

## MISSISSIPPI RIVER CRUISE

### & Jewish Heritage Tour with Professor Stephen Berk

June 14-22, 2021

(As of 6/9/20)



#### Day 1: Monday, June 14, 2021: NEW ORLEANS PRE-CRUISE

- Arrive in **New Orleans**, a unique city rich in history and alive with tradition. Famed for its 17<sup>th</sup> century architecture, culturally inspired cuisine and lively music, the rhythm of the city is as diverse as its people.
- Make your way to the hotel (on own) and enjoy the evening at leisure.

#### Overnight New Orleans

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#### Day 2: Tuesday, June 15, 2021: NEW ORLEANS – SET SAIL!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- **OPTIONAL WALKING TOUR (extra cost):**
  - We explore the history of the **French Quarter**, listen to spirited Jazz, and indulge in some local cuisine. A visit to the **French Market**, the country's oldest public market, is reminiscent of European markets, but in a tradition that is distinctively New Orleans.
- Later today, we board our ship, **The America**, and set sail!
- We join together for an **orientation and opening lecture** on board with Professor Stephen Berk.

#### Overnight aboard The America

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#### Day 3: Wednesday June 16, 2021: OAK ALLEY

- We arrive in **Oak Alley**. Once serving as an antebellum sugar cane plantation, Oak Alley Plantation is rightfully named after its most distinguishing feature, a canopy of 300-year-old oak trees that form a quarter-mile path leading to the Mississippi River. Restored to its 19th Century grandeur, this classic Greek revival-style antebellum mansion is purely breathtaking.
- **ONE POSSIBLE EXCURSION (cost included; other excursions available):**
  - Explore this Grande Dame of the Great River Road. The **Oak Alley Plantation** has long been a fixture of Oak Alley, LA. Built in the mid-19th century, this antebellum-style mansion will transport you back to a time when plantations were the backbone of the Southern economy. Take a guided tour of the grounds, which include an antique car garage, a blacksmith shop and the famous Alley of Oaks.

#### Overnight aboard The America



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**Day 4: Thursday, June 17, 2021: NATCHEZ**

- Overlooking the Mississippi River, **Natchez** was first established as a French fort site in 1716, later becoming part of the United States as the first capital of Mississippi in 1817. Perched over 200 feet above the Mississippi River with 30-mile views along the river both north and south, the bluff of Natchez is a place to marvel in the beauty and grandeur of the river. A quaint Southern town rich in culture, history, and known for its abundance of antebellum architecture, Natchez offers true southern hospitality with the attractions of a great small city.
- **ONE POSSIBLE EXCURSION (cost included; other excursions available):**
  - We disembark for our special **Jewish heritage tour of Natchez**. We will tour **Temple B'nai Israel** built in 1905 and home to the oldest Jewish congregation in Mississippi (1843). We will also see beautiful homes built by the Jews.

**Overnight aboard The America**

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**Day 5: Friday, June 18, 2021: VICKSBURG**

- Around every corner, United States history is alive in **Vicksburg**. This “Queen City of the Bluff” offers plenty of opportunities to take a step back in time. Civil war battlefields, centuries old churches, cotton fields and restored train depots are just a few of the many intriguing landmarks that await our visit. Marvel in the beautiful antebellum-style homes and watch Vicksburg’s history come to life at the riverfront murals.
- **ONE POSSIBLE EXCURSION (cost included; other excursions available):**
  - We arrive in historic Vicksburg. Jews have lived in Vicksburg since the early 1800’s. We see the **modern temple** and visit **historic Anshei Chesed Cemetery** adjacent to the National Military Park and view the historic “**BB**” (**B’nai Brith**) **club** now owned by the city. We view important sites from the Siege of Vicksburg before returning to our ship.

**Overnight aboard The America**

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**Day 6: Saturday, June 19, 2021: ST. FRANCISVILLE – SHABBAT SHALOM!**

- Established in 1809 and overlooking the Mississippi River, **St. Francisville** is a quaint Southern town that offers a glimpse into history. One of the largest shipping ports on the Mississippi River prior to the Civil War, St. Francisville is a small town with grand appeal. Experience this town’s rich history as we tour historic plantations, including the famous Rosedown and The Myrtles, or explore the captivating gardens in this area.



- **ONE POSSIBLE EXCURSION (cost included; other excursions available):**
  - We arrive in lovely St. Francisville. This charming town had a large Jewish community by the peaceful shaded cemetery – **Hebrew Rest** receives meticulous care from the last remaining Jewish resident of St. Francisville. We'll pass a forlorn white building, once a synagogue and a church but now abandoned, on our way to **Rosedown** – the Queen of Feliciana Parish Plantations.

**Overnight aboard The America**

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**Day 7: Sunday, June 20, 2021: BATON ROUGE**

- Louisiana's state capital, **Baton Rouge**, was named over 300 years ago by French explorer Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville. The city's rich cultural traditions are reflected through its African-American and Caribbean influenced architecture, experienced through its fiery Creole and Cajun cuisine, and heard in its soulful Blues and Cajun style music. Baton Rouge is a wondrous city brimming with Southern hospitality.
- **ONE POSSIBLE EXCURSION (cost included; other excursions available):**
  - We arrive in the capital of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, home to a Jewish community since 1857. We will visit a Baton Rouge **synagogue** to meet the rabbi and congregants and we will hear about Jewish life in the deep south. We will visit the tallest **state capital** in the country designed by Jewish architects and see bullet holes from the assassination of Huey Long.

**Overnight aboard The America**

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**Day 8: Monday, June 21, 2021: HOUMAS HOUSE**

- Become acquainted to the **Houmas House** and its history as well as its 38 acres of gardens, ponds and a majestic live oak alley during this port stop. Make sure to explore the southern splendor of "The Sugar Palace" through 16 rooms filled with period antiques and Louisiana artwork.
- **ONE POSSIBLE EXCURSION (cost included; other excursions available):**
  - Known as the "*Crown Jewel of Louisiana's River Road*," discover the wonders of **Houmas House** on a guided tour of the mansion and surrounding grounds. This true American landmark features many antiques, artifacts and unique artwork that we can explore during our stop.



**Overnight aboard The America**

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**Day 9: Tuesday, June 22, 2021: NEW ORLEANS**

- Disembark today and transfer (on own) to the airport to catch your flight home.

**The memories last forever!**

*Itinerary subject to change.*

\*All meals served aboard are included and have been requested kosher style (unless otherwise noted on your confirmation letter).

\* Daily lectures by Professor Stephen Berk are included. Exact timing/locations will vary by day and will be announced on board.

