

Historic Mississippi River Cruise

TOUR FARE & PAYMENT POLICY

\$6,499 per person double occupancy
\$6,999 per person single occupancy

A \$500 deposit is due now with the completed reservation form. First come, first served. Final payment is due by January 16, 2026. Please make checks payable to Nowak Tours and send to Nowak Tours, 1395 Barn Run Drive, Valley City, OH 44280 or drop off at United Senior Services, 125 W. Main St. in Springfield.

Prefer to pay by debit/credit card? (3 % fee applies)
Call Nowak Tours at 330-483-4900.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Optional trip cancellation/medical insurance is available and strongly recommended. Insurance premium is \$519 per person for double occupancy, and \$560 for single occupancy. Premium is due with deposit and is refundable up to final payment date.

Garden District, New Orleans



The Myrtles, St. Francisville

REFUND POLICY

Cancellations made prior to the final payment date are subject to a 5% processing fee of the payment received. Cancellations made after the final payment date are in full 100% penalty and non-refundable. If travel insurance was purchased, a valid claim can be submitted to the Insurance Company for refund consideration.

USS TOURS MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

All those purchasing a USS tour must have a current United Senior Services Membership. This policy was established to insure fairness and consistency with our members.



National WWII Museum

Historic Mississippi River Cruise

April 9-16, 2026

TRIP INCLUDES:

- ♦ Local Airport transfers
- ♦ Roundtrip airfare to/from New Orleans
- ♦ 1 night pre-cruise at the Intercontinental New Orleans Hotel
- ♦ 7-night cruise on the American Heritage paddlewheeler
- ♦ All meals, snacks, and alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverages available 24/7 onboard the boat
- ♦ Daily evening cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres and top shelf liquor
- ♦ Full private balcony stateroom
- ♦ Nightly entertainment
- ♦ Resident historians and experts who lead discussions while sailing
- ♦ Wi-Fi onboard
- ♦ 1 included featured shore excursion in each port of call
- ♦ All port taxes & fees
- ♦ Baggage handling throughout
- ♦ All gratuities for drivers, luggage handling, tour manager, and onboard staff
- ♦ Professional Tour Manager



Activity Level: **Moderate**

May require moderate walking and extended standing.
There may be steps or uneven surfaces.

Oak Alley Estate

Starting and concluding in the lively city of New Orleans, this remarkable journey honors the festive culture and deep roots of a region where music speaks universally, and history is evident at every twist and turn of the river.

Experience comfort aboard the American Heritage paddlewheeler as you explore captivating port cities, including Natchez, showcasing a distinct mix of African, British, and French influences, as well as Baton Rouge, the heart and core of Louisiana. Indulge in genuine Cajun and Creole dishes, reflecting the diverse backgrounds of the residents. Visit grand homes and significant sites filled with stories, guided by experts who offer a behind-the-scenes look. While relaxing on this historic river cruise, enjoy the attentive service of the crew or unwind in your spacious cabin, soaking in the serene river scenery.



Natchez



Day 1 - April 9

Fly into New Orleans

This morning we transfer to the Columbus airport for our flight to New Orleans, Louisiana. New Orleans is celebrated globally for its endless nightlife, live music, and distinctive cuisine that mirrors its background as a blend of French, African, and American cultures. This lively city is an ideal starting point for your historic river journey. Check into your hotel and prepare for an enchanting exploration of this city. Wander down avenues shaded by trees, enjoy a carriage tour through the French Quarter, ride a streetcar to the beautiful Garden District, or explore the famous National World War II Museum. Later today, check in to your hotel for a one night pre-cruise stay.

Day 2 - April 10

Cruising the Historic Mississippi River

Gather in the lobby this morning before boarding the coach to transfer to the ship. Board the American Heritage paddlewheeler and receive a warm greeting at a Welcome Reception. This is the perfect opportunity to meet your fellow travelers and enjoy the scenic views as you spend the afternoon cruising north along the majestic Mississippi, a river woven into the fabric of American history and culture. Delight in the entertainment provided by onboard performers, who will bring to life the music that originated from the river itself, encapsulating the soul and spirit of the regions it touches.



American Heritage Paddlewheeler

Day 3 - April 11

Oak Alley, LA

This iconic Southern estate is renowned for its oak-lined avenue, stretching majestically towards the Mississippi River. Built in the early 19th century, the Greek Revival mansion exudes charm with its grand architecture and lush gardens. Be transported back in time as you explore the meticulously preserved interiors and learn about the land's history, including its role in the sugar industry.

Then, enjoy an afternoon narrated boat ride through the Manchac Swamp, a privately owned wildlife refuge. Relax on a covered, comfortable boat with plenty of room to move and clear views from every seat. Swamp wildlife—especially the “jumping gators”—often come within a few feet, responding to the captain’s call. Keep an eye out for nutria, ibis, turtles, herons, raccoons, egrets, and more.



Manchac Swamp



Day 4 - April 12

Baton Rouge, LA

Named for an ancient landmark, Baton Rouge's French title from 1699 translates to "red stick" and mirrors the city's extensive history. As the capital of Louisiana, it resonates with the stories of notable figures who have left their mark here, especially Governor and Senator

Huey P. Long. Delve into his impactful career at the Old State Capitol Museum, built in 1852, and make a stop at Long's 1932 State Capitol building, a striking edifice of granite and marble.

Wander through the famous downtown districts, taking in the flourishing art, architecture, and natural beauty along the way. For those seeking to explore further, consider a guided tour of historical locations that were critical to the Battle of Baton Rouge, or make a visit down to the bustling harbor. Choose your included shore excursion.



Baton Rouge

Day 5 - April 13

Natchez, Mississippi - Vicksburg, MS

In Natchez, elegant residences gleam like gems on elevated land overlooking the river, with roots tracing back to a 1716 French stronghold. The town's grand 19th-century homes, spared by the Civil War, preserve a rich collection of pre-war architecture. Each building tells a unique story, creating a downtown that embodies southern charm and hospitality. Visitors can tour historic townhouses, explore a working cotton estate, and enjoy the scenic river views from the bluff.

Meanwhile, Vicksburg, known as “The Gibraltar of the West,” played a pivotal role in the Civil War, a story vividly recounted at Vicksburg National Military Park. The siege and fall of Vicksburg in 1863 marked a strategic Union victory, emphasized by President Lincoln's declaration, “Vicksburg is the key...” Guided tours at the park detail the military strategies and human stories that shaped this critical battle. Exploring Vicksburg provides a profound connection to American history, complemented by the scenic beauty of the Mississippi River. Choose your included shore excursion.

Day 6 - April 14

St. Francisville, LA

The storied cotton port of St. Francisville has the best view from the high banks over the river. This picturesque town traces its origins to the early 19th century, a time when it flourished under Spanish rule in West Florida before American settlers claimed it, weaving it into the fabric of the United States. St. Francisville invites you to wander through its history, whether you prefer to venture alone or join one of many engaging guided tours. Explore the Historic

District, where grand mansions stand as testaments to the town's past wealth and elegance, surrounded by eclectic boutique stores. The landscape shifts from towering cottonwoods to majestic oaks, their limbs draped in the ethereal beauty of Spanish moss, creating a scene that captures the essence of the South's timeless allure. Choose your included shore excursion.

Day 7 - April 15

New Orleans, LA

Welcome back to New Orleans, where jazz fills the air, and every street corner has a story to tell. Wander through the French Quarter, where charming balconies and hidden courtyards invite you to sit, sip, and people-watch to your heart's content. Savor some beignets at Café du Monde and indulge in a bowl of gumbo or a po' boy sandwich, because in New Orleans, there's no such thing as too much good food. From the sounds of jazz to the rich flavors of Creole cuisine, New Orleans promises an unforgettable experience. Return to the boat this evening for your last overnight.

Day 8 - April 16

Fly Home

Disembark this morning in the city that doesn't just claim jazz; it lives it. After eight days of exploring along the historic Mississippi River, our journey has concluded, but you will be left with lasting memories and a new appreciation for the river's history. Transfer to the airport for your flight back home with many memories of this historic Mississippi cruise.



Vicksburg National Military Park