

Suggested Itineraries

Itineraries can be customized to fit group's preferences. Downloadable itineraries are available at www.mobilebay.org, click on the Group Travel tab. See Tour Services section for experienced Receptive Operator support.

ONE DAY MOBILE SAMPLER

MORNING

• Museum of Mobile

Step across the street from the Welcome Center at Fort Condé and visit the Museum of Mobile, located in the Southern Market/Old City Hall, a National Historic Landmark, built in 1857. View the rich history of Native American, Colonial, African-American and Antebellum influences that come alive in the museum's 21st century exhibits and Discovery Room, a hands-on gallery for children and adults.

• Mobile Carnival Museum

National Geographic says the coronations in Mobile rival those of real coronations in Europe. In an historic mansion, you can be part of this royal court. Then, join the mystical Order of Joy in its secret den. Catch beads and doubloons from a masked rider. Climb aboard a rocking float. Throw to the cheering crowd. It's a royal invitation to get rowdy with America's first thrill ride: Mardi Gras!

• Historic Mobile Guided Tour

Drive through history as your guide takes you through several of Mobile's nine historic districts. Absorb the beauty of the architecture and the heritage that surrounds you when passing through the Church Street East and the DeTonti Historic Districts. Relive another era when entering the Oakleigh Garden District as you view large porches, Southern architecture and Spanish moss hanging from live oak trees. (Museum house and attractions tours can be included).

• USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park

Relive America's history at USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park. Tour World War II Battleship USS ALABAMA, winner of 9 Battle Stars, WW II Submarine USS DRUM, now displayed above ground, Vietnam PBR River Patrol Boat, B-52 D "Calamity Jane" bomber, A-12 "Blackbird" spyplane, Tuskegee Airmen P-51D Mustang, F-16 Falcon and 20 other historic warbirds from the past seven decades.

AFTERNOON

• Bellingrath Gardens and Home

"The Charm Spot of the Deep South." Enjoy 65 acres of year-round floral pageantry in a Southern estate garden. Visit the Delchamps Gallery of Boehm Porcelain, the largest public collection of Boehm porcelain in the United States. Tour the Bellingrath Museum Home, featured on A&E's America's Castles series, and filled with priceless antiques and furnishings. Relax on a scenic cruise of Fowl River aboard the Southern Belle River Cruiser.

• Dauphin Island

Only a short drive away, Dauphin Island is just off the Alabama coast, making it the southernmost point in the state. A barrier island, it has protected the coast from many storms and hurricanes...and Union soldiers. Fort Gaines, established in 1821, played a major role in the Battle of Mobile Bay, the largest naval battle of the Civil War. In addition to the Fort, there are Indian shell mounds rich in legend, and the Estuarium where you can see live marine life in their natural habitat.

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DO IT ALL IN MOBILE BAY - 3 DAYS 2 NIGHTS

Day 1 - MORNING

• Fort Condé Museum and Welcome Center

Begin your tour by visiting Fort Condé, a replica of the original site built by the French in 1711. Costumed soldiers will lead you through the complex and recount the 300 year history under the French, British, Spanish and American flags. Guests can also browse through the Visitor Center that includes a gift shop and big-screen video of Mobile.

• Condé-Charlotte House

This house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and depicts the periods of Mobile's history under five flags - French, British, Spanish, Confederacy and American. Each room in the house is furnished to reflect one of these periods or nationality. A walled Spanish garden of late 18th century design complements the house as well as a kitchen filled with late 19th and 20th century equipment and equally interesting bedrooms upstairs. The variety and authenticity of the furnishings make this house a fascinating museum.

• Museum of Mobile

Walk down the street one block and visit the Museum of Mobile, located in the Southern Market/Old City Hall, a National Historic Landmark built in 1857. View the rich history of Native American, Colonial, African-American and Antebellum influences that come alive in the museum's 21st century exhibits and Discovery Room, a hands-on gallery for children and adults.

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Day 1 - AFTERNOON

• Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center

Two exhibit galleries offer loads of hands-on fun for adventurers of all ages. Create exciting virtual worlds in the new Minds On Hall. Experience seat gripping thrills in the Gulf Coast's only IMAX® Dome Theater.

• USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park

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Day 2 - MORNING

• Bellingrath Gardens and Home

"The Charm Spot of the Deep South." Enjoy 65 acres of year-round floral pageantry in a Southern estate garden. Visit the Delchamps Gallery of Boehm Porcelain, the largest public collection of Boehm porcelain in the United States. Tour the Bellingrath Museum Home, featured on A&E's America's Castles series, and filled with priceless antiques and furnishings. Relax on a scenic cruise of Fowl River aboard the Southern Belle River Cruiser.

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Day 2 - AFTERNOON

• Historic Driving Tour

Drive through history as your coach takes you through several of Mobile's nine historic districts. Absorb the beauty of the architecture and the heritage that surrounds you when passing through the Church Street East and the DeTonti Historic Districts. Relive another era when entering the Oakleigh Garden District as you view large porches, Southern architecture and Spanish moss hanging from live oak trees.

• Oakleigh Historic Complex

Visit the Historic Oakleigh Complex, where period costumed docents guide visitors through three museums on one site. The Oakleigh Mansion (c. 1833) and the Cox-Deasy Cottage (c. 1850), feature 19th and 20th century furnishings. The Cook's House (c. 1850) features an authentic interpretation of the lives of those who lived and worked on the estate during the 19th century.

• Richard's DAR House

This handsome historic home, a Town House of the Italianate style, tells in superb architectural detail of fashionable life during Mobile's affluent antebellum days. The House is famous for its iron lace that lavishly decorates the front façade.

Day 3 - MORNING

• Bragg-Mitchell Mansion

The Bragg Mitchell Mansion is completely restored to replicate the antebellum era, with fine antiques, oriental rugs and exquisite draperies. The massive double parlors, tearoom, verandah, lavish dining room, crystal chandeliers and candelabras reflect an ongoing commitment to the hospitality and sumptuous entertaining of a bygone era.

• Mobile Museum of Art

This Museum is the largest art museum along the Gulf Coast from New Orleans to Tampa. It hosts special exhibitions from world-famous museums and collectors throughout the year. In addition, the museum's permanent collection includes American, European, Asian and African art spanning over 2,000 years of cultural history. Enjoy traditional as well as contemporary paintings, sculpture and fine crafts, including an exquisite collection of glass art.

• Mobile Botanical Gardens

Just across the street from the Art Museum, the Mobile Botanical Gardens offers 100 acres of cultivated areas including native azaleas, an herb garden, a camellia grove, fern glade, and a wheel-chair accessible Founders Garden featuring fragrance and texture plants.

• Spring Hill College

Just a short drive away is historic Spring Hill College, site of the oldest, private higher learning institution in Alabama. Founded in 1832, this Jesuit College is considered one of the best in the country. The grounds are beautiful, lined with majestic live oaks and large azaleas.

Day 3 - AFTERNOON

• Historic Blakeley Park and Delta Explorer

Walk the Blakeley Battlefield, site of the last battle of the Civil War and hike beautiful nature trails. Enjoy eco-tourism at its best, take a leisurely ride on the Delta Explorer and delve into the beautiful Mobile Tensaw Delta. See alligators, majestic marshland, water birds and lush habitat. You will be amazed at the many natural wonders just a short drive from downtown Mobile.

• Fairhope Shopping

Just across Mobile Bay, is a quaint little town with captivating old southern charm and picturesque landscaping. The downtown area is warm and inviting where you can shop and dine with the diverse and unique collection of merchants' offerings. Visitors will find everything from antiques and local art to candy and fudge. Fairhope stores are known for their artsy flair with merchandise that is truly unique and in some cases one of a kind from local artists.

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CHRISTMAS IN MOBILE

Day 1 - AFTERNOON/EVENING

• Robert Moore Christmas Town

See over 25,000 square feet of Christmas decorations, gifts and collectibles, all under one roof. Over 50 fully decorated Christmas trees, over 200 nativity sets from around the world and many other great collections makes shopping at Christmas Town a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Open year round.

• Bellingrath Gardens and Home Magic Christmas in Lights

Share the joy of the holidays with your group in a spectacular, illuminated winter wonderland. All ages will marvel at the sights and sounds of over two million breathtaking lights and stunning animated figures. Long a family holiday tradition, Magic Christmas in Lights is sure to bring a glow to your group's holiday festivities.

Day 2 - MORNING

• Christmas at Oakleigh

Costumed guides will lead you through this beautiful antebellum mansion, all decorated for Christmas. See how the Holidays were celebrated in the 1800's. Entertainment and light refreshments served. (1st weekend in December.)

• Mobile Museum of Art

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Day 2 - AFTERNOON

• Fairhope Shopping

Just across Mobile Bay, is a quaint little town with captivating old southern charm and picturesque landscaping. The downtown area is warm and inviting where you can shop and dine with the diverse and unique collection of merchants' offerings. Visitors will find everything from antiques and local art to candy and fudge. Fairhope stores are known for their artsy flair with merchandise that is truly unique and in some cases one of a kind from local artists.

• Eastern Shore Art Center

The art center is located in beautiful, downtown Fairhope and houses 12,000 square feet of galleries, studios, an art library, sales gallery and courtyard. The Center has three main galleries that feature the work of both local and traveling exhibits. Free admission.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE

Day 1 - MORNING

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• National African-American Archives Museum

The museum houses documents, records, photographs, books, African carvings, furniture, and "special collections". Exhibits include "History of Colored Carnival" (Mardi Gras) and "Slavery Artifacts" (shackles, leg irons, slave collars, slave bracelets and badges).

Day 1 - AFTERNOON

• Historic Points of Interest Driving Tour

Visit several churches of historic significance to include: Stone Street Baptist, Big Zion A.M.E., State Street A.M.E. Zion, Emanuel A.M.E. and St. Louis Street Missionary Baptist. See AfricaTown, so named because it is the settlement of the Africans who were brought from their homeland to Mobile on the "CLOTILDE"-America's last slave ship that came in 1859.

• Bishop State Community College

Bishop State's Central Campus is located on the site of the Old Central High School near downtown Mobile. The College has a museum that contains artifacts of early black Mobilians, focusing on the development of Davis Avenue. Artifacts, manuscripts, audio and visual arts are displayed. Free admission.

Day 2 - MORNING

• USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park

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Day 2 - AFTERNOON/EVENING

• Bellingrath Gardens and Home

"The Charm Spot of the Deep South." Enjoy 65 acres of year-round floral pageantry in a Southern estate garden. Visit the Delchamps Gallery of Boehm Porcelain, the largest public collection of Boehm porcelain in the United States. Tour the Bellingrath Museum Home, featured on A&E's America's Castles series, and filled with priceless antiques and furnishings. Relax on a scenic cruise of Fowl River aboard the Southern Belle River Cruiser.

• Mobile Greyhound Park

Enjoy live greyhound racing year-round with pari-mutual wagering. Also available are horse and greyhound racing via closed-circuit simulcast. Delicious gulf coast seafood is a menu specialty.

CELEBRATE THE ORIGINAL MARDI GRAS

Day 1 - MORNING

• Ft Condé Museum and Welcome Center

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Day 1 - AFTERNOON

• Oakleigh Historic Complex

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CELEBRATE THE ORIGINAL MARDI GRAS (cont'd)

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Day 1 - EVENING

• Mardi Gras Parade

Heralded as "America's Family Mardi Gras," Mobile holds the reigning title as the "Birthplace of Mardi Gras in the New World." The celebration dates back to 1703, when the tiny French colony of Mobile observed North America's first Mardi Gras. The parades delight families from across the country with brightly lit, brilliantly colored, paper mache floats.

Day 2 - MORNING

• Bellingrath Gardens and Home

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Day 2 - AFTERNOON

• Toomey's Mardi Gras Store

Experience Mobile Mardi Gras year-round at their new store featuring: float pieces, pictures of Mardi Gras' history and lots of great Mardi Gras souvenirs. A fun 30 minute tour stop.

• Mobile Carnival Museum

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• Three George's Candy

The 86-year old treasure is in the heart of downtown Mobile. A mainstay for all the locals. We would be glad to treat your group to a free demonstration in the art of southern candy making and to let them sample their creation. Let your group take a step back in time as they enjoy our beautiful soda fountain and candy store.

Day 2 - EVENING

• Mardi Gras Parade

See the brightly lit floats with costumed revelers in satin and sequins complete with full-face masks and armed with such as throws, beads, moon pies, doubloons, and candy. Between each float, parade goers will enjoy the tunes of marching bands.

STUDENT EDUCATIONAL ITINERARY

Day 1 - MORNING

• Historic Blakeley and the Delta Explorer

Walk the Blakeley Battlefield, site of the last battle of the Civil War and hike beautiful nature trails. Enjoy eco-tourism at its best, take a leisurely ride on the Delta Explorer and delve into the beautiful Mobile Tensaw Delta. See alligators, majestic marshland, water birds and lush habitat. You will be amazed at the many natural wonders just a short drive from downtown Mobile.

• Alligator Alley

See over 150 alligators in their natural environment. You'll even have the opportunity to feed them! Meet "Captain Crunch" the world record holder for bite strength and over 13 feet long! Bird watching, ospreys, owls and more! Open 7 days a week.

Day 1 - AFTERNOON

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• Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center

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Day 2 - MORNING

• Mobile Museum of Art

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• Dauphin Island Estuarium

The Estuarium is the public aquarium of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Alabama's marine education and research center. Visitors explore the four key ecosystems of coastal Alabama: the Delta, Mobile Bay, the Barrier Islands and the Gulf of Mexico. Features include the 10,000 square foot Exhibit Hall; the Living Marsh Boardwalk; the Miss May; the Weather Station and the Gift Shop. Student educational programs are offered.

• Sail on Mobile Bay

Help the crew raise the sails, take a turn at the wheel or relax and enjoy the sea breeze while you take a scenic cruise on historic Mobile Bay. A charter aboard the spacious and stable JOSHUA is said to be the highlight of many groups. The professional crew, headed by Captain Carrol Bramlett, will make your group feel more like a personal guest

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MOBILE'S BEAUTIFUL SPRING TOUR

Day 1 - MORNING

• Festival of Flowers (March)

Acknowledged as the premier flower and garden event of the greater Gulf Coast, the Festival springs forth each March, when trees are leafing out all over and bloomers display their splendor. It is arrayed under tent and sky against a backdrop of the campus of Providence Hospital. More than 100,000 square feet of exhibits enchant, entertain and educate visitors at this feast for all the senses. Since 1994—Mobile's most "scentsational" experience!

Day 1 - AFTERNOON

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Day 2 - MORNING

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ECOTOURISM ITINERARY

Day 1 - MORNING

• Historic Blakeley and Delta Explorer

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• Five Rivers-Alabama's Delta Resource Center

This facility is Alabama's gateway to outdoor recreation, conservation education and land stewardship in the tremendous Mobile-Tensaw River Delta. Explore Alabama's rich natural history in the Apalachee Exhibit Hall. Take virtual tours in the Tensaw Theater. Or simply spend the day enjoying the beauty of our nation's second largest river delta from our expansive deck and trails. No charge for admission.

Day 1 - AFTERNOON

• Alligator Alley

See over 150 alligators in their natural environment. You'll even have the opportunity to feed them! Meet "Captain Crunch" the world record holder for bite strength and over 13 feet long! Bird watching, ospreys, owls and more! Open 7 days a week.

Day 2 - MORNING

• Dauphin Island Estuarium

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• Audubon Bird Sanctuary

160 acres of beautiful woodlands with fresh water lake. Miles of walking trails give access to pine forest, live oak, and magnolia clearings, swamp and Gulf Beach. Nationally known migration route for all manner of birds heading to Central and South America.

Day 2 - AFTERNOON

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Additional Itinerary Options

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SHOPPING

Bienville Books

Located on historic Dauphin Street in downtown Mobile, you can browse among thousands of new/used books in a small, charming shop. Fiction, nonfiction, regional history/authors, Mardi Gras postcards, art. *See details in attractions section.*

Robert Moore & Co. Christmas Town & Village

See over 25,000 sq ft of Christmas decorations, gifts and collectibles, all under one roof. Robert Moore & Company was founded in 1976 and has grown at an unrivaled rate to be the South's largest year-round Christmas, gift, collectible and religious shop. *See details in attractions section.*

Eastern Shore Centre

Enjoy an extraordinary shopping experience of unique specialty shops, boutiques and restaurants. Located just 10 minutes from historic downtown Mobile via I-10 East.

Tanger Outlet Center

Discover a bargain hunter's paradise, located near the beautiful Gulf Coast beaches just 20 minutes south of I-10 between Mobile and Pensacola. Tanger features over 120 brand name outlet stores. *See details in attractions section.*

Three Georges Southern Chocolates

Located on historic Dauphin Street in downtown Mobile. Enjoy old-fashioned candy making, soda fountain and gift baskets. *See details in attractions section.*

Toomey's Mardi Gras Store

Experience Mardi Gras year-round! A must see shoppe with actual float pieces and all the throws, decorations and Mardi Gras merchandise that is cast to the thousands by revelers during the Mardi Gras season. *See details in attractions section.*

SEASONAL EVENTS/FESTIVALS

Mardi Gras-Fat Tuesday Feb 5, 2008 and Feb 24, 2009

This magnificent celebration lasts for nearly three weeks and culminates on Fat Tuesday, the day before Lent. Come to America's original Mardi Gras! Visit www.mobilebay.org or call 800-566-2453 for a schedule of parades.

Festival of Flowers-March 5-9, 2008 and March 25-29, 2009

Enjoy Mobile's "scentsational" experience, produced by the Providence Hospital Foundation and presenting sponsor, Regions Bank. Features over 300,000 sq ft of landscaped garden displays, floral and horticultural exhibits, gardening seminars, stunning flower arrangements and tablescape. Listed as one of the top 100 events by the American Bus Association. *See details in attractions section.*

Mobile Historic Homes Tour-March 14-15, 2008 and March 20-21, 2009

Each spring some of the most magnificent homes in Mobile open their doors to the public for this two-day event. Guided tours included with ticket price. Call for reservations. 251-432-6161. *See details in attractions section.*

BayFest Music Festival-First weekend in October (Fri-Sun)

Three days of nationally-recognized rock, country, jazz, blues and gospel music acts performing on multiple stages in downtown Mobile Bay. 800-566-2453 for information.

Fall Mum Festival (Late October through mid-November)

Celebrate fall with Bellingrath Gardens and Home's famed mum display showcasing hundreds of cascading mums. Largest outdoor display of cascading mums in the country. *See details about Bellingrath Gardens in attractions section.*

Magic Christmas in Lights-Friday after Thanksgiving through December 31st

Bellingrath Gardens and Home is open for enchanting evening tours with over 3 million twinkling lights adorning more than 550 holiday displays. *See details about Bellingrath Gardens in attractions section.*

DINNER CRUISES

Southern Belle

Take a pleasant journey down the calm waters of the Fowl River. Enjoy the sounds and sights of osprey, pelicans, blue herons, egrets, seagulls, song birds and migrating species in their natural habitat. Cruises depart from Bellingrath Gardens. Call for reservations and price quote. 251-973-1244. *See details about Alabama Cruises in attractions section.*

Spirit of LaSalle

River cruises along Mobile's waterfront out into Mobile Bay. See activity of one of the gulf coast's major shipping ports and beautiful sunsets on Mobile Bay. Call for reservations and price quote. 906-864-9330. *See details in attractions section.*

UNIQUE DINING VENUE

Kirk House and Gardens

Four acres of heirloom gardens bordered by majestic live oaks and longleaf pines surround this classic Craftsman style home. Group tour and dining by reservation. Call 251-675-4605. *See details in attractions section.*