

MIGHTY, MAJESTIC MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Hosted by Executive Travel

October 3-13, 2025



Dear St. Mark's Family,

Join us on this once-in-a-lifetime journey down the Mississippi River from Memphis to New Orleans, with visits to Vicksburg, Natchez, St. Francisville, Baton Rouge, Oak Alley, and Houmas House. The journey culminates in a fun post-cruise extravaganza in New Orleans, Louisiana. Relive the era of Ol' Man River as it floats by and offers some of the most incredible views.

Boarding the 150-passenger paddlewheeler "American Heritage," we will immediately feel the blend of nineteenth-century grandeur with all the comforts and amenities of a modern riverboat. Spacious staterooms with private balconies, a sundeck, four unique lounges, a grand single-seating dining room, and plenty of room to stretch and relax, sets the tone for a journey unparalleled and incomparable with anything else! And speaking of tone ...on top of everything, our cruise offers an extraordinary musical experience from the past, as we quietly float down the river. And there is more to enjoy! Gourmet meals with an elegant mix of the fascinating cultures we are about to experience, some of the most tantalizing cuisines in the nation, Cajun and Creole, barbecue, and southern-inspired refreshments. A daily cocktail hour, beverages during lunch and dinner, a plenteous selection of daily shore excursions, entertainment onboard, gratuities, and port taxes, are all included. Our shore excursions are all planned with local experts, historians and naturalists to provide us with their unique and valuable insight and to enhance each area's exclusive heritage and culture.

We will enjoy our two-night stay in New Orleans to experience the best this city has to offer. Together we will go behind the scenes of Mardi Gras, enjoy famous restaurants, learn all the ins and outs of the French Quarter, and have time at leisure to enjoy and find our own favorite parts of NOLA. We hope you will join us!

Yours in travel and adventure,
Beth Nosal, Executive Travel

St. Mark's
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Executive Travel

Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.

Follow the Music!



Down the River, We Float!



Welcome to the Swamp!



Great Blue Heron



October 3, 2025 - Friday Traveling to Memphis

Our wonderful adventure begins as we meet at St. Mark's United Methodist Church's parking lot. A private motorcoach will transfer us to Omaha airport where we will board our flight and fly to Memphis. Upon arrival, we will transfer to The Guest House at Graceland, and a unique Elvis experience is yours. Explore and enjoy Elvis' mansion and grounds. We will be treated to an exclusive welcome reception with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, featuring a presentation by the Graceland Archives Department, who will show you items belonging to Elvis, not regularly shown to the general public. WR

October 4, 2025 - Saturday Embarkation

After breakfast, get ready to embark on a unique riverboat adventure along the Lower Mississippi River between the iconic ports of Memphis, Tennessee, and New Orleans, Louisiana! Savor a week aboard the American Heritage with 150 guests or fewer. Dynamic presentations by your onboard speaker connect you to the region's culture and history, while local guides share insights to illuminate your shore excursions. New Orleans reverberates with the sounds of jazz, while Memphis offers savory barbecue and rich music history museums. Discover why the Mississippi River and the port of Vicksburg were so important during the Civil War and enjoy the beautiful architecture, antiques, and gardens of grand estates alongside the river, including Houmas House, and Rosedown. Perhaps sip and savor a tasty mint julep while strolling under the canopy of 300-year-old trees at Oak Alley or peruse the local shops and museums of quaint and cozy towns like St. Francisville and Natchez. Prepare to relax today after boarding The American Heritage and being treated to a welcome drink. Get to know your fellow travelers and savor the view as you enjoy the afternoon rolling on the mighty Mississippi. Also, enjoy the entertainment by onboard performers who will perform the music born of the river. B | L | D

October 5, 2025 - Sunday River Cruising - Vicksburg, Mississippi

Today is a day to truly relax without a care in the world. Revel in the bliss of floating along the current of the mighty Mississippi River, framed by a forest of cottonwood trees dotted with majestic blue herons and hopefully a little fall color. Enjoy fascinating enrichment presentations and festive onboard activities. Savor fine meals and cocktails. Relax in one of the many spacious lounges or enjoy a gentle breeze on the sun deck. Perhaps pick up a copy of that book you've always wanted to read or chat with friends. Mark Twain described the experience as having "nothing to hang a worry or a fret upon." B | L | D

October 6, 2025 - Monday Vicksburg, Mississippi

Vicksburg is a place of drama. During the Civil War, the struggle to control Vicksburg proved to be a major turning point. The well-fortified connection between river and rail transportation was known as "The Gibraltar of the West." A narrated exploration of the well-preserved National Military Park battlefield enlivens this powerful story and highlights its significance. President Abraham Lincoln summarized Vicksburg's importance clearly when he said, "Vicksburg is the key. The war can never be brought to a close until that key is in our pocket... They can defy us from Vicksburg... As valuable as New Orleans will be to us, Vicksburg will be more so." Several other excursion options are available, including exploring museums and historic sites with local expert guides or on your own. Ask the Shore Excursions Manager for suggestions for a paid or complimentary excursion. Walk aboard an enormous Army Corps of Engineers towboat. Stroll along the charming series of murals painted along the adjacent floodwall and read panels detailing the Vicksburg stories they illustrate. B | L | D

Offered Shore Excursions:

Vicksburg Local Loop (C) & Vicksburg National Military Park (C) Historic Vicksburg Comes to Life*, Mississippi-Made Charcuterie Experience at Oak Hall*, Antebellum Vicksburg Experience*

October 7, 2025 - Tuesday Natchez, Mississippi

In Natchez, grand homes sparkle like jewels, adorning the bluffs that tower above the river. Since 1716, when the French first built a fort here among the Natchez Indians, the town has grown to boast elaborate mansions built by planters in the 1800s to flaunt their wealth. With no Civil War fighting here, Natchez still features hundreds of antebellum homes and buildings. Each of these architectural treasures has its own story to tell, creating a charming downtown that embodies the essence of Southern charm and hospitality. It will be difficult to decide! Explore on your own or enjoy an array of curated guided explorations. Tour the elaborate townhomes, visit a working cotton farm to learn about the crop's importance in history and today, and discover the historic Under-The-Hill Saloon. Drift through quaint shops, nibble on local delights, and enjoy the expansive views of the majestic river valley from the bluff-top park.

Offered Shore Excursions:

Natchez Landmark Exploration (C) & Natchez Local Loop (C) Tombs & Tales*, Natchez Trails & Tamales Experience*, Historic Longwood Exploration*, Great River Outdoor Adventure*, Cotton & Music, Then & Now*, Historic Path to Freedom Experience*, Legends & Libations*

Get Your Favorite!

Local Brass Band

Local Neighborhood, NOLA

Cast Iron Balconies



October 8, 2025 - Wednesday
St. Francisville, Louisiana

As the bow-ramp from the ship opens and stretches to the shore, you will be welcomed into the historic cotton port of St. Francisville. Overlooking the river from a high, St. Francisville began as a part of Spanish West Florida in the early 1800s until American settlers overthrew the Spanish governing forces, and the region later became part of the United States. Experience this town's rich history on your own or with a variety of guided excursions. As you explore, discover the Historic District, which boasts magnificent mansions and unique boutique shops. Admire cottonwood trees which transition to stately oaks adorned with Spanish moss, a symbol of the South.

Offered Shore Excursions:

- The Myrtles (C)
- Port Hudson Historic Site*, Southern Agriculture Experience*, Rosedown & Catalpa Legacy Experience*, Audubon Historic Site*, Cochon De Lait Experience*

October 9, 2025 - Thursday
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Meaning "red stick," Baton Rouge's 1699 French name references an ancient geographical marker and reflects the city's long history. As Louisiana's state capital, the city still echoes with tales of the characters who lived here, most notably Governor and Senator Huey P. Long. Learn about his dramatic career at the magnificent 1852 Old State Capitol Museum and visit Long's 1932 State Capitol building, an architectural marvel of granite and marble. Explore many of the well-known downtown neighborhoods, while embracing the rich art, architecture, and nature along the route. If you feel adventurous, take a boat ride through a Louisiana swamp.

Offered Shore Excursions:

- Louisiana Art & Science Museum (C)
- A Walk Through The Capital City*, Baton Rouge Harbor Experience*, Battle of Baton Rouge*

October 10, 2025 - Friday
New Orleans, Louisiana

Once serving as an antebellum sugar cane homestead, Oak Alley Plantation is named after its most distinguishing feature, a row of 300-year-old oak trees. This leafy canopy forms a quarter-mile path leading to the Mississippi River. Restored to its 19th-century grandeur, this classic Greek Revival-style antebellum mansion is breathtaking. In the root beds of the oaks, there are often fox dens and the red foxes can be seen frolicking in the distance. B | L | D

Offered Shore Excursions:

- Oak Alley Plantation (C)
- Cajun Pride Swamp Excursion*, Houmas House & Gardens*, Cajun Culinary Lagniappe Experience*, Laura Plantation*

October 11, 2025 - Saturday

New Orleans, Louisiana - Disembarkation

After disembarkation, we will meet our local tour guide and it's time to "Let the good times Roll!" New Orleans is a captivating city with an undeniable allure. Rich in history and culture, renowned for its culinary and musical achievements, revered for its distinctive architecture, and celebrated for its revelry. We begin our visit to the home of the greatest free show on Earth with a clear look at the magic of Mardi Gras by stepping into the studios of Blaine Kern and his team of world-renowned masters of float-building and Carnival. We will get an insider's view of how Mardi Gras is constructed and you will have the opportunity to dress like a Mardi Gras float rider, and enjoy a slice of the famous Mardi Gras king cake. Check in to our hotel and the remainder of the day is yours at leisure. B | S

October 12, 2025 - Sunday

New Orleans, Louisiana

After a hearty breakfast, we embark on a private VIP tour of the New Orleans' famous French Quarter. This tour introduces us to the historic beginnings of the city. We will be escorted past romantic courtyards and enchanting antique and specialty shops – all symbolic of the lingering charm of the Old World. Walk on the Moonwalk Riverfront and around Jackson Square; what a fun way to explore such an old city! We will see the historic, beautifully preserved Hermann-Grima House, and finally, a visit to the famous Cafe Du Monde to taste the beignets and cafe au lait! Relax and enjoy free time on your own. B | S

October 13, 2025 - Monday

Traveling Home

All too soon, we are heading home. Transfer to New Orleans airport in plenty of time to check in for our flight and to clear security. We have arranged for a private motor coach to take us from Omaha Airport to St. Mark's Church tonight. B

The itinerary is subject to change.

C = Complimentary Shore Excursion
* = Shore Excursion with a small additional charge (typically between \$10 and \$95)

WR = Welcome Reception
B = Breakfast
L = Lunch
D = Dinner



To register contact:



1212 O Street • Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone: 888.549.1186

GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com
www.executivetravel.com

SECURE ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://fs28.formsite.com/vLu8mE/MARKS1025/>

Package Price Per Person - Balcony Cabins:

Shared double room - Cabin type AAR - 2nd Deck	\$7,295
Shared double room/cabin type AAL - 3rd Deck:	\$7,595
Single room - Cabin type AAR - 2nd Deck	\$8,595

Triple/Quad. rooms/cabins upon request.

We offer "Pair & Share" service for our Solo travelers. Ask us to assist in finding your roommate!

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up. The deposit can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. The non-refundable balance is due on June 5, 2025, and can be paid by cash or check. Credit card payments (any payments after the first deposit of \$500) will access a 3.5% processing fee.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT:

Register at least eight (8) months prior to departure and receive a **\$200 DISCOUNT!**

Tour Activity Level: LEVEL 1 2 3 4

This tour (rated 2) involves some amount of walking, some stairs, periods of standing, and outdoor activities. This trip is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties. Comfortable, sturdy shoes/boots are always recommended.

Travel Insurance:

We recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer a plan provided by Travelex Insurance Services. For rates and plan highlights, please ask us.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

Group airfare:

Becomes available by the end of November, 2024. All registered travelers will be notified.

This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 30 and a maximum of 40 travelers. Should the number fall below 30, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded 90 days prior to departure.

Included:

- Roundtrip motor coach St. Mark's Church - Omaha Airport
- Roundtrip airfare Omaha-Memphis / New Orleans-Omaha, economy class incl. taxes and fees
- 1 nights at The Guest House, Graceland
- 7 nights onboard American Heritage paddlewheeler
- 2 nights at a 3+1/4-star hotel in New Orleans
- Daily breakfast
- Meal program as per the daily itinerary
- Shore excursions program as per the cruise itinerary
- Drinks package during the cruise, see insert
- Port taxes
- Gratuities for the cruise portion
- All transportation with deluxe motor coach as per the tour program
- Baggage handling at hotels and during cruise (1 bag pp)
- Executive Travel tour host
- Detailed travel documents (hard copy and e-format)
- All local taxes and fees

Not Included:

- Travel insurance
- Gratuities for local tour director and motor coach driver in Memphis and New Orleans (gratuities on board the cruise are included!)
- Personal expenses
- Meals other than those mentioned in the tour program
- Entrance fees to monuments and museums other than those mentioned
- Professional fees, \$75 per person, due at the time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions

Accommodations:

Memphis: The Guest House, Graceland
Cruise: American Cruise Lines' American Heritage
New Orleans: 3+1/4-star hotel



Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions of this tour which can be found on our website at WomenoftheMidwest.com/journeys

Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 888-549.1186. Space is limited.

4/11/2024