

The Hometown Travelers presents a Very Special Cruise aboard the all new  
**American Queen Steamboat Company's "American Duchess"**

Sailing from Chicago (Ottawa) to St. Louis

**August 19 - 27, 2018**

**Special Offer: \$800.00 discount per Stateroom**



The *American Duchess* is the first **all-suite** paddlewheeler on U.S. rivers, a floating masterpiece that can carry up to **166 guests** through America's heartland. The paddlewheeler, created from a 1995 hull, was reconstructed to become one of the most luxurious river cruising vessels in the country, featuring single-seating main dining and entertainment venues, soaring ceilings, and all of the features guests have come to expect on other American Queen Steamboat Company cruises.

Combining the best of the old and the new, this beautiful lady of the river epitomizes the grace and grandeur that has made River Cruising a cherished American tradition for more than two centuries. One voyage and you'll see why.

Featuring a single-seating schedule in the beautiful Grand Dining Room, dining onboard is an experience. Enjoy 5-star cuisine that blends local flavors and fine culinary traditions. A more casual atmosphere is offered at The River Club and Terrace, which can host over 80 guests who wish to dine at their own pace.

| <u>Category</u> | <u>Brochure Price</u> | <u>Your Price</u> | <u>Port Taxes, All Transfers, R/T Air, Chicago Tour</u> | <u>Total Cost Per Person Double</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Veranda Suite   | \$4,699.00            | \$4,299.00        | \$1,059.00  | \$5,358.00                          |
| Interior Suite  | \$2,799.00            | \$2,399.00        | \$1,059.00  | \$3,458.00                          |

**Verandah Suite:** Private Balcony, Queen Bed or Two Single Beds, Full Bathroom with Tub/Shower, Half Bathroom, 2 Flat Screen TVs, Lounge Area with Sofa-bed & Desk, Coffee Maker & Mini Refrigerator and Sliding Glass Doors.

**Interior Suite:** Queen Bed or Two Single Beds, Full Bathroom with Shower, Half Bathroom, Flat Screen TVs, Furnished Seating Area with Desk, Coffee Maker & Mini Refrigerator.

**Included with your price:** Enjoy a pre-cruise night at the historic **Drake Hotel** in Downtown Chicago. The following morning, our own **private Chicago tour** with lunch prior to boarding the *American Duchess*. Choose your own path at each port of call with maps of stops, routes and included attractions on American Queen Steamboat Company's **Hop-On-Hop-Off Shore Excursions** by motorcoach. Premium shore excursions are also offered at an additional cost. **Complimentary wine and beer with dinner** plus cappuccino, espresso, bottled water and soft drinks throughout your voyage. Also included is **Broadway-caliber entertainment** each evening and daily lectures by the **Riverlorian**.

**Important Notice:** This is a one-time cruise in 2018 sailing from Chicago (Ottawa). American Queen has notified us that this cruise is selling exceptionally well and our contracted staterooms could be recalled without notice for sale to the public. If you are interested, it is of utmost importance that you secure your stateroom very soon.

**For further information on this cruise, please see [americanqueensteamboatcompany.com](http://americanqueensteamboatcompany.com).**

\$500 per person deposit is due with your reservation (100% refundable until 5/14/2018)

**Final Payment will be due by May 14, 2018**

**Trip Cancellation Protection is recommended at a cost of \$373 per person Verandah & \$248 P/P Interior Cabin.**

*If you do not purchase Trip Cancellation Protection, the following penalties will apply:*

*Up to 91 days prior to departure - \$250 per person administrative fee charged by American Queen Steamboat Company.*

*Cancellations 90 - 61 days prior to departure will forfeit 50% of all monies paid.*

*Cancellations received 60 to 31 days prior to departure will forfeit 75% of all monies paid.*

*Cancellations 30 days or less prior to departure, passenger will forfeit 100% of all monies paid.*

**For Further Information & Reservations:**

**Patsy Weaver at (936) 633-5110 / Dora or Mirna at (936) 639-5566**

Please make checks payable to Hometown Travelers and mail to:  
 403 South Chestnut, Lufkin, TX 75901



*This tour will be in conjunction with SJO-PRO Tours & Running R Travel*

FALL IN LOVE WITH THE HEARTLAND - Set off on an amazing journey from the backdrop of Chicago's soaring skyline to the famed Gateway Arch in bustling St. Louis. As you cruise along the Illinois River you will be treated to some of the most beautiful scenery while visiting amazing port towns steeped in American history.

**Day 1 - Sunday - August 19: Boutique Hotel - Chicago, IL**

Transfers this morning for flight from Houston or DFW to Chicago and transfer to hotel. Enjoy your included, one-night stay at the iconic Drake Hotel in Chicago. Evening is yours to get acquainted with this culturally diverse city, rich in architectural beauty and hidden history. An American Queen Steamboat Company representative, as well as a local representative, will be readily available to provide you with dining, entertainment, and sight-seeing suggestions so that you may maximize your evening in Chicago.

**Day 2 - Monday - August 20: Ottawa, IL**

Enjoy nearby Chicago on our own private tour with an included lunch before boarding the vessel this afternoon to begin our journey departing from Ottawa, Illinois.

**Day 3 - Tuesday - August 21: Ottawa, IL**

Located at the confluence of the Illinois and Fox River, Ottawa became a conduit for river barges and connects Lake Michigan and Chicago to the Mississippi River. Home to the site of the first Lincoln-Douglass debate, this Illinois town is steeped in rich American history. A one-time booming canal town, Ottawa is still a major sand and glass center due to their numerous silica sand deposits.



**Day 4 - Wednesday - August 22: Peoria, IL**

The largest city on the Illinois River, Peoria is the oldest European settlement in Illinois. Named after the Peoria Native American Tribe, the city was settled in 1680 by French explorers. With a good blend of government and official buildings as the county seat – Peoria also offers a bustling art and culture scene and offers a robust historical story to entertain guests from around the world.

**Day 5 - Thursday - August 23: Havana, IL**

Nature lovers and history buffs will relish the day touring this beautiful scenic port.

**Day 6 - Friday - August 24: Leisurely River Cruising**

There is always plenty to do between dawn and dusk on the river and today is the perfect day to enjoy the many public spaces and activities that are available to you onboard. Gaze at the beautiful landscapes and small river towns as you mingle with fellow guests and discuss the unique aspects of river life. If you fancy a moment for yourself, retreat to The Lincoln Library adorned with ornate bookcases stocked with an imaginative selection. Take hold of a literary classic, curl up on a plush chair in a cozy corner and relish every moment of serenity. Our fitness facility, business center, movie theater and grand lobby offer a more stimulating day on the river for those who wish to indulge in more energy-infused activity. However you wish to spend your day, make it your own and revel in every moment.

**Day 7 - Saturday - August 25: Hannibal, MO**

Hannibal, Missouri has a rich history, diverse industrial economy, and truly remarkable arts. The city was founded in 1819 by Moses D. Bates and became a popular stop along the river for many steamboats traveling up the Mississippi. Hannibal offers more parks per citizens than most towns in the Midwest and was included in the famous “50 Miles of Art.” Today, the most popular draw of this quirky town is Hannibal’s very own, Samuel Langhorne Clemens, recognized world-wide as Mark Twain. Many of the popular characters featured in Twain’s novels were based on people Sam had known while growing up in Hannibal. Many of the characters and influences of this American icon are weaved into the streets, shops, restaurants, and museums of Hannibal waiting to be uncovered.

**Day 8 - Sunday - August 26: Alton, IL**

Alton was founded in 1837 and is located just 25 miles north of St. Louis, Missouri. This mid-western city is full of history, culture, and recreational opportunities. Explore the city that holds the site of the final debate between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas and the home of Robert Wadlow – the world’s tallest man, and legendary musician, Miles Davis. Admire the beauty of Alton, noted for its prominent limestone bluffs along the Mississippi River that makes this city a rare and treasured stop.

**Day 9 - Monday - August 27: St. Louis, MO**

Arrive and disembark in St. Louis around 8:00 AM and transfers to airport for our flights back to Texas. Thank you for cruising with us! What an educational yet memorable experience it has been cruising through America’s Heartland. Transfers provided from airport back to Lufkin & Nacogdoches.