

Be part of John Howie's and Travelrite's outstanding 2024

Blues Music

★ TOUR OF AMERICA'S DEEP SOUTH ★

with **JULES BOULT**

23 April – 11 May, 2024



Visiting Houston, Lafayette, New Orleans,
Jackson/Canton (Mississippi), Tupelo,
Memphis, Indianola, Shreveport, Dallas
and Austin.

Including the



**New Orleans
Jazz & Heritage
Festival**



TRAVELRITE
INTERNATIONAL

John Howie
**MUSIC TOURS
& CRUISES**

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Take a journey with us as we explore the Blues music world of America's Deep South. Visit historic towns and regions. Enjoy outstanding musical performances, visit Blues and Jazz museums and soak up the musical heritage as we explore the area that gave birth to the blues. A tour highlight is the outstanding New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival (also known as Jazz Fest)



Itinerary

DAY 1 Tuesday 23 April 2024

Houston, Texas

Depart Australia on your flight, arriving Houston same day. Transfer to our hotel after going through customs. *Overnight:* Fairfield Inn & Suites.

DAY 2 Wednesday 24 April 2024 **Lafayette, Western Louisiana**

Morning: Travel to Lafayette, Louisiana. Nearby, visit the charming town of Breaux Bridge, in the heart of western Louisiana's swamp country. Enjoy a swamp tour, by boat. See amazing wildlife (alligators, turtles, birdlife) and distinctive swamp vegetation. *Evening:* Enjoy welcome dinner and live music at a Cajun restaurant/dance hall. Jules Boulton will perform a few songs with the Cajun band, if possible. *Overnight:* Hilton Garden Inn, Lafayette. (B,D)



Doreen Ketchens (the 'Clarinet Queen')

DAY 3 Thursday 25 April 2024

New Orleans, Louisiana

Today we travel to New Orleans. *Morning:* Enjoy guided tour of antebellum homestead, Laura Plantation, including original slave quarters. *Afternoon:* Sightseeing coach tour of New Orleans with local guide. Visit an above ground cemetery, see the mansions on St Charles Ave., and visit areas ravaged by Hurricane Katrina (2005). *Evening:* Explore the French Quarter, including Bourbon Street. Or you may like to enjoy a dinner/jazz cruise on a Mississippi paddle wheeler (optional). *Overnight:* Wyndham Hotel French Quarter. (B)

DAY 4 Friday 26 April 2024

New Orleans

Today attend the famous New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival ('Jazz Fest'). You'll be entertained by some of the biggest names in blues, jazz, rock, and funk music from around the world. Each day's program commences at 11am and finishes at 7pm. *Evening:* Free time to further explore the French Quarter's outstanding music venues, e.g., Preservation Hall and Fritzel's European Jazz Bar (both optional). (B)

DAY 5 Saturday 27 April 2024

New Orleans

Our 2nd day at Jazz Fest. Grab your festival program, camera and dancing shoes....another opportunity to explore the many stages, stalls and unique culture on offer. You will be entertained by the biggest names in blues, jazz, soul, zydeco, etc. *Evening:* Free time to further explore the French Quarter and the Frenchmen Street area (on the edge of the French Quarter), with excellent music venues like the Apple Barrel, Snug Harbor, and The Spotted Cat. (B)

DAY 6 Sunday 28 April 2024

New Orleans

Today is our final day at Jazz Fest. With 13 stages of soul-stirring music – jazz, gospel, Cajun, blues, R and B, rock, funk, African, Latin, Caribbean, folk, and much more – Jazz Fest is an outstanding festival. *Evening:* Further free time. There will be many impromptu late night after-party performances in the French Quarter/Frenchmen St. precincts. (B)

DAY 7 Monday 29 April 2024

Jackson/Canton, Mississippi

Travel to Jackson, Mississippi, in the heart of the historic Delta Blues region. *Afternoon:* Coach tour of the city. See Jackson's impressive State Capitol building. Visit the Smith Robertson Museum, which chronicles the everyday lives of black people living in the South during the late 1800s/early 1900s. Then travel north to the Benton Blue Front Café, an historic old juke joint. Enjoy our own informal blues jam session, with some local blues musicians joining us. *Evening:* Stay in Canton, Mississippi. *Overnight:* Hampton Inn Canton. (B)

DAY 8 Tuesday 30 April 2024

Tupelo, Mississippi

Travel to Tupelo, birthplace of Elvis Presley. Before departing Canton visit the town square, with many historic buildings including an impressive Court House. Also visit Canton's historic Hickory Hollow precinct. 'The Hollow' was a hub of social life, commerce, and entertainment for Central Mississippi's black community for several decades. Blues musicians including Elmore James, B.B. King, and Howlin' Wolf appeared at venues like Bessie's Hideaway, on Hickory Street. *Afternoon:* In Tupelo, visit the excellent Elvis Presley Birthplace Park, which includes the small house Elvis first lived in, the church he attended as a boy, and an Elvis museum, gift shop, etc. Then visit Tupelo Hardware store, where Elvis's mum bought him his first guitar, and see the elementary school he attended. *Evening:* Group dinner, including performance by Jules Boulton and local blues musician. *Overnight:* Hotel Tupelo. (B,D)





JULES BOULT

Jules Boulton is the celebrity host of the 2024 Blues Music Tour of America's Deep South. He is an award-winning blues 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. From 2015 to 2018 Jules toured the US annually, from New Orleans to New York, via the Mississippi delta, performing and recording with various musicians, including Kermit Ruffins, Mississippi John Horton, & The Oak Ridge Boys.



DAY 9 Wednesday 1 May 2024

**Muscle Shoals, Alabama/
Memphis, Tennessee**

Morning: Travel to Muscle Shoals, Alabama. Enjoy guided tour of FAME Studios....home of 'The Muscle Shoals Sound'. Artists to record at FAME Studio include Aretha Franklin, Little Richard, Wilson Pickett, Etta James and Otis Redding. Also, see Muscle Shoals Sound Studio, where many famous soul/blues/rock 'n' roll recordings have been made. *Afternoon:* Travel to Memphis. *Evening:* Visit 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 venues optional). *Overnight:* Holiday Inn Downtown Memphis. (B)

DAY 10 Thursday 2 May 2024

Memphis

Morning: Visit Tennessee Welcome Centre (excellent Memphis Visitor Information Centre, on the banks of the Mississippi). Then visit the Stax Museum of American Soul Music. *Afternoon:* Visit Graceland, Elvis Presley's famous mansion. Our Elvis Experience Tour tickets provide admission to all the main attractions at Graceland, including the mansion, grave site, automobile museum, Elvis's airplanes, etc. *Evening:* Enjoy group dinner at a top Memphis restaurant. After dinner visit one of Jules' favourite blues music venues (optional). (B,D)

DAY 11 Friday 3 May 2024

Memphis

Morning: Visit the Bass Pro Shops at The Pyramid (amazing hunting/camping/fishing superstore in impressive glass, pyramid-shaped building). Then enjoy guided tour of Sun Studio (famous recording studio where Howlin' Wolf, Elvis, Johnny Cash, and others recorded). *Afternoon:* Free time. *Evening:* Explore the excellent live blues venues on Beale St. (B)

DAY 12 Saturday 4 May 2024

Indianola, Mississippi

Morning: Travel to Clarksdale, Mississippi. On arrival visit the Devil's Crossroads, at the intersection of highways 49 and 61....the place where bluesman Robert Johnson supposedly sold his soul in exchange for the guitar prowess that made him one of the most revered blues musicians ever. Then visit the outstanding Delta Blues Museum. Lunch at the famous Ground Zero Blues Club. After lunch visit the excellent Cat Head Delta Blues record/CD/book store. Continue on to Indianola. Visit B.B. King's burial site and

the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center. *Evening:* Take in some live blues music at Indianola's historic Club Ebony (if available), where Ray Charles, Count Basie, B.B. King and other legendary acts have performed (optional). *Overnight:* Hampton Inn Indianola (B)

DAY 13 Sunday 5 May 2024

Shreveport, Louisiana

Morning: Travel to Shreveport, Louisiana. Shreveport has a rich musical heritage, stretching back to legendary bluesman Huddie (Lead Belly) Ledbetter. *Afternoon:* Enjoy a sightseeing coach tour of this attractive city, with impressive bridges spanning the Red River. See the Shreveport Municipal Auditorium, where The Louisiana Hayride (landmark radio/TV show) commenced, in 1948. Hank Williams, Johnny Cash and Elvis Presley played on the 'Hayride' before becoming household names. At the conclusion of our tour, adjourn to Fatty Arbuckles, an historic Shreveport bourbon and whiskey bar, for refreshments. *Evening:* Shreveport serves up gaming like no other city in Louisiana, including world-class riverboat casinos. Tonight we will visit one of Shreveport's impressive casinos, for dinner and live music (optional). *Overnight:* Hampton Inn Shreveport/Bossier City Hotel (B)

DAY 14 Monday 6 May 2024

Dallas, Texas

Morning: Travel to Dallas, Texas. Dallas is an impressive city, with an abundance of architectural highlights. *Afternoon:* Enjoy a sightseeing coach tour of Dallas, with local guide. We will plan to finish at a Farmers Market type place, for afternoon tea. *Evening:* Free time. *Overnight:* Hotel Indigo, Dallas. (B)

DAY 15 Tuesday 7 May 2024

Austin, Texas

Morning: Travel to Austin, capital of Texas. The long-running Austin City Limits music TV show and annual South by Southwest music/media conference/festival have helped Austin become widely known as the 'Live Music Capital of the World'. *Afternoon:* Sightseeing tour of Austin, with local guide. See many impressive buildings, including the Texas State Capitol and the LBJ Presidential Library buildings. *Evening:* Group dinner. Jules Boulton will sing a few songs. After dinner visit Austin's Sixth Street/Red River precinct for live blues music at Maggie Mae's bar (optional). *Overnight:* Drury Inn & Suites Austin. (B,D)

DAY 16 Wednesday 8 May 2024

Austin, Texas

Morning: Enjoy Austin City Limits' ACL Live Venue Tour, if available. *Afternoon:* Free time or visit Stevie Ray Vaughan sites with Jules Boulton. *Evening:* Visit popular blues venue, Antone's, past playground for Stevie Ray Vaughan and other music legends (optional). (B)

DAY 17 Thursday 9 May 2024 **Houston/commence flight home**

Morning: Travel to Houston, 4th largest city in the US. *Afternoon:* Sightseeing coach tour of Houston, with local guide. Then free time in Houston's Museum District. Many of Houston's outstanding museums and art galleries have free admission on Thursday afternoons. 6pm approx.: Transfer to airport. 9.30pm approx.: Commence return flights to Australia. (B)

DAY 18 Friday 10 May 2024

In flight

DAY 19 Saturday 11 May 2024

Arrive back in Australia

Arrive back in Australia and the tour concludes.

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Included in the tour price:

- Return economy-class airfare to USA (ex Sydney/Melbourne/Brisbane). Additional surcharge applies for Perth and Adelaide.
- 16 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 (except for Day 1); 4 dinners.
- Sightseeing coach tours, with local guides, in New Orleans, Dallas, Austin, & Houston. Sightseeing coach tours (i.e., without local guides) in Jackson & Shreveport.
- Entry to all sightseeing attractions mentioned in the itinerary, except for those marked 'optional'. Please note: if the brochure says 'see' something, it means we simply see that attraction, rather than visit it. If the brochure says 'visit', it means we go into (i.e., visit) the attraction.
- Admission to all music concerts/events mentioned in the itinerary, except for those marked 'optional'. Cost of entrance to 3 days of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival is included in the tour price. The tour will include lots of live music in the 'juke joints' & other informal music venues in places like New Orleans & Memphis. Admission to these informal venues is usually free, though occasionally there may be a small cover charge (that's why we've said 'optional' in relation to many of these informal music venues).
- Swamp tour, by boat, in western Louisiana.
- 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 Boulton.
- Tour managed throughout by professional Travelrite International tour manager.

Tour Price

Per person twin-share	\$ 11,995
Air taxes and fuel surcharges at 20/4/23	\$ 497
Total per person twin-share	\$ 12,492
Single supplement	\$ 2,450

Not included in the price:

- Insurance. Travel insurance is strongly recommended.
- All items of personal nature, such as drinks, room service, laundry and phone calls.
- Meals and drinks, unless specified in itinerary. Breakfasts and dinners (evening meals) that are included are marked 'B' and 'D' in the itinerary. No lunches, morning teas, & afternoon teas are 'included'.
- Entry 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) 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.
- Cost of domestic flight connections to departure cities (i.e., to Melbourne/Sydney/Brisbane), at start of tour, & cost of domestic flight connections from Arrival cities (Melbourne/Sydney/Brisbane), at end of tour.
- Evening dinner/jazz cruise, aboard a Mississippi paddle wheeler, in New Orleans.



www.musicstours.com.au

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

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) is the tour organiser.

TOUR COSTS: The tour's costs are based on transport, accommodation costs and entrance costs at 20 April 2023. 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.

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT: A non-refundable 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, Mastercard and American Express cards.

CANCELLATION CHARGES: 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 \$750 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.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: All passengers will require a valid passport with six month validity and an ESTA for entry to the USA. If not an Australian

passport holder check with Travelrite International for visa requirements.

RESPONSIBILITIES: 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. The contract shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Victoria and any legal action must be undertaken in the State of Victoria.

DELAYS AND UNFORESEEN EVENTS: You engage Travelrite to book this tour on your behalf and you acknowledge that Travelrite acts as your agent for the purpose of making contracts between you and the various providers of accommodation, transportation and other services that comprise the tour. Travelrite may without reference to you provide or make available to you, or may as your agent engage any third party to provide or make available to you, any good or service which Travelrite reasonably believes is necessary for your benefit to maintain the tour itinerary, repatriate you or otherwise accommodate, transport or sustain you in circumstances in which the tour itinerary fails wholly or partly for any reason. You appoint Travelrite your attorney for this purpose. You agree to pay Travelrite any cost thereof and you indemnify Travelrite in respect of any cost it incurs in this regard. Travelrite advises you to obtain travel insurance generally including in respect of the risk that any such

good or service may become required.

TRAVEL VACCINATION POLICY: While highly recommended, COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters are no longer required for guests traveling with Travelrite International. It is your responsibility to comply with specific vaccine and/or booster requirements imposed by airlines, cruise lines and/or authorities in the destinations visited, as well as requirements for accessing restaurants and venues. No refunds will be given if you are unable to undertake some or all of your vacation due to failure to comply with these requirements.

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
423 Whitehorse Road
Balwyn, Victoria 3103

Further information can be obtained by telephoning

Toll Free: 1800 033 436

Phone: (03) 9836 2522

Email: sales@travelrite.com.au

www.travelrite.com.au

ABOUT TRAVELRITE INTERNATIONAL: Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ABN 64 005 817 078) is a well-established family-owned business that's been operating in Melbourne's eastern suburbs for more than 40 years. Travelrite International is a full member of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA), is fully accredited with ATAS (A10538) and IATA. As such they directly represent the major airlines of the world and all major domestic and international hotel, tour and transport operators.