

# COMPANIONS TOUR - MONDAY

## Monday, March 14, 2005

Our first day of tours will include stops at a variety of locations in Vicksburg.

The bus will board in front of the Hilton Hotel. It will depart at 9:15 am, and return around 3:15 pm. The following is some background information on the town of Vicksburg and the locations that will be visited.

### **Tour of Historic Vicksburg**

See the white columned mansions along the mighty Mississippi River. Vicksburg's architecture is among the most diverse in the state. With styles that range from Antebellum Greek Revival to turn-of-the-century Tudor Revival, Vicksburg has truly unique architecture. Formal gardens with fountains, gazebos and courtyards grace the exterior of many homes reflecting the beauty and history of the city. Various residences are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and as a Mississippi Landmark and Vicksburg Landmark.



### **Vicksburg National Military Park**

The Park was established by Congress in 1899, to commemorate one of the most decisive battles of the American Civil War, the campaign, siege and defense of Vicksburg.



The Vicksburg campaign was waged from March 29 to July 4, 1863. It included battles in west-central Mississippi at Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hill, Big Black River and 47 days of Union siege operations against Confederate forces defending the city of Vicksburg. Located high on the bluffs, Vicksburg was a fortress guarding the Mississippi River. It was known as "The Gibraltar of the Confederacy." Its surrender on July 4, 1863, coupled with the fall of Port Hudson, Louisiana,

divided the South, and gave the North undisputed control of the Mississippi River.

### **Lunch at Anchuca Garden House**

Anchuca, a Choctaw Indian word meaning "happy home," is one of the most significant antebellum homes in Vicksburg. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this impressive Greek Revival landmark represents the first columned mansion in Vicksburg. Surrounded by stately live oaks and located in the heart of Vicksburg's Historic District, Anchuca was built in 1830 by local politician J. W. Mauldin. In 1847, Victor Wilson, a local coal and ice merchant, added the columned front and the two-story dependency in back.



Come and enjoy lunch in the Garden House surrounded by the graceful trees and with a poolside view.

## **COMPANIONS TOUR - TUESDAY**

### **Tuesday, March 15, 2005**

We will be visiting a variety of locations in the local Jackson area.

The bus will board in front of the Hilton Hotel. It will depart at 9:15 am, and return around approximately 3:15 pm. The tour includes a number of well-known sites. Below is some background information on a few of the locations.

#### **Mynelle Gardens**

From a simple garden started over a half-century ago, Mynelle Gardens stands today as a botanical wonderland, wildlife sanctuary, and haven for songbirds. Mynelle Gardens began as a private garden created by Mynelle Westbrook Hayward and was acquired by the City of Jackson in 1973. It is a seven-acre collage of several distinct gardens, with winding pathways, cascading pools, and distinctive bridges which lead you across the pond to an island oasis. It typifies the southern garden with features worth emulating in our own backyards.



The gardens feature azalea and camellia trails and daylily displays, as well as hundreds of perennials and annuals in natural landscape settings. The gardens change with the seasons, even with the time of day, but the mood is always tranquil.

#### **Craftsmen's Guild Center on Natchez Trace**

The Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, Inc. was founded in 1973 as a non-profit organization of artisans and others interested in preserving and promoting the folk, traditional, and contemporary crafts of Mississippi and in encouraging the highest standard of excellence in these crafts. Informative exhibits and live demonstrations involve visitors in the artist process. In the sales gallery, you will discover a vast array of items, from Choctaw Indian crafts to fine pewterware handcrafted by Mississippi artisans.



#### **Gail Pittman Pottery**

Influenced by work from Italy and Portugal, Gail Pittman began making ceramic pieces as gifts, then later for sale in 1979. In the early 1980's, she began participating in the Canton, Mississippi, Flea Market where people from all parts of the country buy handcrafted goods from the artisans there. During most of the early 1980's, Gail produced her craft on the kitchen table at home. The Gail Pittman line of hand-painted dinnerware and accessories has indeed made a journey.

#### **Lunch at the University Club**

The University Club is a distinguished private club where members may meet their friends, entertain business and social guests and enjoy excellent food and personal service. Located atop AM South Bank Plaza, Jackson's tallest building, offering a panoramic view of downtown Jackson, Mississippi.