

Be part of John Howie's and Travelrite's outstanding 2019

# HIGHWAY 61 Blues Music Tour of America

with **Jules Boulton**

Take a journey with us from New Orleans to Chicago and beyond. As we head out on Highway 61, which generally follows the course of the Mississippi River, you will follow the historic migration of blues music, visiting iconic destinations like: New Orleans, Natchez, Indianola, Memphis, Nashville, Louisville and Chicago.

24 May – 12 June, 2019

.....  
Including  
2019  
**Chicago**  
Blues Music  
Festival  
.....



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# HIGHWAY 61 Blues Music Tour of America

The 2019 Highway 61 Blues Music Tour of America will be a memorable experience. Visit historic towns and regions. Enjoy outstanding musical performances, delicious local food and delicacies, & stay in heritage hotels. Visit Blues and Jazz museums and soak up the musical heritage as we follow the Mississippi River from New Orleans to Chicago via Highway 61. The tour concludes with 3 days & nights at the outstanding Chicago Blues Festival.

## Itinerary

### Day 1 Friday 24 May 2019

#### Los Angeles

Depart Australia on our flight to Los Angeles. Arrive same day (we cross international dateline). **Morning:** Enjoy a sightseeing coach tour of LA. **Afternoon:** Spend some time in the beachside suburbs of Santa Monica and bohemian Venice Beach before checking in to our hotel, in LA's Marina Del Rey district. **Overnight:** Marina Del Rey Hotel.

### Day 2 Saturday 25 May 2019

#### New Orleans

**Morning:** Depart LA, on our flight to New Orleans – the Crescent City! **Afternoon:** Check in to our hotel, right in the heart of New Orleans' historic French Quarter. **Evening:** Explore the French Quarter, including colourful Bourbon Street. The French Quarter has many interesting blues and jazz venues, including Preservation Hall, the Funky Pirate Blues Club, and Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop Piano Bar. **Overnight:** Wyndham Hotel French Quarter. (B)

### Day 3 Sunday 26 May 2019

#### New Orleans

**Morning:** Enjoy sightseeing coach tour of New Orleans, with local guide. Visit an above ground cemetery; see the mansions along St. Charles Avenue; see areas ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. Late morning: Our coach drops the tour group off near the Jackson Square precinct. You are free to have lunch and explore the surrounding area, featuring buskers, bars, cafes and The French Market. **Afternoon:** Enjoy a fabulous cruise and live music aboard a majestic Mississippi paddle wheeler or attend the Tremé Cultural Festival (both optional, though the Tremé festival is mostly a free event). **Evening:** Enjoy a creole group dinner. After dinner we visit the Frenchmen Street precinct, on the edge of the French Quarter. You'll hear some excellent music in this area, at venues like The Blue Nile, The Spotted Cat, and Snug Harbor Jazz Club. (B,D)

### Day 4 Monday 27 May 2019

#### New Orleans

**Morning:** Visit the beautiful Louisiana swamp country. Enjoy a swamp tour, by boat. See amazing wildlife (alligators and birdlife) and distinctive swamp vegetation. **Afternoon:** On our return to New Orleans you will be free to have lunch and explore the fabulous antique shops, art galleries, museums, restaurants, & bars, and see the colourful street performers of the French Quarter. **Evening:** Visit The Bombay Club, an upscale bar and restaurant, for a pre-dinner performance featuring Jules with The New Orleans Redeemers. You can then stay on at the Bombay for dinner (optional), or visit other iconic music venues in the French Quarter, such as Fritzel's Jazz Club. (B)

### Day 5 Tuesday 28 May, 2019

#### Natchez

**Morning:** Depart New Orleans and drive to Baton Rouge, the capital of Louisiana. Morning tea at the State Welcome Centre. Then continue north, on Highway 61, to the historic town of Natchez, Mississippi, stopping at Frogmore Cotton Plantation, where you will be taken on a guided delta music and heritage tour. Learn about life, back when the blues was born. **Afternoon:** Check in to our hotel, on the banks of the Mississippi. Then, you may wish to explore one of Natchez's nearby antebellum mansions (optional). **Evening:** Enjoy local cuisine and be entertained by Jules, at a local juke joint. Later on you may wish to visit the Under the Hill Saloon, an historic riverfront bar on the banks of the Mississippi. **Overnight:** Natchez Grand Hotel. (B,D)

### Day 6 Wednesday 29 May 2019

#### Indianola

**Morning:** Depart Natchez and continue along Highway 61, enjoying the fabulous Mississippi delta scenery that inspired more writers and musicians, per capita, than anywhere else in the US in the early 20th century. Stop in the city of Vicksburg, Mississippi, and visit the Vicksburg National Military Park (Vicksburg was the site of the Battle of Vicksburg, Civil War, 1863). **Afternoon:** Proceed to the small city of Indianola, Mississippi, where we visit the B.B. King Museum before checking in to our hotel. **Evening:** Visit historic Club Ebony, where Ray Charles, Count Basie, B.B. King, Bobby Bland, & many other legendary acts performed, or visit the Walnut Street Blues Bar for some authentic delta blues music (both optional). **Overnight:** Hampton Inn by Hilton. (B)



### Day 7 Thursday 30 May, 2019

#### Memphis

**Morning:** Travel to Clarksdale, Mississippi. On arrival, visit the Devil's Crossroads, at the intersection of highways 49 & 61, the place where bluesman Robert Johnson sold his soul in exchange for the guitar prowess that made him one of the most revered blues musicians of the past century. Feel free to make a deal of your own, as you stand at one of the most legendary locations in blues folklore! We then visit Clarksdale's excellent Delta Blues Museum and visit Ground Zero Blues Club, for lunch. **Afternoon:** Continue on Highway 61 to Memphis, Tennessee – home of the blues and the birthplace of rock 'n' roll. **Evening:** Enjoy a group dinner at a top Memphis restaurant. After dinner spend a fabulous evening in colourful Beale Street, famous for its live blues music venues, including B.B. King's, the Rum Boogie Café, and the Blues City Band Box (all optional). **Overnight:** Holiday Inn Memphis – Downtown. (B,D)

### Day 8 Friday 31 May, 2019

#### Memphis

**Morning:** Visit the excellent Stax Museum of American Soul Music, which tells the story of soul music, particularly the important role played by Memphis and Stax Records. **Afternoon:** Visit Graceland, Elvis Presley's famous mansion. Our tickets allow admission to the mansion, his automobiles, his wardrobe, his gold records and much more. **Evening:** Enjoy dinner at the sumptuous Peabody or the excellent restaurant in our hotel. After dinner enjoy the general sights & sounds of Memphis or visit one of Jules' favourite late night blues venues (All optional). (B)

### Day 9 Saturday 1 June, 2019

#### Memphis

**Morning:** Enjoy a guided tour of Sun Studio (famous 1950s recording studio, where Howlin' Wolf, Elvis, Johnny Cash, and others recorded). Then visit Memphis's historic Cooper Young district for lunch. **Afternoon:** Visit the National Civil Rights Museum – the motel (now museum) where Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. **Evening:** Dinner in downtown Memphis, followed by a return to the live music venues in Beale Street or further afield (optional). (B)

### Day 10 Sunday 2 June, 2019

#### Nashville

**Morning:** Before leaving Memphis, attend Al Green's colourful Full Gospel Tabernacle Church service, including amazing live gospel music. **Afternoon:** Travel to Nashville, Tennessee... Music City USA! Stay in and around our fabulous hotel, in the trendy and laidback Vanderbilt area; there are many options here for food and entertainment, including maybe a jam at a local honky tonk. Alternatively, you may like to make your way downtown, to the 'Broadway District' (about 1½ kms away; our hotel provides a free shuttle bus), where there are lots of country music 'honky tonks' and some blues music venues. **Overnight:** Embassy Suites Hotel. (B)

### Day 11 Monday 3 June, 2019

#### Nashville

**Morning:** Shake a leg: you're off to work at one of Nashville's professional recording studios! Join Jules in the studio to record and produce a song. We're calling ourselves 'The Nashville Redeemers'! You are invited to join in and see how it all happens behind the red light! **Afternoon:** Visit the excellent Opry Mills Shopping Mall, for lunch & shopping. Then visit the nearby Opryland Hotel. This amazing, opulent hotel features 9 acres of beautiful indoor gardens. Travel back to Nashville and the downtown district where you may wish to visit some more Honky Tonks, the magnificent Country Music Hall of Fame or the Ryman Auditorium (home to the original Opry) (all optional). **Evening:** Enjoy group dinner at our hotel then visit downtown's famous Printers Alley nightclub district before convening for some high class blues music at The Bourbon Street Blues and Boogie Bar. The name says it all! (B,D).





## Jules Boulton

Jules Boulton is the celebrity host of the 2019 Highway 61 Blues Tour of America.

He is an award winning singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and recording artist. Jules' musical career has taken him across Australia, the United States and Europe.

Since 2011 he has released five albums to critical acclaim and been awarded a coveted Australian Blues Music Award. In 2015, 2016 and 2017 Jules toured the US, from New Orleans to New York via the Mississippi delta, performing & recording with various musicians including Kermit Ruffins, Mississippi John Horton, and The Oakridge Boys. Jules' music, and effortless performance style, are true to the blues tradition.

"I recently saw Jules at an intimate venue, where his superior musicianship, engaging personality and craftsman like songs won over a packed house. Loved the humanity in his lyrics and the respect he has for the blues idiom".

**Billy Pinnell – Australian Radio Personality**

### Day 12 Tuesday 4 June, 2019

#### Nashville

**Morning and afternoon:** Free time to explore the many sights and sounds of Nashville including the Johnny Cash Museum, the legendary RCA Studio B recording studio or the Gulch arts precinct. Alternatively make a visit to the Docks area and see the Nashville river life, take a river cruise or visit the riverside parklands. **Evening:** Attend a show at the Grand Ole Opry (everything today, day & evening, optional). (B)

### Day 13 Wednesday 5 June, 2019

#### Louisville

**Morning:** We will travel to Louisville, Kentucky, famous for sporting legend Muhammad Ali, Bourbon and The Kentucky Derby. En-route we will visit the National Corvette Museum and Café in Bowling Green KY and historic Bardstown, located in the heart of Kentucky's Bourbon Country and one of the most beautiful small towns in America. We will enjoy a distillery tour and tastings on offer. **Afternoon:** Check in to our refined lodgings in downtown Louisville. **Evening:** : Enjoy dinner in the 'precinct', then visit Stevie Ray's Blues Bar for a great night of blues music or explore the famous Fourth Street Live precinct, with its many bars and entertainment venues (all optional). (B)

### Day 14 Thursday 6 June, 2019

#### Chicago

**Morning:** Head out to Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby. Visit the excellent Kentucky Derby Museum. **Afternoon:** Sit back and enjoy the scenery as we continue our journey north to Chicago! **Evening:** Enjoy a final group dinner at a local restaurant. Later, we head over to Buddy Guy's Legends blues club and a sensational night of blues music (optional). **Overnight:** Hampton Inn Majestic, adjacent to the home of the Chicago Blues Festival, Chicago. (B,D).

### Day 15 Friday 7 June 2019

#### Chicago

**Morning:** Sightseeing coach tour of Chicago, with local guide. Travel along the Magnificent Mile – part of Michigan Avenue where exclusive shops line the wide

boulevard. Also see the impressive Fourth Presbyterian Church, built in Gothic Revival style, and the John Hancock Centre (100 stories high). Today we attend the world's biggest blues festival in downtown Chicago! **Afternoon:** you will be entertained by the best blues artists from around Chicago. Grab your festival program, camera and dancing shoes... this will be a wonderful experience! **Evening:** Enjoy more free time at the Chicago Blues festival. (B)

### Day 16 Saturday 8 June 2019

#### Chicago

Today is the second day of the Chicago Blues Festival. Another opportunity for you to explore the many stages and stalls in search of your favourite flavour of blues, food and good times! (food is optional). All day and night you will be entertained by the best artists from around Chicago! Our hotel is about 5 minutes' walk from the Blues Festival at Millennium Park, so please feel free to come and go. (B)

### Day 17 Sunday 9 June 2019

#### Chicago

Today is the third day of the Chicago Blues Festival and a wonderful opportunity to immerse yourself in the finale of the blues festival. The biggest names in blues music perform on the last night of the festival. They may include Gary Clark Jr., Rick Estrin & The Nightcats and Lynne Jordan. Check your program, choose your stage and get down for the finale of the festival. (B)

### Day 18 Monday 10 June 2019

#### Departure

**Morning:** Free time for shopping and packing. **Afternoon:** Travel to Chicago airport. Commence flights back to Australia, via Los Angeles. Those doing New York Extension Tour fly on to New York. (B)

### DAY 19 Tuesday 11 June 2019

#### In flight

### DAY 20 Wednesday 12 June 2019

#### Arrive Australia

Arrive back in Australia and the tour concludes.



## New York Extension Tour

### DAY 1 Monday 10 June 2019

#### New York

**Morning:** Today we fly to New York, arriving in the afternoon. **Evening:** Attend Jim Caruso's Cast Party. This is a wildly popular weekly soiree that brings a sprinkling of Broadway glitz and urbane wit to the legendary Birdland jazz club. It's a cool cabaret night out, enlivened by a hilariously impromptu variety show. **Overnight:** Hotel Edison New York. (B)

### DAY 2 Tuesday 11 June 2019

#### New York

**Morning:** Enjoy a sightseeing coach tour of New York with local guide. Visit the Midtown area, Central Park, Harlem, Wall Street financial district, and Ground Zero (World Trade Centre Site). **Afternoon:** Free time. You may wish to visit the Empire State Building (optional). Observatories on the 86th & 102nd floors offer spectacular views of New York. Alternatively, you may like to go shopping. New York is a shoppers' paradise; in addition to famous department stores, like Macy's, Bloomingdale's, and Saks Fifth Avenue, the Big Apple has every kind of shopping experience you could imagine. **Evening:** Attend a Broadway musical, theatre production or blues club of your choice. (Optional) (B)

### DAY 3 Wednesday 12 June 2019

#### New York

**Morning:** Enjoy a cruise on New York Harbor, aboard the famous Staten Island Ferry. See the Statue of Liberty. Following this you may like to take a walk on the Brooklyn Bridge (great views of the N.Y. skyline from the bridge). **Afternoon:** Free time. **Evening:** Visit Manhattan's Greenwich Village area. In the 50s, 60s and 70s musicians such as Bob Dylan, Jimi Hendrix, Peter, Paul & Mary, Joan Baez, and Simon & Garfunkel used to perform in the Village. Today Greenwich Village still has many excellent live music venues. We will have our End-of-Tour Dinner in the Village before taking in some live music at one of the Village's legendary blues venues, e.g., Terra Blues. (Optional) (B,D)

### DAY 4 Thursday 13 June 2019

#### Departure

**Morning:** Free time for shopping and packing. **Mid-Afternoon:** Transfer to airport. Commence return trip to Australia. (B)

### DAY 5 Friday 14 June 2019

#### In flight

### DAY 6 Saturday 15 June 2019

#### Arrive Australia

Arrive back in Australia and the tour concludes.



# HIGHWAY 61 Blues Music Tour of America

24 May – 12 June, 2019



Stephen McCracken Photography

## Included in the tour price:

- Return economy-class airfare to USA (ex Sydney/Melbourne), plus economy class air travel, Los Angeles to New Orleans and Chicago to Los Angeles. (Those going on the New York Extension Tour don't have to pay for Chicago to Los Angeles.)
- 17 nights' accommodation in centrally located first-class and moderate first-class hotels, with private facilities, on twin-share basis. Hotel taxes and service charges.
- Meals as per the itinerary (as indicated by B.L.D., etc.). Breakfast daily; 5 dinners.
- Entry to all sightseeing attractions mentioned in the itinerary, except for those marked 'optional'.
- Admission to all music concerts/events mentioned in the itinerary, except for those marked 'optional'. Chicago Blues Festival is a free event.
- Transport by first-class chartered coaches throughout. All airport/hotel transfers.
- Portage of 1 piece of luggage per person.
- Tour escorted throughout by well-known Australian & International entertainer, Jules Boult.
- Tour managed throughout by professional Travelrite International tour manager.

## Not included in the price:

- Travel insurance.
- All items of personal nature, such as drinks, room service, laundry and phone calls.
- Meals and drinks, unless specified in itinerary. Breakfasts, lunches, dinners, and morning teas that are 'included' are marked B, L, D, and Morning Tea, in the itinerary.
- Entrance to concerts/entertainment events (1) not mentioned in the itinerary, or (2) mentioned in the itinerary, but marked 'optional'.
- Some entertainment venues, in places like Beale Street (Memphis), the District (Nashville), and the French Quarter (New Orleans) have a modest cover charge, but many have free admission.
- International airport and departure taxes above the rate quoted.
- Domestic flight connections to and from departure cities (& arrival cities) in Australia.

**Please Note:** If any of the musical entertainment in the itinerary is unavailable, we will make every effort to replace that entertainment with similar performers/events.

**Extending:** You can stay longer in the USA for minimal extra cost. Please contact 1800 033 436 for more information.



## Tour Price

Per person twin-share	\$ 9750
Air taxes and fuel surcharges at 20/4/18	\$ 210
Total per person twin-share	\$ 9960
Single supplement	\$ 2450

## New York Extension Price

Per person twin-share	\$ 1995
Single supplement	\$ 490

## Included in the New York Extension Tour:

- Economy-class air travel from Chicago to New York, and from New York to Los Angeles.
- 3 nights accommodation in first-class hotel in Manhattan.
- Breakfast daily; 1 dinner.
- Entrance to all sightseeing attractions mentioned in the itinerary, except for those marked 'optional'.
- Admission to Jim Caruso's Cast Party, at Birdland. Note: Tour group members will be required to spend a minimum of \$10 on food or drink at Birdland.
- Sightseeing coach tour of New York, including local guide.
- Cost of New York subway (underground train) tickets, up to US\$15.
- Hotel/airport transfers.
- Extension tour escorted by Jules Boult and managed by Travelrite tour manager.

## General Information and Booking Conditions

International touring can involve a considerable amount of walking and stair climbing in the places visited and it is important that all tour participants have a level of physical fitness that allows them to take part in this activity without the need of assistance from others.

**TOUR OPERATOR:** Travelrite International Pty Ltd. ABN 64 005 817 078 (Travelrite International) is the tour operator.

**TOUR COSTS:** The tour's costs are based on transport, accommodation costs and entrance costs at 15 July 2018. Travelrite reserves the right to alter the costs if any of these factors change including currency changes, giving any passenger that has booked the right to withdraw with full refund of monies paid or modify arrangements. No alterations to costings will be made within 60 days prior to departure.

**DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS:** A deposit of \$500 per passenger is required at the time of booking. Full payment will be required 60 days prior to departure. A 1.5% administration charge will be added to payment by Visa and Mastercard. 3% administration charge will be added for payment by AMEX and Diners Club cards.

**CANCELLATIONS:** Cancellations within 60 days of departure will result in the loss of all monies paid. Cancellation outside 60 days from departure will result in a cancellation fee of \$500 per person. Travel insurance is recommended to cover the costs of cancellation fees due to illness, death in family, etc. Changes to the Tour Itinerary. Travelrite International reserves the right to make changes to the tour itinerary to fit in with operational requirements. Any changes to the itinerary will be replaced with similar arrangements with an equal or greater value.

**MINIMUM TOUR NUMBERS:** The tour has been costed on the basis of a minimum number of passengers having

booked 60 days prior to departure. Travelrite reserves the right to cancel the tour, giving a full refund of all monies paid or offer arrangements to proceed with the tour at a modified cost if the minimum number is not achieved.

**BAGGAGE:** All passengers qualify for 1 piece free baggage allowance.

**REFUNDS:** The tour is based on arrangements which do not allow for any refunds in respect to sightseeing, accommodation, meals or other services not utilised after the tour has commenced.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Travelrite International Pty Ltd. (Licence number 30858) is the tour organiser. Travelrite International acts only as agents in making of arrangements with carriers, hoteliers and others for the tour. As a result we cannot accept liability for any act or omission whatsoever, whether negligent or otherwise of those carriers, hoteliers or other persons providing services in connection with the tour over whom we have no direct or exclusive control. We do not accept responsibility for any injury, damage, loss, delay, change of schedule or any other events which are beyond our direct control, such as, but not limited to, war, flood, fire, civil disturbance, acts of God, acts of government, or any other authorities, terrorism, accidents to or failure of machinery or equipment, or industrial action. The passage contract in use by the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies or firms and the purchasers of these tours and the passengers. Baggage is at own risk throughout the tour. This contract shall be construed in



accordance with the laws of the State of Victoria, Australia and any legal action must be taken in the State of Victoria. **HOW TO BOOK:** Bookings can be made by completing a booking form and sending it with a deposit of \$500 per person to:

**Travelrite International Pty Ltd**  
182 Canterbury Road  
Heathmont, Victoria 3135

Further information can be obtained by telephoning

**Toll Free: 1800 033 436**

**Phone: (03) 9729 8722**

**Fax: (03) 9729 0682**

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**www.travelrite.com.au**

**www.musicstours.com.au**

**ABOUT TRAVELRITE INTERNATIONAL:** Travelrite International Pty Ltd is a well-established travel company which has been operating in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne for more than 30 years. It has two fully accredited IATA and ATAS (No.A10538) offices – Heathmont and Balwyn. As such, it directly represents the major airlines of the world and all major domestic and international tour and transport operators. Travelrite International Pty Ltd is a full member of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents – AFTA.