS

The damage caused in 2005 by Hurricane "Katrina", one of the most devastating in the 21st century, will be seen for decades. Water covered more than 70% of the city and caused millions of dollars of damage. But if anything, New Orleans has the courage and the drive to forge ahead. And so it has been, music has never stopped sounding and the ravages of the hurricane have been overcome with courage and determination. Founded by the French in 1718 and handed over to Spanish in the same century, the city retains major influences from both countries, especially from an architectural point of view. You'll see this if you start off exploring this city in the French Quarter. This is the true heart of New Orleans. Within this district, do not miss visiting Jackson Square and Saint Louis Cathedral, and wander among the stalls and shops of the dozens of artists who live and work in this district. This is the city's most bohemian area and a great place for strolling around. The spirit of the plantations is very present in the Garden District neighbourhood. Some of the former landlords and owners of these mansions are buried at the city's two main cemeteries: Saint Louis and Lafayette. And why mention the name of two cemeteries? Because the visitors say that you don't know a city until you explore its cemeteries. And New Orleans is no exception. If you can, request the services of a guide to hear about the stories and legends that surround the most prominent tombs and mausoleums. Another option is to walk along the banks of the Mississippi River, where you can get on one of the ferries that cruise to the beat of blues or jazz. It's a great experience. At lunchtime, if you want to sit down for a more formal lunch, then your destination is again the French Quarter. In the same area, if you want something more informal, you could always try Cajun dishes, such as jambalaya, or one of the city's signature sandwiches, the Po'boy. These come stuffed with fillings that whet your appetite as soon as you see them. After lunch, if you're still by the River Mississippi, a good option to walk off your lunch is in Audubon Park, a gigantic stretch of land where you can feed the most insatiable ducks you'll have ever come across. They know no limits! You can't end the night anywhere else than on Bourbon Street. Its name already gives you a clue about what you'll find. Twenty-four hours of partying, music and a hint of debauchery that will definitely turn heads. Whether you like partying or not, it's fun just to see it - even if it's from a distance. For those who search for a good jazz venue to finish off the evening, a good option is to make your way over to Frenchmen Street.

Overnight stay in New Orleans.

## DAY 10 · NEW ORLEANS - BATON ROUGE - NATCHEZ - VICKSBURG - INDIANOLA

You'll be awestruck as soon as you set foot in Baton Rouge. Its Art & Science Museum and its Planetarium are amazing, as are all the plantations that you'll come across from here to New Orleans. There are twenty-six. The most prominent ones are "Houmas House", "Oak Alley" and "Laura". Not only are they fascinating for their landscapes and their buildings, but also for their history. Don't forget that in these lands, the seeds of blues and jazz were planted, when slaves would sing melancholic ditties. To a certain extent, we owe the existence of "Route 61" to them. The same road that will accompany you throughout the day. When leaving Baton Rouge, keep an eye out for one of the most fascinating plantations you'll come across today. In St. Francisville, head to The Myrtles. A mix of superstition and mystery surrounds this plantation, as locals here claim to have seen the ghosts of slaves from centuries ago in photos. Whatever the truth is, the setting is wonderful, as is Rosedown, another of the most famous plantations in the area. It retains its original state, both when it comes to the buildings and the grounds, so you'll easily be able to picture what life would have been like here in the early 19th century. Continue your journey north and turn off from the 61 at the Natchez junction, if only to cross its bridge. We suggest not heading back on to the 61, but taking the Natchez Trace instead. This is a beautiful road, perfect for winding down the windows, blasting out the music and feeling at one with nature. The feeling is beyond description. You can go back to 61 when you want, for example Port Gibson is as good a place as any. As you head up towards Vicksburg, you'll notice how the landscape starts to change. At the start, swamps are very common on either side of the road. So, even though there are long stretches of straight road ahead, you need to watch out for turtles, deer and raccoons wandering on to the highway. Besides hurting them, you could hurt yourself if you hit them or suddenly have to brake, so keep all five senses on the road. And if you want to enjoy the scenery, just stop off to admire it in all its splendour. The next stop is Vicksburg. Upon arrival, take a stroll along the River Yazoo and visit one of the most famous battlefields on this side of the River Mississippi. The battle in question took place in 1863 and marked the course of the American Civil War. You can learn about all the details at the National Military Park, but make sure to check the opening hours in advance as it closes early. Another attraction of this city is the Coca-Cola Museum. From here to Indianola there's one final stretch, just over an hour and a half away.

Overnight stay in Indianola.

## DAY 11 · INDIANOLA

Today is an opportunity to unwind and listen to music in surround mode. You can get up late, have a leisurely breakfast, look over all the photos you've taken in the past few days and enjoy all the music-related attractions in Indianola. Your first visit could be the "Grammy Museum Mississippi" in Cleveland. Not the city in Ohio, but a small town just thirty minutes from Indianola, first on the 448 to Shaw and from there on the 278 until you reach one of the best and most comprehensive music museums in the whole country. It opens from Monday to Sunday and tells the story of Grammy award winners, showcases memorabilia belonging to major stars (such as outfits that have walked the red carpet), and explains all the secrets of the award ceremonies. It's a unique opportunity to learn all about a world-famous event and listen to some live music, as there are performances almost daily. When you finish your visit, another gem awaits you, the "BB King Museum". It's located at 400 Second Street and is truly an inspiring visit. The king of the blues left an impressive legacy here, with relics, guitars and hundreds of curiosities. You can watch movies, touch interactive material and even record your own song. It's the birthplace of the blues genius and what better tribute than recording your first musical composition. Finally, you can pay tribute to his tomb, which can be found in the museum's gardens. We recommend setting aside around two hours for this visit, as it's well worth it. By the time you leave, it will be lunchtime, so look for the restaurant that you most fancy. After dinner, you can stroll among the thousands of cypresses lining the shore of Indian Bayou, which divides the city into two. Indianola simply oozes the blues and that can even be seen on the facades of the buildings. Saunter along the streets of the centre to discover the murals in honour of BB King, Charley Patton and other greats of the genre. After dinner, it's time to head to a live music venue. The "Club Ebony" is one of the best-known, so it's a safe bet.

Overnight stay in Indianola.

## DAY 12 · INDIANOLA - TUPELO - BIRMINGHAM

After a day of rest yesterday, today you'll leave Mississippi behind to enter into Alabama. Our suggestion is to skip the fastest route and head to Dockery Farms on the 49W to visit the plantation where the blues were born. It's overwhelming and you'll be treading on a historical land, where a whole musical genre emerged. At the end of the tour, continue north to Clarksdale, where three guitars mark the exact spot of "the Devil's Crossroads". Legend has it that here was where Robert Johnson sold his soul to the devil to become the best guitarist of all time. And just two years later he was, so maybe the legend is true. Whatever the story, it's great to see a place like this. From Clarksdale to Tupelo there are two hours on the road, so best to do it non-stop. You can listen to the sad songs of Robert Johnson or put on some Elvis, the next protagonist of the tour. You choose! When you arrive in Tupelo, head directly to Elvis Presley Birthplace, the place where Elvis Aaron Presley was born on 8 January 1935. You can visit his childhood house or the church where he learned his first guitar chords. The entire building has been relocated, so you can walk around where the king of rock & roll used to. But this isn't the only memory of Elvis, because a festival is held in his honour every July, where imitators and fans gather to pay tribute to one of music's greats. A good idea is to have lunch in Tupelo before setting off for Birmingham, two hours away from here. Upon arrival, follow the call of the Roman deity of fire to Vulcan Park. Here you'll find a statue of the god that recalls the city's relationship with iron; in fact, it's the largest cast iron statue on the planet. Another option is to visit the Black Southern League Museum, very close to the stadium of the Birmingham Barons, one of the few places that saw the great Michael Jordan play baseball in 1994. For dinner, you can opt for culinary proposals that don't use electricity or gas for cooking, such as the Ovenbird Restaurant, or you can try your luck with getting a table at Babalu or at Cosmos, two of the most admired restaurants in the city. When night falls, most live music clubs open their doors. Here are some of the most iconic ones: "Gip's Place", "Iron City", "Bottletree Cafe", "Secret Stages" (site of a two-day festival downtown) and the "Alabama Symphony Orchestra".

Overnight stay in Birmingham.

## DAY 13 · BIRMINGHAM - CHATTANOOGA - GATLINBURG

Today's a day when driving is a true pleasure. A fascinating journey awaits you between Birmingham and Chattanooga, where you'll snake your way around a breathtaking mountain chain. There are infinite possibilities en route, but we'd like to suggest the most worthwhile ones with the least detours. The first is a wonder of nature near Reece City, where you have to turn off the 59 to join the 211 over to the Noccalula Falls, located in the park of the same name, which itself features a zoo and other attractions. That said, you probably won't have time to cover everything in just one day. That's why we recommend a visit to the Falls to see the water crashing down from a height of twenty-seven metres. And after this amazing experience, you can continue on your way to the next stop. Forty-five minutes on from Chattanooga you can stop at Cloudland Canyon State Park, an ideal park for hiking and excursions. You can park your car at the entrance and in just a few metres you'll be able to see even more waterfalls. They're one natural wonder after another, but you can also choose to head on to Chattanooga without stopping. One of the biggest attractions of the city are the Ruby Falls, a 44-metre-high underground waterfall in the heart of Lookout Mountain. The light in the cave is enigmatic and changes colour all the time, making each moment inside truly unique. Close to Ruby Falls are the Rock City Gardens, which feature many caves and lush vegetation. Another option is to head to the Songbirds Guitar Museum, which houses the largest collection of vintage guitars in the country. It's amazing how long you can spend just looking at musical instruments. All this information is useful as long as your visit doesn't coincide with a festival, which will make you ignore everything you've read and rush over (always within the speed limit!) to make the most of the music and the atmosphere. And in Chattanooga there are many. These are the main ones: "3 Sisters Music Festival", "Bands on the Bluff", "CultureFest", "Chattanooga Symphony and Opera", "Punk Festival", "Jfest", "Moon River Music Festival", "Nightfall", "Pops on the River" and "RiverRocks". Tomorrow you'll have all day to enjoy Gatlinburg, so enjoy the journey as you see fit. At night, find a country music venue and discover the genre, if you haven't already fallen in love with it.

Overnight stay in Gatlinburg.

## ● DAY 14 · GATLINBURG

The best way to start the day is to savour the local culinary speciality: pancakes. Gatlinburg is famous throughout the United States for pancakes, so take note of these places that serve the best: Log Cabin Pancake House, Atrium Pancakes and Pancake Pantry. All three options are great. With so many calories in your body, you'll have enough energy to trek around the whole city. But, don't worry, we've got a selection of the must-sees hand-picked just for you. The first, without a doubt, is the aquarium. It's ranked the second best in the whole country. You might be thinking: what's an aquarium doing in the middle of Tennessee? The answer is complicated, but it's best just to go in and enjoy Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies and its 10,000-plus species. Just across the street is Anakeesta, a spectacular nature park. One of its wonders is the chair lift, which will take you up 180 metres to admire the best views around. Get your camera out and take photos of everything that surrounds you. You'll take home some amazing memories, that's for sure. You can also cross part of the park on rope bridges, a thrilling experience that will give you another perspective of Anakeesta. What's more, they'll also keep you at a safe distance from the bears that live here. With a bit of luck, you'll see some of them roaming around. If you're travelling with children, take advantage of the many attractions there for them, such as the ziplines or an interactive waterfall that let kids search for gemstones. When it's time to eat, make your way over to The Strip, just a few minutes away from Anakeesta. It's the busiest shopping area in the town and the ideal place to buy a souvenir or load up the suitcase with original gifts for your loved ones back home. If you hear some music, follow it, as it'll probably lead you to one of the Gatlinburg distilleries, where live concerts are often held and where you can savour the local spirit known as White Lightnin' Moonshine. All day, you'll see the Smoky Mountains in the background. You'll probably be tempted to go and see them, but don't worry as tomorrow there'll be a great day spent up there. If you're travelling between May and September and the summer heat is in full force, a good plan is to spend the afternoon at Dollywood's Splash Country, a decent-sized water park owned by the Queen of Country herself, Dolly Parton. Two of her songs are practically anthems: 'Jolene' and 'I Will Always Love You', made popular decades later by Whitney Houston. Afterwards, head back to the hotel and get ready for the local nightlife. You'll soon see that country is the dominant genre here. The "Hogg's Upstairs Taverne" and the "Shamrocks" are the venues with the best reputation.

Overnight stay in Gatlinburg.

## DAY 15 · GATLINBURG - ATLANTA

If yesterday you went to one of the pancake bars for breakfast, maybe you could savour the delights of another today. You will not be disappointed. And today is full of excitement. You'll be venturing into the Smoky Mountains. Their name comes from the intense bluish haze that usually hovers above the peaks of the sixteen mountains that all exceed 1,800 metres in height. They're part of an exuberant National Park brimming with vegetation and fauna, including black bears, deer and moose. Our recommendation is to cross the park from north to south along the Newfound Gap Road, fifty-three kilometres of pure nature. It's a paved road with lots of vantage points so you can stop and admire the views. Wear something warm, though, as the temperatures are usually four to five degrees cooler than on the plain. What's more, if you're there in the winter, make sure that both you and your vehicle are perfectly equipped, as there can be quite a lot of snowfall in the park. As soon as you leave the Smoky Mountains, you'll reach Cherokee, the gateway to Nantahala National Forest in North Carolina. You'll be driving along the 23 up to Athens, a two-hour journey through stunning woodland. It's the largest in the entire state, so you can imagine its sheer size. Its name comes from the indigenous language, where Nantahala meant the 'land of the midday sun', as the forest is so leafy that many parts only receive light when the sun is at its highest. You'll be travelling through forests that switch colour depending on the species of trees you come across. And, of course, you can stop whenever and wherever you want. That's how free-spirited this forest is. If you want to get an overall view, head up to Whiteside Mountain, a spectacular viewpoint from where you can admire the immensity of this wonderful park. Further south, on the edge of Nantahala National Forest, you'll reach the Whitewater Falls. They're truly majestic and recently had some steps built alongside so you can admire them in all their splendour. Set aside a few minutes to soak up the privileged environment you're in. Picture yourself in such immensity listening only to the music produced by the fall of the water and the birds that nest there. It's a true privilege. Athens lies practically two hours' drive away, a world apart from this magical place. But the nostalgia will soon fade when you have a bite to eat and set off towards Atlanta. You'll probably arrive late in the afternoon, so take the rest of the day to unwind and save your energy to fully explore the city tomorrow. Of course, read up on the live music venues so you don't miss out on anything. The most prolific styles in the city are hip-hop and rhythm and blues. Most venues are located in the Little Five Points area. One of our favourites is the "Variety Playhouse".

Overnight stay in Atlanta.

## DAY 16 · ATLANTA

Yesterday was just an appetiser of what the capital of Georgia is really like. After enjoying a delicious breakfast, go to Midtown to stroll among the skyscrapers and discover Piedmont Park. Then, you can go to the World of Coca-Cola, a theme park dedicated entirely to the world's most famous fizzy drink. It seems incredible that a park dedicated to a soft drink is so interesting, but we promise that you'll find out lots and lots about it. Before lunch, drive over to the Fox Theater on Peachtree Street to see what's on today. You might just get tickets there at a better price than online, so the visit will be well worth it. After lunch, the music lovers' paradise awaits you: Criminal Records. More than a store, it's a sanctuary of music. Here you'll find everything you're looking for and most likely you'll end up buying something. There's so much music on its shelves, so much talent and so much passion that you'll leave wanting to set up something similar back home. Don't worry, you're not the first to think like that! At sunset, succumb to the attractions of Jackson Street Bridge for the best pictures. It commands unique views of the city and it will look familiar if you've seen season one of 'The Walking Dead'. Remember the scene in which Rick rides a horse into the city over the bridge while thousands of cars are abandoned in the opposite direction? If you're after for perfect picture, don't forget to take a tripod and use the long-exposure filter to capture the light trails left by the cars. Now that'll be a photo and a half! At night, if the "Fox Theater" isn't an option, pop over to "Atlanta Symphony Orchestra". It's of the highest quality and will feature a brand new style to add to everything you've already heard on this trip.

Overnight stay in Atlanta.

## DAY 17 · ATLANTA - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Night on board.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

## Your trip includes

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### Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Dallas - Texas.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Dallas - Texas.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Austin - Texas.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Austin - Texas.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in San Antonio - Texas.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in San Antonio - Texas.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Houston - Texas.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Houston - Texas.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in New Orleans.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in New Orleans.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Indianola.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Indianola.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Birmingham - Al.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Birmingham - Al.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Gatlinburg - Tn.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Gatlinburg - Tn.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Atlanta - Ga.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Atlanta - Ga.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.
- ✓ Amount of the supplement for collection and return of the vehicle in a different office.

### Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Electronic Authorization (ESTA/ETA) to enter in US.
- ✗ Resort fee US.
- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.

## Destinations Visited

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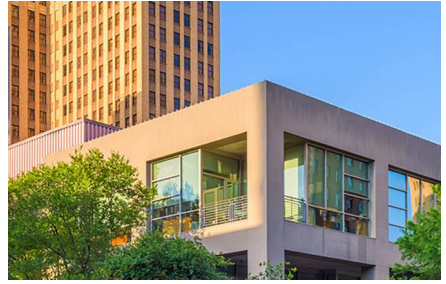
Dallas - Texas



Austin - Texas



San Antonio - Texas



Houston - Texas



Port Arthur - Tx



Lafayette - The



New Orleans



Baton Rouge - The



Natchez - Ms



Vicksburg - Ms



Indianola



Tupelo - MS



Birmingham - Al



Chattanooga - Tn



Gatlinburg - Tn



Atlanta - Ga



## Important remarks

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- Tips in US are a common practice.
- Generally in US the accommodation in the triple rooms have two double beds or one double and one single bed and the quadruple accommodation has two double beds.
- Driving in the USA: 1. Overtaking on the right is not only legal but everyone does it. And the sooner you get used to roads with more than five lanes, the better. 2. It is legal (and mandatory) to turn right on a red light when there is a signal to do so. 3. With regard to parking, make sure you check when you can park on the street and never park in front of a fire hydrant (even though there are no signs prohibiting it). If there are lines painted on the road to mark out parking spaces, leave the car right in the middle of them, however huge the gap may seem. Be especially careful in the centre of big cities and don't let the parking meter go over by even one minute (check before paying because there are days of the week or certain times when you don't have to pay). 4. Beware of tolls. They will be indicated with the words toll or turnpike and don't usually have a barrier, so you can drive through them without realising and then receive a fine a few weeks later. Don't drive in FasTrak Only lanes and make sure you have some cash on you, as some tolls are cash-only. 5. Unless you want a ticket and a stern chat from a Highway Patrol Officer, it's best not to drive more than five or ten miles above the maximum speed allowed for the road. If the police end up stopping you, keep your hands on the steering wheel and in sight at all times and don't even think about trying to be funny. 6. We recommend signing up to roadside assistance services and a GPS when you hire a car.
- Consult the entry restrictions and additional requirements for people who have previously traveled to destinations such as Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Syria, etc.
- Hotels may charge a Resort Fee charge that must be paid directly at the destination. The amount can vary between approximately \$15 and \$65 per room per night. This charge is indicative and may be modified depending on the establishment's policy.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.
- This itinerary has been prepared in collaboration with Brand USA.
- You must give notice that you are going to cross the border while collecting the vehicle. Authorisation may be required to drive through certain countries or areas/states (as is the case in the US and Canada). Depending on the conditions set out in the rental contract and the company hired, you might be charged a surcharge payable at the destination office.