



Hot Springs & Little Rock in Bloom

Featuring a guided tour & lunch at P. Allen Smith's Moss Mountain, dinner at the beautifully decorated Edgemont House and accommodations at downtown hotels

May 10 - 13, 2022

Tuesday, May 10

Depart early from Waterloo, IL and Columbia, IL as we head south for some spring fever fun! The trees should be blossoming as we traverse towards our destination, [Hot Springs, Arkansas](#). Our accommodations will be in the heart of Hot Springs for two nights at [The Waters Hotel](#), a new boutique hotel with state of the art amenities. Located in the heart of Hot Springs, you will enjoy all that the National Park has to offer. Tonight we enjoy dinner together at a local favorite. (D)



Wednesday, May 11

After breakfast at the hotel we meet up with the National Park Ranger for [Hot Springs National Park](#) and venture up to West Mountain. Enjoy breathtaking views of the [Ouachita Mountains](#), America's only East to West mountain range. Back in town we will visit the [Fordyce Bath House](#) and learn what all the rage in health and science was about concerning the areas natural hot mineral springs. Health enthusiasts were not the only visitor's to Hot Springs, so was Al Capone. Many underground casinos operated rather openly in this Arkansas town. Hear the stories of what it was like to visit here in the 20s and 30s.



Enjoy lunch on your own this afternoon before we make our way to the beautiful [Garvan Woodland Gardens](#). Enjoy a tour of this lovely area and enjoy all that the Natural State has to offer. On our return, you may want make your way to a bath house for the real experience or just enjoy downtown. Tonight we enjoy dinner on our own at a choice of restaurants in town. Note: If *Devine's Downtown* is operating, an optional tour for the Bathhouse Dinner Theatre will be offered. (B)

Thursday, May 12

After breakfast we depart our hotel for one of the most seen and talked about gardens in America, those of [Mr. P. Allen Smith](#) at [Moss Mountain Farm](#). Our visit will include 2 miles of walking over a three hour period with: A guided tour of three levels of Allen's Jefferson-inspired Arkansas Farm home, a guided exploration of Allen's terraced gardens overlooking the Arkansas River, the English rose garden, and his ornamental one-acre vegetable garden, a guided tour of Poultryville where you may see your favorite animals from Allen's television show — Trudy, Moose, Smudge & Squeak and Amos, just to name a few. We savor a recipe from [Seasonal Recipes from the Garden](#) including a homemade dessert. Touring the grounds will be comprised of up to 2 miles of walking. Wear comfortable walking shoes. There is a lot of walking, but you can do as much or as little as you want.



We then head into downtown [Little Rock](#) for a tour of [Heifer International](#) headquarters. What is Heifer? In 1944, Dan West began outlining a simple but groundbreaking plan to tackle hunger around the world. West, a farmer from the Midwest and Church of the Brethren member, had recently returned from feeding weary refugees during volunteer service in the Spanish Civil War. He'd seen firsthand that giving people food was a short-term solution, whereas providing them with animals offered a steady supply of nutritious food for an entire family. These days, Heifer International generally provides animals to participating families through local channels in the countries we

serve. But early on, the organization shipped livestock from the United States to other countries.



We will check into the downtown Hampton Inn then refresh before visiting Chris Olsen at [The Edgemont House](#)! Chris is the owner of [Botanica Gardens](#), [Plantopia Home & Gardens](#) and his beautiful home that we will be welcomed into for dinner. We will enjoy a "sit where you like" buffet so everyone in the group is able to enjoy their experience as well the beauty of Chris' home, which will be amazingly decorated for the spring season. Want a souvenir? Purchase The Edgemont House candles or his book: *Once & Again; The Revival of The Edgemont House* for yourself or for a gift. (B, L, D)

Friday, May 13

After breakfast this morning we visit the [William J. Clinton Presidential Museum & Library](#), just up the street from our hotel. A volunteer guide will greet us and take you through the highlights. If you wish to explore on your own, you are welcome to do that. And if you have already visited the museum, there is plenty to walk around and see in [downtown Little Rock](#). The choice is yours and it's all aboard at lunch time to depart for home. We will make a stop along the way and return home later this evening. (B)

Please Note: Each day of this tour involves "3 Sneaker" walking (Steady pace, 1-2 flights of stairs, some inclines) on garden paths, city sidewalks and uneven surfaces. As always you can walk or rest as much as you want, but please be aware of your ability to walk "3 sneakers" for 3 consecutive days.

Double Occupancy—\$1,035 Single Occupancy—\$1,356 Triple Occupancy - \$926 Quad Occupancy—\$872

Tour price includes:

- Luxury Motorcoach Transportation
- Hotels in BOTH downtown districts, not out by the airport
- Meals: 5 Meals (3 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 2 Dinners)
- City Tour of Hot Springs
- Lunch at Moss Mountain – P. Allen Smith's Garden
- Dinner in the private home of Chris Olsen – The Edgemont House
- Dinner Show at the Bathhouse Theatre – Optional if available
- Round-Trip Luggage Handling
- All gratuities to Driver, Guides, Bellmen and wait staff
- Safe Endeavor Travel Insurance (no preexisting waiver, however 60 day look back). "Cancel for Any Reason" policy available for an additional fee
- Bank Travel Club Leader to attend to your needs and have fun!

Tour Price represents cost with a trip protection. For options such as a pre-existing condition waiver or Cancel For Any Reason coverage, please provide all travelers dates of birth and request an individual quote."

\$250 deposit per person (check or authorize a debit from an FNB account) and Booking Form are required to secure your reservation. Once this tour fills, a wait list will be formed. Please include any dietary, walking restrictions & accommodation requests. **Balance is due March 15, 2022** and no refunds will be given after that time. If you need to cancel for a covered reason after March 15, 2022, you may file a claim with proper documentation to request refund.



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