

Springtime on the River

A special Maiden arrival of the American Queen in her new Home Port of Memphis with overnights in New Orleans and Memphis including round-trip train travel from Chicago to New Orleans.

April 17-28, 2012 - Once Only!
12 - days from \$2,695 per person

We know many savvy travelers who prefer to, if at all possible, avoid airports, packed flights, security checks and much of the general misery of modern day air travel and with this in mind we have arranged the ultimate spring holiday that may be done without any flying, combining a number of wonderful features in one marvelous vacation. We begin with travel from Chicago on the storied 'City of New Orleans' train to New Orleans over the famed route that was billed as 'The Main Line of Mid America' traveling down the great Mississippi River Delta. In New Orleans we enjoy an overnight stay at the Four-Diamond rated Westin Canal Place along with an up-close tour of the French Quarter. There is also plenty of time to enjoy the Crescent City be it shopping in the Rue Royale, a visit to the Garden District or sampling the great restaurants.

Another form of travel we find wildly appealing is passage aboard the spectacular 'American Queen', the largest, most opulent Steamboat ever built. To enjoy piping hot muffins, Bananas Foster French toast and freshly brewed coffee in the beautiful Riverview dining room as America floats past big picture windows is a marvelous way to start the day. In fact, we know of no better way to see America, in comfort, without packing and unpacking, than by a great Steamboat. While biased, when these two forms of travel are combined with great sightseeing, fine hotels and extra features both 'ashore' and 'aboard', we believe this qualifies, by any measure, as a Great American Vacation.

This one-time holiday features port calls in lovely places like Oak Alley and St. Francisville, Louisiana, charming Natchez with its unrivalled collection of antebellum mansions and historic Vicksburg with its Civil War battlefield. Best of all, this one departure has the 'American Queen' arriving in her home port of Memphis for the first time with bands playing and a great welcome celebration. Rarer still, our final night aboard is spent in Memphis, docked at the end of Beale Street with its famed nightclubs and live music venues.

With easy train travel, a superb hotel, the grandest Steamboat ever built and lovely ports of call, this holiday is certain to sell out. Since it operates only once, advance reservations are highly encouraged.

All Aboard!



The Grand Saloon



The J.M. White Dining Room



FEATURES

- ❖ Round-trip train travel from Chicago to New Orleans and from Memphis to Chicago aboard the 'City of New Orleans' train, an overnight journey over the Illinois Central Railroad in each direction. (Guests from some Western or Eastern points may opt to travel directly to New Orleans). There is a cafe lounge to enjoy and this train journey is an ideal way to avoid long bus trips, airports, cramped seating and the perfect nostalgic way to travel to & from the Steamboat.
- ❖ Overnight stay in New Orleans before the voyage at the superbly located Westin Canal Place.
- ❖ New Orleans French Quarter tour with visit to Café du Monde.
- ❖ Special welcome aboard and farewell cocktail party aboard the Steamboat.
- ❖ Eight-night American Queen 'Maiden Arrival' voyage from New Orleans to her new Home Port of Memphis with visits to Oak Alley, St. Francisville, lovely Natchez, historic Vicksburg, and Helena. Best of all, once we arrive in Memphis the Steamboat is our hotel - remaining docked overnight at the new terminal which the American Queen now calls home. Naturally, all meals are included onboard as well as some of the best entertainment afloat.
- ❖ Special welcome aboard and farewell cocktail party aboard the Steamboat.
- ❖ Extraordinary live music tour of Memphis with the legendary Memphis Jones just for our guests.
- ❖ Fully escorted from start to finish by professional tour manager.

BOOK EARLY and receive complimentary shore excursions in each port!

SPACE IS LIMITED - DON'T MISS OUT! CALL 800-323-5893 TO RESERVE



**UNCOMMON JOURNEYS
TRAIN HOLIDAYS**

405 14TH STREET, SUITE 1014 OAKLAND, CA 94612
510.836.6000 TELEFAX - 510.836.6006 CST#2044749-40

Day 1 | All Aboard

All Aboard! We depart Chicago Union Station this evening aboard the "City of New Orleans" train bound for New Orleans over the Illinois Central Railway.

Day 2 | Arrive New Orleans

This afternoon we arrive in New Orleans and transfer to our hotel with the balance of the evening is at leisure to enjoy the Crescent City. Overnight at the Westin Canal Place. (B)

Day 3 | Set Sail

This morning, we enjoy a tour of the historic French Quarter including Jackson Square followed by a visit to fabled Cafe du Monde for the best beignets and cafe au lait in North America! This afternoon we depart the hotel and board the grand American Queen. At 8pm, the whistle blows, the calliope plays and the big red paddlewheel turns as we begin our holiday aboard this legendary Steamboat. (B, D)

Day 4 | Vacherie (Oak Alley)

Located in the Saint James Parish, the name of this bayou town derives from the French for dairy farm. It's pronounced VASH-uh-ree. It's the site of Oak Alley, a much-photographed plantation that combines architectural splendor and the natural wonder of its canopy of 300-year old oak trees. (B,L,D)

Day 5 | St. Francisville

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. (B,L,D)

Day 6 | Natchez

Historic Natchez with its impressive collection of more than 200 antebellum homes is our destination today and you will want to have your camera handy. Explore the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, visit historic Jefferson College, or just amble down the Natchez Trace.



We have included comfortable reclining coach seating (similar to Business Class on an airplane) aboard the 'City of New Orleans' train from Chicago to New Orleans and returning from Memphis back to Chicago. Guests who wish to upgrade from the included coach accommodations may upgrade to bedroom accommodations which also include all meals while aboard. Please call for current rates and availability.

Day 7 | Vicksburg

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

Day 8 | On the River

All day Steamboating with plenty of time to catch up on reading, enjoy lunch on deck, fly a kite or perhaps nicest of all, a cool drink in the Calliope Bar as the American Queen toots her way up the River with the world's largest calliope playing merrily. Entire towns turn out along the riverbank to see her steam past and unlike an ocean cruise, there is great scenery around every bend in the river. (B,L,D)

Day 9 | Helena

Mark Twain wrote in 'Life on the Mississippi' "Helena occupies one of the prettiest situations on the river". The town was of strategic importance during the Civil War and nearby is the wonderful Clarksdale Blues Museum, the epicenter of the Blues world and well worth seeing. (B,L,D)

Day 10 | Memphis (Overnight)

All morning to sleep in and this afternoon, the American Queen's first arrival into her new homeport of Memphis with bands playing, a welcome from the Mayor and a great civic event. Tonight there is time to see the famed 'Duck March' at the Peabody Hotel, visit historic Beale Street, the home of the Blues or even Graceland. Overnight on the American Queen docked in downtown Memphis. (B,L,D)

Day 11 | All Aboard!

Guests disembark the Steamboat and travel to Chicago this evening with all day to enjoy to Memphis. (B)

Day 12 | Welcome Home!

Passengers returning to Chicago arrive this morning at 9am after breakfast. Welcome home!



FARES & ACCOMMODATIONS
Fares listed are per person, based on double occupancy

- AAA Suite** \$6,995
The finest of accommodations, each of these lavishly furnished suites features a full-size antique bed, a sofa-bed conversational group, and a well-appointed private bathroom with tub and shower. Beautiful windowed French doors open onto the deck or veranda for a commanding view of the river.
- AA Superior Outside** \$6,595
These outstanding staterooms open onto the deck or veranda via windowed French doors. All offer private bath with tub and shower, and some offer either two single beds or a queen-size bed.



- A Deluxe Verandah** \$5,495
 - B Deluxe Verandah** \$4,995
 - C Deluxe Verandah** \$4,695
- These staterooms feature a marvelous view of the river from a bay window or from windowed French doors that open onto the deck. All offer a private bathroom with tub and shower, and some offer either two single beds or a queen-size bed.*



- D Outside Deluxe** \$4,395
These staterooms feature a marvelous view of the river from beautiful floor-to-ceiling bay windows. All offer private bathroom with tub and shower and, some offer either two single beds or a queen-size bed.
- E Outside Stateroom** \$4,245
These cozy staterooms feature two lower single beds, large window, a large mirror, storage space, wall to wall carpeting, and private bathroom & shower.
- F Inside Stateroom** \$3,845
- G Inside Stateroom** \$3,295
- H Inside Stateroom** \$3,145
- I Inside Stateroom** \$2,695

These comfortable staterooms feature two single beds. Some also have an additional single upper bunk.

Inside Single Occupancy cabins are available beginning at \$4,095. Port fees are \$109pp and not included in the above fares.



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