1. TENNESSEE • MEMPHIS: The Southwestern United States is a place of sublime beauty and constantly changing landscapes. Experience the majesty for yourself as we board our Christian Tours motorcoach for a three-week tour of America’s southwest. Today we cross the state of Tennessee en route to Memphis for our first night’s stay.

2. TEXAS • DALLAS • SOUTHFORK RANCH: This morning we travel into Arkansas and into the rolling hills of the southern Ozarks. You may have seen the show Dallas on TV several years ago. This evening we will visit the Southfork Ranch where the show was filmed. We will tour the house and have an included dinner in the mansion.

3. DALLAS • KENNEDY MEMORIAL PLAZA • FORT WORTH WATER GARDEN • “TEXAS GOLD”: This morning begins with a short tour of downtown Dallas. We visit the JFK Memorial Plaza, the site of the November 22, 1963, assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Now we head west to Fort Worth and make a short stop for pictures at Fort Worth’s famous Water Garden. We stop at the stockyard area where we can admire “Texas Gold,” a bronze statue of Texas longhorn steers with a rider. It’s 29 feet long, 11 feet high, and weighs in at 14,000 pounds! We continue west to Carlsbad for our overnight stay.

4. CARLSBAD Caverns: Today we take a walking tour of magnificent Carlsbad Caverns, one of the world’s largest caves. Cowboy Jim White first explored and guided people through the caverns in the early 1900’s. We overnight in Willcox, Arizona.

5. TOMBSTONE • GIANT SAGUARO CACTUS • CASA GRANDE: Our first stop today is in Tombstone, “The Town Too Tough To Die.” We’ll see a multi-media presentation offering us a look at Tombstone’s history. We’ll also see the O.K. Corral where the Earps and the Clanton gang had their famous gunfight. We arrive in Tucson, where we tour Saguaro National Monument. We’ll drive the loop roads and walk the trails that take us past hundreds of the huge Saguaro Cactus, which grow only in the Sonora Desert. Next we travel to Casa Grande, just south of Phoenix, where we overnight.

6. OLD TOWN • SAN DIEGO • BAY CRUISE • DINNER: Early this morning we enter California. We travel to San Diego where we stop at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. This afternoon we enjoy a bay cruise seeing the Naval Air Station, Naval Sub Base and Cabrillo National Monument. Dinner is included tonight.

7. SAN DIEGO ZOO • RICHARD NIXON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND BIRTHPLACE • LOS ANGELES: This morning we visit the world-famous San Diego Zoo, where you’ll find more than 3,200 wild animals representing more than 800 species. We’ll take a tram ride through the subtropical gardens that are the natural habitat for these fascinating animals. Just outside of Los Angeles we stop for a tour of the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Birthplace. See personal effects of the former President, including exhibits from his tenure in the White House. We overnight near Anaheim.

8. LOS ANGELES CITY TOUR • RONALD REAGAN LIBRARY: This morning we take a riding tour of the “City of Angels,” Los Angeles. In the heart of Hollywood, you’ll recognize the familiar facade of Grauman’s Chinese Theatre. We’ll make a brief stop here to take pictures of the footprints, handprints, and autographs cast in the concrete outside the theatre’s doors. This afternoon we visit the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library & Museum in Simi Valley, built around a courtyard and set on a hilltop with beautiful views. The library contains memorabilia and photographs, gifts of state received during his administration, a full scale replica of the oval office, and a large section of the Berlin Wall. We overnight in Ventura.

9. HEARST CASTLE • MONTEREY: Today we visit and explore the Hearst Castle at San Simeon. The “Enchanted Hill” is a princely domain of castles, mansions, theaters, pools, and tennis courts, all created by William Randolph Hearst as his home and retreat. We overnight in the beautiful area of Monterey.

10. “17 MILE DRIVE” • SAN FRANCISCO • DINNER - FISHERMAN’S WHARF: We travel the spectacular “17 mile drive,” where we’ll watch in wonder at some of the most photographed rockbound coastline in the world. We make our way to San Francisco where we stay for the next two nights. San Francisco is the true capital of the West. Dinner is included this evening at Fisherman’s Wharf.

11. SAN FRANCISCO CITY TOUR • GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE • CHINATOWN • FREE AFTERNOON: San Francisco is a world-class destination, a favorite of international travelers and domestic travelers alike. From the Bay Bridge and Treasure Island to the far side of the Golden Gate Bridge on our city tour this morning, we’ll see it all. Tour highlights include Victorian homes, Civic Center area, Union Square, Alamo Square, Lombard Street view, the Golden Gate Bridge, Nob Hill, and the Fern Streets.
12 YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK • TRAM TOUR: We travel to Yosemite National Park. On our 26-mile, two-hour, open air tram tour, rangers introduce some of Yosemite’s most famous sightseeing points in Yosemite Valley and describe the history, geology, plant and animal life of the region. You will see Yosemite Falls, Half Dome, El Capitan, Tunnel View, Bridal Veil Falls and more. We travel to Oakhurst for the night.

13 KINGS CANYON • SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK • GIANT REDWOODS: Today we marvel in wonder at the huge redwoods in Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks. We’ll spend most of the day in this area, stopping for pictures at the General Grant and General Sherman Trees. These two Sequoias reaching heights of more than 260 feet and have a circumference of more than 100 feet! We overnight in Visalia.

14 SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY • AGRICULTURAL TOUR • LUNCH: This morning we are entering the San Joaquin Valley, the great central California “Garden of the Sun.” This area claims the greatest annual agricultural production of any in the United States. We may see fruits being hand-picked in the fields, or cotton, grain or hay being harvested. Our tour guide will give us a tour of the area with some personal stories and history thrown in. We will have lunch in Bakersfield before traveling to Las Vegas for a two-night stay.

15 LAS VEGAS: Nevada’s largest city, Las Vegas, is a razzle-dazzle city of lights, shows, hotels, shopping, and casinos. Our hotel is located on the “strip,” making it easy for you to enjoy this exciting city at your leisure today.

16 GRAND CANYON: Today we travel to the Grand Canyon, a spectacle so impressive that words just can’t describe it. It’s hard to grasp the reality of a cut that’s a mile deep and as much as 18 miles across and more than 200 miles long.

17 OAK CREEK CANYON • SEDONA • HOLBROOK: Leaving the Grand Canyon we travel through Flagstaff into Oak Creek Canyon, a favorite filming location for motion picture makers. We ascend 2,000 feet up the most beautiful red cliffs to a picturesque lookout point. Lunch time finds us in Sedona, the beautiful artist’s resort town at the southern mouth of Oak Creek Canyon. You’ll have time to eat and shop in town. We overnight in Holbrook.

18 PETRIFIED FOREST • PAINTED DESERT • OLD TOWN ALBUQUERQUE: The 93.493 acres of the Petrified Forest include the most spectacular display of petrified wood in the world! The Rainbow Forest Museum depicts the process in detail. We also traverse a portion of the Painted Desert, located within the park. This erosion-sliced area of mesas, pinnacles, ledges, and almost completely treeless canyons is too unbelievable for words. Our day ends in 200-year-old Old Town Albuquerque.

19 AMARILLO • DINNER - BIG TEXAN: We enter the Texas Panhandle and make our way to Amarillo, our home for the night. We put the finishing touches on a terrific day with dinner at a popular restaurant, the Big Texan Steakhouse.

20 CROSS OF OUR LORD • LUNCH • NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM • OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL MUSEUM: Just outside of Amarillo, we stop at the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The cross stands 190 feet and is visible up to 20 miles away. We finish crossing the Texas Panhandle and continue to Oklahoma City, where we have lunch. We visit the fascinating National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. See famous western art, including many Remingtons, and the John Wayne collection of guns, knives, and personal items along with part of his collection of Kachinas dolls. We also visit the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum site of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. We overnight in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

21 FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE • LUNCH • JACKSON: This morning we make our way to Fort Smith. Upon arrival, we visit the Fort Smith National Historic Site. The museum exhibits illustrate the court’s impact on the Indian Territory (Oklahoma), U.S. Marshals, outlaws, and regional history. Take a stroll on the walking trail along the Arkansas River which includes exhibits on the Trail of Tears. We continue through Memphis to Jackson for our final overnight stay.

22 HOME: This has been a tour we’ll never forget! We arrive home late this afternoon.

Activity Level

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Departure: August 11

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Meals Included:
19 Cont. Breakfasts, 3 Lunches & 5 Dinners