



Dear CBG Supporters and Friends,

Please join us for another in our series of travel fundraisers to one of our country's foremost horticultural areas, **New Orleans, Louisiana, Sunday, March 29, to Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015**. Since Julia Reed was our keynote speaker at the annual luncheon, a trip to "her" New Orleans seemed a natural choice; we hope you agree! In addition to entertaining and informing us this October, Julia volunteered to organize some of our home and garden visits.

Many of our visits will be gardens belonging to distinguished members of the New Orleans Botanical Garden's Foundation Board. The day-to-day itinerary is still a work in progress; however, as always the houses and gardens will make it well worth the trip. Much like Julia's meals and parties as described during her talk and in her book *The House On First Street*, everything will come together. Ann Preaus and noted landscape architect, René Fransen, are also graciously giving of their time and their friendships to organize our visits.

We're booked into the Club Floor at the historic Windsor Court Hotel. Club Level rooms at 5-Star hotels offer great value - breakfast, snacks/soft drinks/tea/coffee throughout the day and evening cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. The Windsor Court is near, yet a comfortable distance from the French Quarter. The recent \$22 million restoration has brought real improvements without changing the Old World experience. We're in for a treat!

We plan to travel by coach in the same nice 36-seater that took us to Athens this past May. We considered the train from Birmingham; however, it's a 7-hour train ride plus the additional six hours driving to/from Birmingham. The coach is door-to-door; we'll be in New Orleans by cocktail hour.

Thank you and call me (706-663-2171) or email ([travelata@aol.com](mailto:travelata@aol.com)) with any questions or if you need additional information. This deluxe tour package is all-inclusive; the only missing meal is one dinner; the other three are at really good restaurants. Please mail or fax (706-225-2551) your Reservation Form at your earliest convenience and help support the CBG!

**Laissez les bons temps rouler !**  
**Geoff Robertson**



Longue Vue House & Garden

**Columbus Botanical Garden  
Exclusive Garden & Home Tour  
New Orleans  
March 29 – April 2, 2015**

**March 29, Sunday *Columbus to New Orleans***

- We'll depart from the Botanical Garden at 9:30am by coach, stopping enroute for lunch.

***Upon arrival in New Orleans*** - We'll check-in at the Windsor Court Hotel - Warm, natural and tastefully elegant, the Windsor typifies old New Orleans shaped and accented by the classic English model.

- After time to unpack, we can enjoy a cocktail and hors' d'oeuvres in the Club Lounge before dinner in the the Private Dining Room in the Grill at the Windsor (see below).

***Lunch and Dinner are included today.***

**March 30, Monday *New Orleans***

- Today we'll visit homes and gardens in the garden district. Our hosts will be primarily Board Members and supporters of the New Orleans Botanical Garden at City Park.

- After lunch, our garden visits continue.

***Dinner*** – Dinner tonight is at one of New Orleans's very best - Commander's Palace.

***This day includes Breakfast , Lunch and Dinner.***

***Note:*** Breakfast ***is*** included each morning in the Club Lounge.

**March 31, Tuesday *New Orleans***

- This morning we'll have a guided tour of the New Orleans Botanical Garden at City Park followed by visits to homes and gardens. We're planning to include the beautiful Payne-Strachan House in the Garden District, where Jefferson Davis died.

***Following lunch*** –A garden visit before the balance of the afternoon and evening are free to shop and explore.

***Dinner is*** open tonight. Although there are many amazing restaurants, Donald Link's *Peche Seafood Grill* is one of Julia's favorites; reservations are suggested to secure your choices for this night out

***This day includes Breakfast and Lunch***

**April 1, Wednesday *New Orleans***

- This morning our first visit will be Longue Vue House and Gardens. Next is to enjoy a tour of the New Orleans Museum of Art and lunch in its Café NOMA.

***Following lunch*** – Our garden and home visits continue.

- Late-afternoon return to the Windsor.

***Dinner:***

- After gathering in the Lounge, we walk across the street for dinner at Restaurant August. John Besh is one of the area's famous chefs; his cuisine is contemporary French that incorporates local ingredients.

***This day includes Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner***



Our Dinner Venue at the Windsor

## **April 2 Thursday    *New Orleans/Home***

- Following breakfast we'll depart for Columbus expecting to arrive mid-afternoon; stopping enroute for lunch.

***This day includes Breakfast and Lunch.***

### **Tour Package Cost**

\$2,489 per person double occupancy

\$3,275 per person single occupancy

### **Package Inclusions**

- Four-nights Windsor Court, Club Level
- Hotel taxes and portorage
- Daily breakfast
- Club Floor services including snacks, afternoon tea, evening cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.
- Transportation from Columbus and back and to our home and garden visits by deluxe motorcoach
- Visits to private gardens as described in the final itinerary
- Guided tour of Longue Vue House & Garden
- Guided tour of New Orleans Museum of Art
- Guided tour of the New Orleans Botanical Garden at City Park
- All entrance fees
- Lunch daily Monday through Thursday
- Welcome dinner Sunday at the Windsor Court
- Dinner Monday at Commander's Palace and Wednesday at August
- Tour escort from American Travel throughout

**Features Not Included:** Personal items such as room service and phone calls, mini-bar charges; meals and drinks not specified. Coffee and tea are included with the meals, otherwise wine, alcohol, soft drinks and bottled water are an individual expense unless specified.

**Contribution** - The tour cost includes a tax-deductible contribution of \$200 to the Columbus Botanical Garden for which they thank you!

### **Web Sites**

<http://windsorcourthotel.com>

<http://neworleanscitypark.com/botanical-garden>

<https://www.longuevue.com>

<http://www.noma.org> (Art Museum)

<http://www.commanderspalace.com>

<http://www.restaurantaugust.com>



Garden District

## **For Information Contact**

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## **CONDITIONS**

**Reservations and Payment:** Reservations will be confirmed by American Travel Association (ATA) upon receipt of the Reservation Coupon and \$300 per person deposit. Receipt of final payment is due in the office of ATA no later than January 29, 2015. All payments must be made by check payable to American Travel Association or by MasterCard, Visa, Discover or American Express card.

**Cancellation:** Cancellations must be made in writing to ATA. To avoid discrepancies, ATA will not act on information given over the phone until written notice has been received.

**Land Package:** A \$200 per person cancellation fee will be charged regardless of the reason. Penalty on cancellations received between January 29<sup>th</sup> and departure will be a maximum of 100% of the land cost per person, depending upon the amount recoverable from the suppliers to whom payment had been sent. Cancellation penalties are required to offset non-refundable hotel and supplier payments made by ATA in advance of the tour. There will be no refund for unused services once the tour has begun.

**Insurance:** Trip cancellation, baggage and medical insurance coverage is available for purchase through a form to be sent by ATA. We strongly recommend insurance coverage. When last minute illnesses occur, the insurance helps offset non-refundable charges. You should check with your local insurance agent to see what is covered under your homeowner's policy.

**Prices:** This price is subject to change due to cost increases, and in number of participants upon which the tour cost is based (22). ATA reserves the right to increase the price for such reasons. All prices are based on rates and tariffs in effect on October 17, 2014.

**Health:** The Participant represents that neither he nor she nor anyone traveling with him or her has any physical or other condition or disability that could create a hazard to him-or-herself or other members of the tour. This program involves walking over uneven surfaces and climbing stairs at locations that are not handicap accessible. A letter of explanation of any physical or mental condition that may require medical attention or special equipment (wheelchair, for example) must be enclosed with the Reservation Form.

**Responsibility:** American Travel Association, Inc. (ATA) and the Columbus Botanical Garden (CBG) are acting as intermediaries for suppliers in selling services, or in accepting reservations or bookings of services which are not directly supplied by ATA and CBG (such as air transportation, hotel accommodations, ground transportation, meals and tours.) ATA and CBG therefore shall not be responsible for breach of contract or any intentional or careless actions or omissions on the part of such suppliers, which result in any loss, damage, delay or injury to the person, property or otherwise. Unless the term "guaranteed" is specifically stated in writing on your invoice or reservation itinerary, we do not guarantee any such supplier's rates, bookings or reservations. By making a deposit for the tour, the travelers acknowledge acceptance of and consent to the terms and conditions contained herein. ATA and CBG give notice that they cannot be held responsible for any monetary crisis, political or social unrest, labor problems, mechanical or contractual difficulties, climatic aberrations, local laws, diseases, terrorism or novel conditions. It is the traveler's responsibility to be aware of and determine the validity of any travel advisories which may exist. The space in all hotels is limited and is confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis. If, due to weather or other uncontrollable factors, participants are required to spend additional nights before or after the tour, participants will be responsible for their own hotel, transfers, meals and related costs.

