

GOLDTIMERS

*Viking Mississippi
Heart of the Delta*



May 13-20, 2023
8 DAYS • NEW ORLEANS TO MEMPHIS

Viking Mississippi Heart of the Delta Cruise



Discover Southern Culture & Charm

Immerse yourself in history and heritage on this journey from New Orleans to Memphis. Soak up the rich French and Acadian cultures that infuse the Lower Mississippi, and be inspired by the stories of famed musicians and civil rights heroes. Savor delicious Cajun and Creole cuisine, as well as Memphis's famous BBQ. And stir your soul with the rhythms of Dixieland jazz, Delta blues and gospel.

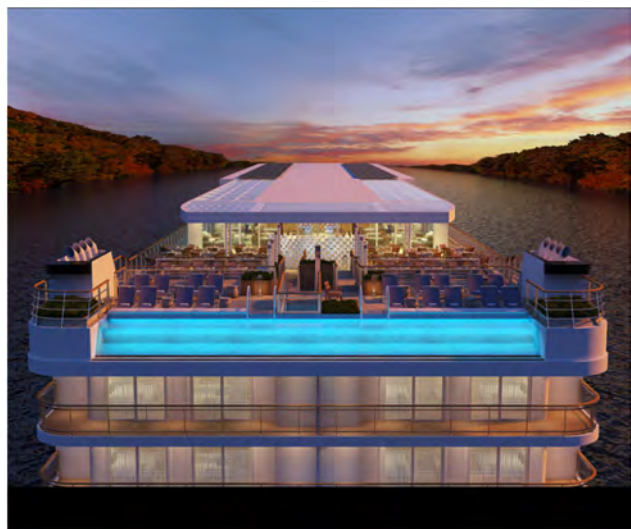
No other waterway has played such an important role in this country's history, commerce and culture. Viking brings modern river cruising to the Mississippi and the





Included in your 8 Day Cruise Package:

- Round-trip transportation from Bloomington, IL to O'Hare
- Round-trip airfare from Chicago O'Hare
- All transfers on arrival and departure days
- 8 day cruise in a river view stateroom on the beautiful ***Viking Mississippi***
- All meals onboard the vessel
- Complimentary house wine, beer, coffee, tea or soft drinks with every dinner
- Complimentary coffee and tea available throughout the day
- 5 Guided sightseeing tours, fully hosted by English-speaking guides
- An experienced Cruise Manager and attentive staff
- All taxes on included features



Heart of the Delta Itinerary

**Day 1: May 13, 2023 - Depart
Bloomington, Illinois to New Orleans,
Louisiana**

We will depart by motor coach from Bloomington and travel to Chicago. Once at the airport we will board our flight to New Orleans. On arrival in New Orleans we will be transferred to the ship.



After check-in, the afternoon is yours to independently explore the city, where its French, African and other influences flavor not only its vibrant culture, but also its tantalizing Creole cuisine. The beloved birthplace of American jazz, historic New Orleans famously exudes a festive atmosphere along the balcony-lined Bourbon Street. Here, in the heart of the famed French Quarter, soulful rhythms lift the spirit, particularly during the city's world-renowned Mardi Gras. To see how its floats are made and learn the history of this famous yearly celebration, perhaps visit Mardi Gras World, just a short walk from your ship.

On board, enjoy an informative lecture on the history and development of New Orleans while you take in a lively musical performance. (Dinner)



Heart of the Delta Sailing Itinerary

Day 2: May 14, 2023 - Darrow, Louisiana

After breakfast, the day is yours to experience the Lower Mississippi—a region dotted with historic mansions, several of which are designated National Historic Landmarks for their architecture, their landscaping, and the contributions of the people who maintained the houses and the lands.

Today, you may choose to explore one or several of the historic estates in the area. You may also journey to the famous Manchac Swamp, a wetlands area adorned with hundreds of acres of cypress trees and freshwater marshes. Complete your afternoon with a music presentation. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Shore Excursions



Houmas House & Gardens

Explore this stunning historic mansion, acclaimed as one of the finest in the South, and its spectacular gardens.



Laura Plantation

See how the lives of the French, native Acadian and West African people entwined at this Creole mansion.



Whitney & St. Joseph

Visit two historic homes for an authentic, often sobering, look at how Louisiana's estates have operated.



Oak Alley

Step back 200 years in time at this iconic mansion, named for its quarter-mile-long allée of 28 live oak trees.



Cajun Swamp Experience

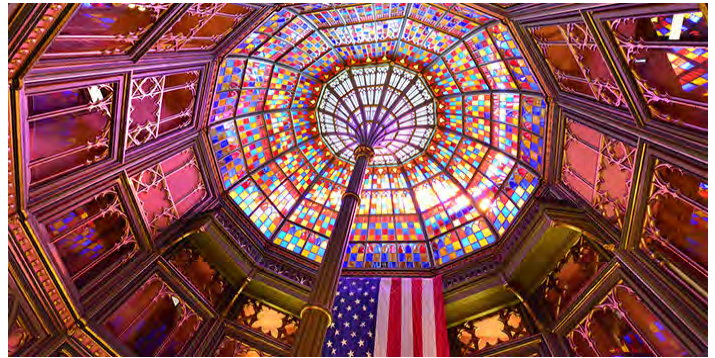
Explore the teeming ecosystems and hear the lore of Louisiana's bayou country on a boat tour of Manchac Swamp.

Heart of the Delta Sailing Itinerary

Day 3: May 15, 2023 - Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Arrive in Baton Rouge, set on the eastern bank of the Mississippi River, and take a panoramic city tour of the area. Hear tales of the hardworking, fun-loving Cajun people and their contributions to Louisiana's history and culture.

Your Viking staff can help you plan the rest of your day with several optional excursions: a Cajun heritage tour; an exploration of the Atchafalaya Basin by boat or canoe; or a visit to the USS Kidd, the most historically accurate restoration of a World War II vessel in the United States. Tonight, enjoy music in the Explorers' Lounge. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Shore Excursions

INCLUDED



Baton Rouge Panorama

See Baton Rouge's most important sights, including the Old Governor's Mansion and Capitol Park Museum.

PRIVILEGED ACCESS



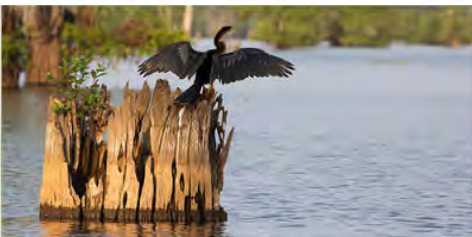
Cajun Heritage Tour

Experience Cajun culture through music, folktales and food at the Rural Life Museum of Louisiana State University.



The USS Kidd

Step on board USS Kidd, the only Fletcher-class destroyer restored to her World War II configuration.



Atchafalaya Basin by Boat

Discover the beauty and wildlife of the Atchafalaya Basin on board a covered motorboat with knowledgeable swamp captains narrating your journey.



Atchafalaya Basin by Canoe

Discover the beauty and wildlife of the Atchafalaya Basin, a unique combination of wetlands, bayous, marshes, estuaries and a river delta.

Heart of the Delta Sailing Itinerary

Day 4: May 16, 2023 - St. Francisville, Louisiana

We continue north on the Mississippi to St. Francisville. Boasting more than 140 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, St. Francisville is set along one of the most historic bluffs of the Mississippi. The town is said to be “two miles long and two yards wide” because it was originally built on a narrow ridge overlooking the river. Founded in 1809 to serve the commercial and cultural needs of surrounding landowners, it is the oldest town in Louisiana’s Florida Parishes. Remarkably, many of St. Francisville’s structures are not its own. Rather, they were moved upriver from Bayou Sara in the 1920s after the small



settlement was destroyed by years of flooding. Today, we explore this area and visit the historic Rosedown Plantation and ornamental gardens. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Shore Excursions



Rosedown Plantation

Explore one of the South’s best-documented and most intact manor homes, along with its sophisticated gardens.



Swamp Kayaking

Explore Lafayette’s Bayou Sara by kayak on this leisurely, eco-friendly outing.



Louisiana State Penitentiary Museum

Get a firsthand glimpse of life inside America’s most notorious and largest maximum security prison.



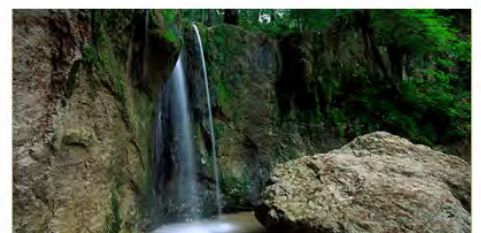
Oakley & Greenwood Estates

Discover Oakley, where John James Audubon created 32 bird paintings, and Greenwood, a classic colonial home.



The Myrtles & Catalpa Estates

Visit two of the area’s more unusual homes—one soaked in legend, the other in familial charm.



Waterfall Hike

Enjoy a full sensory experience on this guided hike through the waterfall-studded Clark Creek Natural Area.

Heart of the Delta Sailing Itinerary



Day 5: May 17, 2023 - Natchez, Mississippi

Natchez is the perfect location in which to enjoy small-town America. The town is distinguished by more than 500 historic buildings, including over 200 perfectly preserved homes that still grace its broad avenues. Throughout the day, you can explore shops in the historic district and other sites at your leisure. You may choose to visit one of many pre-Civil War mansions here, some of the most beautifully preserved in this area of the South. The city itself is home to more than 1,000 structures that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. After dinner, learn about the life of local artisans and enjoy classical music. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Shore Excursions

INCLUDED



The Best of Natchez

Learn about local history during a guided tour of downtown Natchez, then leisurely explore the city's top sights, with visits to two historic homes.



Historic Homes & Chef-Hosted Lunch

Explore two historic Natchez homes, then visit Restaurant 1818 for lunch and some classic Southern cocktails.

Heart of the Delta Sailing Itinerary



Day 6: May 18, 2023 - Vicksburg, Mississippi

Arriving in Vicksburg, you immediately feel the Southern tradition that flows through the city's veins. It is rich in history—especially Civil War history. During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln called it “the key to the South.” And it indeed proved to be the site of the conflict's most pivotal battle, the Battle of Vicksburg, after which the Confederates surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant. Visit Vicksburg National Military Park, which preserves the battlefield and commemorates the greater Vicksburg Campaign that preceded the battle. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Shore Excursions

INCLUDED



Vicksburg National Military Park

Visit the Civil War site where the Battle of Vicksburg ended, turning the tide of the war in favor of the Union.



Vicksburg Walking Tour

Discover the core of Vicksburg's lovely, historic downtown on this easy, guided walking tour.

Shore excursions vary by itinerary and are subject to change.

Heart of the Delta Sailing Itinerary



Day 7: May 19, 2023 - Scenic Cruising of Lower Mississippi

Cruising the serpentine route of the Lower Mississippi, you will witness an astonishing array of picturesque landscapes. Sail past deep-green forests, lush vegetation and a patchwork of fertile farmlands—all hugging the shores and hosting a huge variety of birdlife perched in riverside trees, ready to pluck their next meal from the flowing waters. Around you, bluffs rise over the river's edge. Silos pierce bucolic landscapes. Sandbars and low islands guide the waters as they have for millennia. Passing numerous tributaries and meandering channels, you may appreciate this massive waterway as an epic river system rather than as a singular river. Immerse yourself in the region's history and culture by reading a book from the Library, participating in a cooking demonstration or attending a lecture. After dinner, enjoy live music in the Explorers' Lounge and mingle with fellow guests. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 8: May 20, 2023 - Memphis, Tennessee

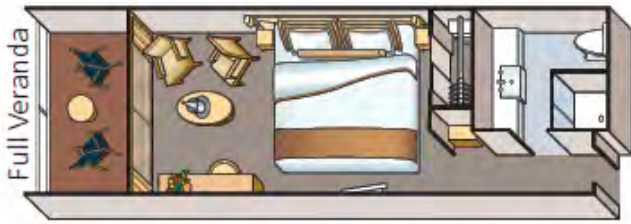
After breakfast, disembark and proceed to the airport for your return flight, or extend your journey with additional nights in Memphis or Nashville. (Breakfast)



Viking Mississippi Heart of Delta Cruise Rate

Deluxe Veranda Category DV4 : \$6,499.00

Rates are per person, based on double occupancy and do not include shipboard gratuities, guide gratuities, trip cancellation insurance or items of a personal nature. Cabins are 270 square feet.



Designed for comfort, bringing your destination as close as possible.

All staterooms include premium amenities: a king-size Viking Explorer Bed with luxury linens; large flat-screen, interactive LCD TV with complimentary movies; large bathrooms with a glass-enclosed shower and a heated floor; security safe; hair dryer; 110/120 volt outlets; ample USB ports; free Wi-Fi; and 24-hour room service.

Travel Protection & Cancellation

While travel protection is not required, we do recommend it. Emergencies sometimes arise, and you want to protect your travel investment. When you purchase the Viking Travel Protection Plan within 14 days of your initial deposit/payment for your cruise, you also receive the Viking Enhanced Cancellation Waiver Benefit that allows you to cancel your Viking travel arrangements before your scheduled departure for any reason and receive a Viking Cruises Voucher for the cancellation penalty amount. Viking Cruises offers a Travel Protection Plan for \$619.00 per person.

This may help protect your travel investment, your belongings and most importantly, you from many unforeseen circumstances that may arise before or during your trip. which include a non-insurance Cancel For Any Reason Waiver* (provided by Viking Cruises), Travel Insurance Benefits (underwritten by United States Fire Insurance Company), and Non-Insurance Services (provided by Generali Global Assistance). Individuals looking to obtain additional information regarding the features of each travel plan component, please contact Trip Mate at 1-844-777-6855. **Insurance benefits in the Plan are subject to limitations and exclusions, including an exclusion for pre-existing conditions.** Plan benefits, limits and provisions vary by state/jurisdiction and not all coverage is available in all states. To review full plan details online, go to: www.tripmate.com/wpUF425V.



For Reservations Contact:

Sandy Polley

Group Program Manager

Phone: 309-834-3736

Email: spolley@dt.com



Viking Mississippi Heart of the Delta
Deposit of \$500.00 per person is required.

All monies that are paid are non-refundable thus
Direct Travel recommends trip cancellation insurance .

Mail form to Direct Travel 2412 East Washington Street, Suite 4A | Bloomington, IL 61704

Please print names *exactly* as they appear on your passport or ID for airport check-in.

PASSENGER 1: _____

Passport #: _____ Passport Expiration: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Known Traveler # if Applicable: _____

PASSENGER 2: _____

Passport #: _____ Passport Expiration: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Known Traveler # if Applicable: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Credit Card #: _____ ☐ VI ☐ MC ☐ AX ☐ DS

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Please select your cabin category:

- ☐ Category DV4 Veranda Stateroom - \$6,499.00 per person based on double occupancy.
- ☐ 2 night Pre Cruise Extension in New Orleans The Best of the Big Easy \$899.00 per person
- ☐ 2 night Post Cruise Extension in Memphis Rock & Soul \$899.00 per person

Travel Insurance: We highly recommend travel insurance. (All insurance prices are per person .)

☐ Viking Group Travel Protection Via TripMate from \$619.00 per person.

☐ **No, I do not want Travel Protection.** Direct Travel has recommended that I purchase travel protection insurance. I have been made aware of the cancellation fees associated with my trip, and I understand that if any unforeseen circumstance (including medical emergencies) should occur and I do not have insurance, I would not be covered.