

EXCLUSIVE NOBLE CALEDONIA CHARTER

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£300
PER PERSON

TREASURES OF THE MISSISSIPPI

A journey along the Mississippi from Memphis to
New Orleans aboard the American Splendor
accompanied by Neil Horrocks

18th to 29th November 2024

NOBLE CALEDONIA



Longwood, Natchez

Here is a marvellous opportunity to join just 120 fellow travellers aboard one of the greatest stern paddle wheelers ever to grace the Mississippi River. We have chartered the American Splendor which embodies the spirit of traditional Mississippi River cruising and the grandeur of riverboats of the past while still offering all the comforts and amenities of modern day cruising.

Meaning the 'Father of Waters', the mighty Mississippi River is one of North America's greatest natural wonders. Winding boldly through the heartland of America, the river has played a pivotal role as a route for trade and travel. Connecting people, places and cultures, it created a rich history integral to the fabric of America. Travelling in style and navigating the waters between Memphis and New Orleans we will follow in the wake of pioneers, Native Americans and fur-trading French.

Throughout the Civil War, the Mississippi River was an invasion route for Union Armies and during this historic journey we will pass the scenes of many important battles when the North and South were at war, each armed with conflicting visions of what was worth fighting for. In turn, we will learn and celebrate much of the local musical styles that were transported across the globe and have made this particular area so well associated with blues, gospel and jazz. From quaint and slow-paced towns such as Natchez, to the carnival atmosphere of New Orleans, our journey will ensure the traveller is given a true taste of this region's most marked and engaging displays.



Neil with musicians at Preservation Hall

OUR VIEW

"I was thrilled to be asked to be Cruise Director for our Mississippi Riverboat cruise from Memphis to New Orleans. While I have sailed all over the world on Noble Caledonia's ocean-going ships, I had always been fascinated to explore the 'Deep South' of the USA. I can assure you that there is no better way to travel in this area, than on board 'American Splendor'. Her paddlewheel may be decorative, but to stand on the aft deck and watch it rotate as we meander down the mighty Mississippi makes you feel as though you have become a character in a Mark Twain novel. The history is fascinating, from the stories of the American Civil War to the horrors of slavery. However, the musical culture truly gripped me. I will never forget strolling along Beale Street in Memphis, with the sound of live blues bands in every bar; or being mesmerised by the improvisations at the legendary Preservation Hall in New Orleans. In Natchez, we docked adjacent to the venue where Jerry Lee Lewis made his professional debut in the late 1940s, and on this occasion a visit to Elvis's home beckons. I am delighted that Noble Caledonia will be returning to the Mississippi and hope that you will join us."

Neil Horrocks – Cruise Director



ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Travel in the company of just 120 like-minded fellow passengers on this exclusive charter.
- Explore the history, music, food and culture of the region.
- Tour the infamous home of Elvis Presley – Graceland.
- Visit a number of cotton plantations and gins, entirely unique to this region of the world.
- Experience a swamp tour in search of alligators and other native wildlife.
- Take in arguably the two most influential cities in the 'Deep South', Memphis and New Orleans.
- Enjoy talks by Guest Speakers and musical performances on board.

views of the Mississippi River, blends Southern culture and heritage along with hallowed stories of Civil War battles. After a tour of the National Military Park we can enjoy Southern hospitality in its most authentic form in a city bursting at the seams with history at some of its most poignant turns, art at its most creative angles and food at its finest flavours. Moor overnight in Vicksburg.

Day 5 Vicksburg to Natchez. This morning enjoy some time at leisure to further explore the wonderful town of Vicksburg. During lunch we will set sail for an afternoon of cruising along the mighty Mississippi before arriving into Natchez this evening.

Day 6 Natchez. Sitting high on a bluff above the mighty Mississippi River, Natchez is a city of some 300 years in the making. This morning's tour shows us the city, which has over a thousand of its historic structures listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and includes a stop at Longwood, one of the elegant houses that grace the historic district. After lunch enjoy a tour of Frogmore Plantation, home to a rare antique steam gin and the only completely computerised gin in the nation.

Day 7 St Francisville to Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Today we arrive in what has been described as "one of the 200 most beautiful small towns in America" meandering through St Francisville's historic centre with its two centuries of architecture and lifestyle. Nearby plantations will beckon you back to a time when coquettish southern belles and their chivalrous suitors sipped mint juleps on the shady porches of grand estates. Sail in the early evening for Baton Rouge where we will arrive during dinner.

Day 8 Baton Rouge. Baton Rouge is affectionately referred to as The Red Stick and remains one of the best known towns of America's Deep South. Of course, no exploration of this region would be complete without a tour of one of its swamps and, during our morning excursion we will head out in search of alligators, hawks, egrets and herons, all the while enjoying the richness of life that the backwater swamps provide. The remainder of the day can be spent at leisure to enjoy the facilities aboard our vessel or to explore Baton Rouge with its fascinating State Museum and New State Capitol.

Day 9 Houmas House to New Orleans. This morning we will explore Houmas House Plantation and Gardens, which have been restored to the antebellum era, reflecting the opulence and wealth that this sugarcane farm boasted during the 1800s. Learn about plantation life and the 250 year history of the manor, including its architectural evolution to becoming a grand estate. After lunch we will drive to Oak Alley, often referred to as the Grande Dame of the Great River Road. Its entrance encompasses a quarter-mile canopy of giant oak trees

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Memphis, Tennessee, USA. Fly by scheduled indirect flight. On arrival transfer to your centrally located hotel for a two night stay.

Day 2 Memphis. Memphis is the city where American soul and blues music rose to prominence and where Elvis made his home within the elegant walls of Graceland. This morning will be free to explore at your own pace, perhaps enjoy a stroll down vibrant Beale Street, considered to be the birthplace of blues, or watch the duck parade at the Peabody Hotel. This afternoon, embrace the roots of Rock 'n' Roll as we pass by Sam Phillips' legendary Sun Studios, where the 'Million Dollar Quartet' of Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins and Jerry Lee Lewis all-but created Rock 'n' Roll, as we head out to Graceland, the colonial Revival-style mansion where 'The King' lived for twenty years.

Day 3 Memphis. After breakfast we will visit the National Civil Rights Museum where we learn of this important history and the role of Martin Luther King who was assassinated in Memphis. We then transfer to the American Splendor and enjoy a welcome drink on board followed by lunch, before setting sail along the mighty Mississippi to our first scheduled port of call, Vicksburg.

Day 4 Vicksburg, Mississippi. Enjoy the morning cruising along the Mississippi. This afternoon we arrive in Vicksburg, which, with sweeping



forming an impressive avenue that leads us to this classic Greek-revival style antebellum home. The imposing mansion has been restored to its 19th century glory as a noble tribute to those who left an indelible mark on this rich river region. There will be a guided tour of the Big House before some time at leisure to explore the magnificent grounds. We will sail to New Orleans arriving in the late evening for an overnight mooring.

Day 10 New Orleans. Disembark after breakfast. Enjoy a guided tour of the city taking in the charming cobblestone streets of the French Quarter, Jackson Square and St Louis Cathedral. Following lunch in a local restaurant, we will transfer to our centrally located hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Day 11 New Orleans to London. After breakfast transfer to the airport for your return scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 12 London. Arrive into London this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Cat AAR	Stateroom on second deck (304 sq. ft.)	£7295	£6995
Cat AAL	Stateroom on third deck (304 sq. ft.)	£7595	£7295
Cat AAC	Stateroom on fourth deck (304 sq. ft.)	£7995	£7695
Cat AAM	Stateroom on fifth deck (328 sq. ft.)	£8495	£8195
Owner's Suite	Suite on third/fourth/fifth deck (445 sq. ft.)	£9095	£8795
Single	Stateroom on second/third/fourth deck (230 sq. ft.)	£8295	£7995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights hotel accommodation in Memphis with breakfast • Seven nights aboard the American Splendor on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Onboard speakers • Shore excursions • Overnight hotel accommodation in New Orleans with breakfast • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance, American visa/visa waiver, lunch on day 2, dinner on days 1, 2 & 10.
NB: Excursions, sailing schedule and events ashore are subject to change. Water levels may affect itinerary.

POST-CRUISE NEW ORLEANS EXTENSION 28th November to 1st December 2024



If you would like to spend some more time in vibrant New Orleans we are offering a two night extension staying at a centrally located hotel. We are including a three day 'Jazzy Pass' which allows unlimited downtown travel by local bus, streetcar, paratransit or ferry and a two day 'City Pass' allowing entry to over 25 attractions and places of interest. Whether you want to visit the museums, listen to jazz or simply immerse yourself in the atmosphere of this melting-pot of a city these passes will allow you to explore independently and with ease.

THE ITINERARY

Days 1 & 2 New Orleans, USA. Enjoy a further two days in New Orleans exploring at leisure with the use of your 'Jazzy Pass' and 'City Pass'.
Day 3 New Orleans to London. Transfer to the airport for your return scheduled indirect flight to London.
Day 4 London. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £895 Single: £1195

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in New Orleans with breakfast • New Orleans 'Jazzy Pass' • New Orleans 'City Pass' • Transfer from hotel to airport • Noble Caledonia Tour Manager.
Not Included: Travel insurance, American visa/visa waiver.



AMERICAN SPLENDOR

The American Splendor was launched in 2016 and recently refurbished in a classical style with muted colours, luxurious textiles, fine linens and regionally inspired artwork, fitting of the legendary Mississippi River. The vessel features an authentic paddlewheel, offers spacious staterooms and provides more space per passenger than many other river cruise ships operating on the Mississippi. The American Splendor can accommodate up to 180-passengers, however for this exclusive charter we will be limiting passenger numbers to just 120 in order to enhance guests' enjoyment further. Beneath her gleaming woodwork and brass fixtures is a framework of modern cruise ship technology that provides passengers with comfortable surroundings and personalised service whilst cruising the Mississippi.

Your Cabin

All of the staterooms and suites on offer feature a private balcony allowing you to experience breathtaking scenery from the privacy of your stateroom as the American Splendor sails along the majestic Mississippi. Cabin sizes range between 230 and 445 square feet and all offer in-room facilities including phones for complimentary room service, complimentary Wi-Fi, Satellite TV and DVD player, and gourmet coffee machine.

Your Space

The Sun Deck provides a pleasant environment to relax and enjoy stunning views with deck furniture in shaded areas. There is also a putting green. Relax with a book in one of the many lounges including the paddlewheel lounge or in the chart room. The vessel is spacious enough to allow for both quiet relaxation and socialising with your fellow travellers. Throughout the day beverages, snacks and pastries are available in the Sky Lounge and High Tea is served in the afternoon. There is a lift to all decks.



Stateroom with private balcony



Owner's Suite



Sky Lounge



Lounge

Your Dining

The Dining Room comfortably seats all passengers in one sitting and you are free to sit where you choose. In keeping with the atmosphere throughout the ship, dining is a casual affair with a smart-casual dress code. Menus are inspired by regional and local specialities, using only the freshest ingredients and prepared by the highly trained chefs. Complimentary wine and beer are served with lunch and dinner. You can choose to enjoy breakfast by room service on your balcony and High Tea is served daily in the 4th deck Sky Lounge. Each evening before dinner there will be a complimentary cocktail hour.

Life On Board

The onboard crew are American and provide an exceptional and personalised service. A typical day will include an informal breakfast with your fellow guests followed by time cruising and an exploration ashore with experienced guides. In addition to nightly entertainment, the onboard local experts and historians will enhance your knowledge of the places you are visiting. Through informal lectures, open discussions and activities, they will bring the local history, nature and culture alive with their knowledge and passion for American heritage. There will also be a Noble Caledonia team travelling on board with you.

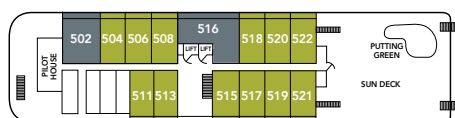


On deck

6TH DECK



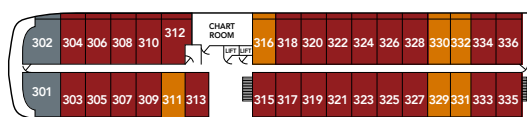
5TH DECK



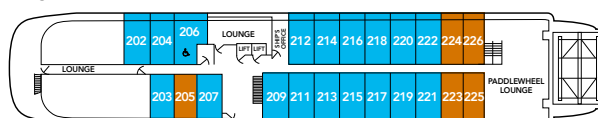
4TH DECK



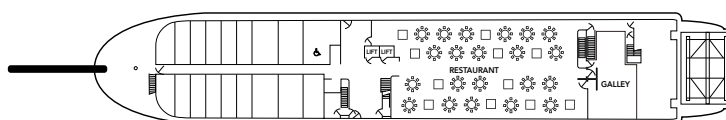
3RD DECK



2ND DECK



MAIN DECK



- OWNERS SUITE
- CATEGORY AAC
- CATEGORY AAR
- CATEGORY AAM
- CATEGORY AAL
- CATEGORY SINGLE

All staterooms and suites have a private balcony.



NOBLE CALEDONIA

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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: Oak Alley Plantation.