



NASHVILLE & MEMPHIS

September 19, 2023 – 9 Days

Two music cities with great entertainment

For music lovers, there is no treat better than a visit to Nashville, "Country Music USA", and Memphis, "Birthplace of Rock 'n' Roll." This tour flies to Memphis for 3 nights at the popular Guesthouse at Graceland. A highlight is a tour of Elvis Presley's Graceland Mansion, but Memphis offers so much more – the Rock 'n' Soul Museum, a stroll down Beale Street, the March of the Peabody Ducks, dinners at BB King's and Marlowe's, and Sun Studio. Then we drive through rural Tennessee to Nashville with a stop at Johnny Cash's Storytellers Museum. Our accommodation in Nashville is the renowned Opryland Hotel and of course the Grand Ole Opry tops all the entertainment choices. Other special places are Belle Meade Plantation, RCA Studio B, Country Music Hall of Fame, Ray Stevens' CabaRay Dinner Show, lunch at the Wildhorse Saloon, and a GooGoo candy-making class. Come and enjoy Music Cities USA.

Activity Level: 2



17 Meals Included:

8 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 6 dinners

Fares per person:

\$6,740 double/twin; \$7,885 single; \$6,620 triple
Please add 0.2% GST.

Early Booker Bonus:

\$280 discount on first 10 seats; \$140 on next 8

Experience Points:

Earn 116 points after this tour returns.

Departure from: Lower Mainland



ITINERARY

Day 1: Tuesday, September 19

We fly on Delta Airlines from Vancouver via Salt Lake City to **Memphis, Tennessee**. Our coach meets us at the airport. We stay three nights at the Guest House at Graceland, one of Memphis' top-rated hotels.

Accommodation: Guest House at Graceland

Day 2: Wednesday, September 20

The morning is devoted to a tour of Memphis, the "Birthplace of Rock 'n' Roll." Highlights include Overton Park where Elvis Presley did his first paid performance in 1954. We pass Galloway House and the Methodist church where Johnny Cash and the Tennessee Two put on their first performance. At 11 am, we are at the landmark Peabody Hotel to watch its famous **March of the Ducks**. Lunch is at Cappricio Grill. In the afternoon, we visit the **Rock 'n' Soul Museum** which tells the story of musical pioneers who, for the love of music, overcame racial and socio-economic barriers to create the music that shook the entire world. Afterwards, there is free time to stroll along famous **Beale Street** with dinner and entertainment at BB King's.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Guest House at Graceland

Day 3: Thursday, September 21

Memphis is **Elvis Presley**, the King of Rock 'n' Roll. The Guest House is adjacent to **Graceland**, consisting of the mansion, museums, and galleries, and we spend the morning immersing ourselves in the Elvis Experience – the mansion, the Elvis the Entertainer Career Museum, the Automobile Museum, and his airplanes. This afternoon, we tour **Sun Studio**, the recording studio opened by rock 'n' roll pioneer Sam Phillips in 1950. Country music and rockabilly artists including Johnny Cash, Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Roy Orbison, Charlie Feathers, Ray Harris, Warren Smith, Charlie Rich, and Jerry Lee Lewis recorded their music here through the late 1950s. Dinner is at Marlowe's Restaurant, famous for 45 years for its ribs and Elvis memorabilia.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Guest House at Graceland

Day 4: Friday, September 22

Leaving Memphis, we head across Tennessee with a stop at **Johnny Cash's Storytellers Museum**. This was the farm used by Johnny Cash to escape from public life. We visit the museum, the Hideaway Farmhouse, and the "One Piece at a Time" Cadillac, and meet Johnny's nephew, Mark Alan Cash. **Welcome to Nashville**, "Country Music, USA." Our accommodation for the next four nights is at the fabulous **Opryland Hotel**. With almost 3,000 rooms, this incredible building will keep you exploring its three large tree-filled atriums, its multitude of restaurants and lounges, and its indoor gardens with extensive water features including a cascading stream. Our reservation is for Atrium View rooms in the Cascades section. Tonight is the renowned show, **Grand Ole Opry**. Running since 1925, the Opry features about 20 performers from its exclusive membership of about 70 stars. However, we cannot tell you who will perform as the stars are announced just a few days prior.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Opryland Hotel

Day 5: Saturday, September 23

The morning is leisure time and you may want to explore more of the Opryland Hotel. This afternoon, a local guide shows us around Nashville featuring Music Row, Ryman Auditorium, the Parthenon replica, and Printers Alley, and past the homes of several stars. This evening, we attend **Ray Stevens' CabaRay Dinner Show**.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Opryland Hotel

Day 6: Sunday, September 24

The huge shopping centre, Opry Mills, is adjacent to the hotel. In the afternoon, we take a tour of **RCA Studio B** where Elvis recorded more than 200 songs. It became famous in the 1960s for the production style and technique known as the Nashville Sound which revived the popularity of country music. Next, we visit the extraordinary **Country Music Hall of Fame** housed in a striking limestone and glass building that resembles a curved piano keyboard. This evening, we attend the Nashville Nightlife Dinner Show.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Opryland Hotel

Day 7: Monday, September 25

The day starts with a visit to **Belle Meade**, a fine example of a southern plantation, built in 1807 by John Harding. Today it is a state museum that tells the stories of enslaved African Americans who lived there. A barbecue lunch is included at the iconic Wildhorse Saloon. Afterwards, we attend a candy-making class at the **GooGoo Cluster**, a famous Nashville candy product created locally in 1912. The **Johnny Cash Museum** is next, then we finish at the Santa Fe Grill for a private dinner featuring a performance by a Nashville singer or songwriter.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Opryland Hotel

Day 8: Tuesday, September 26

We fly with Alaska Airlines from Nashville to Seattle, arriving about noon. In the afternoon, there is time at Alderwood Mall for some shopping. Enjoy a get-together with your fellow travellers at the hotel's nightly reception.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Embassy Suites Lynnwood

Day 9: Wednesday, September 27

We stop at the Duty-Free Store, then cross the border and travel home.

Meals included: Breakfast

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Home pickup and transfer to Vancouver Airport
- Flight from Vancouver to Memphis
- Current air taxes and security fees
- Transfer from Memphis Airport to hotel
- 8 nights of accommodation and hotel taxes
- 6 days of coach transportation in Tennessee
- Locally-guided tour of Memphis
- March of the Ducks at Peabody Hotel
- Rock 'n' Soul Museum
- BB King's entertainment
- Tour of Elvis Presley's Graceland Mansion with museum and airplanes
- Sun Studio
- Tour of Johnny Cash's Storytellers Museum
- Grand Ole Opry performance
- Locally-guided tour of Nashville
- Ray Stevens' CabaRay Dinner Show
- RCA Studio B
- Country Music Hall of Fame
- Nashville Nightlife Dinner Show
- Belle Meade Plantation
- Wildhorse Saloon
- GooGoo Cluster candy-making class
- Johnny Cash Museum
- Private dinner performance at Santa Fe Grill
- Transfer from Nashville hotel to airport
- Flight from Nashville to Seattle
- Sept 26 airline luggage fee for 1 per person
- Transportation home from Seattle
- Gratuities to Tennessee guides and drivers
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **17 meals:** 8 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 6 dinners



TOUR NOTES

Airline luggage fee is not included for the Delta flight from Vancouver to Memphis, as this must be paid individually at check-in. Please budget about US\$30 per suitcase. The luggage fee is included for the September 26 flight on Alaska Airlines.

Flight seating: We are unable to take requests for window or aisle seating on the planes. The airlines will not accept them, as group seating is assigned as a block. If this is important to you, we suggest you take the "No Flight" option with a fare reduction of \$750 and book your own flights which allow seat selection.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. Some restaurants may not be able to satisfy all food allergies. Please do not tell us about your food preferences, as restaurants ignore these requests. An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not. For some allergies, please consider bringing your own snacks or food items so you are not dependent on what restaurants are able to serve.



Activity Level 2: Moderate activity including some walking in Memphis and Nashville. Touring the historic mansions usually requires some stairs and standing. There can be longer walks in airports. Seeing everything mentioned in this itinerary requires participation at Activity Level 2. There are many stops during this tour and you must be able to get on and off the coach by yourself without delaying your fellow travellers. The coach cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. Everybody participating in this tour is expected to be capable of handling Activity Level 2. The tour director and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some tour days. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$400 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due July 13, 2023. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined. Payments can be made by online banking or cheque (1.5% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard (\$5,000 limit per person on credit cards).

Early Booker Bonus: Receive \$280 discount on first 10 seats and \$140 on next 8 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after July 13, 2023.

Cancellation Policy: Up to June 13, 2023, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From June 14 to July 13, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From July 14 to August 11, the cancellation charge is 60% of the tour fare. After August 11, there is no refund.

Itinerary and Fare Changes: Due to continuing after effects of the pandemic, sometimes we are notified about changes to the itinerary prior to departure and sometimes during the tour. We do our best to substitute a similar service if something cancels, but occasionally the only alternative is to provide a refund for the missed activity. Please note that if we are forced to cancel a tour component due to an issue beyond our control, the current penalties still apply if you choose to cancel the entire tour. Fuel surcharges and changes to taxes or other tour costs can occur at any time, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up to departure.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Home pickups are offered complimentary in Vancouver, Burnaby, New Westminster, Surrey, and Richmond. Transfer is to YVR and home from the coach route after the border crossing.

Photo Credits: Grand Ole Opry, Graceland, Opryland Hotel, Ray Stevens' CabaRay

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 116 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn e-points that are added to your account after the tour returns. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your earned points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until July 13, 2023.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842

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