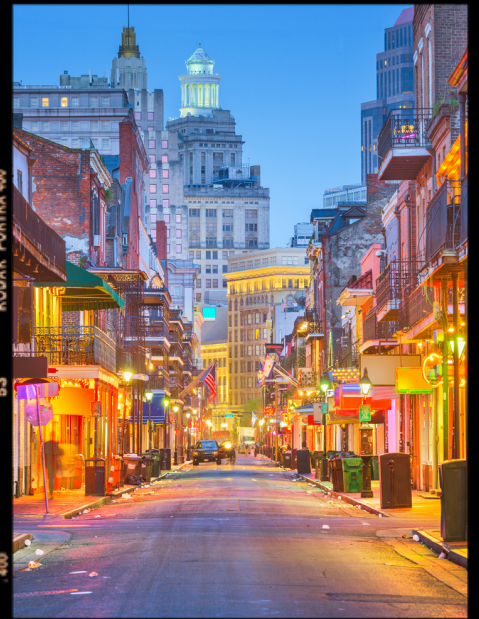




EPIC JOURNEYS
PRESENTS

MAGICAL MUSICAL TOUR USA 2024

3 OCTOBER - 25 OCTOBER 2024



Mark Taipari is the winner of the 2023 Variety Club "Showcase Entertainment" award. He has been entertaining New Zealanders for over 30 years and as well as recording his own music is a renowned tribute artist. Mark will bring a wealth of musical knowledge and talent to our tour – as well as his guitar.

Brendan Horan is a charismatic renowned singer, entertainer, and former TV One weatherman with over three decades of experience captivating audiences! With his infectious energy and knack for storytelling he is sure to entertain, promising a tour brimming with laughter, music, and cherished memories.



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INTRODUCTION

Get ready for the ultimate American musical adventure and join us on a journey that will take us from the wonder and diversity of New York to the Country music capital of the world in Nashville, then to Memphis and Graceland and finally to New Orleans, the home of jazz and blues. And while Nashville, Memphis and New Orleans need little introduction musically, New York's influence on American music is also profound and far-reaching. From the jazz age of the Harlem Renaissance to the birth of hip-hop in the Bronx, the city has served as a crucible for musical innovation, nurturing diverse genres and fostering creative collaborations. The melting pot of cultures and communities that defines New York City has infused its music with a richness and diversity unparalleled anywhere else. Artists flock to New York to be part of this dynamic ecosystem, drawn by its energy, its history, and its relentless pursuit of artistic excellence. Through its iconic venues, its legendary recording studios, and its vibrant neighbourhoods, New York continues to shape the sound of America, pushing boundaries, breaking barriers, and inspiring generations of musicians to come. At Epic Journeys, we take care of all the details, from flights to accommodation, transportation, and entry tickets to all the major tourist attractions.




So, what are you waiting for? Join us on this most epic of journeys and experience the thrill of exploring differing musical genres, in amazing cities, and in the company of fellow music lovers.

ITINERARY

THUR 3 OCT

AUCKLAND TO NEW YORK

 Air New Zealand Flight (direct flight from Auckland to New York)
Depart Auckland 7.25pm and arrive 7.15pm the same day in New York City

On arrival at New York's JFK Airport the group will be met and transferred to our stunning inner city Manhattan hotel for the next 7 nights. There will be a brief "get to know each other better" drink at the rooftop bar at our hotel on arrival.

THUR 3 OCT - THUR 10 OCT

MANHATTAN

The Shelburne Sonesta Hotel
303 Lexington Ave
Murray Hill,
Manhattan, New York 10016

- In Thursday 3 October Out Thursday 10 October 7 nights Manhattan
- Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi
- Full breakfast included

FRI 4 OCT

NEW YORK CITY

We have an entire week in Manhattan and we've just arrived after a whole day of travelling so today has no planned activities. However, it is an excellent opportunity to acquaint ourselves with the immediate area (we are in a magnificent location less than a 10 minute walk from either the Empire State or Grand Central Terminal), get some snacks for the room, have a coffee or pop into a local diner or one of the many neighbourhood bars (we do have maps and suggestions). For those who are interested there will be an informal wander (at 11.30am from the hotel lobby) up to Grand Central Terminal which is adjacent to the quite astonishing art deco masterpiece in the Chrysler building. Grand Central Terminal itself is arguably the world's most beautiful train station and we'll walk through their shopping arcades and stop for lunch and a drink at the Oyster Bar and Restaurant. One of the features of the Shelburne Hotel & Suites is it's daily "Social Sips" hour where staff meet with guests for an hour of complimentary wine!!! Time afterwards to head out for dinner, see a show or plan the rest of the week.

SAT 5 OCT

NEW YORK CITY

This is most assuredly a music tour, but it's important to also understand what else is going on in New York during the time we're there.

Starting with sport - the regular baseball season is over but the playoffs are going on right through October and with New York having the Yankees and the Mets representing the city, there's a chance there could be a playoff game in town.

New York is represented in the NFL by both the New York Giants and Jets, both of whom play at Metlife stadium across the Hudson river at Meadowlands (just 16km away), and they will be in their regular season so there's a strong chance one of them will be at home. The city is also represented by the Brooklyn Nets and New York Knicks in the NBA but sadly we're there just before the season starts.

Shopping is always top of mind for many, and Manhattan is superbly served by 5th Avenue and Soho with all the named brands although the flagship Macy's department store is at nearby Herald Square. Antique hunters will have a terrific time as well at West 23rd with the Antique Warehouse.

The music scene in New York is legendary and we will be visiting various live music venues in and around New York city. The Lincoln Center is home to the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Ballet and the New York Philharmonic; Café Wha? is where Bob Dylan played his first gig and Jimi Hendrix and Springsteen have also played here; the Chelsea Hotel's reputation runs deep - Janis Joplin, Leonard Cohen, Iggy Pop, Madonna and Patti Smith all called this place home and Madison Square Garden is both a sports and entertainment venue renowned for Billy Joel's concerts among many others..

We will give a list of Broadway and off-Broadway shows as our departure gets closer and we'll also advise what concerts are on while we're in town.

SUN 6 OCT

NEW YORK CITY

It's Sunday in Manhattan and we have a leisurely start to the day before a New York signature "bottomless mimosa" brunch cruise from 11am until 2.30pm. We depart from Pier 61 and cruise both the Hudson and East rivers with spectacular views of the Manhattan skyline, the Brooklyn Bridge, the Empire State building and up close and personal with the Statue of Liberty - all the while with superb cuisine and drinks.

After disembarking the rest of the day is free although we might be watching the brilliant Robert Whaley playing (more about Robert later).

ITINERARY

MON 7 OCT

MANHATTAN

We have our own guided spectacular tour of New York which will depart the hotel at 9.30am and return by 4.30pm with a short stop for lunch (included). Our tour will include a city-wide tour including a Ground Zero and 9/11 Memorial tour, the Financial district, Little Italy, Soho, Central Park and a general overview of Manhattan. We will have our own coach but get off at a number of stops around the city.

TUES 8 OCT

NEW YORK CITY

The day itself is free to continue to see the sites of Manhattan and New York city although this evening we have seats to see the spectacular musical "The Who's Tommy" at the Nederlander Theatre on Broadway.

WED 9 OCT

NEW YORK CITY

A completely unscripted day - it is our last full day in this fascinating and beguiling city so make sure you've ticked off your very own bucket list and don't be afraid to ask our assistance. There is a strong chance sometime during the week that we will see the astonishing Robert Whaley and his Comic Tales of Tragic Heartbreak - watch this space.

THURS 10 OCT

NEW YORK TO NASHVILLE

Our last day in New York city so nothing is planned this morning until our 11.30am transfer from our hotel to Newark Airport
United Airlines Flight
Depart Newark: 2.30pm Arrive Nashville: 4.16pm
On arrival we'll be transferred to our inner-city hotel where the evening is free

THURS 10 OCT TO TUES 16 OCT

NASHVILLE

Residence Inn by Marriott Nashville Vanderbilt
1801 Hayes St
Nashville TN37203

- In Thursday 10 October Out Tuesday 15 October 5 nights Nashville
- Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi
- Full breakfast included

FRI 11 OCT

NASHVILLE

Our first day proper in Nashville and we'll need our breakfast to fuel up for an amazing introduction into the heart of country music as we have a stunning guided walking tour of Nashville starting at 10:30 a.m. Some of the sites we will see include The Arcade / Printers Alley / Skull's Rainbow Room / Ryman Auditorium / Tootsie's Orchid Lounge / Hermitage Hotel and we end at the Country Music Hall of Fame where we will be free to explore and learn the history of country music at our own pace.

The rest of the day and evening is ours to walk along the Honky Tonk Highway on Lower Broadway, hopping from one historic honky-tonk to another, listening to live music and soaking in the vibrant atmosphere. And perhaps grab dinner at a downtown restaurant before continuing our exploration of live music venues.

SAT 12 OCT

NASHVILLE

A cracking day ahead and we'll depart the hotel at 10:45 a.m. for the General Jackson Showboat cruise down the Mississippi River, while enjoying a buffet lunch and live country music entertainment. After disembarking the General Jackson we will head across the parking lot to the Grand Ole Opry for a history tour. The Grand Ole Opry is the stage that showcases country music's past, present, and future and has been home to the art form's growth and evolution for over 98 years.

The evening itself will be free after the excesses of the day.

SUN 13 OCT

NASHVILLE

The day is yours free to explore. May we suggest exploring the Belle Meade Plantation, a historic site with a rich history tied to country music and southern culture which was also a stud where the mighty Seabiscuit was born or visit the Johnny Cash Museum to learn about the life and legacy of the "Man in Black".
This evening, we will be attempting to get tickets to a show at the Grand Ole Opry but will confirm in the coming months. Alternatively, we have the opportunity to continue to explore our country music roots and kick up our heels and dance and sing with Brendan and Mark at one of the local country saloons.

MON 14 OCT

NASHVILLE

We will depart the hotel at 9.30am and head to Lynchburg, Tennessee - home of the Jack Daniel's distillery. We will participate in a tour of the distillery itself and visit the barrel rooms and YES we will have time for sampling. After the tour we will have a group lunch at Barrell House BBQ before heading back to Nashville.
The evening is ours to continue celebrating the legends of country music.

TUES 15 OCT

COACH NASHVILLE TO MEMPHIS

Our coach will depart for Memphis at 10.30am although we'll stop enroute for an included group lunch. We should still arrive in Memphis around 4pm where the rest of the day is at our leisure. There's the opportunity to enjoy dinner at a restaurant on Beale Street, where you can catch live blues performances and we'll be checking out iconic venues like B.B. King's Blues Club and Rum Boogie Cafe.

TUES 15 OCT TO FRI 18 OCT

MEMPHIS

Hampton Inn & Suites
175 Peabody Place
Memphis, TN 38103

- In Tuesday 15 October Out Friday 18 October 3 nights Memphis
- Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi
- Full breakfast included

WED 16 OCT

MEMPHIS

After breakfast, put on your Elvis persona as we head to Graceland and experience 120 acres dedicated to the life and career of an American legend, Elvis Presley, the King of Rock 'n' Roll. See his mansion, the gold records, the jeweled jumpsuits, the classic cars, and interactive exhibits that let you experience Elvis like never before. There will be a group lunch at the Elvis Presley Entertainment complex included.

The rest of the day is free after we return from Graceland - perhaps visit the Memphis Music Hall of Fame?

THURS 17 OCT

MEMPHIS

After breakfast we will continue to discover Memphis' rich musical heritage aboard the nation's only music bus. Our guide for this tour will be a professional Beale Street musician who will play and sing selections from the city's rich musical heritage, while entertaining us with comedy, history, and behind-the-scenes stories of your favorite Memphis personalities - our bus tour will include entrance to Sun Studios.

The evening again will be free for us to choose our own dining choices but perhaps try some good ole southern classics like fried catfish, or biscuits and gravy.

FRI 18 OCT

COACH MEMPHIS TO NEW ORLEANS

It's a long day and our coach will depart at 9am sharp with an included group lunch on the journey. We should still arrive in New Orleans around 4.30pm where the evening is at leisure to explore. New Orleans is a city steeped in music history with jazz certainly being the most celebrated genre - however the blues has been ever-present in the city's rich musical landscape.

FRI 18 OCT TO WED 23 OCT**NEW ORLEANS**

Royal Sonesta Hotel
300 Bourbon St

New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

- In Friday 18 October OUT Wednesday 23 October 5 nights New Orleans
- Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi
- Full breakfast included

SAT 19 OCT**NEW ORLEANS**

We will start the day off by stretching our legs on a walking tour of the French Quarters – the oldest neighborhood in New Orleans. Our walking tour begins at 10:00 a.m. where we are guided through the historic streets; one of the most unique and historic cultural epicenters of the country. In the company of our expert guide, we will go back in time through 300 years of history, and bring to life the most surprising and fascinating stories that led to the present-day New Orleans we know and love.

After our tour, we will have a group lunch at a local restaurant.

The rest of the day is free – perhaps an outdoor café for coffee and a beignet. Make sure to try a taste of the creole cuisine – shrimp and grits, gumbo or the very tasty muffaletta sandwich. Nothing says New Orleans like a night of jazz music so hop on a trolley and visit Tipitina's in the Garden District or grab an outdoor table on Bourbon Street where nightly music is played into the early morning.

SUN 20 OCT**NEW ORLEANS**

Departing our hotel at 10:30 a.m. we will take a leisurely stroll to Steamboat Natchez. We will begin boarding the Steamboat at 11:00 a.m. and depart at 11:30 a.m. While on the "Natchez" we will enjoy a delicious Sunday Brunch of southern cuisine and local jazz music by Duke Heitger's Steamboat Stompers Jazz Trio.

Upon returning dockside at 1:30 p.m. the rest of the day and evening will be free for you to consider visiting the New Orleans Jazz Museum. Housed in the historic Old U.S. Mint, strategically located at the intersection of the French Quarter and the Frenchmen Street live music corridor, the New Orleans Jazz Museum is in the heart of the city's vibrant music scene.

An evening would not be complete without a spin on New Orleans' only revolving bar with the city's signature cocktail, the Sazerac, in hand. The famous Carousel Bar is part of Hotel Monteleone in the French Quarter. Or visit The Spotted Cat – one of the best jazz clubs in New Orleans.

MON 21 OCT**NEW ORLEANS**

A free day for everyone – may we suggest a stroll through the Garden District home to grand historic mansions, quirky indie boutiques, and beautifully cultivated gardens or the infamous Jackson Square to shop for souvenirs while watching the local street performers. Or a beautiful stroll through Armstrong Park – dedicated to the king of jazz – Louis Armstrong.

TUES 22 OCT**NEW ORLEANS**

On our final day in the magical city of New Orleans and the last day of the Magical Music Tour be sure to tick off your list a quick trip to St Louis #1 – the oldest cemetery in New Orleans where you will find the future home of actor Nicholas Cage – a 9-foot-tall pyramid shape tomb. Or do you dare visit one of the local voodoo shops? Wherever your day takes you be sure to join your Epic Journey team at 6:00 p.m. for the farewell tour dinner.

WED 23 OCT**NEW ORLEANS TO HOUSTON AND AUCKLAND NZ**

Our last day of the tour and nothing is planned today until our 2pm transfer from our hotel to New Orleans Louis Armstrong Airport. From there we have a short United Airlines flight to Houston where we connect with our Air New Zealand flight direct back to Auckland.

United Airlines Flight

Depart New Orleans: 5.25pm Arrive Houston: 6.45pm

Connecting with

Air New Zealand Flight NZ029

Departs Houston: 8.55pm Arrives Auckland: 5.30am (Friday 25 October)



INCLUSIONS

- Escorted by celebrity tour host Mark Taipari
- Services of an Epic Journeys tour guide throughout
- All flights as detailed
- 20 nights quality hotel accommodation with full breakfast daily
- Quality coaches throughout with toilet and WiFi access where possible
- All transfers and tours as detailed in the itinerary
- All flight taxes, accommodation taxes and service fees throughout the tour
- Other meals as detailed in the itinerary
- All entrance fees throughout the tour including musicals, concerts etc

COST

NZ\$18,870 per person**

Single Supplement: NZ\$4,980**

TOUR COST/DEPOSITS/PAYMENTS

**The quoted tour prices are based on Currency Exchange rates as of 15 February 2024 and are subject to alteration (up or down) in the event of marked currency fluctuations.

A deposit of NZ\$5,000 is required to confirm your place on the tour.

A 2nd instalment of NZ\$5,000 is required by 30 April 2024 and the balance is due on or before 31 July 2024

Add-ons are available to the tour (before or after)

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