

Arkansas in Bloom

7 Days: April 19-25, 2010



This travel package planned and escorted by Becky DeKruif.

Get to know all about an amazing Arkansas that will surprise you!



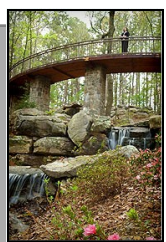
April 19 we pick up through our guaranteed departure cities on our way to Osage Beach, MO. We'll make a stop at the **Winston Churchill Memorial and Library** in Fulton, MO. Enter the Christopher Wren-designed **Church of St. Mary the Virgin**, with its 17th century carvings and handcrafted organ. The church was moved from London and re-constructed stone by stone. See the gymnasium where Churchill delivered his famous "Iron Curtain" speech. The site also houses archives as well as traveling and temporary exhibits of historical and cultural significance, including "Breakthrough," an 11-foot-high by 32-foot-long structure sculpted from 8 sections of the Berlin Wall by artist Edwina Sandys, granddaughter of Winston Churchill. We stay the night in Osage Beach, where we have restaurants across the street.

April 20 after **breakfast** we enter Arkansas and visit **Blanchard Springs Caverns**, near Mountain View. We will enjoy a **narrated walking tour**, with seated stops along the way. Enjoy the beautiful cavern formations along with the scenery outside the caverns, with dogwoods and many other types of flora in bloom. Our first night in Arkansas is at **Arkansas Folk Center State Park**. After checking into our accommodations in the woods, a shuttle will take us to the lodge for **dinner and entertainment**.



April 21 enjoy **breakfast** in the beautiful surroundings then **browse the many craft areas**, where artisans demonstrate such skills as pottery-making, blacksmithing, music and much more. With **box lunch** in hand, we will head to Little Rock in the afternoon. Take a **self-guided tour of the William J. Clinton Presidential Library**. Approximately 76.8 million pages of documents, 1.85 million photographs and over 84,600 museum artifacts are contained here. Visit a mock-up of the Clinton Oval Office, as well as many of the lovely gifts received by the Clintons during their White House years. You'll also have time to visit the Clinton souvenir shop, as well as the other shops in the river market area. Enjoy dinner on your own at one of the eateries in the area. Later we check in at our hotel in Little Rock.

April 22 after **breakfast** a step-on guide will show us around Little Rock, seeing such things as Central High School, the state capitol building, the "Designing Women" house and many historical buildings. Stops will be made at the Central High museum and also at a beautiful park, blooming with many varieties of flowers, that houses an old mill. Enjoy a relaxing **lunch** at the **Arkansas Art Center**, planned and cooked by Chef Joseph. The art center has a gift shop and many free exhibits to view. Next, we tour the **Arkansas Governor's Mansion**. The breathtakingly beautiful Georgian mansion is flanked by two colonnaded walkways that link the mansion to two cottages. The mansion, located on 8½ acres, features one of the largest herb gardens maintained by the National Herb Society, as well as a vegetable garden, which is an ongoing project of the Arkansas Master Gardeners. You need not be a master gardener to enjoy the beautiful gardens, in bloom, surrounding the mansion. The day is not over yet! We will enjoy a **buffet dinner**, followed by an entertaining **live stage production at Murry's Dinner Playhouse**.



April 23 after **breakfast** we travel to Hot Springs. Our first stop, **Garvan Woodland Gardens** opened in 2002. The gardens are located in a beautiful wooded area, where you may walk as much as you like. (For a small fee, see the gardens by golf cart.) Next, we board an amphibious "**Duck**" for a different view of the historic town. The Duck will take us through the streets of Hot Springs, and into Lake Hamilton, where the boat will circle St. John's Island, before returning to land. Find that perfect spot for lunch on your own and some time in the downtown shops before our group visits **Josephine Tussaud Wax Museum**. See everything from celeb-

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rities, royalty and presidents, to historically accurate battle scenes and much more. Ready for a little break? **Taste some Arkansas wines**, at a local winery. Then we're off to Eureka Springs!



April 24 after a good night's rest and **breakfast**, a **guide** will take us on a **tour of historic Eureka Springs**. The tour will be partially on our motor coach and partially by trolley. Stops will be made at **Thorncrowne Chapel** and the **Crescent Hotel**. Thorncrowne Chapel is a majestic wooden and glass structure, 48 feet tall with 425 windows. The 1886 Crescent Hotel and Spa is a full-service hotel, still in operation. The hotel boasts 15 acres of trails and showplace gardens, grand porches and spectacular views. You will have time to explore the unique shops of downtown and have lunch on your own before leaving Eureka Springs. A trip to Arkansas would not be complete without a visit to Bentonville, to see the first store started by one of Arkansas' most famous native sons, Sam



Walton. **The original Wal-Mart** still exists in downtown Bentonville. It now serves as a Visitors' Center, educating and communicating the Wal-Mart story. The Visitors' Center recalls an old five and dime, while the back rooms are more of a museum. See Sam Walton's office, just as he left it, and his well-known red and white truck. Enjoy the beautiful scenery of Arkansas and southern Missouri as we travel to Springfield, MO, for our last night.



April 25 one more **breakfast** is provided for you as we depart for home.

Your 7-day Arkansas travel package includes: Luxury motor coach transportation, lodging for 6 nights, tickets/admissions to bolded attractions, gratuities to step-on guides, 6 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners (meals inclusive of tax and gratuity).

\$1,099 per person, double occupancy

\$1,039 per person with 3 or 4 persons sharing a room with 2 beds

\$1,355 single room accommodations

Reservations: anytime as long as space is available

Deposit: \$109 per person, due with reservation

Balance due: March 19

Cancel by: March 19 for penalty-free cancellations

Early Booking Discount: \$50 per person discount applied to final balance if deposit is received by September 21

Peace of Mind Protection: 5 % of trip cost, due with deposit or **Travel Insurance** is available at a group rate for this travel package. Please contact our office for details.

Guaranteed Departure Cities: Decorah, New Hampton, Waterloo, Marshalltown, Ames, Fort Dodge, Webster City, Williams, Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Coralville and Newton.