

PRESS RELEASE

Of interest to editors and journalists covering:  
Travel & Tourism, Architecture, Historical, MS Business News

Increased Advance Bookings For Natchez Fall Pilgrimage, October 6-23, 2004,  
Featuring the Cream of the Finest Pre-Civil War Mansions in the Country

NATCHEZ, MS - September 9, 2004./Send2Press Newswire/ -- Natchez Pilgrimage Tours announces the 27th celebration of one of the outstanding festivals in the Southeast. October brings a cool crispness and richly matured gardens along with the 2004 Natchez Fall Pilgrimage, featuring the cream of the finest pre-civil war mansions in the country. Since 1977 ladies in hoopskirts have welcomed visitors to historic Natchez on the Mississippi for this annual experience.

"Advance booking reports show an increase in group bookings compared to the 2003 Fall Pilgrimage," said John Saleeby, General Manager of Natchez Pilgrimage Tours. "This is very positive news for Natchez since tourism dollars benefit our entire community."

"Individual house tour ticket sales are difficult to predict since the visitor does not purchase them in advance. However, the number of 'hits' on our website, which now features a printable Fall Brochure, are way up from last year and this along with bed-and-breakfast reservations indicate a good season" he said.

Natchez homeowners have built a thriving tourism market by preserving these historic properties and inviting people from all over the world to visit. Eighteen outstanding homes are opened, six per day, on a three day rotation. Longwood the most visited house in the Southeast is open daily.

Tour tickets are sold only at Natchez Pilgrimage Tours, corner of Canal and State Streets at the Canal Street Depot. Natchez Pilgrimage Tours also sells tickets for special Pilgrimage evening entertainments.

Amos Polk's Voices of Hope Spiritual Singers perform every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings throughout the Fall Pilgrimage. The performance includes a traditional plantation-style dinner in the Carriage House Restaurant on the grounds of historic Stanton Hall, corner of High and Pearl Streets. Dinner served at 6:45 p.m., performance begins at 8:00 p.m.

Also offered in connection with the Fall Pilgrimage is the rip-roaring Mississippi Medicine Show, a fun-filled song, dance and comedy revue patterned after the river medicine shows of bygone riverboat days. Natchez Little Theatre, 319 Linton Avenue. Performances every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 8:00 p.m.

Call (800) 647-6742 for more information and a free, full-color brochure, or go to <http://www.natchezpilgrimage.com> to view and print the brochure.

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