New Orleans - Memphis - 10 days

- Stay tuned! More trips are on the way. If you have any questions, please call us at 1-888-749-5280.

Our 10-day journey provides an in-depth journey between New Orleans, LA and Memphis, TN. Visit some of the most historically recognized ports of call like Vicksburg, MS and St. Francisville, LA as your river cruise travels the Lower Mississippi River.

Theme:
• Southern Culture & Spring Pilgrimage

Entertainment:
• Bill Wiemuth & Laura Sable
• Juggernaut Jug Band
• The Memphis Suns

Guest Speakers:
• Bill Wiemuth
• Mary Sward
• Jimmy Ogle

Highlights

Fares will include:

- Complimentary shore excursions in every port
- Complimentary overnight stay in a select luxury hotel before your voyage – includes breakfast, taxes, porterage and transfers to the American Queen
- Complimentary wine and beer with dinner
- Complimentary cappuccino, espresso, specialty coffees, bottled water and soft drinks throughout your voyage
- The family recipes of acclaimed Southern chef Regina Charboneau
- The only steamboat with multiple specialty dining options, all at no additional charge
- Gracious service from a friendly all-American staff
- Casual elegance abounds, no formal wear required
- Daily lectures by the Riverlorian, our onboard historian
- Professional showboat-style entertainment and dancing nightly
- Our own dedicated fleet of Steamcoaches
- The most all-inclusive American river voyage
- The only authentic steam-powered overnight paddlewheel riverboat in America
- The greatest vacation value in America

Free One-Night Hotel Stay

The night before you step aboard the Steamer American Queen, enjoy the comfort and convenience of a complimentary one-night stay in a fine hotel in your embarkation city. Arriving the day before your voyage begins, you are able to relax, have dinner and get a full night's sleep.

Parking In Memphis

For your convenience, the American Queen Steamboat Company has arranged the discounted parking rate of $7.50 per day at Shoppers Garage in our hometown of Memphis. Click here for details.

This section will be updated as details become available about the hotel properties in the embarkation city.

Itinerary

Day 1: Hotel Stay - New Orleans

Included in your voyage is a luxury hotel stay. For this itinerary, we will reserve a room for you at one of these properties: The Westin New Orleans Canal Place or Hilton New Orleans Riverside. Tomorrow, you will board the *American Queen*.

Day 2: New Orleans, LA

Enjoy the sights and sounds of New Orleans today. This afternoon, you will board the *American Queen* to begin your voyage.

Day 3: Oak Alley, LA

Located in the Saint James Parish, Oak Alley is a much-photographed plantation that combines architectural splendor and the natural wonder of its 300-year-old oak trees. Spend time strolling beneath the canopy of these trees, and learn about the rich history and culture of this southern estate.

Complimentary Tour (No Hop-On, Hop-Off Option): Disembark from the American Queen and walk across the street to enjoy the beauty and dream of Oak Alley's rich past. Located on the Mississippi River between the historic Louisiana cities of New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Oak Alley Plantation has been called the "Grande Dame of the Great River Road". Nowhere else in the south will you find such a spectacular setting! The quarter-mile canopy of giant live oak trees, believed to be nearly 300 years old, forms an impressive avenue leading to the classic Greek revival style antebellum home. The setting will remind you of the movie "Gone with the Wind" and makes you feel like you are on a Hollywood movie set. Oak Alley's adaptive restoration in 1925 by her new owners, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Stewart, was the first example of antebellum restoration along the River Road. Through the years, Oak Alley was the scene of many events affecting those who had given her a second chance at survival in the struggle against time and the elements.

Day 4: Baton Rouge, LA

The capital of Louisiana, Baton Rouge is the center of all the great things the state has to offer—visitors delight in the seamless blend of past and present experiencing authentic Louisiana at every turn. With its semi-tropical climate, the outdoors is tempting and the attractions abound. No wonder this is one of the south's fastest growing cities.

Hop-On Hop-Off Tour: In Louisiana's capital city, you will see something unique at every turn! Begin your day with a tour for the military enthusiast at the **USS Kidd**, a WWII Fletcher-class destroyer. You will also visit historic exhibits in the adjoining **Veterans Memorial Museum**. Then, visit the **Old Governor's Mansion**, built in 1930 by Governor Huey P. Long as "Louisiana's White House."

The next stop is the beautiful **St. Joseph Cathedral**, built in 1853. Next, walk through the Main Street Market where dining options include down-home Southern cooking, sandwiches, salads, Chinese, Greek and Lebanese. This is also a great opportunity to pick up Louisiana souvenirs. Then, the loop will take us around **Capitol Lake** through **Arsenal Park** for a beautiful view of the current Governor's Mansion which was built in 1963, when Jimmie Davis was Governor. Also included is a stop by the **Old Arsenal Museum**, which was built in 1838 and used by the U.S. military during the Mexican and Civil Wars.

Tour the **Louisiana State Capitol building**, standing proud as the nation's tallest capitol building. Get a bird's-eye view of the city and mighty Mississippi River from the 27th floor observation deck. Next, stroll across the intricate **Capitol Gardens** and tour the **Capitol Park Museum**, a Louisiana State Museum. Here you can step onto a simulated Mardi Gras float, discover the difference between Cajun and Creole, and lose yourself in multimedia presentations. For the art lover, your next stop is the **LSU Museum of Art**, located inside the **Shaw Center for the Arts** and featuring a diverse art collection. The last stop on the loop is **Louisiana's Old State Capitol building**, the 160-year-old statehouse that has withstood war, fire, scandal, bitter debate, abandonment and the occasional fistfight.

Day 5: St. Francisville, LA

This quaint town located on the bluffs of the Mississippi River is your window to the past. With over 140 buildings on the National Register, beautiful plantation homes nestled in the rolling countryside, and bustling Main Street shops, you'll find plenty to keep you on the go in St. Francisville.

Hop-On, Hop-Off Tour: As you board your deluxe hop-on hop-off Steamcoach, you will turn onto Royal Street where you may want to stop off at Grandmother's Buttons, a Victorian button museum and jewelry boutique, or the West Florida Republic Park. Visit the Old Market Hall, where you will see art, jewelry, handmade items and music albums. When you reach Commerce Street, there are several places for lunch, snacks, spirits, coffee and ice cream. Once you are refreshed, hop back on the Steamcoach which will take you up to the Spring Creek Shopping Center. Finally, you will visit the West Feliciana Historical Society Museum on Ferdinand Street and the Grace Episcopal Church.

Day 6: Natchez, MS

Step into the plantation lifestyle of the antebellum south in Natchez, site of numerous restored mansions. Visit historic Jefferson College, or just amble down the Natchez Trace.

Hop-On Hop-Off Tour: Natchez is the center of the Antebellum South. From Spring Pilgrimage to Christmas, there's no shortage of excitement in this small town as you tour the antebellum mansions of Natchez, drink in the history and enjoy the entertainment. Stop at the **Natchez Visitors Center** to peruse the gift shop and bookstore, or view exhibits and films illustrating the rich history of Natchez. Take a narrated tour of **Stanton Hall** which was built in 1857 and is considered the grandest of the Natchez mansions. See the **Magnolia Hall**, **Rosalie Mansion** and **William Johnson House**. Also on our route is **Twin Oaks**, the antebellum mansion of Regina Charboneau, the Chef de Cuisine of the *American Queen*, and the **Eola Hotel** for shopping.

Day 7: Vicksburg, MS

Discover a unique blend of old and new in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Take in the diversity from National Historic Landmarks to the Waterways Experiment Station. Billed as the "Red Carpet City of the South," Southern hospitality is alive and well and awaiting your arrival.

Hop-On Hop-Off Tour: Board your hop-on hop-off Steamcoach for a narrated tour experience of Vicksburg Mississippi, a city bursting at the seams with local culture, character, art, entertainment and outdoor adventure. The Red Carpet City of the South, Vicksburg perfectly blends Southern culture and heritage with exciting modern-day attractions. Your deluxe Steamcoach will first take you through Vicksburg's shopping district. You will stop at The Church of the Holy Trinity, a place of spiritual refreshment to Vicksburg for more than 125 years. Two blocks from the church you will find the Southern Cultural Heritage Center.

The next stops are Pemberton's Headquarters; as you return to the downtown area, continue to the Old Courthouse Museum, which showcases thousands of artifacts from pre-Columbian times to Civil War implements. Finally, visit Washington Street for more shopping, or discover other interesting museums including the Biedenharn Coca-Cola Museum, Yesterday's Children Antique Doll and Toy Museum, the Old Depot Museum, and Lower Mississippi River Museum.

Day 8: Steamboating

Settle into a rocking chair and just let the scenery glide by. Or join in the fun of our numerous onboard activities. Your full day of leisurely steamboating on the river sets the tone for an unforgettable vacation.

Day 9: Helena, AR

Let gospel voices lift your heart, hear soulful Delta blues, and sample King biscuits and sausage during an eventful day.

Hop-On Hop-Off Tour: Hop aboard your deluxe Steamcoach and begin an adventure by visiting the **Cherry Street Historic District**. Many of the exteriors were used in the 2005 Johnny Cash biopic "Walk the Line." Along the way you'll find a number of treasures including the famous theatre from the movie "Walk the Line," the **Malco Theater**; boutiques such as the Delta Gypsy Caravan; the Handworks Boutique; the Cotton and Kudzu Mall which was featured on "ABC World News Tonight"; and the Gist Music Company whose rare collectibles will transport you back in time.

Discover historic downtown Helena with two museum sites that preserve and present the heritage of the 27-county region of eastern Arkansas at the Delta Cultural Center. If you are into the Blues, **Bubba's Blues Corner** offers the best selection of hard-to-find Blues music in the nation. Next is **Biscuit Row**, a future development project trying to rehabilitate several buildings at this gritty intersection that was once the home of the Blues in Helena. Our next stop is the **Helena Museum** and its eclectic collection of artifacts from prehistoric times through the Civil War and on to the present. Then, connect to two pieces of Civil War History at the magnificently restored **Moore-Hornor House** and the nearly full-size replica of the Union's **Fort Curtis** rebuilt just a short distance from where it originally stood. Our final stop highlights some of the most beautiful historic architecture in the region, the **Pillow Thompson House**, a late 19th century mansion that serves as the location for many weddings, parties, and other special events.

Day 10: Memphis, TN

Disembark in Memphis and enjoy the city or continue your journey home.

Tour Options:

Oak Alley, LA - Laura: A Creole Plantation - Oak Alley

If Oak Alley is the Hollywood version of a southern plantation, the Laura Plantation is the reality show that demonstrates how a southern plantation operates. Surrounded by fields of sugarcane and hosting 12 buildings on the National Register, your 90-minute guided visit takes you through the newly restored Big House, the grounds, the formal French parterre, the vegetable and fruit gardens, the Banana Land grove, and the 170-year-old slave cabins where the west-African folktales of Compair Lapin, known in English as the legendary "Br'er Rabbit", were recorded.

Laura's acclaimed tour, named the "Best History Tour in the US," by Lonely Planet Travel UK, is based upon personal, compelling accounts found in the French Archives Nationales as well as from Laura Locoul's own Memories of the Old Plantation Home, and of the plantation's Creole owners, women, slaves and children. View Laura's family furnishings,

heirlooms, portraits, weapons, Mardi Gras and business artifacts, and marvel at the highly skilled workmanship of slave artisans and treasures of Creole America's unique traditions and folklore.

The Laura Plantation Store carries a wide selection of books on Creole history, culture, architecture, music and cooking; it is also well stocked with the handmade wares of more than 40 local artists and craftsmen, including soaps, perfumes, holiday ornaments, sugar candles, wines, liquors, candies, pralines, dolls and jewelry.

All shore excursions, prices, and information are subject to change without notice.

Transportation:	Included
Price:	$59.00
Duration:	3 1/2 - 4 hours
Tour Capacity:	110 guests

Baton Rouge, LA - History and Politics of Baton Rouge

Please note that in some cases, participation in these excursions may preclude you from joining the included shore excursion.

In the heart of Plantation Country, Baton Rouge is known for southern charm and grandeur, but there is another story to be told. This story does not involve big homes, hoop skirts and elaborate parties but does offer plenty of surprises along the way. On this tour, you will be immersed in Baton Rouge history and culture through dynamic tales told by famous – and infamous – Louisiana characters.

First, you will visit **Boutin's Restaurant** for lunch to enjoy live Cajun music and dancing along with traditional Southern Louisiana dishes such as a fried seafood platter. Next, explore **Louisiana State University's Rural Life Museum** and **Wind Rush Gardens** often referred to as "Louisiana's best kept secret!" The museum has the largest collection of cultural artifacts and tools from hardworking citizens of 19th-century Louisiana and includes 32 historic buildings spread over the 25-acre complex.

Finally, hear the legend of former Louisiana Governor Huey Long who was a strong supporter of Louisiana's working man, but quickly became Louisiana's "Kingfish," the most powerful man in the state. You will gain insight into just how powerful Long became when you see some of his creations, such as **LSU's Tiger Stadium** or the **Louisiana State Capitol building**, which he designed and was later assassinated in while walking out of a meeting.

In true Kingfish fashion, you will also participate in a Jazz funeral at Long's Burial Site. Get ready for all the fun and Louisiana characters that await you on this unforgettable tour!

All shore excursions, prices, and information are subject to change without notice.

Transportation:	Included
Price:	$89.00
Duration:	5 hours
Tour Capacity:	55 guests

St. Francisville, LA - Mystery, Mansions and Mayhem

Your Steamcoach will take you to the Tunica Hills onto what was once Angola Plantation, now one of America's most well-known and visited maximum-security penitentiaries, infamously known as the Alcatraz of the South. Visit the 18,000-acre

prison farm and the museum on this driving tour, and catch a glimpse of the industrial and agricultural operations, K-9 and horse facilities, offender housing units, the rodeo arena, prison cemeteries and historical points of interest like The Red Hat Cellblock, Angola's first cell block.

On the ride back into St. Francisville, you will visit The Myrtles Plantation, one of America's most haunted houses. Built in 1796 on a Spanish land grant of 650 acres by David Bradford, the 107-foot-long gallery is adorned with grape cluster iron work. The plaster frieze work in each room was added by Ruffin Gray Stirling in the 1850s. Learn firsthand about Chloe and why she haunts the Myrtles, and remember to make sure you have two earrings on when you leave; she likes to collect earrings from unsuspecting guests.

All shore excursions, prices, and information are subject to change without notice.

Transportation:	Included
Price:	$59.00
Duration:	3 1/2 hours
Tour Capacity:	35 guests

Natchez, MS - Entertaining Southern Style with Regina Charboneau

Enjoy an intimate afternoon in the personal home of celebrated American Chef and cookbook author Regina Charboneau, the Culinary Director of the American Queen. Not only will you be entertained in grand Southern style with a personal tour of her 1830s home, Twin Oaks, you will enjoy Champagne Cocktails and a buffet of seasonal sweet and savory treats. Chef Regina will share her secrets on how to make some of her favorite seasonal dishes and tips on how to entertain effortlessly.

All shore excursions, prices, and information are subject to change without notice.

Transportation:	Included
Price:	$69.00
Duration:	2 - 2 1/2 hours
Tour Capacity:	28 guests

Natchez, MS - Music, Mistresses and Marriage

Cross the river to Louisiana and visit historic **Frogmore Plantation**, named a "Can't Miss" destination in the Rand McNally *Southeast Getaway Guide*. Tour the computerized high-tech cotton gin and compare it to the historic gin which the Smithsonian Institute states is the rarest of its kind in existence.

Take a seat on an original pew in a unique 1800s plantation church as the mistress of Frogmore narrates, and two excellent vocalists sing, the trials and triumphs of life on a plantation. Become the guest at a slave wedding and tour the authentic slave quarters as you observe the daily life of a slave. Return to Natchez as your guide explains the progression of southern music through ragtime, blues and jazz.

To conclude the tour, stop at **Longwood**, a historic antebellum octagonal mansion, the largest of its shape in America. Also known as "Nutt's Folly", this unique mansion remains unfinished and stands symbolically in representation of the last burst of southern opulence. It is a reminder of a time before war brought the cotton baron's dominance to an end. After surviving decades of neglect and abandonment, Longwood stands strong today and is a can't-miss stop when visiting this southern town.

All shore excursions, prices, and information are subject to change without notice.

Transportation:	Included
Price:	$79.00
Duration:	4 hours
Tour Capacity:	55 guests

Vicksburg, MS - The Battle of Vicksburg - The "Up-Close" Tour

This Premium Choice tour is a two-hour guided exploration of the historic Vicksburg battlefield and downtown area, describing the city's role in the Civil War. You will have the opportunity to board the deluxe Steamcoaches at the dock and then enjoy a narrated tour of the city of Vicksburg on your way to Vicksburg National Military Park with a licensed Battlefield guide.

The park commemorates the campaign, siege, and defense of Vicksburg in 1863 and includes more than 1,340 monuments and markers, a 16-mile tour road, the USS Cairo – a restored city-class Union gunboat, and a National Cemetery. Life-sized exhibits and authentic artifacts from the Siege of Vicksburg are also on display. The tour includes the Vicksburg Battlefield Visitors Center and its orientation video.

All shore excursions, prices, and information are subject to change without notice.

Transportation:	Included
Price:	$59.00
Duration:	4 hours
Tour Capacity:	110 guests

Helena, AR - GOSPEL, BLUES and a TASTE OF SOUL- Exploring the Delta Roots in Helena Arkansas

When you arrive in Helena, just as Mark Twain did, you will immediately encounter the passion and paradox that characterizes life in the most fertile place on earth. You will stop at Greater First Baptist Church where you will enjoy a stirring performance of traditional Black Gospel Music that will give you an authentic glimpse into the culture from which it emerged. After a drive through historic Helena, site of the Civil War's Battle of Helena, you will arrive at the Helena Museum, home to an eclectic collection of artifacts. Afterwards, explore Helena's historic downtown including the Malco Theatre, several boutiques and gift shops, as well as the Delta Cultural Center, which houses exhibits that chronicle the sights, sounds and history of the Delta, including King Biscuit Time, the longest running daily radio program in the country.

Next, you will visit Granny Dee's, where Granny herself will be preparing a welcoming soul food and cornbread lunch that will make you feel like kin. Your adventures conclude with a live performance from local blues legend, Super Chicken, who creates his own guitars from gas cans, skillets and whatever else he can find. You will return home having savored the full flavor of a region that influenced more of 20th-century American culture than any other, taking with you insight into the rise, fall, and hopeful revitalization of small-town America.

All shore excursions, prices, and information are subject to change without notice.

Transportation:	Included
Price:	$85.00
Duration:	4 - 4 1/2 hours

Tour Capacity: 55 guests

Helena, AR - Mississippi ECO Wildlife "Safari"- By Private Canoe

Explore Buck Island on this nature tour. Enjoy the wilds of the Lower Mississippi River in the beauty and elegance of a hand-crafted Voyageur-Style canoe. No previous paddling experience necessary: the 30-foot-long Louisiana bald cypress strip Voyageur canoes are paddled for you so that you have time to take in every portion of this wildlife-friendly reserve.

Enjoy exceptional birding, animal viewing, tracking, fossil hunting and beach combing along the giant sandbars and back channels of Buck Island, a 1,500-acre island one mile upstream of the Helena Harbor.

Common bird sightings are the White Pelican, Least Tern, Pleated Woodpecker, and Kingfisher. Sixty percent of migrating songbirds use the Mississippi Flyway including the Prothonotary Warbler and Indigo Bunting and can be spotted in April and May. Beavers and river otter abound, but you may not see more of the coyote than his tracks.

The rich bottomland hardwood forests boast the richest habitat for white-tailed deer in North America. Fragrant willows in the lowlands give way to cottonwoods and sycamores higher up, finally yielding to oaks, sweet gums, locusts, elms and cypresses in which fruits and flowers like persimmon, paw-paws and wild grapes are commonly found. The Mississippi River supports more than 200 species of fish and 50 species of amphibians like the Mississippi Map Turtle.

This excursion is available rain or shine. This nature tour is also available with canoes that you can paddle.

All shore excursions, prices, and information are subject to change without notice.

Transportation: Included
Price: $249.00
Duration: 4 - 4 1/2 hours
Tour Capacity: 18 guests

Memphis, TN - In the Footsteps of Elvis

What would Memphis be without following the footsteps of the famous Elvis Presley? After a driving tour around Elvis' Memphis, you depart for Graceland. At Graceland, you will be treated to the deluxe Platinum Tour that includes self-guided tours of the Graceland mansion, Elvis's two custom airplanes, his Automobile Museum and special exhibits:

"Elvis! His Groundbreaking, Hip-Shaking, Newsmaking Story", "Elvis Lives: The King and Pop Culture Exhibit", "Elvis Presley: Fashion King" and the "'68 Special."

This tour is fully guided by a local Memphis guide and includes many special interests not available to the general public.

All shore excursions, prices, and information are subject to change without notice.

Transportation: Included
Price: $ 79.00
Duration: 4 hours

Featuring

Southern Culture & Spring Pilgrimage

The "Pilgrimage Open House" tradition began in the 1940s, when members of the garden clubs in Natchez, Mississippi began hosting tours of their gardens in the spring. Later, they also opened their lovely homes, and Pilgrimage became such a popular idea that it quickly spread throughout the Mississippi Delta. Join us in spring and enjoy fascinating speakers, lively entertainment and informative demonstrations that will enhance your understanding of our antebellum legacy.

Entertainment

Bill Wiemuth & Laura Sable

Juggernaut Jug Band

Steamboaters will delight in the authentic form of river music known as "jug music." Rooted in the port towns of the Deep South, jug music includes styles of swing, jazz and bluegrass, performed by Juggernaut's amazing artists.

The Memphis Suns

Guest Speakers

Bill Wiemuth

Mary Sward

Jimmy Ogle