

Be part of Travelrite's and John Howie's outstanding 2025

# MUSIC TOUR OF **AMERICA**

★ with **Craig Giles** ★

Houston, Lafayette (western Louisiana), New Orleans, Tupelo,  
Memphis, Branson (Missouri), Paducah (Kentucky) & Nashville

**12 to 29 October 2025**



**PLUS**  
Optional  
Extension Tour to  
Washington D.C.,  
Pennsylvania &  
New York'



**TRAVELRITE**  
INTERNATIONAL

*John Howie*  
**MUSIC TOURS  
& CRUISES**

Please  
**BOOK EARLY**  
to avoid  
disappointment



# MUSIC TOUR OF AMERICA

★ with Craig Giles ★

## Itinerary

**DAY 1** Sunday October 12, 2025

### Houston

Depart Australia on your flight, arriving Houston same day. Transfer to our hotel. *Overnight:* Fairfield Inn & Suites, Houston. ( - )

**DAY 2** Monday October 13, 2025

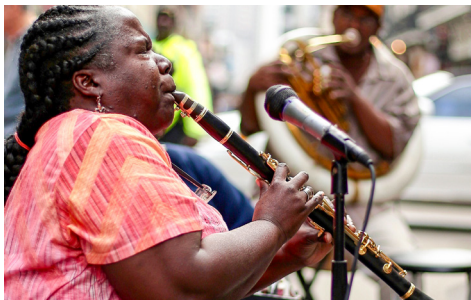
### Lafayette

*Morning:* After panoramic tour of Houston, Texas, travel to Lafayette & Breaux Bridge, Western Louisiana. *Afternoon:* Enjoy swamp tour, by boat. See amazing wildlife (alligators, turtles, birdlife) and distinctive swamp scenery. *Evening:* Commencement of tour dinner, including live music, at a Cajun restaurant or dance hall. *Overnight:* Double Tree by Hilton Lafayette. (B,D)

**DAY 3** Tuesday October 14, 2025

### New Orleans

*Morning:* Travel through beautiful western Louisiana swamp country, heading for New Orleans. On the way, visit Laura Plantation (antebellum homestead), including original slave quarters. *Afternoon:* Check into our hotel, in New Orleans' historic French Quarter, followed by free time. *Evening:* Explore the French Quarter, including colourful Bourbon Street. You'll find excellent jazz music in places like Fritzel's Jazz Club and Preservation Hall (all optional). *Overnight:* Wyndham New Orleans – French Quarter. (B)



**DAY 4** Wednesday October 15, 2025

### New Orleans

*Morning:* Sightseeing coach tour of New Orleans with local guide, including visits to an above ground cemetery and areas ravaged by Hurricane Katrina (2005). Also, see the beautiful mansions in St Charles Ave. *Afternoon:* Free time. You may see outstanding street performers, Hack Bartholomew and Doreen Kitchens (the 'Clarinet Queen') performing in the French Quarter. *Evening:* Enjoy Mississippi River cruise, dinner & jazz music aboard a majestic Mississippi paddlewheeler. After the cruise, visit the Frenchmen Street area (excellent jazz music), with John Howie (optional). (B,D)

**DAY 5** Thursday October 16, 2025

### Tupelo

Travel to Tupelo, Mississippi, the town where Elvis Presley was born and raised. On the way, visit the excellent Jimmie Rodgers Museum, in Meridian, Mississippi. Jimmie Rodgers (1897-1933), known as The Singing Brakeman, was one of the first superstars of American country music. Next to the museum see the beautiful Dentzel Carousel, manufactured in 1896 for the 1904 St. Louis Exposition. *Overnight:* Hotel Tupelo. (B)

**DAY 6** Friday October 17, 2025

### Tupelo

Visit the Elvis Presley Birthplace Park, including Elvis's boyhood home, the church he attended as a boy, and the Elvis Presley Museum. Also, visit the hardware store where Elvis's mum bought him his first guitar, and see the schools he attended. *Evening:* Enjoy Craig Giles Rock 'n Roll Dinner & Show, including special Tribute to Elvis Presley. (B,D)



**DAY 7** Saturday October 18, 2025

### Memphis

*Morning:* Travel to Memphis, home of the blues and birthplace of rock 'n roll. Visit Graceland, Elvis Presley's famous mansion. Our Elvis Experience Tour tickets include tour of the mansion, plus various exhibits including his automobiles, wardrobe, gold records, custom planes, etc. *Afternoon:* Sightseeing coach tour of Memphis, before visiting the excellent Memphis Rock 'n Soul Museum or the Stax Museum of American Soul Music (you have a choice). Then check into our hotel. You may wish to view the famous Peabody Duck parade (approx. 4.30pm – 5pm), at the Peabody Hotel, across the road from our hotel. *Evening:* Visit Beale Street, where we take in the atmosphere of this colourful precinct, including live music venues such as B.B. Kings Blues Club & the Rum Boogie Café. *Overnight:* Holiday Inn Downtown Memphis. (B)

**DAY 8** Sunday October 19, 2025

### Memphis

*Morning:* Visit impressive Bass Pro camping/fishing/hunting superstore, in massive glass Pyramid-shaped building. Then attend colourful church service at Al Green's Full Gospel Tabernacle Church, including amazing gospel music. *Afternoon:* Guided tour of Sun Studio (famous 1950s recording studio, where Elvis, Johnny Cash, and others recorded). Also visit the National Civil Rights Museum (the motel – now museum – where



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated). *Evening:* Dinner at the excellent Majestic Grille Restaurant, followed by further exploration of the live music venues in Beale Street. (B,D)

**DAY 9** Monday October 20, 2025

### Branson

Travel through the state of Arkansas, and the picturesque Ozark Mountains, to Branson, Missouri. Branson is famous for its many live music theaters, some operated by entertainers like The Duttons, some featuring traditional country music/comedy shows, like the Baldknobbers Jamboree, and some featuring visiting country music stars like Gene Watson, Jimmy Fortune, & The Bellamy Brothers. On arrival enjoy a coach tour of Branson's Las Vegas-like main strip, featuring colourful electronic billboards, tourist attractions, music theaters, & hotels. *Evening:* Attend one of Branson's outstanding shows... The Duttons show. *Overnight:* The Dutton Inn. (B)

**DAY 10** Tuesday October 21, 2025

### Branson

Attend a morning show of your choice (optional). *Afternoon:* Free time. You may like to visit Old Branson Town (Branson's traditional shopping area). *Evening:* Attend Dolly Parton's Stampede (fabulous arena show, including dinner), featuring spectacular horse riding, buffalo and/or longhorn cattle, etc. (B,D)



**DAY 11** Wednesday October 22, 2025

### Branson

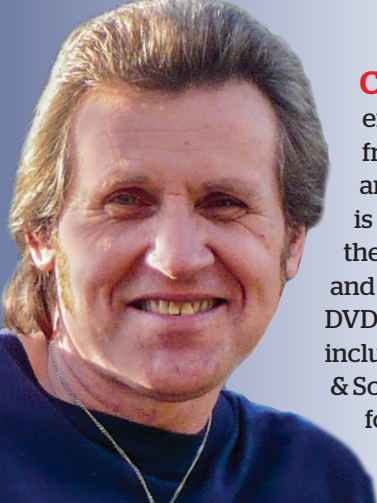
Today we visit Branson's Silver Dollar City Theme Park (where Australia's Wayne Horsburgh performed for many years). The park includes live music performances (aboveground) and spectacular limestone caves (underground). The annual Harvest Festival will be happening, featuring traditional craft demonstrations. Lots of excellent live music performances, on Silver Dollar City's many indoor & outdoor stages. *Evening:* Attend an outstanding Branson show of your choice. *Note:* Admission to the following attractions/shows in Branson is included in our tour: The Dutton Show; Dolly Parton Stampede dinner & show; Silver Dollar City theme park. Admission to other shows, in Branson, is optional; i.e. not included. (B)

**DAY 12** Thursday October 23, 2025

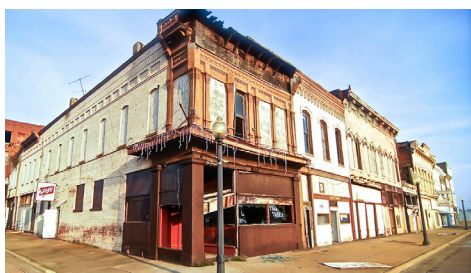
### Paducah

Depart Branson and travel to Paducah, Kentucky. On the way visit the fascinating, largely abandoned, town of Cairo, Illinois. Situated at the confluence of the Mississippi & Ohio rivers, Cairo was an important strategic town during the Civil War. In the 1920s the population was over 15,000. The population is now about 1,500. See many impressive buildings from a





**Craig Giles** (“Mr Versatile”) is one of Australia’s most popular entertainers. His rich singing voice, dynamic stage presence, and friendly personality have earned him a place as one of the top artists in Australian country music, rock ‘n’ roll, and rockabilly. He is well known for his outstanding Elvis Presley Tribute show. Over the past thirty years Craig has won many music industry awards and had many hit singles. He has released 17 successful albums and 2 DVDs. Craig has toured extensively, performing in thousands of places including the Sydney Opera House, America, Canada & Alaska, Ireland & Scotland, New Zealand, and on various music cruises. Craig looks forward to sharing his passion for music with you, on the 2025 Music Tour of America. [www.craigiles.com](http://www.craigiles.com)



bygone era. Near Cairo we cross two huge bridges that provide wonderful views of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. *Evening:* In Paducah, Craig Giles and John Howie will host an informal fun-filled singalong/music session. Please join in! *Overnight:* Drury Inn Paducah. (B)

### **DAY 13** Friday October 24, 2025 **Nashville**

*Morning:* Travel to Nashville, home of country music. On arrival, visit the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Centre. This amazing hotel features a huge glass atrium and 9 acres of beautiful indoor gardens. Then visit the Opry Mills Shopping Mall (excellent shopping & food court [for lunch]). *Afternoon:* Sightseeing tour of Nashville, with local guide. *Evening:* Enjoy

fabulous live country music in Nashville’s main entertainment precinct (around Broadway & 2nd Avenue). There are lots of great honky tonks (live music bars) in this area, plus the Wildhorse Saloon (large live music & line dancing venue). *Overnight:* Embassy Suites Nashville Vanderbilt. (B)

### **DAY 14** Saturday October 25, 2025 **Nashville**

Today we travel to the town of Lynchburg, Tennessee. Enjoy guided tour of Jack Daniel’s Distillery, followed by lunch at Miss Mary Bobo’s Boarding House & Restaurant (beautiful Southern home-cooked meals). *Evening:* Attend Nashville’s famous Grand Ole Opry show, featuring country music’s biggest stars. (B,L)



### **DAY 15** Sunday October 26, 2025 **Nashville**

*Morning:* Visit Nashville’s outstanding Country Music Hall of Fame and the wonderful Ryman Auditorium (Grand Ole Opry venue 1943 – 1974). *Afternoon:* Travel to Hendersonville, on the outskirts of Nashville, where we visit Johnny Cash’s grave. Then enjoy a performance (specially for our tour group) by the French Family Band. *Late afternoon & evening:* Back in Nashville, free time. You may wish to visit the Johnny Cash Museum, the Patsy Cline Museum, RCA Studio B, and excellent music venues like the Station Inn and the honky tonks (in Nashville’s downtown area). All museums/venues optional, after our return from Hendersonville. (B,AfternoonTea)

### **DAY 16** Monday October 27, 2025 **Departure**

*Morning:* Free time for shopping and packing. *Afternoon:* Commence flights back to Australia, via Houston. (B)

### **DAY 17** Tuesday October 28, 2025 **In flight**

### **DAY 18** Wednesday October 29, 2025 **Arrive in Australia**

We arrive back in Australia and tour arrangements conclude.



### **Optional Extension Tour** **Washington D.C.** **to New York**

**with John Howie**

### **DAY 1** Monday October 27, 2025 **Washington D.C.**

*Morning:* Fly to Washington D.C. *Afternoon:* Visit Lafayette Square, Washington D.C., where you will have an excellent view of The White House. *Evening:* Enjoy group dinner, before exploring D.C.’s live music venues (optional). *Overnight:* TBC (to be confirmed). (B,D)

### **DAY 2** Tuesday October 28, 2025 **Washington D.C.**

*Morning:* Sightseeing coach tour of Washington D.C. with local guide. Visit Arlington National Cemetery (see President Kennedy’s grave), the Lincoln Memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. See the Washington Monument, the Capitol, the Pentagon, and many other famous landmarks. *Afternoon:* Free time. You may wish to join John Howie on a visit to some of the wonderful Smithsonian museums, including the Air and Space Museum & the National Museum of American History (see the original Star-Spangled Banner). *Evening:* Visit one of Washington D.C.’s interesting nightlife precincts; e.g., Georgetown; Adams Morgan; U Street, for some excellent live music (optional). (B)

### **DAY 3** Wednesday October 29, 2025 **Lancaster/Amish region**

*Morning:* Travel to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Enjoy a guided tour of Gettysburg National Military Park (site of Civil War’s Battle of Gettysburg). *Afternoon:* Continue on to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. This region is home to the ‘Pennsylvania Dutch’, including the Amish people, many of whom wear plain clothing and travel in horse-drawn buggies. On arrival we will visit the Bird-in-Hand Farmers Market, before checking in to our hotel. *Evening:* After dinner, enjoy a fun-filled music/singalong session, hosted by John Howie. Please bring your instruments & voices and join in! *Overnight:* Bird-in-Hand Family Inn. (B,D)

### **DAY 4** Thursday October 30, 2025 **New York**

*Morning:* Enjoy a coach tour of the Amish region, with local guide. Have lunch with an Amish farming family. After lunch continue on to New York. On arrival check into our hotel in central New York. *Evening:* Free time for you to explore the colourful area around our hotel, in central Manhattan (near Times Square & the Broadway theatre district). *Overnight:* Hotel Edison. (B,L)

### **DAY 5** Friday October 31, 2025 **New York**

*Morning:* Sightseeing coach tour of New York, with local guide. Visit Midtown area, Central Park, Harlem, Wall Street financial district, and 9/11 Memorial. *Afternoon (mid-afternoon onwards):*



*Free time. Evening:* Free time for you to explore New York’s diverse restaurants and live music venues (optional). John Howie will offer suggestions re. live music venues. (B)

### **DAY 6** Saturday November 1, 2025 **New York**

*Morning:* Enjoy a cruise on New York Harbor, aboard the famous Staten Island Ferry. See the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island (historic immigrant processing facility). Then go for a walk on the Brooklyn Bridge (great views of the N.Y. skyline from the bridge). *Afternoon:* Free time. You may like to spend time in New York’s colourful Greenwich Village precinct. In the 50s, 60s & 70s musicians like Bob Dylan, Peter, Paul & Mary, & Joan Baez used to perform in the Village. *Evening:* Free time. You may like to attend a Broadway musical or theatre show (optional). (B)

### **DAY 7** Sunday November 2, 2025 **New York**

*Morning:* Free time for shopping and packing. *Mid-day approx.:* Transfer to airport. Commence flights back to Australia. (B)

### **DAY 8** Monday November 3, 2025 **In flight**

### **DAY 9** Tuesday November 4, 2025 **Arrive Australia**

Arrive back in Australia and the tour concludes.



# MUSIC TOUR OF AMERICA

★ with **Craig Giles** ★

12 to 29 October 2025

## Tour Price

Per person twin-share	\$ 11,495
Air taxes and fuel surcharges at 1/11/24	\$ 350
<b>Total per person twin-share</b>	<b>\$ 11,845</b>
Single supplement	\$ 1,995



Please note: Craig Giles will not be accompanying the tour group on the optional Extension Tour.

## Included in the tour price :

- Return economy-class airfare to USA flying Qantas Airways (ex Sydney/Melbourne/Brisbane). Economy-class air travel within the USA.
- 15 nights' accommodation in centrally located first-class and moderate first-class hotels, with private facilities, on twin share basis. Hotel taxes and service charges.
- Breakfast daily (a mixture of Continental and Full breakfasts); 5 dinners, 1 lunch, 1 afternoon tea.
- Entrance to all sightseeing attractions mentioned in the itinerary, except for those marked 'optional'. Admission to all music concerts/events mentioned in the itinerary, except for those marked 'optional'. Lots of free live music in the 'honky tonks' & other informal venues in places like New Orleans, Memphis & Nashville, though occasionally there may be a small cover charge.
- Transport by first-class chartered coaches throughout. All airport/hotel transfers.
- Portage of 1 piece of luggage per person.
- Tour escorted throughout by well-known Australian entertainer, Craig Giles.
- Tour managed throughout by John Howie, of The Howie Brothers, including the organization of excursions (most nights on the tour) to hear the best of American music.

## Not included in the price:

- Insurance. Travel insurance is strongly recommended.
- 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, other than those listed (and not marked 'optional') in the tour itinerary. Entrance to any other musical entertainment to be paid direct. Some entertainment venues, in places such as Beale Street (Memphis), '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 & arrival cities (in Australia).
- Although we will have a chartered coach for most of the tour, there may be a few occasions where you need to pay public transport/taxi/shuttle bus costs.

## Included in the Extension Tour:

- Economy-class airfares (1) from Nashville to Washington D.C., & (2) connecting flight from New York to wherever our flight back to Australia commences (in the US).
- 6 nights' accommodation in centrally located first-class and moderate first-class hotels.
- Breakfast daily; 1 dinner; 1 lunch.
- Entrance to all sightseeing attractions mentioned in the itinerary, except for those marked 'optional'. Please note: If the brochure says 'see' something, it means we simply see that attraction, rather than visit it. If the brochure says 'visit', it means we go into (i.e., visit) the attraction.
- Sightseeing coach tours of Washington D.C., the Gettysburg Battlefields, the Amish region, & New York, with local guides.
- Hotel/airport transfers.
- John Howie will be the tour leader/manager on the Extension Tour.

**Washington DC  
to New York  
Extension Tour Price:**

Per person twin-share	\$ 3,995
Single supplement	\$ 1,695

## Not included in the Extension Tour:

- Insurance. Travel insurance is strongly recommended.
- All items of personal nature, such as drinks, room service, laundry and phone calls.
- Meals & drinks, unless specified in itinerary.
- Some transport costs, in Washington D.C., and New York. Although we will have our own chartered coach, for most of the Extension Tour, there may be a few times where you are required to pay for public transport, or taxi costs.
- Admission to music/entertainment/Broadway shows.

You can extend your stay in America at no additional airfare cost (air taxes may be additional). Please check with us for optional tours, car hire, hotels, bed & breakfasts, etc.

## 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. A.C.N. 005 817 0781 (Travelrite International) is the tour operator. Tour Costs. The tour's costs are based on transport, accommodation costs and entrance costs at 10 October 2024. Travelrite reserves the right to alter the costs if any of these factors change, 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 deposit of \$500 per passenger is required at the time of booking. Full payment will be required 60 days prior to departure. A 1% administration charge will be added to payment by Visa and Mastercard. 3% administration charge will be added for payment by AMEX and Diners.

**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 \$500 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 on the basis of 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. The contract shall be construed in accordance with the laws of 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 deposit of \$500 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](mailto:sales@travelrite.com.au)

[www.travelrite.com.au](http://www.travelrite.com.au)

[www.music tours.com.au](http://www.music tours.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 is accredited with IATA. 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 Federation of Travel Agents – AFTA.

