



Memphis to New Orleans Cruise

March 18 – 27, 2018 (10 Days)

Explore the land of bawdy blues and Southern belles. This journey showcases the diversity and drama of the Lower Mississippi River. From New Orleans to Memphis, the river rolls slowly and expansively, smooth as a southern drawl. The bayous and woodlands along the shore create dramatic landscapes that are virtually unchanged since the days of the French fur traders. Gracious towns with palatial mansions and tree-lined streets abound. History is everywhere - in silent Civil War cemeteries, in the soulful gospel blues of Helena and virtually everywhere you turn in Memphis, best known for jazz, barbecue, and of course, The King of Rock and Roll and his home at Graceland. Included on all American Queen Steamboat Company voyages are signature included shore excursions – your ticket to experience great river cities with selected admissions, narrated tours, and a dedicated fleet of Hop-On Hop-Off Motorcoaches®. You will enjoy hassle-free access to some of the most historically and culturally significant attractions in America's heartland. In many ports, there are also opportunities for exceptional, in-depth experiences which are available for an additional charge. These Premium Shore Excursions offer one-of-a-kind tours for the travel connoisseur.

Included meals are denoted: Breakfast: **B**, Lunch: **L**, Dinner: **D**

Day 1

Enjoy your included, one-night stay at the iconic [Peabody Hotel](#) in downtown Memphis. The evening is yours to get self-acquainted with this city's famed eateries, unique shops and lively entertainment. The Hospitality Desk is located in the hotel for your convenience between 1:00 PM and 8:00 PM. It is here that friendly staff can assist with everything from general questions about your upcoming voyage to reserving Premium Shore Excursions. An [American Queen Steamboat Company](#) representative, as well as a local representative, will be readily available to provide you with dining, entertainment, and sight-seeing suggestions so that you can maximize your time in Memphis.

Day 2 **B,D**

Today is the day you have been waiting for! Prepare to embark on an unforgettable journey down America's largest and most historical river. If you haven't gotten your full dose of Memphis yet, visit the AQSC Hospitality Desk (Open at 8:30 AM!) for ideas about how to spend your day. The official Voyage Check-In will be open from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. During this fast and easy procedure, our representatives will arrange your transfer to the vessel and answer any questions you might have. The process is simple and will have you back to exploring in no time, and, if you think of any more questions, the Hospitality Desk will be at your service until 3:00 PM, when the complimentary boat transfers will begin!

We would like to invite guests to join us on a **Premium Pre-Cruise Shore Excursion** at 10:00 AM as we begin an exclusive adventure through Memphis' highlights before continuing to the vessel Dock at 3:30 PM. Reservations are required, so stop in at the Hospitality Desk for more information. It's time to start your voyage and begin a luxurious voyage down the Mississippi River, where memories will be made that will last a lifetime!



Day 3 B,L,D

In the Valley of Crowley's Ridge, sits the small town of [Helena, Arkansas](#). Helena dates to 1833, and was once a bustling, thriving southern city. Today, Helena would seem to some as a town that time forgot. While the rest of the country was building shopping centers and interstate systems, Helena struggled to stay afloat amidst all of the progress. Big changes drew small businesses away from Main Street U.S.A. and into strip malls. Convenience took over, where simplicity once stood. Today, Helena is in the throes of a revival. With quirky boutiques, unique stores and a historic musical past, Helena remains proud of the life they continue to successfully sprout from the ruins of the past. For in through the dust and rubble, new life for this determined Southern town is emerging. Helena welcomes American Duchess guests to play a large part in their re-birth.

Day 4 B,L,D

[Vicksburg, MS](#) perfectly blends Southern culture and heritage with exciting modern-day attractions. Described as the "Key to the South" by Abraham Lincoln, this southern town carries a history unlike any other Civil War city. Vicksburg was founded in 1811 and grew as a vital river port city. It was a major component to the Civil War and carries much of the history within the town. Today, Vicksburg is a popular spot for tourists to learn about the battles of the city, taste the cuisine, visit the many museums, and select the perfect souvenir.

Day 5 B,L,D

A charming river town, [Natchez, MS](#) was first inhabited by Natchez Indians and French explorers who shared the land. It was founded in 1716, making it the oldest city on the Mississippi. The city is known for its elegance, hospitality, and impressive preservation of history – found on every street corner. Guests enjoy the unique shops, restaurants, museums, and historical homes located in Natchez, all of which contribute to Hugh Bayless' book, "The 100 Best Towns in America."

Day 6 B,L,D

[Baton Rouge](#), the Capital of Louisiana, has a deep culture and rich history. Named by French explorer, Sieur D'Iberville after a reddish pole marking two separate tribal hunting grounds, Baton Rouge has transformed into a rich cultural city. Locals speak a specific version of French in their everyday language. The city is home to Louisiana's capitol building, which is the largest in the United States, as well as the [Old State Capitol](#) – a Gothic architectural monument located on the bluffs overlooking the Mighty Mississippi. Spend the day exploring all that Baton Rouge has to offer, from the museums and the architecture, to the shops and the cuisine – everyone will enjoy an exciting, busy day!

Day 7 B,L,D

Established in 1809, [St. Francisville](#), LA is the oldest town in the Florida Parishes. Below where St. Francisville is located currently, was a settlement called Bayou Sara in the 1790's. When this settlement was destroyed by flooding and fires, many of the structures and artifacts were hauled up the bluff into St. Francisville, where they are still standing. The town is referred to as "two miles long and two yards wide," but that definitely doesn't mean they have nothing to offer! Stop in at one of the unique shops, historical homes, beautiful churches, or breathtaking parks and you will agree with that! Spanish moss grows on trees throughout the town, which adds a beautiful southern comfort to the atmosphere.



Day 8 B,L,D

[Nottoway Plantation](#) is the South's largest, most glorious remaining Antebellum mansion with a rich history dating back to 1859. In a fabulous location along the great River Road overlooking the grand Mississippi River, this "White Castle" of the South transports visitors back to an era of glory and grandeur. Set amongst a natural backdrop of vibrant gardens and two hundred-year-old oak trees, Nottoway Plantation captivates all with a brilliant blend of true Southern hospitality, history, and mystery. Enjoy an included tour of Nottoway Plantation, the South's largest remaining antebellum mansion. This stunning historical plantation lies between Baton Rouge and New Orleans and offers a view of a truly grand plantation. The mansion flaunts three-floors, 64-bedrooms, and displays an incredible 22 white square columns which contribute to its' nickname — "The White Castle of Louisiana." The most popular room among guests is the White Ballroom, which is painted entirely in white and displays elaborate gold décor throughout. Rooms are trimmed in custom plaster frieze made from Spanish moss, clay, plaster, and mud and are all original to the house. And as if that weren't enough, this immaculate mansion was constructed with 365 openings — one for each day of the year. Enjoy a guided walking tour of an American Castle as we explore within the pristine walls of Nottoway followed by a stroll through the lush grounds and gardens.

Day 9 B

Disembark the ship and transfer to your hotel in [New Orleans](#). Enjoy the city this evening at your leisure.

Day 10

Today we fly back home with many fond memories.

Itinerary subject to change



FROM: \$3,595*

*CAT IS – Double occupancy

CRUISE PRICE INCLUDES:

- Airfare ABQ to Memphis / New Orleans to ABQ (not including baggage & in-flight charges)
- 8-night cruise with all meals on board
- Hotel stay before and after cruise
- Government fees and air taxes
- Your SUN TOURS Escort (with 20 or more travelers)

DEPOSIT: \$500 per person **now** holds your place

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: December 11, 2017

CANCELLATION FEES:

\$250 ... Through December 11, 2017

50%* ... December 12, 2017 – January 11, 2018

75%* ... January 12 – February 9, 2018

100% ... After February 9, 2018

*Percentage of total price

TRAVEL PROTECTION IS ENCOURAGED

STATEROOM CATEGORY	PRICE
IS – INSIDE SUITE	\$3,595
VS – VERANDA SUITE	\$5,495
DS – DELUXE VERANDA SUITE	CALL
Price per person, including air from ABQ, double occupancy. Single rates upon request (limited availability).	