

# Life in the Old South

November 4, 2010



From the earliest days of the New World, French and Spanish colonists staked their claims to a portion of the Louisiana Territory above and below New Orleans, through land grants and purchases. By the early nineteenth century, when Americans began to flood the Lower Mississippi River Valley, many fortunes were being made from sprawling acres of land richly planted in cotton, cane, and indigo. The age of plantation architecture flourished. Pillared palaces were built for comfort and efficiency, luxury and entertaining. This lavish culture reached its zenith in the peaceful days before the War Between the States, leaving as a legacy the Greek revival masterpieces rising along

the banks of Ol' Man River. Experience life as it must have been at two of the Great Ladies of the River Road: San Francisco and Destrehan. We invite you to venture into this golden age as we travel up the Great River Road.

**DESTREHAN:** Erected in 1787, Destrehan is the oldest extant plantation remaining on the Lower River Road. The lovely sweeping lines of Destrehan belie the origin of its Creole architect for the plantation is a shining example of classic French West Indies architecture. Today, the mansion is maintained through the efforts of the River Road Historical Society.

**SAN FRANCISCO:** This charming house is probably the most elaborately decorated plantation in the area. Built in the 1850's, when "Steamboat Gothic" was at its height, San Francisco is a treasure trove of often whimsical Victoriana. Gorgeous furnishings complement Italian frescos and multi-colored pastels highlight the home's fascinating exterior cutwork. Recently restored at a cost of millions, San Francisco is a delight to the eye.

**Cost**     \$95 per person  
              Based on 20 people

**Time**     8:00am to 12:30pm

## Sample Itinerary

Depart hotel  
Arrive at the San Francisco Plantation  
Tour the San Francisco Plantation  
Depart San Francisco Plantation  
Arrive at the Destrehan Plantation  
Tour the Destrehan Plantation  
Depart the Destrehan Plantation  
Return to hotel



## Inclusions

- Admission to the San Francisco Plantation
- Admission to the Destrehan Plantation
- One (1) bottle of water per guest
- Roundtrip transportation via motor coach
- BBC staff to check the bus for cleanliness, direct driver, welcome guests, and load the bus
- Sign with United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation clearly displayed on the motor coach
- All appropriate driver gratuities
- Complete pre-event coordination and on-site management by BBC