

American Cruise Lines Mississippi Riverboat Cruise from Memphis to New Orleans



Planned & escorted by Deb Harkness
April 12-21, 2027 (10 days)



DEPARTURE CITIES: Fort Dodge, Waterloo, Ankeny, Williams

Embark on a voyage along the Lower Mississippi River, one brimming with excitement & discovery, stretching from the soulful rhythms of Memphis, Tenn. to the vibrant streets of New Orleans. The American Splendor is an intimate modern paddle-wheeler riverboat that accommodates no more than 180 guests, ensuring an immersive & personalized experience like no other. Feel the spirit of the region come alive through the passion & energy of an all-American crew, who eagerly await to guide you through 8 days packed with unforgettable moments. An onboard historian will share the many stories of Southern culture & history, while local guides will unveil hidden gems during shore excursions. Experience the heart of Civil War history at Vicksburg, then marvel at the opulence of grand estates like Rosedown Plantation. Indulge in the timeless elegance of Oak Alley, where 300-year-old trees whisper tales of centuries past, or explore the quaint charm of St. Francisville and Natchez, each with their own unique stories to tell. As the sun sets on another day of exploration, unwind aboard with daily cocktail hours, gourmet cuisine, and captivating evening shows that showcase the region's cultural vibrancy. Get ready for a journey unlike any other, where every bend in the river reveals something new.

Day 1, Mon. April 12

Today we travel to **Minneapolis**. Our flight tomorrow morning will be an early one, so we'll overnight in Minneapolis tonight.

Day 2, Tues. April 13

We fly today to **Memphis** to start this great adventure!!! We will be met at the Memphis Airport by Backbeat Tours, who will give us a **fun, musical, 'unique' city tour of Memphis!** After this fun city tour, we will check into the **Guest House Hotel**. This elite hotel, is all in tribute to Elvis! A perfect blend of style & Southern hospitality, The Guest House is a whole new way to experience Memphis-the Birthplace of Rock n' Roll, & Home of the Blues. (The Guest House Hotel is located near Graceland, but, due to time constraints, we will not have time to visit Graceland.)

Day 3, Wed. April 14 (D)

Today is the day we've all been waiting for! We will have a late morning transfer from our hotel to the **American Splendor Riverboat**. The Riverboat will set sail on our Lower Mississippi River Adventure early this afternoon. After getting settled into your stateroom & familiarizing yourself with the riverboat, you'll enjoy a fabulous dinner. Casual dress ware is the dress code for the dining room for the entire cruise. No need for the fancy clothes! The dinner cuisine each night will highlight the geographical area we are traveling through. You will always have other menu choices to choose from.

Standard Balcony=
\$6999/person
(double
occupancy)
+ AIRFARE

*Call for single occupancy rate

***This pricing does NOT**
include airfare. Airfare
rates will be available
mid-summer, 2026.

NORTHLAND TRAVEL

420 KENYON ROAD (FRIENDSHIP HAVEN CAMPUS)
FORT DODGE, IA 50501

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American Queen Mississippi Riverboat Cruise from Memphis to New Orleans



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Real ID needed for flights.
(or passport)

Day 4, Thurs. April 15 (B, L, D)

Today we'll dock in **Cleveland, Miss.** Cleveland is known as the 'city of hospitality', playing a significant role in shaping the cultural landscape of the South. It's history is deeply intertwined with agriculture, particularly cotton farming, reflected in the historic downtown where remnants of the city's cotton trading past still remain. Cleveland is also part of the Mississippi Blues Trail and several legendary musicians have left their mark on this region. You will have a couple complimentary excursions to choose from today, to further explore the region..... After this first fun-filled day winds down & we enjoy our great on board dinner, you can choose how you want to spend your evening. Whether it be relaxing on the ship deck with a beverage in hand, or taking in the nightly entertainment on board.

Day 5, Fri. April 16 (B, L, D)

As we awake this morning to the soothing sounds of the peaceful water passing us by, grab yourself a cup of coffee & come sit on the deck with us as we take in the beauty of what Mother Nature has surrounded us with. Today we port in **Vicksburg, Miss.** This historical city resonates with great significance, particularly during the Civil War, where its control marked a pivotal moment. Complimentary excursions today include a visit to the Vicksburg National Military Park & also a complimentary hop on- hop off shuttle bus that will stop at several of the local historic museums. Also note: In most all of these ports that we visit, you will have a couple other excursions that you can choose from, for a fee.

Day 6, Sat. April 17 (B, L, D)

This morning, we sail into the port of **Natchez, Miss.** Natchez is a treasure trove of history & architectural wonders. Founded in 1716, it bears the imprint of its French origins. Natchez preserves its heritage with hundreds of well-preserved enchanting homes, each telling a unique story. You may choose to take a stroll down Main Street, lined with charming shops & restaurants housed in restored buildings. Complimentary excursions today include a Natchez Exploration Tour, which gives you the opportunity to experience a multitude of National treasures, historical sites, & local points of interest, from the comfort of your motorcoach. Or you may choose to do the complimentary hop-on, hop-off bus that gives you the opportunity to visit several other historical marks. Several other excursions for a fee available here as well.

****Book by August 18 for \$75 early booking discount!**

\$1200 deposit per person due at time of reservation

Final payment due by January 5, 2027

PENALTIES:

From receipt of deposit to January 5 = \$100 per person penalty

January 6 – February 23 = 50% penalty plus air penalty

On/after February 24 = 100% penalty/non-refundable

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ACTIVITY LEVEL:
Active, with a moderate pace

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PRO TIP:
Travel Insurance:
Available at a group
rate for this tour. Call
for details & pricing.

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Day 7, Sun. April 18 (B, L, D)

Today we visit **Baton Rouge; Louisiana's** state capitol. Known for Cajun & creole cuisine, this jazzy city is a melting pot of culture. Founded in 1699 by French explorers, its rich past is evident in its diverse architecture, from historic homes, to modern skyscrapers. The Louisiana State Capitol stands as an architectural marvel, boasting the title of the tallest capitol building in the United States. You will have several complimentary excursions to choose from today.

Day 8, Mon. April 19 (B, L, D)

Today is a day of **all-day River Cruising**. Today is your day to unwind & take it all in. Glide effortlessly along the Mighty Mississippi, surrounded by breathtaking panoramas of cottonwood trees & graceful blue herons. Or engage in captivating enrichment sessions & lively onboard events. Whether you're lounging in the spacious loungers, or basking in the sun on deck. There will also be guest speakers who present topics related to the region & ports of call, including Art Classes, Cooking demonstrations, & games. As Mark Twain famously said, "It's okay to have a day with nothing to hang a worry or fret upon". So let go & enjoy the adventure.

Day 9, Tues. April 20 (B, L, D)

Today, as we visit **Oak Alley, La.** you're in for a couple of great complimentary excursions. Oak Alley, an iconic Southern estate, is renowned for its oak-lined avenue of trees, stretching majestically towards the Mississippi River. Built in the early 19th century, this Greek Revival mansion displays charm with its grand architecture & lush gardens. Be transported back in time as you explore the meticulously preserved interiors & learn about the land's history, including its role in the sugar industry. This afternoon enjoy a complimentary narrated boat ride through the Manchac Swamp, a privately owned wildlife refuge. Watch for the 'Swamp Wildlife', -especially the 'jumping gators', which often come within a few feet, responding to the captain's call. Keep an eye out for nutria, turtles, herons, raccoons, egrets & more..... A fun-filled day, no doubt.... Tonight, will be our last night on the Riverboat, so enjoying a relaxing evening of however you choose.

Day 10, Wed. April 21 (B)

This morning, we port in **New Orleans**, our final stop on this fantastic voyage. We will disembark the Riverboat & be met by a motorcoach, which will take us on a tour of this great city. Some of the highlights we'll see; the famous French Quarter, homes of former Kings & Queens of Mardi Gras, stately mansions. We'll also travel through the beautiful Garden District, and so much more. At the conclusion of the tour, our motorcoach will take us to the New Orleans Airport for our flight back to Minneapolis that afternoon..... Upon arrival back to Minneapolis, we will be met by our local motorcoach that will once again take us back to Iowa. Taking with us a whole heap of great memories, experiences & new friends, that will last us a lifetime.

Your Travel Experience Includes:

- ~Pre-night at Minneapolis hotel
- ~Motorcoach transportation to & from airports
- ~9 nights lodging (7 nights aboard American Splendor)
- ~20 meals (including all meals while on board the riverboat)

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