

Be part of Travelrite's and John Howie's 2026

MUSIC TOUR OF ★ AMERICA ★

with Mahney Cain and Ewan Cloonan
from The Humbuckin' Pickups

1 to 21 October 2026

Visiting Houston, Lafayette, New Orleans, Tupelo,
Memphis, Branson, Paducah, Nashville, Pigeon Forge,
Floyd (Virginia), Washington D.C., & Philadelphia.



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MUSIC TOUR OF ★ AMERICA ★

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Join us on an unforgettable 21-day Music & Culture Tour of the USA with Mahney Cain and Ewan Cloonan from The Humbuckin' Pickups. From the swamps of Louisiana to the bright lights of Nashville, through the Ozark Mountains and into the historic heart of Washington D.C., this tour celebrates the music, culture, and history of America. Experience live performances, iconic music landmarks, breathtaking scenery, and unique cultural encounters – plus special music sessions with Mahney and Ewan.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Graceland Visit** – Tour Elvis Presley's iconic mansion
- **Mississippi Paddlewheeler Jazz Cruise** – Dinner and live jazz music on the majestic Mississippi River.
- **Performance by the French Family Band**, in Nashville.
- **Grand Ole Opry Show** – Enjoy an unforgettable night of country music at the Grand Ole Opry, in Nashville.
- **Great Smoky Mountains & Dollywood** – See stunning autumn foliage and experience Dolly Parton's famous theme park, with live entertainment.

DAY 1 Thursday 1 October 2026

Depart for Houston

Depart Australia and arrive in Houston on the same day. Transfer to our hotel after clearing customs.
Overnight: Holiday Inn Houston InterContinental.

DAY 2 Friday 2 October 2026

Lafayette

Morning: After a panoramic tour of Houston, Texas, travel to Lafayette and Breau Bridge, Western Louisiana. *Afternoon:* Enjoy swamp tour by boat. See amazing wildlife (alligators, turtles, birdlife) and distinctive swamp scenery. *Evening:* Commencement of tour dinner, including live music, at a Cajun restaurant or dance hall. *Overnight:* Double Tree by Hilton Lafayette. (B,D)

DAY 3 Saturday 3 October 2026

New Orleans

Morning: Travel through beautiful western Louisiana swamp country, heading for New Orleans. On the way, visit Laura Plantation (antebellum homestead), which includes the original slave quarters. *Afternoon:* Check into our hotel, in New Orleans' historic French Quarter, followed by free time. *Evening:* Explore the French Quarter, including colourful Bourbon Street. You'll find excellent jazz music in places like Fritzel's Jazz Club and Preservation Hall (all optional). *Overnight:* Wyndham New Orleans – French Quarter. (B)



DAY 4 Sunday 4 October 2026

New Orleans

Morning: Sightseeing coach tour of New Orleans with local guide, including visits to an above ground cemetery and areas ravaged by Hurricane Katrina

(2005). Also, see the beautiful mansions in St Charles Ave. *Afternoon:* Free time. You may see outstanding street performers, Hack Bartholomew and Doreen Ketchens (the 'Clarinet Queen') performing in the French Quarter. *Evening:* Enjoy Mississippi River cruise, dinner & jazz music aboard a majestic Mississippi paddle-wheeler. After the cruise, visit the Frenchmen Street area (excellent jazz music), with Mahney and Ewan (optional). (B,D)

DAY 5 Monday 5 October 2026

Tupelo

Travel to Tupelo, Mississippi, the town where Elvis Presley was born and raised. On the way, visit the Jimmie Rodgers Memorial Museum, in Meridian, Mississippi. Jimmie Rodgers (1897-1933), known as The Singing Brakeman, was one of the first superstars of American country music. Also, if available, see the beautiful Dentzel Carousel, manufactured in 1896 for the 1904 St. Louis Exposition. On arrival in Tupelo, see the elementary school Elvis attended. *Overnight:* Hotel Tupelo. (B)



DAY 6 Tuesday 6 October 2026

Memphis

In Tupelo, visit the Elvis Presley Birthplace Park including Elvis's boyhood home, the church he attended as a boy, and the Elvis Presley Museum. Also, visit the hardware store where Elvis's mum bought him his first guitar. We then travel to Memphis, home of the blues and the birthplace of rock 'n' roll. *Afternoon:* Visit the National Civil Rights Museum (the motel – now museum – where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated). After checking into our



hotel you may wish to view the famous Peabody Duck Parade (approx. 4.30 – 5pm) at the Peabody Hotel. *Evening:* Visit Beale Street, where we take in the atmosphere of this colourful precinct, including live music venues such as B.B. King's Blues Club & the Rum Boogie Café. *Overnight:* Hampton Inn & Suites Beale Street. (B)

DAY 7 Wednesday 7 October 2026

Memphis

Morning: Visit Graceland, Elvis Presley's famous mansion. Our Elvis Experience Tour tickets include tour of the mansion, plus various exhibits including his automobiles, wardrobe, gold records, custom planes, etc. *Afternoon:* Guided tour of Sun Studio (famous 1950s recording studio, where Elvis, Johnny Cash, and others recorded). Then visit the excellent Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum. Finally, visit the impressive Bass Pro camping/fishing/hunting superstore, in massive glass Pyramid-shaped building. *Evening:* Dinner at the excellent Majestic Grille Restaurant, followed by further exploration of the live music venues in Beale Street. (B,D).

DAY 8 Thursday 8 October 2026

Branson

Travel through the state of Arkansas, and the picturesque Ozark Mountains, to Branson, Missouri. Branson is famous for its many live music theatres,



THE HUMBUCKIN' PICKUPS

The Humbucketin' Pickups have steadily built a reputation for their authentic sound and engaging storytelling. With a string of awards, including the 2021 Troubadour Foundation Award and the Maldon Minstrel Award, and recognition as runners-up in the 2023 Folk Alliance Australia People's Choice Award, the band continues to charm audiences with their melodically strong songwriting and dynamic live performances.

some operated by entertainers like The Duttons, some featuring traditional country music/ comedy shows, like the Baldknobbers, and some featuring visiting country music stars like Gene Watson and Jimmy Fortune. On arrival enjoy a coach tour of Branson's Las Vegas-like main strip, featuring colourful electronic billboards, tourist attractions, music theatres, and hotels. *Evening:* Attend one of Branson's outstanding shows... the Jimmy Fortune Show. (B)

DAY 9 Friday 9 October 2026

Branson

A free day for you to take in some of Branson's many attractions, including Silver Dollar City Theme Park. The park includes live music performances (above ground) and spectacular limestone caves (below ground). Alternatively, you may wish to attend morning and afternoon 'theater' shows in Branson and perhaps visit old Branson Town (Branson's charming downtown shopping centre). All activities today are optional. *Evening:* Attend one of Branson's outstanding shows... The Dutton Show. (B)

DAY 10 Saturday 10 October 2026

Paducah

Depart Branson and travel to Paducah, Kentucky. On the way visit the fascinating, largely abandoned, town of Cairo, Illinois. Situated at the confluence of the Mississippi & Ohio rivers, Cairo was an important strategic town during the Civil War. In the 1920s the population was over 15,000. The population is now about 1,500. See many impressive buildings from a bygone era. Near Cairo we cross two huge bridges that provide wonderful views of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. *Evening:* In Paducah, Mahney and Ewan will host an informal fun-filled singalong/ music session. Please join in! *Overnight:* Holiday Inn Paducah Riverfront. (B)

DAY 11 Sunday 11 October 2026

Nashville

Morning: Travel to Nashville, home of country music. On arrival, visit the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Centre. This amazing hotel features a huge glass atrium and 9 acres of beautiful indoor gardens. We will then visit the Opry Mills Shopping Mall (excellent shopping & food court [for lunch]). *Afternoon:* Sightseeing tour of Nashville, with local guide. *Evening:* Attend Nashville's famous Grand Ole Opry show, featuring country music's biggest stars. *Overnight:* Embassy Suites Nashville Vanderbilt. (B)



DAY 12 Monday 12 October 2026

Nashville

Today we travel to the town of Lynchburg, Tennessee. Enjoy guided tour of Jack Daniel's Distillery (including whiskey tasting), followed by lunch at Miss Mary Bobo's Boarding House & Restaurant (beautiful Southern home-cooked meals). *Evening:* Back in Nashville, enjoy fabulous live country music in the main entertainment precinct (around Broadway & 2nd Avenue). There are lots of great honky tonks (live music bars) in this area, including Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, Robert's Western World, & Layla's Honky Tonk. (B,L)

DAY 13 Tuesday 13 October 2026

Nashville

Morning: Visit Nashville's outstanding Country Music Hall of Fame and the wonderful Ryman Auditorium (Grand Ole Opry venue 1943 – 1974). *Afternoon:* Free time. You may wish to visit the Johnny Cash Museum, or RCA Studio B ('Home of 1,000 Hits'). All museums/ venues optional, during this afternoon's free time. *Evening:* Enjoy a performance by the outstanding French Family Band (from Australian & NZ – now living in Nashville), at iconic Nashville venue, The Station Inn. (B)



DAY 14 Wednesday 14 October 2026

Pigeon Forge

Travel to Pigeon Forge, eastern Tennessee. Like Branson, Pigeon Forge has an outstanding music related theme park (Dollywood) and numerous live music theatres. *Evening:* Enjoy an informal music session with Mahney and Ewan. Bring your instruments & voices and join in. *Overnight:* Best Western Plaza Inn. (B)

DAY 15 Thursday 15 October 2026

Pigeon Forge

Visit the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The trees are a blaze of colour at this time of the year (Autumn in the US). Then visit Dollywood, including excellent museum – the Dolly Parton Experience – and fabulous live music shows. Dollywood's Southern Gospel & Harvest Festival should be in progress, so we should hear some outstanding gospel quartets. *Evening:* Attend Dolly Parton's spectacular live show, Dolly Parton's Stampede. Fabulous dinner and show, including great horse riding, buffalo or longhorn cattle, etc. (Note: Dolly Parton doesn't appear in this show.) (B,D)

DAY 16 Friday 16 October 2026

Floyd/Christiansburg

Today is the first of two days where we will be travelling through the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains / Shenandoah Valley region of Virginia. This region has a rich folk music heritage. *Morning:* Visit the Birthplace of Country Music Museum, in Bristol, Tennessee. This museum celebrates the historic 1927 Bristol Sessions, where Ralph Peer made recordings of early American country music acts, including The Carter Family and Jimmie Rodgers. *Afternoon:* Travelling along the beautiful Blue Ridge Parkway, visit The Roots of American Music Museum, at the Blue Ridge Music Center, in Galax, Virginia. *Late afternoon:* Arrive in the Blue Ridge Mountains town of Floyd. Visit the Floyd Country Store....a wonderful general store (over 100 years old), dedicated to the preservation and promotion of local old-time, bluegrass and gospel music. Mahney and Ewan will perform a few songs for us, on the stage at the rear of the store (if possible). *Evening:* Attend the Floyd country store's famous, long-running Friday Night Jamboree, a weekly gathering of musicians, dancers and visitors from all over the world. *Overnight:* Holiday Inn Express & Suites Christiansburg. (B)



DAY 17 Saturday 17 October 2026

Washington D.C.

Today we drive from the Appalachian Mountains town of Christiansburg to Washington D.C. *Morning:* We will stop in the historic town of Lexington. Visit the impressive Virginia Military Institute, followed by some time in Lexington's charming town centre. *Late afternoon:* Arrive in Washington D.C. See the White House (and take photos), before checking into our hotel. *Evening:* Tonight we will explore D.C.'s live music venues (optional). *Overnight:* Holiday Inn Central White House. (B)

DAY 18 Sunday 18 October 2026

Washington D.C.

Morning: Sightseeing coach tour of Washington D.C. with local guide. Visit Arlington National Cemetery (see President Kennedy's grave) and the Lincoln Memorial. See the White House, the Washington Monument, the Capitol and many other famous landmarks. *Afternoon:* Free time. You may wish to join Mahney and Ewan on a visit to some of the Smithsonian museums, including the Air and Space Museum and the National Museum of American History (see the original Star-Spangled Banner). *Evening:* Enjoy an included farewell dinner, with a few songs from Mahney and Ewan to celebrate our time in America. (B,D)

DAY 19 Monday 19 October 2026

Departure

Morning: Enjoy a visit to historic Philadelphia on your way to JFK Airport, where you can explore landmarks such as the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. *Afternoon:* Travel to JFK, New York airport. Commence flights back to Australia, via Auckland. (B)

DAY 20 Tuesday 20 October 2026

In flight

DAY 21 Wednesday 21 October 2026

Arrive in Australia

We arrive back in Australia and tour arrangement conclude.

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The tour price twin-share is	\$ 13,595 pp
Air taxes as of 30/9/25 are	\$ 380
Total tour price twin-share is	\$ 13,975 pp
Single Supplement	\$ 2,495



Included in the tour price :

- Return economy-class airfare to USA flying Air New Zealand (ex Sydney/Melbourne/Brisbane).
- 18 nights' accommodation in centrally located first-class and moderate first-class hotels, with private facilities, on twin share basis. Hotel taxes and service charges.
- Breakfast daily (a mixture of Continental and Cooked breakfasts). 5 dinners. 1 lunch.
- Entrance to all sightseeing attractions mentioned in the itinerary, except for those marked 'optional'. Please note: if the brochure says 'see' a particular attraction (rather than 'visit'), it means we see, but don't visit (go into), that attraction.
- Visits include Laura Plantation (Louisiana); above-ground cemetery (New Orleans); Jimmie Rodgers Memorial Museum (Meridian); Elvis Presley Birthplace (Tupelo); Graceland, Sun Studio, Rock 'n' Soul Museum, Civil Rights Museum (Memphis); Opryland Hotel, Country Music Hall of Fame, Ryman Auditorium (Nashville); Jack Daniel's Distillery (Lynchburg); Dollywood & Great Smoky Mountains (Pigeon Forge); Birthplace of Country Music Museum (Bristol); Roots of American Music Museum (Galax); Virginia Military Institute (Lexington); Arlington National Cemetery, etc. (Washington D.C.); Liberty Bell & Independence Hall (Philadelphia).
- Admission to music concerts/events including: Cajun music (Lafayette); Jazz, at Fritzel's, Frenchmen Street, Bourbon Street, & on the Mississippi Paddle-wheeler (New Orleans); blues music, Beale Street (Memphis); Jimmy Fortune Show & The Dutton Show (Branson); Grand Ole Opry, the French Family Band, & honky tonks on Broadway (Nashville); various music shows at Dollywood, & Dolly Parton's Stampede (Pigeon Forge); bluegrass, old-time, & gospel music, at the Friday Night Jamboree (Floyd), and various performances by Mahney & Ewan.
- Transport by first-class chartered coaches throughout. All airport/hotel transfers.
- Portage of 1 piece of luggage per person.
- Tour escorted and managed throughout by well-known Australian entertainers, Mahney Cain and Ewan Cloonan, of The Humbuckin' Pickups.

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, lunches, dinners, and morning teas that are 'included' are marked B, L, D, and 'morning tea', in the itinerary.
- Entrance to concerts/entertainment, other than those listed above. Entrance to any other musical entertainment to be paid direct. Some entertainment venues, in places such as Beale Street (Memphis), 'Broadway' 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 city.

You can extend your stay in America. Please check with us for optional tours, car hire, hotels, bed & breakfasts, etc.

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.

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. All passengers must complete and sign a Travelrite International booking form.

TOUR COSTS. The tour costs are based on flight, general transport and accommodation costs on 1 October 2025. Travelrite International reserves the right to alter the costs if any of these factors change, giving any passenger that has booked the right to withdraw with full refund of monies paid or modify arrangements. No alterations to price will be made within 60 days of departure from Australia.

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS. 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% administration charge will be added to payment by Visa and Mastercard. A 1.5% administration fee will be added to payment by Visa, Mastercard and American Express.

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.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Adequate travel insurance must be purchased to cover tour members for the consequences of unforeseen events during the tour and for cancellation fees which could result from events such as illness, accident, death etc.

RESPONSIBILITY. Travelrite International Pty Ltd. 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 Victoria.

DELAYS AND UNFORESEEN EVENTS: You engage Travelrite International to book this tour on your behalf and you acknowledge that Travelrite International 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 International 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.

HOW TO BOOK: Bookings can be made by completing a booking form and sending it with a non-refundable 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 630 343

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Email: sales@travelrite.com.au

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ABOUT TRAVELRITE INTERNATIONAL: Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ABN 64 005 817 078) is a well-established travel company which has been marketing throughout Australia for over 40 years. It is accredited with IATA. As such it directly represents the major airlines of the world and all major domestic and international hotel, tour and transport operators. Travelrite International Pty Ltd is a full member of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents – AFTA.

