

#### Country Christmas in Nashville & New Orleans November 6 - November 22, 2024 (17 Days) Tentative Tour Itinerary



Welcome aboard our Country Christmas in Nashville & New Orleans Tour, a celebration of country music, Amish culture, and Christmas in the Ozark & Smoky Mountains! This exciting getaway offers an exciting opportunity to visit the south in style, highlighted by three nights in Nashville and in New Orleans! Along the way, you will enjoy the unique Amish Experience in Pennsylvania as well as a visit to Pigeon Forge and the Dolly Parton Stampede and Dinner Attraction. Our tour also offers a scenic drive through the famed Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Walk in the steps of "The King" at Graceland and take in an evening of entertainment at the historic Grand Ole Opry in Nashville's bustling downtown. Our Marriott Hotel in New Orleans offers walking access to the colourful and exciting French Quarter. Delicious

meals, city-centre, premium accommodations, and exciting inclusions make this itinerary one of our great annual tours. After a review of the following itinerary, I am sure you will agree that Collins Tours has arranged another splendid adventure! Your tour manager looks forward to creating a fun, well organized and educational tour to make this the trip of a lifetime!

-Sincerely, Greg Collins - President & CEO

### Day 1: Wednesday, Nov 6 - South Portland, ME

• Your exciting Country Christmas Tour begins this morning! Meet the main coach or shuttle at your designated pick-up point (see table below).

#### Nova Scotia Clients:

- Halifax Sobey's-Lacewood Drive- TBA
- Dartmouth Crossing-Hampton Inn- TBA
- Halifax Airport-Quality Inn- TBA
- Truro Heights Irving Big Stop TBA

#### **Prince Edward Island Clients:**

Charlottetown Mall, near Superstore entrance - TBA

- Seat rotation will be followed during this tour. Details surrounding this policy are outlined on our company website and will be explained by your Tour Managers after everyone has boarded the coach.
- All pick-up/drop off will be brief (10-15 min.) so we ask that you remain on the coach unless the stop is a scheduled coffee break or lunch stop. Your Tour Managers will clarify this during the tour.
- Your drive today will include several coffee breaks and an hour stop for lunch (your expense).
- It's then time for our scheduled inspection with U.S. Customs & Immigration. Please review the **"Important Details"** section of this itinerary (last page) for facts concerning required identification, travelling with prescription medication, and our policies outlining your responsibilities at border crossings.

#### **New Brunswick Clients:**

- Moncton Magnetic Hill McDonalds TBA
- Fredericton Lincoln Big Stop TBA
- Saint John Route 1 Irving TBA
- Aulac Big Stop Irving 20 min rest stop TBA

- We then make our way to Portland with a rest stop along the way, estimating a 5:30 p.m. arrival at the hotel. For those who are interested, we can arrange a drop off at the Maine Mall for some shopping and perhaps dinner with pickup arranged for 7pm).
- Relax while your tour manager checks the group in, hands out your room key cards, has your bag sent to your room, all part of the Collins Tours signature group tour check in service offered each night of this tour (bag handling fee is covered for **one bag per person**).
- Our hotel features a market fresh Bistro featuring a variety of dinner and cocktail options in the evening or you may decide to order in or go out to one of the dining options available in the area. (On own at your expense)
- Dinner this evening is on your own and at your expense.

## Day 2: Thursday, Nov 7 – South Portland, ME – Hampton Inn, Lancaster, PA (B, Welcome D)

- A Full American Breakfast is set for you this morning in the hotel.
- Today we depart the hotel following breakfast, heading towards Lancaster.
- We will have a mid-morning break for coffee and snacks, followed by an hour stop for lunch with our friends at the Blue Colony Diner (**on own**). Be aware this restaurant serves large portions and has a very extensive menu and baked goods counter.
- We arrive at the Hampton Inn late this afternoon where your tour manager will handle check in, distribute rooms keys and have your bag sent to your room.
- Enjoy some time to relax and freshen up before this evening's, "Welcome Dinner." Includes a complimentary glass of wine or beer (meal/beverage/gratuity included).
- Following dinner, the remainder of the evening will be on your own.

### Day 3: Friday, Nov 8 – Lancaster – Springhill Suites, Winchester, VA (B, L)

- Enjoy a complimentary hot breakfast this morning before we depart for Amish Country
- The highlight of the day is our visit this morning to the Amish Experience, Bird-in-Hand P.A., home of the Pennsylvania Dutch aka...Amish Country! Begin your visit with a professionally guided tour of the Amish Farmlands and Historic School and Farmhouse, followed by a delectable lunch (included). During our visit you will



have an opportunity to purchase Amish made goods, jams, preserves, quilts, pillows, throws and many more items.

- Following our amazing experience in Amish Country, we board the coach and continue to the Springhill Suites expecting a late afternoon arrival. Once again, your tour manager will handle check in and distribute your room keys and have your bags delivered to your rooms.
- Dinner and remainder of the evening is on your own.

### Day 4: Saturday, Nov 9 - Winchester, VA to Residence Inn, Pigeon Forge, TN (B)

- Enjoy complimentary breakfast this morning. Board the coach for today's drive to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee! We have planned a lunch stop (not included) as well as multiple rest stops into today's schedule for your comfort and convenience.
- Our Tour Manager will once again take care of the check-in process at the Residence Inn for our group. Our hotel is located within walking distance to many local shops.
- Enjoy a free evening tonight and explore Pigeon Forge on own.

### Day 5: Sunday, Nov 10 - Pigeon Forge (B, L, D)

- Enjoy another hot buffet breakfast, a great way to start your day!
- We will make our way south to the Sugarland Visitor Center, located outside Gatlinburg, TN. Here we welcome our step-on guide as they highlight the history and beauty of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park during our 3-hour guided tour. A tasty, boxed lunch is included during the tour.
- We make our way back to the hotel for some rest before we partake in this evening's group dinner (**Included**).
- Our group will gather in the lobby for our transfer to the wonderful **Dixie Stampede Dinner and Show (included)** featuring many different entertaining acts. Our dinner is a 4-course feast with a Christmas theme, snow falls softly as the breathtaking scenes fill your tidings of good cheer. Enjoy the fun and games. The holiday festivities get playful as Elves from the North Pole and South Pole compete in a friendly rivalry while serving up a festive four-course feast. A definite highlight of the tour!



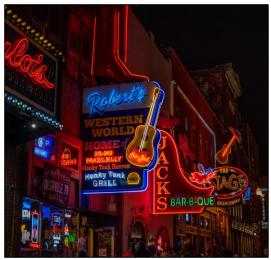
• Meet your tour manager and our coach for your complimentary transfer back to the hotel. The remainder of the evening is at your leisure.

# **Day 6: Monday, Nov 11** – Pigeon Forge – Drury Plaza Hotel Downtown Nashville, TN (B, Kickback Dinner)

- Enjoy a complimentary hot buffet breakfast again this morning.
- We "saddle up" for our ride into Nashville, estimating a late afternoon arrival at Drury Plaza Hotel located in the heart of Nashville! Enjoy the friendly staff, excellent Nashville location with deluxe, all-suite accommodations at this hotel for the next three nights! Enjoy all the amenities this brand-new hotel has to offer.
- Enjoy a kickback dinner at the hotel this evening with hot and cold appetizers and alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks included!!
- Rest of evening on own.

### Day 7: Tuesday, Nov 12 - Nashville, TN (B, Kickback Dinner)

- Enjoy another complimentary hot breakfast before departing for a 2.5-hr guided tour of Nashville. Tour highlights include The Parthenon, the State Capitol, Bicentennial Mall, Historic downtown Nashville, and both Honky Tonk and Music Row!
- Next, stop at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. Enjoy your self-guided tour exploring the fascinating exhibits in both these world-famous venues (Admission included).
- Lunch today will be on your own. The museum café offers some great meal options but feel free to enjoy a bite to eat at any of the excellent eateries in this area (your expense).
- Meet your tour manager at the designated location (TBA) for your transfer back to the hotel. Enjoy the Drury signature Kickback dinner this evening serving complimentary hot food and cold beverages including beer, wine, mixed drinks, and soft drinks.
- Following dinner, you are free to enjoy your evening your way.



### Day 8: Wednesday, Nov 13 - Nashville, TN (B, L, Kickback Dinner)

- Rise and shine! Your hot breakfast is included again today.
- Today you can cruise aboard the General Jackson Showboat complete with lunch included and a stage set for the popular "Tennessee Legends" Show, an authentic southern experience not to be missed! **(Included)**
- This evening, enjoy your kickback dinner again at your hotel starting at 5:30 pm with complimentary food, wine, and beer! Or you are free to enjoy any of the wonderful options located within walking distance from your hotel (not included).
- Celebrate more than 90 years of the Grand Ole Opry during our live show known for showcasing Nashville's up and coming stars (Included in tour price with return transportation).

#### Day 9: Thursday, Nov 14 - Nashville, TN - Springhill Suites, Memphis, TN (B)

- Enjoy your hot breakfast included before checking out of the hotel as we set our sights further south to Memphis.
- We will include a rest stop (**your expense**) before arriving at the Graceland Visitors center and Museum in Memphis where you will have time for lunch on own. Following lunch, we will gather in the theatre for a brief video presentation and then onto the mansion "Graceland", the former home of **Elvis Presley**, for our self guided tour!





• Next stop is downtown Memphis, and the Springhill Suites just a few blocks away from Beale Street, our home for the night. **Beale Street** is a street in Downtown Memphis, Tennessee, which runs from the Mississippi River to East Street, a distance approximately 1.8 miles (2.9 km). It is a significant location in the city's history as the main entertainment district for the city's African American population in the early part of the twentieth century, and a place closely associated with the development of the Blues. Today, the Blues clubs and restaurants

that line Beale Street are major tourist attractions in Memphis.

• After some time to relax, you can eat inside the hotel's restaurant or head out to hit Beale Street and some of the nightlife in Memphis as dinner is on your own this evening.

#### Day 10: Friday, Nov 15 - Memphis - New Orleans Marriott, New Orleans, LA (B)

- Enjoy hot buffet breakfast again before our morning departure and guided tour of Memphis. Hear from our local guide about the unique history of Memphis before we drive south to New Orleans and check into the stunning New Orleans Marriott nestled between the French Quarter and the Warehouse District.
- Welcome to "The Big Easy". This one-of-a-kind city has a mix of cultures that made it the relaxed yet fast-paced city we know and love today.
- We will arrive at the Courtyard Marriott New Orleans late this afternoon and your tour manager will handle your check-in. The 4-star Courtyard Marriott will be your home for the next 3 nights and is nestled between the French Quarter and the Warehouse District, is a short walk to Jackson Square, the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, Harrah's Casino and offers views of the Mississippi River and downtown New Orleans.
- Dinner is on your own this evening with plenty of options within walking distance from our downtown hotel.

Tentative Tour Itinerary – 2024 Country Christmas in Nashville & New Orleans

### Day 11: Saturday, Nov 16 – New Orleans, LA (B, Group D)

- Enjoy your breakfast included again this morning before welcoming our local guide to show us and tell us about this world-class destination.
- Today enjoy your included half day tour ending around 1:00 pm of New Orleans and local area. This indepth tour will explain some of the history and culture of the Big Easy and how it came to be a world-renowned destination! Enjoy free time this afternoon, giving you time to freshen up before joining your Tour Manager and fellow travellers for another delicious group dinner **(Included)** at an upscale restaurant located near our hotel.

### Day 12: Sunday, Nov 17 – New Orleans, LA (B) \*\*Optional Excursion – TBA

- Breakfast is included again this morning.
- You can treat today as a free day and choose to take in the city on your schedule near the hotel, or you can opt to join our optional excursions today giving you that authentic Louisianna experience!
- You have an opportunity to join us for an "Optional" Covered Pontoon Boat Swamp Tour for a late morning drive to the city's outskirts where you will see the bayou up close with its wildlife at a safe distance away. (Pricing TBA).
- We highly recommend the excursion to experience New Orleans to the fullest!



# Day 13: Monday, Nov 18 – New Orleans, LA – Drury Inn & Suites, Marietta, GA (B, Kickback Dinner)

- Enjoy a complimentary breakfast again at your hotel before our morning departure to Marietta, GA.
- This morning, we depart for the Drury Inn & Suites in Marietta, Georgia. Multiple rest stops and a lunch stop have been built into today's schedule.
- Allow your tour manager to check you into the Drury Inn & Suites, distribute keys and have your luggage taken to your rooms.
- At 5:30 pm, enjoy "Kickback Hour" at our hotel with hot and cold appetizers, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks which are included for you to enjoy!
- The remainder of the evening is on your own.

# **Day 14: Tuesday, Nov 19** – Marietta, GA – Drury Plaza Hotel, Richmond, VA (B, Kickback Dinner)

- Another hot buffet breakfast is included again this morning.
- This morning, we depart for Drury Plaza Hotel in Richmond, Virginia. Once again, multiple rest stops as well as a lunch stop have been built into today's schedule.
- Allow your tour manager to check you into the Drury Plaza Hotel and once again handle the Collins Tours Signature check-in, distribute keys and have your luggage sent to your rooms.
- At 5:30 pm, enjoy "Kickback Hour" at our hotel with hot and cold appetizers, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks which are included for you to enjoy!



Tentative Tour Itinerary – 2024 Country Christmas in Nashville & New Orleans

## Day 15: Wednesday Nov 20 – Richmond, VA – Hampton Inn & Suites, East Hartford, CT (B)

- Enjoy a complimentary hot breakfast at our hotel this morning.
- We depart for Connecticut this morning making today one of the longer days for the return. Multiple rest stops and lunch scheduled for your comfort.
- Tonight, we will check into the hotel, the Hampton Inn, East Hartford, early evening. Your tour manager will handle the check-in process and have your luggage sent to your rooms.
- Dinner and the remainder of this evening is on your own.

# Day 16: Thursday, Nov 21 – East Hartford – Hampton Inn, Augusta, ME (B, Farewell D)

- Another hot buffet breakfast is included this morning.
- This morning, we will depart for the Hampton Inn in Augusta, Maine. Once again, rest stops and a lunch with free time to shop and explore in Freeport Maine will be on the agenda today. A great time to take advantage of some last minute Christmas Specials before returning home.
- Allow your tour manager to check you into the hotel at the Hampton Inn, distribute keys and have your luggage sent to your rooms.
- We will gather this evening for one last meal to share tales of our fantastic journey together. Includes a complimentary glass of wine or beer **(meal/beverage/gratuity included).** Dine with your new friends and relive some of the wonderful experiences you have shared together before the final leg of our adventure tomorrow.

### Day 17: Friday, Nov 22 – Augusta, ME – Home (B)

- Hot buffet breakfast this morning at your hotel before we travel towards New Brunswick.
- We have a brief stop at Duty-Free store before our appointment with Canadian Customs. Please remember that your duty-free allowance for this trip is \$800 per person.
- All passengers then will be returned to their original pick-up point.
- After crossing back into Canada, we will make our way to a convenient location for an hour lunch break. **Don't** forget to return the time on your watches to Atlantic Standard Time.

#### Nova Scotia Clients:

- Truro Heights Irving Big Stop TBA
- Halifax Airport, Quality Inn TBA
- Dartmouth Crossing, Hampton Inn TBA
- Halifax, Sobey's Lacewood Dr TBA
- Truro Heights Irving Big Stop TBA

## Prince Edward Island Clients:

• Charlottetown Mall, near Superstore entrance - TBA

#### New Brunswick Clients: • Lincoln Irving Big Stop – TBA

- Saint John Route 1 Irving TBA
- Moncton Magnetic Hill McDonalds TBA
- Aulac Big Stop TBA 25 min rest stop.

#### **Hotel Contact Information:**

November 6 – Courtyard Marriott, 100 Southborough Drive, South Portland, ME	Ph: (207) 253-5005
November 7 – Hampton Inn, 545 Greenfield Road, Lancaster, PA	Ph: (717) 299-1200
November 8 – The SpringHill Suites Winchester, 280 Market Street, Winchester, VA	Ph: (540) 431-3330
November 9 & 10 – Residence Inn by Marriott, 2959 Teaster Lane, Pigeon Forge, TN	Ph: (865) 277-0411
November 11, 12 & 13 – Drury Plaza Hotel, 300 Korean Veteran's Blvd, Nashville, TN	Ph: (615) 259-7881
November 14 – Springhill Suites, 85 Court Ave, Memphis, TN	Ph: (901) 522-2100

#### Tentative Tour Itinerary - 2024 Country Christmas in Nashville & New Orleans

- November 15, 16 & 17 New Orleans Marriott, 555 Canal St, New Orleans, LA
- November 18 Drury Inn & Suites, 1170 Powers Ferry Place, Marietta, GA
- November 19 Drury Plaza Hotel, 11049 W. Broad Street, Glen Allen, VA
- November 20 Hampton Inn & Suites 351 Pitkin Street, East Hartford, CT
- November 21 Hampton Inn 388 Western Ave, Augusta, ME

Ph: (504) 581-1000 Ph: (770) 612-0900 Ph: (804) 354-1542 Ph: (860) 282-2500 Ph: (207) 622-4077

#### **Important Information**

- \*Tour itineraries are a guideline and may need to be adjusted by CTC or your tour manager and are impacted by unforeseen factors such as weather, traffic, changes to concert or sporting event times, emergencies and/or an act of God. Collins Tours is not responsible for any refunds, reimbursements, credits, or liable for any changes in itineraries, modifications, or lost time in any area due to unforeseen events described above or similar circumstances not described above that may or may not cause similar outcomes or delays, changes, or cancellations of events.
- \*\*U.S. Customs and Immigration All people must present a valid passport to enter the country. The U.S. has the right to refuse entry to anyone with a past record. Please check with them to clarify your status BEFORE departing. Collins Tours is not responsible for decisions by U.S. Customs & Immigration; Collins Tours is not responsible for any expenses associated with being denied entry at the border, not responsible for any return transportation costs, or losses of tour due to the above or any similar occurrences not described above, with similar outcomes. It is the individual's responsibility for these costs if any are incurred.
- Crossing the border with Prescription Medication: All prescription medication needs to be clearly labeled for Customs Immigration to clear it.
- Duty Free Rules allow you to claim \$800pp when you are out of the country for at least 48 hours.
- Please remove all personal belongings when departing the bus.
- Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd is not responsible for any delays of transportation, schedule changes, acts of God, mechanical issues, any emergencies, or any missed connections due from any such events described above or unforeseen circumstances arising not described above, yet that may cause similar outcomes or delays. Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd is not responsible for providing additional transportations costs, if necessary, reimbursements of any kind or credits, for these potential or actual additional expenses, loss of use, loss of hotel nights, meals, transportation arrangements, or any portion of your planned vacation you have that may or may not be missed. These costs, if any, will be paid directly by the traveler and submitted through the appropriate person's travel insurance for reimbursement of expenses. Please contact our office if you need assistance with all-inclusive medical insurance, trip cancellation and interruption coverage, or quarantine insurance. Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd does not anticipate any such concerns or events and only wishes for everyone to ensure proper travel insurance has been purchased in advance.
- REMEMBER: Your Collins Tours & Consulting tour manager handles your bags, check in/checkout, overall group management (e.g. timely transitions, itinerary development) & represents the group during Customs & Immigrations. All this to ensure you enjoy your experience to the fullest! Gratuities for your Tour Manager & Driver are **NOT** included in the tour price. Here are guidelines on *Tipping Etiquette*:
  - Collins Tours Manager Ranging from \$7.00 \$9.00 per person, per day.
  - ▶ Bus driver-\$5.00 \$7.00 per person, per day.
  - > Private city tour guides- \$5.00 per person, per day.



Thank you for choosing to travel with Collins Tours. We look forward to assisting you with all your future travel needs!