



# Winter Week in The Villages

## January 18 – 28, 2026

### 11 Days / 10 Nights

#### **Day #1 – Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>:**

- 7:00 AM** Depart Peoria Charter from 2600 NE Adams Street  
**7:25 AM** Depart Morton from Wal Mart, 155 E Courtland Street (behind Culvers)  
**8:00 AM** Depart Normal from Schnuck's off Raab Road, 1750 Bradford Lane  
**9:00 AM** Depart Urbana from Peoria Charter, 1910 N Federal Road for Franklin, Tennessee – our home for the night. We'll make rest & meal stops along the way as needed.  
**5:30 PM** We arrive at our hotel in Franklin, Tennessee and get checked in for the night. Dinner is on your own this evening.

#### **Day #2 – Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>:**

**Breakfast\*** is included at the hotel.

We check out and make our way into Nashville where we'll pick up our **Guide\***



**for a Troubadour City Tour\***. Our Singer/Song Writer will board the coach for an "Only In Nashville" kind of tour. He or she will bring new meaning to the phrase "entertaining narrative" as we travel through Nashville. The tour includes Downtown Nashville's colorful history with drive-by of the historic Ryman Auditorium, Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, Honky Tonk Row and much more. You'll hear what it's like trying to break into Nashville's music scene, both the struggles and the victories. Following

the tour, we make our way to Cordele, Georgia where we'll overnight. Dinner is on your own tonight.

#### **Day #3 – Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>:**

**Breakfast\*** is included this morning before we depart for Florida! We'll make rest and meal stops along the way to Crystal River, Florida – our home for the next 2 nights. The bay in Crystal River is one of the largest aquifers in the state

#### **Peoria Charter Travel**

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and home to more than 400 West Indian manatees that migrate each year to the warmth of the springs. Tonight, you'll enjoy a **Dinner Buffet\*** at the resort.

#### **Day #4 – Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>:**

**Breakfast\*** is included this morning and then we're off on a **Scenic River Cruise\***. Our day begins with a scenic narrated river cruise. Explore water in King's Bay, which is home to over 41 named springs such as the crown jewel of the Crystal River National Refuge, Three Sisters Springs. The bay is also home to the Florida West Manatee. Even in the summer there can be as many as 50-70 manatees in the bay. In the winter, there can be up to 600!! The afternoon is yours to discover what activities the Plantation on Crystal River has to offer. There is a variety of fishing, boating, water sports, and nature-based experiences off and on shore. There is also a golf course and full-service spa available. Tonight, you'll enjoy another **Dinner Buffet\***.

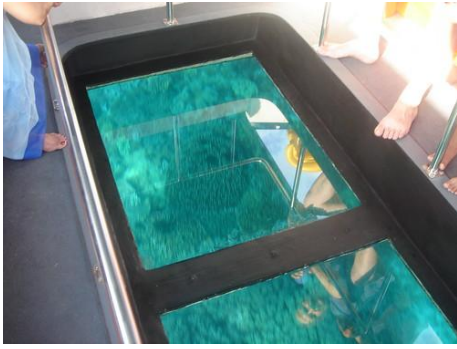


#### **Day #5 – Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>:**

**Breakfast\*** is included this morning and then we're off for **The Villages\***. As we arrive at The Villages, we'll take a **tour with a step-on guide\***. It will provide you with a thorough orientation to this city of over 100,000 (age 55+). From the trolley you'll see and learn about each of the Town Squares, and about the requirements of residency, plus you'll see the recreation opportunities available to you in the days to come. When the Trolley Tour ends, you'll pick up your Golf Car. One Golf Car per room. Golf Cars come standard with a roof, rain enclosure, headlights, directional signals and the 1<sup>st</sup> tank of gas free. The Villages have separate (safe from automobiles) golf car roads. Note: Golf Cars are gas powered with a range of about 200 miles. Rental requirements state that one person in every room must be over the age of 55, and one person per car must have a valid Driver's License. We'll spend the next 4 nights in Spanish Springs, FL. Enjoy a free evening in The Villages. Cruise the streets, park at the Square and listen to live music from inside your cars, or dance by the bandstand. Dinner is on your own tonight.

#### **Day #6 – Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>:**

**Breakfast\*** is served at The Villages. This morning, we set off for **Silver Springs Nature's Theme Park for a sightseeing tour\***. Silver Springs was one of Florida's first tourist attractions. It is also one of the largest artesian springs in the



world, and the park quickly became renowned for the Glass Bottom Boat tour. It provides you with a unique vantage point and the experienced Tour Guides will give you an up-close and personal look at Florida's amazingly diverse ecosystem! You have the best seats in the house for viewing wildlife, taking pictures, asking questions, and learning about the lore and history of Silver Springs. Tonight, you'll enjoy a free

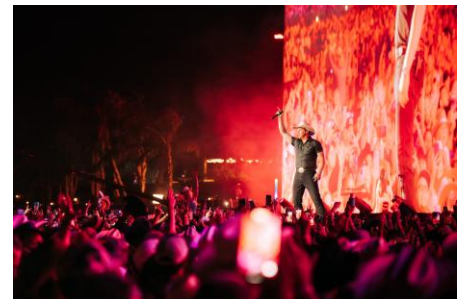
evening in The Villages where you can check out restaurants for dinner on your own.

### **Day #7 – Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>:**

**Breakfast\*** is served before we depart for Ocala, Florida! This morning finds us in Ocala to **tour\*** the Gypsy Gold Horse Farm. Meet the Gypsy Vanner horses in person, hear the history of the breed from its discovery in Great Britain to its growth in the United States. This afternoon, we'll **visit\*** the Appleton Museum of Art. The museum has a large collection of European paintings, sculptures and decorative arts and boasts over 18,000 objects. Some of the permanent exhibits you can see are a collection of Florida artists, an equine art collection that spans over 3,000 years of history as well as Colombian, Asian and African Arts. This evening you've got another free evening to enjoy The Villages and enjoy dinner on your own.

### **Day #8 – Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>:**

**Breakfast\*** is included again this morning and then your morning is free to do as you please. Sleep in, take a walk or take the golf cart out for a spin. This afternoon you'll enjoy a **matinee show\*** at the "Orange Blossom Opry". The theatre presents a variety of musical styles including traditional country, new country, rock & show tunes, plus their own special brand of humor! Tonight, you'll enjoy another free evening at The Villages with dinner on your own.



### **Day #9 – Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>:**

**Breakfast\*** is included this morning before we check out and depart for Atlanta, Georgia – our next overnight stop.

### **Day #10 – Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>:**

**Breakfast\*** is included at the hotel and then we're off to **visit\*** the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum. Shortly after taking office as President, Jimmy

Carter expressed interest in building a Presidential Library “someplace in Georgia”. The National Archives and Records Administration was invited to



establish an office in the Old Executive Building to be staffed by archivists who could advise the White House staff on the preservation and arrangement of the twenty-seven million pages and other historical materials from the Carter Presidency, prior to their movement to Georgia. The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum is located on thirty-acres and opened on October 1, 1986. Our travel will then continue to Paducah,

Kentucky where we'll overnight. Dinner is on your own tonight.

### **Day #11 – Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>:**

**Breakfast\*** is included this morning before we depart for a **tour\*** of the Paducah Murals. You'll enjoy a brief driving tour along the Ohio River Floodwalls that protect the city and see the many murals that highlight the community's history. After viewing the murals, we depart for home making rest and meal stops along the way as needed. Don't forget to set your watches back an hour as we re-enter the Central Time Zone.

**3:00 PM** Approximate arrival time back in Urbana.  
**4:00 PM** Approximate arrival time back in Normal  
**4:45 PM** Approximate arrival time back in Morton  
**5:15 PM** Approximate arrival time back in Peoria.

### **Cost Per Person:**

**Single: \$3440.00   Double: \$2565.00   Triple: \$2220.00   Quad: \$2045.00**

**Tour Includes: Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Professional Driver & Tour Hosts, Hotel Accommodations, all Meals & Attractions in bold print and marked with an asterisk\***

**If you feel the Driver & Tour Hosts have done a good job, it is appropriate and appreciated if you tip them. We suggest \$4 per customer per day for the Driver and \$4 per customer per day for the Tour Hosts on this trip.**

**Hotels:**

**Day #1: Franklin, TN**

**Day #2: Cordele, GA**

**Days #3 & #4: Crystal River, FL**

**Days #5, #6, #7, #8: The Villages in Spanish Springs, FL**

**Day #9: Atlanta, GA**

**Day #10: Paducah, KY**