

Be part of John Howie's and Travelrite's outstanding 2026

HIGHWAY 61

Blues Music Tour of America

WITH JULES BOULT

23 May – 10 June 2026



Earlybird
discount

\$300 pp

Ends 31 July 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
2026
**Chicago
Blues
Festival**



TRAVELRITE
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John Howie
MUSIC TOURS
& CRUISES

Plus

Optional
Las Vegas & California
Blues Extension Tour

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The 2026 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 4 days & nights in Chicago, for the outstanding Chicago Blues Festival.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Saturday 23 May 2026 **Houston**

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 24 May 2026 **Lafayette**

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

DAY 3 Monday 25 May 2026 **New Orleans**

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 New Orleans – French Quarter (B)



DAY 4 Tuesday 26 May, 2026 **New Orleans**

Morning: Free time to explore New Orleans. **Late morning:** Our coach drops the tour group off near the Jackson Square precinct. You are free to have lunch and explore the surrounding area, featuring buskers, bars, cafes and The French Market. **Afternoon:** Enjoy a fabulous cruise and live music aboard a majestic Mississippi paddle wheeler (optional). **Evening:** Visit an iconic New Orleans music venue, for a pre-dinner performance featuring Jules with The New Orleans Redeemers. You can stay on at the venue, for dinner (optional) or visit other iconic music venues in the French Quarter, such as Fritzel's European Jazz Pub. (B)



DAY 5 Wednesday 27 May 2026 **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 28 May 2026 **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 29 May 2026 **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:** Holiday Inn Memphis Downtown. (B)

DAY 8 Saturday 30 May 2026 **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)

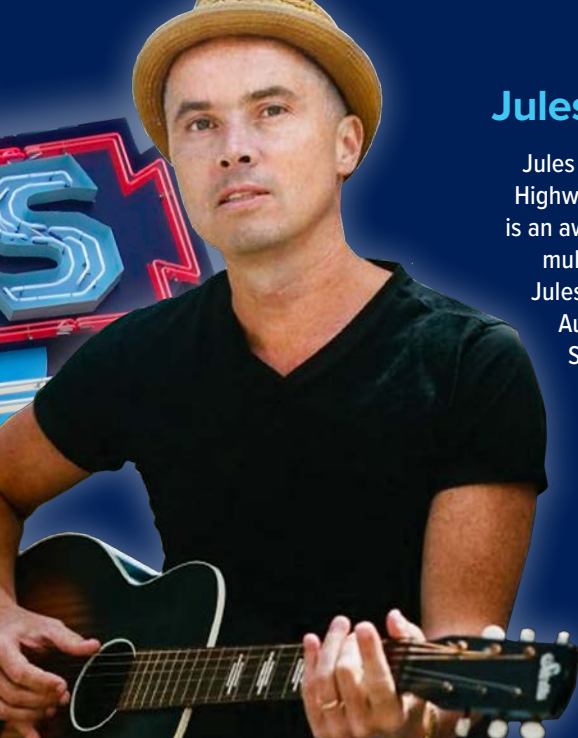
DAY 9 Sunday 31 May 2026 **Memphis**

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)

DAY 10 Monday 1 June 2026 **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)





Jules Boulton

Jules Boulton is the celebrity host of the 2026 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 2024 Jules toured the US annually (except for the COVID years), 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 11 Tuesday 2 June 2026 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:** In Nashville's famous Printers Alley nightclub district, visit the Bourbon Street Blues and Boogie Bar (optional), with Jules Boulton, for some live music (they also offer Cajun & Creole food). Alternatively, you may like to attend Nashville's famous Grand Ole Opry show (optional). (B)

DAY 12 Wednesday 3 June 2026 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:** Seelbach Hilton Hotel. (B)

DAY 13 Thursday 4 June 2026 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).



Las Vegas & California BLUES EXTENSION TOUR

DAY 1 Monday 8 June 2026 Las Vegas

Morning: Fly to Las Vegas, a city known for its casinos, shows, and nightlife. **Afternoon:** We will enjoy a panoramic coach tour of the city. See the incredible casino/ hotel/entertainment complexes that line the famous Las Vegas 'strip' and see the historic Welcome to Las Vegas neon sign (1959). Tonight is free to see a show or explore colourful Las Vegas. **Overnight:** Planet Hollywood Las Vegas Resort & Casino. (B)

DAY 2 Tuesday 9 June 2026 Las Vegas

Today is a free day in Las Vegas. You may wish to explore the nearby hotel/casino/shopping complexes, such as Caesar's Palace, or visit fascinating exhibitions, such as *Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition* (optional). Alternatively, you may wish to go on an optional tour to the Grand Canyon (by air and coach). **Evening:** See a show at the "House of Blues Las Vegas", a live music venue that hosts a variety of acts, including blues musicians (optional). (B)

DAY 3 Wednesday 10 June 2026 Los Angeles

Travel through the spectacular Mojave Desert, to Los Angeles. See distinctive Joshua trees and, in the distance, the Sierra Nevada mountains. In L.A., visit the Hollywood precinct, including the Walk of Fame (sidewalk stars, commemorating Hollywood stars), hand & foot prints (of Hollywood stars) outside the Chinese Theatre, & elevated walkway that provides excellent view of the famous Hollywood sign. **Evening:** Visit Baked Potato Jazz Club, in Hollywood Hills area (own expense). **Overnight:** Ramada Hotel, West Hollywood. (B)

DAY 4 Thursday 11 June 2026 Los Angeles

Morning: Coach tour of Hollywood/Beverly Hills area, including Sunset Strip, Rodeo Drive shopping precinct and Hollywood Bowl. Then visit the Grammy Museum, including

DAY 14 Friday 5 June 2026 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 6 June 2026 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 7 June 2026 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 8 June 2026 Departure

Morning: Free time for shopping and packing. **Afternoon:** Travel to Chicago Airport. Commence flights back to Australia, via Los Angeles. Those doing the Las Vegas & California Blues Extension Tour fly on to Las Vegas. (B)

DAY 18 Tuesday 9 June 2026 In flight

DAY 19 Wednesday 10 June 2026 Australia

Arrive back in Australia and the tour concludes.

exhibits on blues legends like B.B. King and John Lee Hooker.

Lunch at L.A.'s historic Grand Central Market (own expense).

Afternoon: Coach tour of Santa Monica/Venice Beach/Marina del Rey area. Shop in Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade precinct; walk on Santa Monica Pier & the Boardwalk at Venice Beach. **Evening:** Visit excellent blues/soul/R&B venue, Harvelle's Blues Club, in Santa Monica (own expense), before returning to our hotel. (B)

DAY 5 Friday 12 June 2026 Pismo Beach

Travel north, from L.A. to Pismo Beach, along the stunning Pacific Coast Highway. Along the way visit Ventura & Santa Barbara. **Overnight:** Hotel TBC. (B)

DAY 6 Saturday 13 June 2026 Pismo Beach

Morning: Free time. Explore the beaches or go shopping at Pismo Beach Premium Outlets. **Afternoon & Evening:** Attend Pismo Beach's Live Oak Music Festival, featuring top artists from around the globe. (B)

DAY 7 Sunday 14 June 2026 Departure

Morning: Travel to Los Angeles Airport. Commence return trip to Australia. (B)

DAY 8 Monday 15 June 2026 In flight

DAY 9 Tuesday 16 June 2026 Australia

Arrive back in Australia and the tour concludes.

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Included in the Las Vegas & California Blues Extension Tour:

- Economy-class airfare from Chicago to Las Vegas.
 - 6 nights' accommodation in centrally located first-class and moderate first-class hotels.
 - Breakfast daily.
 - Live Oak Music Festival, Pismo Beach, one day admission.
 - Entrance to all sightseeing attractions mentioned in the itinerary, except for those marked 'optional' or 'own expense'.
 - Sightseeing coach tours of Las Vegas and Los Angeles (2 tours).
 - Transport by first-class chartered coaches throughout.
 - Hotel/airport transfers.
 - Extension tour escorted by Jules Boult and managed by Travelrite tour manager.
- In the event that we only get a small number of people on the extension tour, the tour may be escorted by Jules Boult alone (Jules taking on the Tour Manager role).

Extension Tour Price:

Per person twin-share \$ 3,595
Single supplement \$ 895

Not included in the prices:

- 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' or 'own expense'. 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 quoted.
- Domestic flight connections to and from departure cities (& arrival cities) in Australia.

Tour Price:

| | | |
|---|-----------|---------------|
| Per person twin-share | \$ | 12,895 |
| Air taxes and fuel surcharges at 1/5/24 | \$ | 385 |
| Total per person twin-share | \$ | 13,280 |
| Single supplement | \$ | 2,895 |

Included in the tour price:

- Return economy-class airfare to USA (ex Sydney/Melbourne), plus economy-class air travel, Chicago to Los Angeles. (Those going on the Extension Tour don't have to pay for Chicago to Los Angeles.)
- 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; 4 dinners.
- Entry to all sightseeing attractions mentioned in the itinerary, except for those marked 'optional' or 'own expense'.
- Admission to all music concerts/events mentioned in the itinerary, except for those marked 'optional' or 'own expense'. Chicago Blues Festival is a free event.
- Transport by first-class chartered coaches throughout. All airport/hotel transfers.
- Tour escorted throughout by well-known Australian & International entertainer, Jules Boult.
- Tour managed throughout by professional Travelrite International 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 25 March 2025. 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 non-refundable deposit of \$900 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 \$900 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 non-refundable deposit of \$900 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

www.musicstours.com.au



www.musicstours.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. It has a fully ATAS accredited (No. A10538) office at Balwyn. As such it directly represents 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 Travel Industry Association – ATIA.