



IIFA 2013 NEW ORLEANS

LOUISIANA, USA OCTOBER 21–23

POST-CONFERENCE TOUR

THE GRAND SOUTH: A TASTE OF LOUISIANA October 24–25, 2013



NOTTOWAY PLANTATION

This tour explores the unique *mélange* of immigrants who have flavored the cultural gumbo of Louisiana over the last three centuries. Follow Louisiana's history down the bayou and up the river, experiencing the creative combinations of ideas and ingredients that have evolved into Louisiana cuisine. From a Cajun settlement in the heart of a swamp to the agricultural empires along the mighty Mississippi, you are never far from the bounties of our fertile land and water.

DAY ONE

LAFITTE, LOUISIANA—DOORWAY TO THE GULF OF MEXICO AND BEYOND



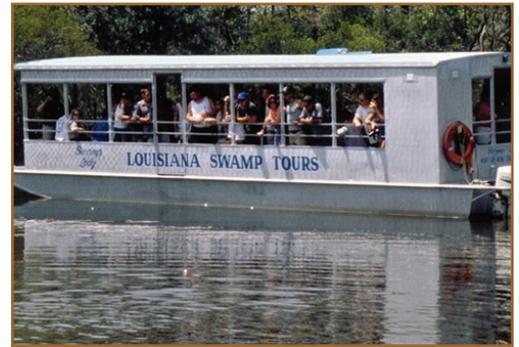
Join us on a swamp adventure in the fishing and trapping community of Lafitte—named for Jean Lafitte, the legendary privateer who supplied the citizens of New Orleans with the European luxury items they desired.

Driving through the wetlands of the Barataria Museum and Wetland Preserve, you will forget that you're only a half-hour away from downtown New Orleans. It's easy to see why this

labyrinth of land and water was an ideal base for a major smuggling operation. This isolation also helped to preserve the Cajun culture and cuisine.

At the Barataria Museum we will learn more about the era of piracy and the Cajun traditions still alive today. Then we will wind our way through a picturesque swamp and egret rookery on an elevated nature study walk.

We will enjoy a short boat cruise, followed by a delicious Cajun lunch in the depths of the swamp, while listening to the tunes of a unique Cajun pop band.



SUGARCANE HARVESTING

As we travel the Great River Road during cane harvest season, you'll learn about sugarcane cultivation and how this agricultural empire evolved from colonial days to modern times. The muddy Mississippi once flowed past 400 plantations along Louisiana's Great River Road, and for centuries, wooden wagons rumbled from fields to river docks and the sweet smell of sugarcane filled the subtropical air.

NOTTOWAY PLANTATION—DINNER AND OVERNIGHT



In the late afternoon we will arrive at Nottoway Plantation, the South's largest remaining antebellum mansion. Here, you will be treated to an evening that epitomizes the grandeur of Louisiana's antebellum era. A stunning, multimillion-dollar renovation has restored this historic plantation to her glory days while adding luxury resort amenities—truly, the best of both worlds.

We will enjoy an unforgettable five-course dinner in the Grand Ballroom, with each course representing a Louisiana culinary tradition 300 years in the making. Following dinner, we will stroll the grounds on a guided lantern tour. A special surprise, compliments of the Investment Company Institute, will provide a spectacular end to the evening!

DAY TWO

GOSPEL BREAKFAST

Wake up to an inspiring breakfast featuring the African flavors and live gospel music that have contributed to Louisiana's distinct cultural identity.

Enjoy the rest of the morning with a walk on the levee, or simply a good book under an oak tree. We will depart Nottoway en route back to New Orleans around 11 a.m.



PLAQUEMINE LOCK STATE HISTORIC SITE AND MUSEUM AND PLAQUEMINE FERRY



On our way, we will cross the mighty Mississippi on a ferry, giving you a front-row seat to experience the power of the water and the challenges travelers have faced navigating this great water highway. Native Americans used Bayou Plaquemine as a navigable artery centuries before the age of European exploration. The Plaquemine Lock was completed in 1909, boasting the highest freshwater lift of any lock in the world. Built by the man who would later become the chief engineer of the Panama Canal, this lock system was a remarkable prototype.

HOUMAS HOUSE PLANTATION AND GARDENS—LUNCH AND TOUR

We will then head downriver to Houmas House Plantation and Gardens, referred to as the “Sugar Palace,” for lunch. The building of Houmas House began in 1803 as the United States was acquiring Louisiana. The estate ultimately grew to 300,000 acres, including 98,000 acres of cane, becoming the largest sugar producer in the country.

You will add your name to a distinguished list of those who have dined at the plantation, including Teddy Roosevelt, Queen Elizabeth, and Abraham Lincoln. Chef Jeremy Langois will prepare a special lunch using local, seasonal ingredients, served on replicas of Houmas House’s 1848 original Paris porcelain china.



Afterward, feel free to walk off your lunch or relax in the 38 acres of lush Louisiana plant life accented with fountains, brooks, ponds, statues, waterfalls, and more.

CAJUN VILLAGE SHOPS



Today, the legacies of Louisiana’s people live on in the historical sites and multicultural communities that enrich both banks of the river and beyond.

The last stop on the tour is at the Cajun Village Shops, a collection of eight boutiques housed in authentically restored Acadian dwellings from the 1800s. This is the perfect place to find a Louisiana memento to bring home, while you listen to the music of an authentic Cajun fiddler.

We will depart the Cajun Village Shops for the Windsor Court Hotel, where we will arrive around 5:30 p.m. We invite you to relax and enjoy a final evening in New Orleans at your leisure.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY*

DAY ONE

- 9:00 a.m. Depart Windsor Court Hotel
- 10:00 a.m. Batararia Museum and Wetland Preserve with Lunch
- 4:00 p.m. Arrive at Nottoway Plantation
- 6:30 p.m. Cocktails and Dinner

DAY TWO

- 9:00 a.m. Gospel Breakfast at Nottoway Plantation
- 11:00 a.m. Hotel Checkout
- 11:30 a.m. Plaquemine Locks Historic Site and Museum
- 12:30 p.m. Ferry Ride Across the Mississippi River
- 1:30 p.m. Houmas House Tour and Lunch
- 3:30 p.m. Cajun Village Shops
- 5:30 p.m. Arrive at Windsor Court Hotel

*Times subject to change.