

Oconomowoc Area *Travelin' Troupe* presents . . .



The "Big Easy" – New Orleans & Graceland in Memphis



Saturday to Saturday, March 14 – 21, 2026

Louisiana and Tennessee



Join us as we head south to soak up some sun and enjoy ourselves in New Orleans. Experience the unmatched beauty of New Orleans – where history, music, food and celebration come together like nowhere else in the United States. From the lively sounds of jazz in the French Quarter to stunning Creole architecture, mouthwatering cuisine, and world-famous festivals, this city captivates at every turn. Whether you're strolling under the oak trees, savoring beignets, or dancing in the second line parade, there's no place quite like NOLA. Our itinerary includes 4 nights lodging in New Orleans near the French Quarter, and includes admission to Mardi Gras World, a guided tour of New Orleans and its historic sites, a visit to the National World War II Museum, a cooking demonstration and meal at the New Orleans School of Cooking, a tour of Houmas House Plantation & Gardens, a Swamp Tour of New Orleans bayous, a luncheon cruise on the Natchez Riverboat on the Mississippi River, and of course, some time for shopping. En route we will visit the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois, and overnight in Memphis after visiting Graceland.

*All Itineraries are subject to change.

Minimum Passengers: 35



COST: \$1,995 – Per Person – Double Occupancy**

\$2,595 – Per Person – Single Occupancy**

Down Payment of \$300 PER PERSON due with registration by October 6, 2025 / Final Payment due by December 19, 2025. All refunds subject to a \$50 cancellation fee to be paid to OASC. No refunds after 10/6/25 unless a replacement can be found.

****Community Participant add \$40 (\$5 per day x 8 days)**

Pick Up: YMCA at Pabst Farms – 3/14/26

5:30 a.m. Arrive YMCA (main entrance)

5:40 a.m. Motor Coach arrives

6:00 a.m. Motor Coach departs

Arrive back to YMCA 3/21/26 approx 7:30 p.m.

(All times subject to change.)

Trip Includes:

- Motor Coach Transportation
- Hotel Accommodations (or similar):
Drury Inn & Suites, Sikeston, MO – 1 night
Hampton Inn, Memphis, TN – 1 night
Holiday Inn Express, New Orleans, LA – 4 nights
En route hotel – 1 night
- Admissions
- Meals (7 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 3 Dinners)
- All tips for included meals and for the bus driver

Walking Level:



Questions? Contact:

Marilyn Smith – oascTravelChair@gmail.com 262.567.4288
or Cathi Dorn – cdorn@glcymca.org 262.468.0469

Day 1: Depart from Oconomowoc aboard your motorcoach and travel to Springfield, IL to visit the **Abraham Lincoln Library & Museum**. Enjoy lunch on your own in the area, then continue traveling to Sikeston, MO for overnight lodging. Dinner is on your own this evening.

Day 2: After breakfast, check out and travel to Memphis, TN. Upon arrival you will proceed to Graceland, Elvis Presley's home. View a **brief orientation film** before boarding the shuttle to the **Mansion** for an **audio tour** which is full of music and interesting stories about how Elvis lived in the home he loved so much. The tour ends with a visit to **Meditation Garden** where Elvis and his family members have been laid to rest. Afterwards, check in to your hotel and prepare for dinner at **King's Palace Cafe** on famous Beale Street.

Day 3: Enjoy breakfast, then check out and travel to the **Cajun Country of New Orleans**, also known as the "**Big Easy**." Upon arrival, you will visit **Mardi Gras World** where the famous colorful floats are made and stored. Afterwards, check in to your hotel for a four-night stay. This evening's dinner will be at **Landry's**.

Day 4: Enjoy breakfast, then depart on a **guided tour of New Orleans** and its historic sites. Three centuries of New Orleans and culture will be highlighted during the tour which will include the **French Quarter, Jackson Square**, historic St. Louis Cathedral and the exotic French Market. You will pass the splendid Creole Cottages on Esplanade Avenue and view one of the unique above-ground cemeteries, referred to as "Cities of the Dead" for their elaborate, architectural tombs. Your guide will detail the local legends of voodoo and pirates as you follow Bayou St. John to Lake Pontchartrain and the renowned seafood restaurants of the West End. Pass St. Charles Avenue, the University Section and Audubon Park. View the decadent and exclusive homes of the lush Garden District and ride back to the 21st Century as you pass the Superdome and high-rises of the Central Business District. You will also enjoy a visit to the **National World War II Museum** which focuses on the contribution made by the U.S. to victory by the Allies in WWII and the Battle of Normandy in particular. The museum's main section focuses on the War in the Pacific and the War against Germany. There is also a special area on the Normandy Invasion and on Higgins Industries of New Orleans that designed and built the amphibious landing craft. The rest of the afternoon is free for you to explore the area at your own pace. This evening enjoy a cooking demonstration of a traditional Creole meal and enjoy the finished meal at the **New Orleans School of Cooking**.

Day 5: Following breakfast, enjoy a tour of the **Houmas House Plantation & Gardens** – "The Crown Jewel of Louisiana's River Road." Sugarcane was farmed here on tens of thousands of acres, and it became the largest producer of sugar in the country. The mansion and grounds have been thoroughly restored and enhanced to reflect the opulent lifestyle and grandeur of the successful sugar barons who once lived here. Guides in period dress offer an entertaining glimpse into the resplendent world of southern plantation life through Houmas House, followed by a **buffet lunch**. This afternoon you will enjoy a **Swamp Tour** of New Orleans' bayous. Later, enjoy some shopping in the **French Quarter**, New Orleans' most popular neighborhood and one of the best preserved historical neighborhoods in America. The French Quarter features a strong, lasting Spanish and French influence and is home to the best-known party street in New Orleans - Bourbon Street; you may visit the Riverwalk and Jax Brewery. While in the French Quarter, enjoy **cafe au lait and beignets at the Cafe du Monde**. Dinner is on your own this evening.

Day 6: After breakfast, enjoy free time at **Jackson Square** before boarding a spectacular **luncheon cruise aboard the Natchez Riverboat** on the mighty Mississippi River. Savor the beauty and romance of New Orleans and take a journey back in time aboard the authentic sternwheel steamboat. Dinner is on your own this evening either in the French Quarter or at Harrah's Casino.

Day 7: Enjoy breakfast, then check out and start our travel back toward home. Dinner is on your own this evening.

Day 8: After breakfast, check out and depart for Oconomowoc with lasting memories of **Memphis and New Orleans**.

*Note: Itineraries are subject to change.

Note: A pre-departure information meeting will be held prior to our trip.

Details for this pre-trip meeting will be provided at a later date.

We suggest purchasing travel insurance on your own.