



ere is a marvellous opportunity to join the American Splendor, one of the greatest stern paddle wheelers to grace the Mississippi River. The vessel 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. For our exploration of the Mississippi River, we are working with our associates at American Cruise Lines who, with more than 50 years of experience, are the perfect partners for our journey between Memphis and New Orleans, and we have secured an allocation of cabins from them aboard the American Splendor.

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 you get a true taste of this region's most marked and engaging displays.



## Tour leader – Neil Horrocks

We're delighted that our Senior Cruise Director Neil Horrocks will be accompanying our group of passengers for this exploration along the Mississippi:

TENNESSEE

MISSISSIPPI

Vicksburg

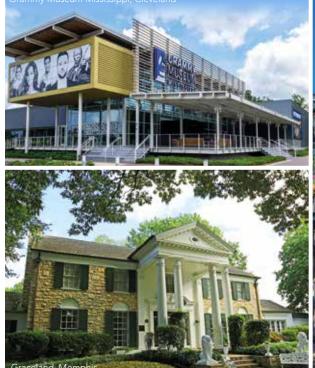
St Francisville

LOUISIANA

Vacherie • New Orleans

<sup>66</sup>It has been a joy to accompany two previous Mississippi Riverboat cruises 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 to be returning to the Mississippi for a third time and hope that you will join me.<sup>27</sup>

Neil Horrocks





## ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the history, music, food and culture of the region.
- Tour the infamous home of Elvis Presley Graceland.
- Visit a number of plantations and antebellum homes, entirely unique to this region of the world.
- Experience Civil War history at the National Military Park in Vicksburg
- 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.

## THE ITINFRARY

Day 1 London to Memphis, Tennessee, USA. Fly by scheduled indirect flight. On arrival transfer to the Peabody Hotel for a two night stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure. The legendary Peabody Hotel first opened in 1869 and has recently undergone a multimillion-dollar renovation. Famous for its five resident Mallard ducks that march twice daily through the lobby it is ideally located in downtown Memphis, with the famed Beale Street entertainment district just a short walk away.

Day 2 Memphis. Memphis is the place where Martin Luther King was assassinated in the turbulent days of the Civil Rights Movement, the city where Elvis made his home within the elegant walls of Graceland, and where American soul and blues music rose to prominence. Enjoy a leisurely morning 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 in the hotel lobby. This afternoon join a tour to Graceland, the Colonial Revival-style mansion where 'The King' lived for 20 years. We will also stop at the legendary Sun Studio where many musical icons, including Elvis Presley, launched their careers. This evening meet for dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

**Day 3 Memphis.** After breakfast, we will visit the National Civil Rights Museum before we transfer to the American Splendor. Enjoy a welcome drink on board followed by lunch, before setting sail along the Mississippi river to our first scheduled port of call, Cleveland, Mississippi. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Cleveland, Mississippi. Known as the 'City of Hospitality', Cleveland

has played a significant role in shaping the cultural landscape of the South. Its history is intertwined with agriculture, in particular cotton farming, where remnants of the city's trading past are reflected in the historic downtown area which we will explore. The city is also celebrated for its contribution to American music, as part of the Mississippi Blues Trail, and there will be the opportunity to visit the Grammy Museum Mississippi, which pays tribute to the many legendary musicians who have left their mark on the region. Sail later this afternoon. (B, L, D)

**Day 5 Vicksburg, Mississippi.** We have a full day in Vicksburg, which, with sweeping 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, spend the afternoon enjoying Southern hospitality in its most authentic form. A shuttle bus will include stops at some of the most important sites in the city including the Old Courthouse Museum, Civil War Museum and the Local Merchant District. (B, L, D)

**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 Rosalie, a pre-Civil War antebellum mansion built in 1823 which became the prototype for later mansions across the South. **(B, L, D)** 

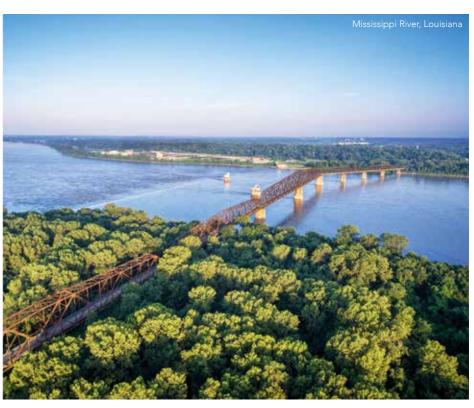
Day 7 St Francisville, Louisiana. Today we arrive in what has been described as "one of the 200 most beautiful small towns in America" meandering through St Francisville's historic centre with its two centuries of architecture and lifestyle. Take a tour to The Myrtles estate, a former plantation built in 1796 which showcases a blend of Creole cottage style and Southern architectural elegance with a grand veranda and intricate cast-iron railings. There will also be time to explore the town of St Francisville with its own museum, local boutiques and historic cemetery. (B, L, D)

**Day 8 Cruising the Mississippi.** After a busy few days, relax and unwind on board as we continue our journey south along the Mighty Mississippi. Enjoy the breathtaking panoramas of forests and wetlands from the sun deck or join a talk on local history from one of the guest speakers. (B, L, D)

Day 9 Vacherie. From our mooring spot in Vacherie, 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 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 and enjoy a mint julep. We will sail to New Orleans arriving in the late evening for an overnight stay. (B, L, D)







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 the InterContinental New Orleans Hotel for a two night stay. The hotel is ideally located just a short walk from the historic and vibrant French Quarter, with all the jazz bars, Cajun eateries and street performances that make this city so unique. The remainder of the day is at leisure. We are including a three-day 'Jazzy Pass' which allows unlimited downtown travel by local bus, streetcar, paratransit or ferry. (B, L)

Day 11 New Orleans. Enjoy a full day to explore New Orleans at leisure. (B)

Day 12 New Orleans to London. Check out this morning. We will have lunch at the hotel before transferring to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. (B, L)

Day 13 London. Arrive this morning.

#### **PRICES PER PERSON**

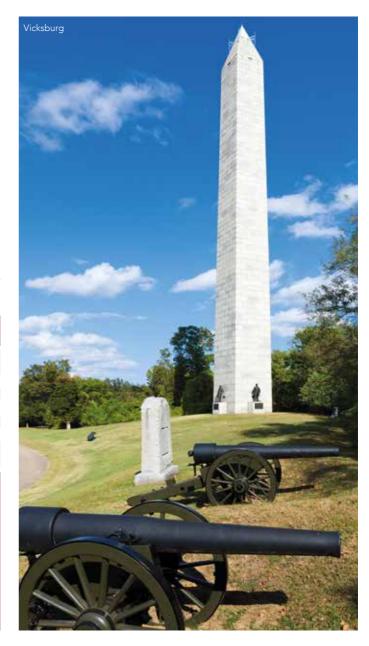
Based on double occupancy

# **SPECIAL OFFER** – SAVE £200 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Standard Balcony	Stateroom on second deck (304 sq. ft.)	£9195	£8995
Deluxe Balcony 2	Stateroom on third deck (304 sq. ft.)	£9495	£9295
Deluxe Balcony 1	Stateroom on fourth deck (304 sq. ft.)	£9895	£9695
Premium Balcony	Stateroom on fifth deck (328 sq. ft.)	£10395	£10195
Veranda Suite	Suite on third/fourth/fifth deck (445 sq. ft.)	£11295	£11095
Single Balcony	Stateroom on second/third/fourth deck (230 sq. ft.)	£11495	£11295

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights hotel accommodation in Memphis • Seven nights aboard the American Splendor • Meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, B - Breakfast) • House wine, beer and soft drinks with included meals • Excursions as described • Two nights hotel accommodation in New Orleans • Noble Caledonia Tour Manager • New Orleans three day Jazzy Pass • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, US visa or ESTA, optional excursions (additional excursions to those detailed will be offered at an extra cost, further details will be provided approximately 60 days before departure). **Please note** that cabin sizes shown are approximate. Ports and itinerary subject to change and water levels.





# 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 can accommodate up to 180 passengers and features an authentic paddlewheel, offers spacious staterooms and provides more space per passenger than many other river cruise ships operating on the Mississippi. 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 in our allocation 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, individual climate control, USB charging ports and single serve coffee brewer with coffee and tea pods.

## 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 Study. 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. There is a lift to all decks.









#### 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 snacks are served throughout the day 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 a friendly 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 Tour Leader travelling on board with you.



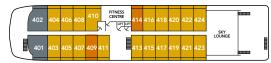
## DECK PLAN

6TH DECK

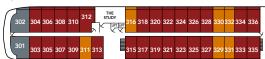
#### **5TH DECK**



#### 4TH DECK



#### 3RD DECK



## 2ND DECK



### MAIN DECK



- Veranda Suite
- Deluxe Balcony 1
- Standard Balcony
- Premium Balcony

  Deluxe Balcony 2
- Single Balcony





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