











Uniquely American River Cruises<sup>®</sup>

# GRAND AMERICAN TOURS PRESENTS NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION NEW ORLEANS ROUNDTRIP WITH AMERICAN QUEEN STEAMBOAT COMPANY ON THE AMERICAN QUEEN 9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS ~ DECEMBER 27, 2020 – JANUARY 4, 2021

A SWINGING GOOD TIME ON THE MISSISSIPPI - Experience the best plantations, gardens, big band swing music and cuisine all in one incredible journey. Soak in the Antebellum spirit as stately Southern belles greet you at the impressive tree-lined entrance to Oak Alley Plantation where you can learn the ways of the blacksmith. Each evening enjoy the 13-piece "The Great American Swing Band" as they play the tunes you know so well, all in the original arrangements that made them legendary. There will be dancing every night with dance hosts available, as well as Ballroom Dance lessons. Feel your worries drift away with the relaxing pace of life on the river.

# Day 1: Hotel Stay - New Orleans, LA

Welcome to the Big Easy, a vibrant and energetic city sure to keep you entertained and satisfied while you prepare for your voyage up the Mississippi! Today, indulge yourself with the treasures of New Orleans, as you uncover iconic cuisines spiced with the cultural flavors of the city's past, explore the unique sites and attractions lining the historic streets as seen in the famous French Quarter, or admire the beauty of nature in the stunning Garden District or City Park.

Not sure where to start? Visit the Hospitality Desk in the official Pre-Cruise Hotel at any point if you need any suggestions or questions answered, they will be more than happy to help you make the best of your time here! The desk will be available between 1:00 PM and 8:00 PM today, where an American Queen Steamboat Company representative, with the help of local New Orleans representative, can assist with everything from questions regarding your voyage and reserving shore excursions to general questions regarding the city of New Orleans.

# Day 2: New Orleans, LA

# Departure 5:00 PM

Today is the big day! Spend your last day here in the city of New Orleans before embarking on an unforgettable journey!

The official Voyage Check-in will be open between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM located in the Pre-Cruise Hotel. During this fast and easy procedure, the 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!

A Premium Pre-Cruise Shore Excursion is available at an additional cost. At 10:00 AM enjoy an adventure through New Orleans before continuing to the vessel Dock at 3:30 PM. Reservations are required, so stop in at the Hospitality Desk for more information.

After you are comfortably aboard the vessel, wave "Au Revoir" to New Orleans as you set off on an incredible adventure up the Mighty Mississippi!

#### Day 3: Nottoway Plantation, LA

Nottoway 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, this White Castle of the South transports visitors back to an era of glory and grandeur. Set among a natural backdrop of vibrant gardens and 200-year-old oak trees, the mansion boasts three floors and 64 bedrooms, and flaunts an incredible 22 white square columns. The most popular room among guests is the White Ballroom, which is painted entirely in white with elaborate gold décor throughout. Rooms are

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Fares quoted are in U.S. dollars, are per person and do not include government taxes and fees, port charges, gratuities, airfare, insurance, personal expenditures, and transportation costs incurred while traveling to and from embarkation ports. Promotional fares and amenities are capacity controlled, may vary by sailing and category of accommodations and may be withdrawn without notice. The *American Queen®* and *American Empress®* are owned and operated by the American Queen Steamboat Company LLC, Inc.; is regularly inspected by the U.S. Coast Guard; is of American registry; and employs American officers, crew and staff.

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. Nottoway Plantation captivates all with a brilliant blend of true Southern hospitality, history and mystery.

# Day 4: St. Francisville, LA

Established in 1809, St. Francisville 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! With over 140 buildings on the National Register, beautiful plantation homes nestled in the rolling countryside and bustling Main Street shops, this quaint town situated on the bluffs of the Mississippi River has a style all its own.

### Day 5: Natchez, MS

This charming river town 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. Enjoy the unique shops, restaurants, museums and historical homes, all of which contribute to Hugh Bayless' book "The 100 Best Towns in America."

### **Day 6: River Cruising**

Relax on deck with a copy of Huckleberry Finn or another imaginative selection borrowed from the revered Mark Twain Gallery, enjoy some quiet time in the Ladies' Tea Parlor, or recruit your fellow guests for an exciting board game in the Gentlemen's Card Room. For a remarkable one-of-a-kind experience, take a guided tour of the American Queen's Engine Room to explore the inner workings of the classic, steam-powered vessel. There is always plenty to do between dawn and dusk on the river!

### Day 7: Vicksburg, MS

Vicksburg perfectly blends Southern culture and heritage with exciting modern attractions. Described as the key to the South by President 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 pick out the perfect souvenir.

#### **Day 8: River Cruising**

There is always plenty to do between dawn and dusk on the river and today is the perfect day to enjoy the many public spaces and activities that are available to you onboard. Consider booking an indulgent, stress-relieving massage in the American Queen's spa. Browse The Emporium gift shop for that perfect keepsake, or take the time to mingle with fellow guests.

# Day 9: New Orleans, LA

#### Arrival 8:00 AM

Enjoy New Orleans at your leisure or consider a Post-Cruise Premium Shore Excursion with airport transfer.

#### What's Included:

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<ul> <li>One night pre-cruise, hotel stay with transfer to your ship</li> <li>Filtered/bottled water and soft drinks</li> <li>Select wine and beer at dinner</li> </ul>			<ul> <li>All meals onboard the ship</li> <li>All included Hop-on Hop-off shore excursions</li> <li>All onboard entertainment</li> <li>Wi-Fi/Internet access onboard the ship</li> </ul>		
Inside Cabin Category Outside Cabin Category	E D	\$1,925 \$3,325	Balcony Cabin Category Balcony Cabin Category	C B	\$3,525 \$3,825

Rates are per person double occupancy and include cruise, pre-night, port charges, and government fees. (Airfare is additional. Please call for rates from your area.)

**DEPOSIT POLICY:** An initial deposit of \$820 per person double occupancy or \$1,640 per person single occupancy is required in order to secure reservations and assign cabins. <u>Final payment is due by July 26, 2020.</u> Those who book early get the best prices and the best cabin locations.

American Queen charges a \$250 per person administration fee for any cancellations/changes up to 121 days prior to departure.

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