



2011 Sweet Adelines International Convention & Competition Houston, Texas Official Tour Program

- The tours listed below have been created exclusively for the attendees of the 2011 Sweet Adelines International Convention & Competition, and their family, friends and travel companions.
- All tours are private and include roundtrip transportation, escort and/or tour guide services, taxes, all appropriate gratuities and pre-registration and on-site coordination services. The additional items included with each tour are listed after the individual tour description.
- Advance tour registration deadline is Wednesday, September 28, 2011. Please refer to the end of the tour descriptions or the tour order form for the tour cancellation policy.
- Online registration is available at www.destinationstlouis.com/sweet.htm.

Sunday, October 16, 2011

(1) Old Town Spring

12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (4.5) hours

\$40.00

A quaint turn-of-the-century town built near the Great Northern Railroad, Old Town Spring is composed of Victorian-style shops, restaurants, museums, and art galleries. Most of the shops occupy buildings and homes constructed in the early 1900's for the then booming railroad town. Step back in time as you browse quaint shops that offer a refreshing change from big city shopping centers. You will find a variety of antiques, collectibles, clothing, and accessories for the home, as well as gifts for all occasions.



Monday, October 17, 2011

(2) Houston City Tour

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (3) hours

\$36.00



Enjoy a driving overview of popular downtown attractions including Minute Maid Park, The Toyota Center, the state-of-the-art Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau and Heritage Park. Then it is on to the Houston Art, Music and Culture District, featuring Jones Hall, the Hobby Center for Performing Arts, Bayou Place, the Wortham Center and the Alley Theater. Then visit the Houston Museum District, an area home to the Museum of Fine Arts, Contemporary Arts Museum, Holocaust Museum, and the 4th most visited museum in the country, the Houston Museum of Natural Science. You will also drive by the Texas Medical Center, the world's largest and most renowned medical center, which is home to 42 non-profit institutions on 675 acres and has over 100,000 people in it each day. It was also host to the television show "Houston Medical" featuring Houston's own Dr. Red Duke. End the morning with an overview of the Galleria area, home to many corporations, and also home to the Williams Tower and the marvelous Waterwall. Williams Waterwall, a gorgeous piece of architecture located right next to the Williams Tower in the Uptown District, is a 64 ft. tall structure in the shape of a semi-circle, with water that cascades over it and down a series of steps towards the bottom. You will also spend time at the JP Morgan Chase Tower Observation Deck. Designed by noted architects I.M. Pei & Partners, the tower was built in downtown Houston in 1981 as the Texas Commerce Tower. When completed, it was the eighth tallest building in the world. The observation deck is located on the 60th floor and offers a panoramic view of the city, thanks to the use of wide glass spans and thirteen-foot ceilings. Even with the fantastic views, the Galleria area might be best known for its shopping. From Nordstrom to Neiman, from Gucci to Tiffany's, the Galleria is Houston's crown jewel. Tour participants will have the option to exit the tour at the Galleria for shopping on own or return to the convention center. *Those participants staying to shop at the Galleria will be on their own for transportation back to the convention center and/or their individual hotels.*

(3) Galveston Museum & Historic Tour

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (7) hours

\$68.00

Enroute to Galveston, learn about the historical significance of this Texas beach town. Upon arrival, your day will begin with a driving tour of some of Galveston's historic homes and architecture, including the 1861 Custom House, 1838 Menard House and The Garten Verein. You will have time to dip your toes in the sand with a stop at one of Galveston's beautiful beaches. Then enjoy time at the historic Strand, home to more than 100 shops, antique stores, restaurants and art galleries. You will have the opportunity to have lunch on own at the Strand. Following lunch, make your way to Bishop's Palace which is the most famous architectural wonder in historic Galveston. The Bishop's Palace was built in 1886 for Walter Gresham, a Galveston attorney, and later purchased for Bishop Christopher Byrne in 1923. The home features woodwork of rosewood, satinwood and white mahogany, stained-glass windows, bronze dragons, luxury materials and furnishings and impressive fireplaces from all over the world. The fireplace mantle in the front ballroom won first prize at the Philadelphia World's Fair in 1876. Bishop's Palace has been cited by the American Institute of Architects as one of the 100 most important buildings in America. *Includes admission to Bishop's Palace.*



Tuesday, October 18, 2010

(4) Historic Bayou Bend

9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (3.5) hours

\$49.00



Begin your day with a tour of an exclusive neighborhood in Houston's Museum District. Broad Acres has gracious homes with live oak trees and brick walkways down wide avenues. See the homes of famous Houstonians, including the childhood home of Howard Hughes, a true Hollywood legend. Then visit the Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens, the former home of Houston philanthropist Miss Ima Hogg, and home to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston's early American decorative arts and painting collection. Considered one of the premier collections in the country, the rare and beautiful objects dating from approximately 1620 to 1876, are installed throughout the 1920s mansion in 28 period room settings. The Bayou Bend grounds are just as impressive as the collection inside the home. The gardens at Bayou Bend form a fourteen-acre oasis in the midst of a modern metropolis. Bounded on two sides by the curving Buffalo Bayou, from which the estate draws its name, the Bayou Bend gardens are a cohesive eight-part entity made up of natural woodlands and cultivated formal gardens incorporating imported plant material and native species. Walking across the Bayou on the suspended footbridge to view this fourteen-acre estate is like entering an impressionist landscape painting. *Includes admission to Bayou Bend.*

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(6) Space City USA

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (8) hours

\$79.00

Do you know what the first word spoken on the moon was? Do you know where the astronauts train or which astronaut makes Mission Control laugh the most? Learn the answers to these questions (and many more) on the trip to Space Center Houston in Clear Lake, Texas. Upon arrival, you will have the opportunity to take a self-guided or group tour, view actual spacecraft, spacesuits, moon rocks and other space artifacts. After exploring the Space Center Houston, enjoy a guided tram tour of NASA's Johnson Space Center which takes a look behind the scenes at Mission Control and also shows an astronaut training facility. After a full morning at Space Center Houston, spend the afternoon at Kemah Boardwalk for lunch and shopping. The Kemah Boardwalk is a colorful cluster of restaurants, shops and boat slips in Kemah, Texas, just 20 minutes from downtown Houston. Named one of the Top 10 American Boardwalks by ForbesTraveler.com in 2009, this area also features a carousel, Ferris wheel and incomparable views of the Galveston Bay. Guests will have the opportunity to dine on their own on the Boardwalk.

Includes admission to Space Center Houston.





TOUR PROGRAM TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- **The advance registration deadline is Wednesday, September 28, 2011.** Space is limited, so please register in advance. Pending availability, tickets may be available for purchase on-site, but this cannot be guaranteed. Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover and personal checks written from a United States bank will be accepted for advance payment. All prices are listed in US Dollars.
- Full payment is required at the time of booking. Checks should be made payable to Destination St. Louis. There will be a \$35.00 charge for all returned checks. **Charges will appear as “Destination St. Louis” on your credit card statement.** All credit card payments will be processed after the advance registration deadline. Credit card receipts will be enclosed with the tour tickets.
- Tour prices are inclusive of roundtrip transportation, escort and/or tour guide services, taxes, all appropriate gratuities and pre-registration and on-site coordination services. The additional items included with each tour are listed after the individual tour description. The rates shown are Destination St. Louis rates and not the rates of any other entity.
- **Registrants will receive a tour confirmation via email within two weeks of their registration being received at the Destination St. Louis office.** Confirmations will be faxed or mailed to those without email addresses. Destination St. Louis is not responsible for misdirected mail, faxes or email due to incomplete or illegible registration information.
- Cancellations and full refunds, less a \$10.00 handling charge, will be granted upon receipt of written request until Wednesday, September 28, 2011.
- Destination St. Louis reserves the right to cancel any tour not meeting minimum requirements for enrollment. Participants may apply the amount of the cancelled tour to another tour option or elect to receive a full refund. Reimbursement for any tours cancelled by Destination St. Louis will be mailed directly to the attendee following the convention.
- Destination St. Louis reserves the right to substitute a tour stop should an attraction become unavailable for reasons outside of our control.

TOUR TICKET INFORMATION:

- Tour departure and ticket pick-up information will be provided with your tour confirmation and will also be posted online at www.destinationstlouis.com/sweet.htm.
- Tour tickets will only be available for pick-up in Houston.

QUESTIONS:

- Contact Sue Albers at sue@destinationstlouis.com or (314) 727-2400.