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ARKANSAS

Echoes of the South

April 6 - 13, 2026



Day 1: Journey Begins to Kansas City, MO

Your adventure begins with a glimpse into America's railroad legacy. In Council Bluffs, step inside the Victorian grandeur of the **General Dodge House**, home to one of the most influential railroad builders of all time. Built in 1869, this lavish fourteen-room mansion perched high above the Missouri Valley dazzles with modern marvels rare for its era—indoor plumbing, central heating, and even a telephone. As you wander through its elegant halls, imagine the conversations General Dodge once shared with Presidents Lincoln and Grant, both close associates, while the golden age of railroads unfolded just beyond his windows.

Day 2: Kansas City, MO to Eureka Springs, AR

Arriving in the Ozark Hills, you'll discover the ethereal beauty of **Thorncrown Chapel**. Rising forty-eight feet high and wrapped in 6,000 square feet of glass, this woodland sanctuary catches every glimmer of light filtering through the trees. It is a place where nature and architecture blend into one breathtaking experience. From there, board the **Eureka Springs Tram Tour** through the Victorian charm of Eureka Springs. As the tram winds along the hilly streets, you'll spot colorful gingerbread homes, stately stone hotels, and bubbling springs that once drew health seekers from across the nation. This small town feels like a step back in time, its past lovingly preserved.

Day 3: Eureka Springs, AR to Hot Springs, AR

Step back into the smoky glamour of the 1920s, '30s, and '40s at the **Gangster Museum of America**. Here, tales of bootleggers, gamblers, and notorious mobsters intertwine with the story of a once-quiet mountain town turned hotspot of indulgence. Relive stories of Al Capone and his cronies who once strolled Bathhouse Row, lured by the mineral springs and nightlife. As you move through the interactive exhibits and vintage photographs, it's easy to picture Hot Springs as the playground of outlaws and socialites alike. And yes—you can even try your hand in the museum's antique casino.

Day 4: Hot Springs AR to Little Rock, AR

Hot Springs reveals more of its secrets aboard an amphibious **Duck Tour**, rumbling through Bathhouse Row before splashing into Lake Hamilton. The ride blends history and fun as you see both the charming streets and the sparkling waters of the national park. At the **Fordyce Bathhouse Visitor Center**, marvel at the marble floors, stained-glass ceilings, and ornate treatment rooms that once hosted wealthy visitors from around the globe. Take time to stroll the scenic **Grand Promenade**, a peaceful brick walkway shaded by trees, or browse the quaint shops nearby. This evening, history greets you with Southern elegance at **Marlsgate Plantation**. Built as a lavish wedding gift in 1850, the mansion radiates grandeur with its antiques, artwork, and echoes of life on a cotton plantation. After a guided tour through its opulent halls, you'll dine in true Southern style for an unforgettable evening in a bygone era.

Day 5: Little Rock, AR

Today's journey begins at **Little Rock Central High School**, a living monument to the Civil Rights Movement. Walk the grounds where the courageous "Little Rock Nine" made history in 1957, facing down mobs and soldiers to attend classes. Next, explore the **William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum**. After lunch at the stylish **42 Bar & Table**, tour exhibits that illuminate President Clinton's life and leadership—from replicas of the Oval Office and Cabinet Room to interactive displays highlighting his global impact. Continue on to the **Old State House Museum**, Arkansas's original capitol, where fiery debates and dramatic events shaped the young state. To end the day, relax at the tranquil **Old Mill**, with its rustic stone wheel and bridges framed by flowering gardens—a scene immortalized in *Gone with the Wind*.

Day 6: Little Rock, AR to Branson, MO

Heading north, pause at the **Arkansas Craft Guild and Gallery**, where regional artisans display pottery, woodwork, and jewelry rich with Ozark tradition. This is the perfect stop to find one-of-a-kind keepsakes crafted with care. By evening, arrive in Branson, the entertainment capital of the Ozarks. Tonight, enjoy dinner and a spectacular show at the **Hughes Brothers Theatre**. Five brothers—joined by their families—light up the stage with powerhouse vocals and dynamic dance numbers spanning gospel, Broadway, country, and rock. The dazzling costumes, choreography, and state-of-the-art lighting create an atmosphere that brims with energy and leaves audiences smiling long after the curtain falls.

Day 7: Branson, MO to Council Bluffs, IA

Before turning homeward, immerse yourself in a true American time capsule at the **Arabia Steamboat Museum**. In 1856, the steamboat Arabia sank in the Missouri River; its precious cargo lost for more than a century. When it was finally uncovered in a Kansas cornfield, it revealed thousands of everyday items—tools, china, boots, spices—perfectly preserved and frozen in time. Today, the museum holds the world's largest collection of pre-Civil War artifacts, offering a remarkable glimpse into the lives of pioneers. It's history you can see, touch, and imagine—making this stop one of the most unforgettable of the journey.

Day 8: Council Bluffs, IA to Home

Your southern sojourn concludes today as you arrive home. Along the way, you've explored railroads and riverboats, bathhouses and chapels, plantations and presidential legacies—each a chapter in the vivid story of America's heartland and South. The memories linger, rich with history, charm, and a touch of Southern grace.



Activity Level: Moderate

7 Breakfasts 1 Lunch 2 Dinners 1 Drury Kickback

Occupancy	Price Per Person	Credit Card Price
Double	\$1,806	\$1,878
Triple	\$1,637	\$1,703
Quad	\$1,554	\$1,616
Single	\$2,319	\$2,411

