

PRESS RELEASE

Of interest to editors and journalists covering:
Travel and Tourism, Architecture, Historical/Americana, MS Business

Mississippi River Town Opens Pre-Civil War Mansions

Natchez Spring Pilgrimage, March 13 - April 17, 2004

NATCHEZ, MS. - Feb. 5, 2004 /Send2Press Newswire/ -- Natchez Pilgrimage Tours (www.natchezpilgrimage.com) invites lovers of history and beautiful things to the seventy-second year of the finest house tours in the South. Southern belles in hoop skirts. Opulent mansions and plantation homes. The majestic Mississippi River. A town where history lives.

The splendor of the pre-Civil War South will once again come to life in Natchez with the 2004 Natchez Spring Pilgrimage. Twenty nine pre-Civil War mansions will open to the public for guided tours March 13 through April 17. Many of these grand historic houses are private residences which open to visitors only during the annual Spring and Fall Pilgrimages.

For more than 70 years, Natchez has opened its arms to lovers of history, architecture and the decorative arts, and visitors have lost their hearts to this beautiful old City on the Mississippi River. Natchez has become synonymous with the term 'Antebellum mansion,' and anyone who visits the city soon realizes why this is so.

With more pre-1860 buildings than any other city its size in the United States, Natchez provides visitors escorted tours through 18th and 19th-century country houses, suburban villas and grand mansions, all furnished with exquisite antiques and many surrounded by old gardens and parks. Hoopskirted hostesses conduct tours and interpret the rooms, furnishings and history of each house.

Houses open daily for morning and afternoon tours of three or four houses each. Since the schedule of houses changes each day, tour passes are color-coded. Daily tours include elaborate town homes, suburban villas, and plantation-style country houses. A three house pass is \$21, four houses cost \$28. Longwood the most popular house in the Southeast, is open daily for \$8.

Every evening throughout the Spring Pilgrimage features live entertainment, including the colorful "Confederate Pageant". More than two hundred performers in authentic period costumes portray in music and dance scenes from Natchez's history prior to the Civil War. The "Southern Road to Freedom" is a stirring musical tribute to the African-American experience in Natchez. "Southern Exposure", a 1950s Broadway show spoofing the Pilgrimage, the town and its people has delighted visitors for more than forty years. All performance tickets are \$12 person.

Many of Natchez's historic houses also offer bed-and-breakfast accommodations in country plantations and elegant townhouses.

Information about tour tickets, performances, group rates and bed-and-breakfast reservations may be obtained by contacting Natchez Pilgrimage Tours, Canal at State Street, at (800)647-6742 or (601)446-6631.
<http://www.natchezpilgrimage.com>

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/NOTE TO EDITORS: Photographs available; travel writers,

editors invited for complimentary tours./

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*IMPORTANT NOTE TO MEDIA:

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