

Cosmos Journal de bord

Florida & the Old South

Saturday July 13, 1996

Day 1 Montréal

Départ de Dorval vers Washington à 7:30, et ensuite arrivée à Orlando à 12:15. Dans l'après-midi on s'installe à l'hôtel Confort Inn Lake Buena Vista, nous faisons notre épicerie et passons notre temps à la piscine. La température est à 92⁰F. The tour starts in Orlando, the world's capital of "fun and fantasy". Your Cosmos tour escort is on hand at the hotel throughout the afternoon to give assistance upon arrival.

Sunday July 14, 1996

Day 2 Orlando

A full free day to explore the many sights in the Orlando area. Your Cosmos tour escort suggests numerous optional excursions, including Disney's huge entertainment park: Sea World, America's biggest marine life park; exciting Universal Studios (We saw Terminator 2 on 3D Battle across time); the Kennedy Space Center; and for the evening, Wild Bill's with its continuous western entertainment and singing waiters.

Monday July 15, 1996

Day 3 Orlando

Head northeast towards the Atlantic coast and Daytona Beach for a short stop at the famous Daytona Speedway. Then on to St. Augustine, the oldest city in the United States, first explored by Juan Ponce de Leon in his search for the legendary Fountain of Youth. Enter Georgia, the "Peach State", and arrive in historic Savannah in the late afternoon. Tonight take our optional carriage ride through historic Savannah, followed by a delicious dinner at the Pirates House Restaurant, a 250-year-old inn that was once a secret meeting place for notorious pirates.

Tuesday July 16, 1996

Day 4 Savannah

The morning is free, so join our optional tour of Savannah's landmarks. Major attractions include: Madison Square, where General Sherman concluded his "March to the Sea"; River Street and factors Row with its Old Cotton Exchange building; and a visit to one of Savannah's many historic homes. Then continue north across farmlands that produce cotton, pecans, and peanuts. Arrive late afternoon in vibrant, yet gracious Atlanta, Georgia's state capital and site of the 1996 Summer Olympics. We visit Coca-Cola Museum and the Centennial Park, (Sunny & 89⁰F

Wednesday July 17, 1996

Day 5 Atlanta

View the sights on your orientation tour of Atlanta including Peachtree Plaza, CNN Center, and Peachtree Street with its charming “Old South” neighbourhoods. Then travel north through the Chattahoochie National Forest before entering Tennessee, the “Volunteer State”. Stop in Chattanooga, home of the famed Chattanooga Choo Choo. Next learn of the whiskey making process on a guided tour of the famous Jack Daniels Distillery. Continue through rolling farm country before arriving in Nashville, “Music City U.S.A.”.

Thursday July 18, 1996

Day 6 Nashville

Begin the day with a sightseeing tour of Nashville’s famous landmarks including: the Parthenon; homes of famous country and western music performers such as Minnie Pearl and Ronny Milsap; and the recording studios of Music Row. As the afternoon is free, why not visit Opryland USA, the unique 120-acre theme park which spotlights Americas musical heritage? A special treat this evening is reserved seats at one of Nashville’s famous country western musical stage shows featuring famous entertainers and singers. In the evening, a live show in Shooney’s parking, by Kenny Rogers.

Friday July 19, 1996

Day 7 Nashville

On to Memphis, a city with a distinct southern flavour and “home of the Blues”. This afternoon visit Graceland, Elvis Presley’s estate, with a guided tour of the splendid gardens and opulent 15,000 square-foot mansions. As the evening is at leisure, why not visit a Blues Club on Beale Street?

Saturday July 20, 1996

Day 8 Memphis

Enter Mississippi, The “Magnolia State”, with a break in Jackson to view the state capitol. Late afternoon arrival in historic Vicksburg, the “Gibraltar of Confederacy”, founded in 1719 by the French.

Sunday July 21, 1996

Day 9 Vicksburg

Start the day with a guided tour of Vicksburg National Military Park and visualize the battles fought at this site during the 47-days siege. Then stop in Natchez, once a boomtown during the cotton era. Vast plantations and magnificent mansions still line the streets and reflect Natchez prominent past. Tour the main sights of Natchez and visit an elegant Antebellum home with its collection of line furniture and paintings. Next is Baton Rouge, Louisiana’s capital, and an orientation drive of the city sights,

including the State Capitol building, the Old State Capitol, and the Governor's Mansion. On to New Orleans, capital of Dixieland, for the next tree nights.

Monday July 22, 1996

Day 10 New Orleans

This morning is dedicated to the sights and sounds of this old world city. First stop in the Garden District to see its stately mansions; then take a guided walking tour of French Quarter including Pirate's Alley, St. Louis Cathedral, and Bourbon Street. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Highly recommended is our lunch outing to famous Arnaud's, followed by a tour of the Mardi Gras Museum. Afterward head to the top of the Mart for panoramic views of the city and harbour.

Tuesday July 23, 1996

Day 11 New Orleans

A full free day with a wide selection of activities to choose from including a ride in a quaint clanging streetcar up St. Charles Ave. Or how about a cooking class to learn the secrets of Cajun cuisine at the New Orleans School of Cooking? For the shoppers Canal Street and the French Quarter offer an extensive variety of specialty shops and boutiques. This evening we highly recommend an optional dinner and live jazz cruise on the Mississippi aboard an authentic paddle wheeler.

Wednesday July 24, 1996

Day 12 New Orleans

Visit the beautiful Bellingrath garden on Mobile Bay, the 800-acre estate of Walter Bellingrath, a pioneer in the Coca Cola bottling industry. Enjoy your walk through the manicured gardens ablaze with a variety of flowers including azaleas, camellias, dogwood, and in the late fall, poinsettias. On through Mobile, a major world port, and into the "Sunshine State" of Florida. Follow along the coastal route of the "Panhandle" and arrive in the popular resort of Panama City Beach in the late afternoon. As soon as we see the sea, we rush to be first ones to swim in it.

Thursday July 25, 1996

Day 13 Panama City Beach

A scenic day unfolds as you head east with vistas of sandy beaches, marshy estuaries, and the Gulf of Mexico. Continue south through Florida's Bayou country and arrive in Tampa. First a stop at Tampa international Airport for tour members with homebound flights. We spent the evening at the Holiday Inn, relaxing in the whirlpool bath and watching the Olympics from Atlanta.

Wednesday July 26, 1996

Day 14 Tampa

After a good night sleep, we go back again at the swimming pool. Then we go shopping at West shore Mail to get few souvenirs. We left at 16:00 for the airport, a short stop to Pittsburgh and finally arrived at Dorval's Airport around 23:30. We stoooped in St-jean-sur-le-Richelieu to pick up Sebastian (at the Army base) and arrived in Valcourt at 2:45.



Maximum Elevation on tour: 836 ft

Visitez notre page personnelle pour quelques photos.

<http://www.cooptel.qc.ca/~veilleux/photo-1996.html>