

# SOUTHERN COMFORT

A special holiday on the Lower Mississippi with overnights in New Orleans and Memphis including round-trip train travel from any US City!

Twice Only - No Other Departures in 2015!

March 11 - 22 & March 18 - 29, 2015

12 - days from \$2,995 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 and fall holidays which may be done without any flying, combining a number of wonderful features in one marvelous vacation. We begin with travel from Chicago aboard the storied 'City of New Orleans' train to New Orleans and guests may opt to travel 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 Hilton Riverside Inn (or similar) 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 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 before arriving at the American Queen's home port of Memphis.

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 twice, advance reservations are highly encouraged. *All Aboard!*



The Grand Saloon



The J.M. White Dining Room



## FEATURES

- ❖ Round-trip train travel from your hometown to the beginning of the tour in New Orleans and home from Memphis with the option of travelling 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. Guests with less time may opt to fly independently and a credit is available for the value of the included rail travel.
  - ❖ Overnight stay in New Orleans before the voyage at the superbly located Hilton Riverside Hotel.
  - ❖ New Orleans French Quarter tour with visit to Café du Monde.
  - ❖ Seven-night American Queen voyage from New Orleans to her Home Port of Memphis with visits to Oak Alley, St. Francisville, lovely Natchez, historic Vicksburg, and Helena. Naturally, all meals are included onboard as well as some of the best entertainment afloat. *The March 18th itinerary operates in the reverse direction.*
  - ❖ Complimentary shore excursions featured in each and every port call!
  - ❖ Overnight stay in Memphis at the Memphis Marriott with plenty of time to visit Graceland, the Civil Rights Museum, or see the famed Peabody Ducks!
  - ❖ Extraordinary live music tour of Memphis just for our guests.
- BOOK NOW! These are the ONLY departures of the American Queen being offered in 2015 by Uncommon Journeys!**



Call USA River Cruises to reserve your 2015 Mississippi River Rail & Sail vacation!  
**800-578-1479**

## 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 Hilton Riverside Hotel. (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.



USA River Cruises  
10013 NE Hazel Dell Ave #503  
Vancouver, WA 98685  
[www.usarivercruises.com](http://www.usarivercruises.com)

## 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

This morning we arrive in Memphis and enjoy a sightseeing tour of the rich musical and cultural history of the 'Blues City' before transferring to our hotel. Today 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 at the Memphis Marriott with special Farewell Dinner at Rendezvous Restaurant. (B,L,D)

## Day 11 | All Aboard!

Guests have all day to enjoy to Memphis. Later, we check out of the hotel and travel to Chicago this evening aboard the train. (B)

## Day 12 | Welcome Home!

Passengers returning to Chicago arrive this morning at 9am after breakfast. Welcome home! \*The March 18th itinerary operates in the reverse direction.

## Route of the Great River



## FARES & ACCOMMODATIONS

Fares listed are per person, based on double occupancy

AAA Suite \$5,395

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 \$5,195

These outstanding staterooms open onto a private 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 \$4,995
- B Verandah \$3,895
- C Verandah \$3,795
- D Verandah \$3,595

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.



E Deluxe Bay Window \$3,495

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.

F Inside Stateroom \$3,245

G Inside Stateroom \$2,995

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

Inside Single Occupancy cabins are available beginning at \$3,895. Port fees are \$129pp and not included in the above fares.

Call to Book:  
800-578-1479

[info@usarivercruises.com](mailto:info@usarivercruises.com)