

Be part of John Howie's and Travelrite's outstanding 2025

10TH ANNIVERSARY

HIGHWAY 61

Blues Music Tour of America

with Jules Boult

24 May - 11 June 2025



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

Including
2025
Chicago
Blues
Festival



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John Howie
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& CRUISES

Plus

Optional
New York State
Blues Festival
Extension Tour

HIGHWAY 61

Blues Music Tour of America

WITH JULES BOULT



The 2025 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, and 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 4 nights in Chicago, for the outstanding Chicago Blues Festival.

DAY 1 Saturday 24 May 2025

Houston, Texas

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

DAY 2 Sunday 25 May 2025

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 Boult will perform a few songs with the Cajun band, if possible. Overnight: DoubleTree by Hilton, Lafayette. (B,D)

DAY 3 Monday 26 May 2025

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. Overnight: Wyndham Hotel French Quarter. (B)

DAY 4 Tuesday 27 May, 2025

New Orleans

Morning: Free time for you to explore New Orleans at your leisure. The entire old French Quarter precinct of New Orleans is fascinating, with early French & Spanish influenced architecture, buskers, bars, cafes, antique shops, & Jackson Square (including St. Louis Cathedral). Afternoon: Enjoy a fabulous cruise and live music aboard a majestic Mississippi paddle wheeler (optional). 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 Wednesday 28 May 2025

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 dinner at our hotel and later, be entertained by Jules and guest blues musician 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 Thursday 29 May 2025

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: Tonight enjoy a southern style dinner (own expense) and jam at a local blues bar. Overnight: Hampton Inn by Hilton. (B)

DAY 7 Friday 30 May 2025

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. Visit the excellent Cat Head Delta Blues record/CD/bookstore and also Deak's Harp shop for all things blues music and a spontaneous blues performance. Afternoon: Continue on Highway 61 to Memphis, Tennessee – home of the blues and the birthplace of rock 'n' roll. Evening: Spend a fabulous evening in colourful Beale Street, famous for its live blues music venues, including B.B. King's, the Rum Boogie Café, & the Blues City Band Box (all venues optional). Overnight: Hyatt Centric Beale Street. (B)



DAY 8 Saturday 31 May 2025

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 a group dinner at a top Memphis restaurant. After dinner enjoy the general sights & sounds of Memphis or visit one of Jules' favourite blues music venues (optional). (B,D)

DAY 9 Sunday 1 June 2025

Memphis

Morning: We attend Al Green's colourful Full Gospel Tabernacle church service, including amazing live gospel music. Enjoy a guided tour of Sun Studio (famous 1950s recording studio, where Howlin' Wolf, Elvis, Johnny Cash, and others recorded). 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 (optional). (B)



Jules Boult

Jules Boult is the celebrity host of the 2025 Highway 61 Blues Music Tour of America. 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 2019 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, and The Oak Ridge Boys.

DAY 10 Monday 2 June 2025

Nashville

Morning: Travel to Nashville, Tennessee... Music City USA! Afternoon: Enjoy a short, sightseeing coach tour of Nashville before checking in to 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 miles away; our hotel provides a free shuttle bus), where there are lots of 'honky tonks' (bars with live country music) and some blues music venues. Overnight: Embassy Suites Hotel. (B)

DAY 11 Tuesday 3 June 2025

Nashville

Morning and afternoon: Free time to explore the many sights and sounds of Nashville, including the Country Music Hall of Fame, the legendary RCA Studio B recording studio, the Johnny Cash Museum, the beautiful & historic Ryman Auditorium (home of the Grand Ole Opry show, 1943 to 1974), & the colourful Downtown honky tonks. 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)

DAY 12 Wednesday 4 June 2025

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 (Evening: everything optional, including dinner). Overnight: Hilton Garden Inn Downtown (B)



New York State Blues Festival Extension Tour

DAY 1 Monday 9 June 2025

Detroit

Morning: Travel, by coach, to Detroit, home to America's automobile industry and birthplace of record label, Motown. On arrival, enjoy sightseeing tour with local guide. See iconic landmarks, including the Detroit Institute of Arts & the Guardian Building (historic art deco skyscraper). Overnight: Hilton Garden Inn Detroit Downtown. (B)

DAY 2 Tuesday 10 June 2025

Detroit

Morning: Visit the birthplace of Motown at Hitsville U.S.A. (Motown Museum). In this row of modest houses Berry Gordy launched Motown Records, and the careers of Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, Marvin Gaye and Michael Jackson. Afternoon: Visit the Henry Ford Museum, which showcases extraordinary artifacts such as the chair Lincoln was sitting in when he was assassinated, and the presidential limo in which Kennedy was killed. Evening: Visit the historic Bakers Keyboard Lounge, the oldest Jazz Club in the world, for a great night of music (optional). (B)

DAY 13 Thursday 5 June 2025

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 14 Friday 6 June 2025

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 15 Saturday 7 June 2025

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 16 Sunday 8 June 2025

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 17 Monday 9 June 2025

Departure

Morning: Free time for shopping and packing. Afternoon: Travel to Chicago airport. Commence flights back to Australia, via Los Angeles. Those doing the New York State Blues Festival Extension Tour travel, by coach, to Detroit. (B)

DAY 18 Tuesday 10 June 2025

In flight

DAY 19 Wednesday 11 June 2025

Arrive Australia

Arrive back in Australia and the tour concludes.

DAY 3 Wednesday 11 June 2025

Toronto

Morning: Travel to Toronto, the most populous city in Canada and the capital city of the Canadian province of Ontario. On arrival enjoy a sightseeing tour with a local guide. See the iconic CN Tower, offering breathtaking views of the skyline. Stroll through the historic Distillery District, where cobblestone streets lead to art galleries and trendy boutiques. Discover the eclectic neighbourhoods of Kensington Market and Chinatown, bustling with diverse culinary delights and colourful street art. Overnight: Marriott Downtown. (B)

DAY 4 Thursday 12 June 2025

Syracuse

Morning: Travel to Buffalo and witness the awe-inspiring wonder of Niagara Falls. Marvel at the breathtaking beauty as cascading waters mesmerize your senses. There will be time for a Niagara Falls boat tour experience (optional). Then, venture onwards to Syracuse for an orientation tour of the city. See attractions such as the Erie Canal Museum and the picturesque Clinton Square. Afternoon and Evening: Attend the excellent New York State Blues Festival. Overnight: Marriott Syracuse Downtown. (B)

DAY 5 Friday 13 June 2025

Syracuse

Afternoon and Evening: Experience the soulful rhythms and electrifying performances at the New York State Blues Festival. (B)

DAY 6 Saturday 14 June 2025

Syracuse

Afternoon and Evening: Another day of unforgettable music, featuring top artists from around the globe at the New York State Blues Festival. (B)

DAY 7 Sunday 15 June 2025

Departure

Morning: Travel to New York Airport. Commence return trip to Australia. (B)

DAY 8 Monday 16 June 2025

In flight

DAY 9 Tuesday 17 June 2025

Arrive Australia

Arrive back in Australia and the tour concludes.

HIGHWAY 61

Blues Music Tour of America

WITH JULES BOULT

24 May – 11 June 2025



Included in the tour price:

- Return economy-class airfare to USA (ex Sydney/Melbourne). (Fly to Houston [start of tour]; fly home from Los Angeles [end of tour].) Plus economy-class air travel, Chicago to Los Angeles. (Those going on the Extension Tour don't have to pay for Chicago to L.A.)
- 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; 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.
- Sightseeing coach tours of New Orleans and Chicago, with local guides.
- Transport by first-class chartered coaches throughout. All airport/hotel transfers.
- Porterage 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 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 initially quoted to Travelrite (when putting the tour together).
- Domestic flight connections to and from departure cities (& arrival cities) in Australia.

Tour Price:

Per person twin-share	\$ 11,995
Air taxes and fuel surcharges at 1/5/24	\$ 314
Total per person twin-share	\$ 12,309
Single supplement	\$ 2,695

New York Extension Tour Price:

Per person twin-share	\$ 2,995
Single supplement	\$ 980

Included in the New York State Blues Festival Extension Tour:

- 6 nights' accommodation in centrally located first-class and moderate first-class hotels.
- Breakfast daily.
- Entrance 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 the 3-day New York State Blues Festival (it's a free event).
- Sightseeing coach tours of Detroit and Toronto, with local guides.
- Visit Niagara Falls, one of the world's most spectacular sights.
- Hotel/airport transfers.
- Extension tour escorted by Jules Boult and managed by Travelrite tour manager.

Extending: You can stay longer in the USA for minimal extra cost. **Please contact 1800 630 343 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 (Travelrite International) is the tour operator.

TOUR COSTS: The tour's costs are based on transport, accommodation costs and entrance costs at 1 May 2024. 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 \$600 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 America 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 based on 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.

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 deposit of \$600 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

Phone: (03) 8803 6868

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 travel company which has been marketing throughout Australia for over 40 years and operating in Victoria for more than 40 years. It has a fully licensed (ATAS No. 10538) office at Balwyn which is accredited with IATA. As such we directly represent 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.



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