EXPEDITIONS

SPRINGTIME ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER & THE GULF COAST

Aboard the 138-Guest *Yorktown*

April 8 - 18, 2013
For many visitors, the Deep South seems like another country. Its culture, especially in Louisiana and coastal Alabama, is rooted in French and Spanish, African and Caribbean influences.

Its architecture, particularly the Antebellum mansions of Natchez, Mississippi, reveal a flair for the dramatic. And there is a reverence for tradition here and a graciousness extended to visitors that is rarely encountered in the sprawling metropolitan areas elsewhere in the United States.

Our voyage takes you into the heart of this enchanting region. We’ll sail into spacious Mobile Bay, where French colonists founded a city in 1702 and where blockade runners found shelter during the Civil War. An excursion outside Mobile takes you to Bellingrath Gardens, among the most spectacular in the country, with magnificent floral displays that change with the seasons.

Once Yorktown embarks upon the Mississippi River, you will find yourself immersed in the culture of the Old South. Standing along the banks of the river are grand Antebellum plantations, such as Oak Alley and the Laura Plantation. You’ll also visit the lovely towns of St. Francisville and Natchez. St. Francisville has a warm, hometown charm, while Natchez has a grand character thanks to the town’s opulent 19th-century mansions, once the homes of wealthy cotton barons. We’ll go ashore at Vicksburg to see the museum dedicated to the USS Cairo, a Civil War ironclad gunboat that sank in 1862, and to explore the Vicksburg Military Park.

Accompanying us from the American Museum of Natural History is Sidney Horenstein, a geologist and conservationist who will explain the origins of the Mississippi River and the Gulf Coast and describe some of the current threats to their continued health. Additionally, we will be treated to onboard concerts by a trio of musicians from the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra: Kenneth Kimery, James King, and Robert Redd.

For this idyllic voyage we have the ideal vessel. Yorktown is an American ship, staffed by American crew and officers. It accommodates only 138 passengers in 69 exterior cabins. With its large sun deck, comfortable lounge, and spacious dining room, Yorktown offers its guests the finest small ship experience.

Join us aboard Yorktown and experience for yourself the history and the charm, the culture and the cuisine of the Old South.
Learn About the History, Culture, & Other Aspects of this Part of America

On this cruise we have the privilege of traveling with Sid Horenstein of the American Museum of Natural History, who will bring the perspective of a geologist and conservationist to our understanding of the Mississippi River and the Gulf Coast through lectures and discussions.

Guest Lecturer

SIDNEY HORENSTEIN is a geologist and environmental educator emeritus at the American Museum of Natural History. He designs and leads field trips to diverse areas of New York State including the greater metropolitan area and the Hudson River Valley, and is the natural history consultant to the Bronx County Historical Society. He also lectures at AMNH on a variety of natural history subjects and serves on the editorial board of the journal, *Evolution: Outreach and Education*. Mr. Horenstein has accompanied groups on AMNH Expeditions to the Americas, Europe, the Mediterranean, Asia, the Arctic, and North Africa.
Discover the Gracious Beauty & Enduring
Cruise Combining the Mississippi River &

A One-of-a-Kind Voyage

Our unique Springtime on the Mississippi River & the Gulf Coast voyage combines two Southern waterways that are rarely included on the same itinerary, yet both are linked by the same history and culture. The Spanish were the first to explore the Gulf Coast and the southern Mississippi River, but the French were the first to settle here. In spite of this long history, today the Gulf Coast is one of the least-visited regions of America. This voyage will introduce you to the turquoise waters, the endless beaches, the historic towns and the exciting cities of the Gulf. You’ll discover the French flair of Mobile and explore the grand Antebellum homes of the plantation aristocracy, including the Bragg-Mitchell Mansion.

You will sail along the Mississippi to Natchez, a town so rich in history and fine architecture that more than 1,000 of its buildings are listed on the National Register, and to Vicksburg, where General Ulysses S. Grant restored control of the Mississippi to the Union. Nestled in the Gulf of Mexico is the Gulf Islands National Seashore, where we will pay a visit to the lagoons, forests, and beaches of Horn and Ship Islands.

The Mississippi River and the Gulf Coast are best explored by ship with a small group. Join us for a discovery of a lifetime.

A Small Shipboard Community of Like-Minded Travelers

Meeting and mingling with your fellow guests is one of the greatest pleasures of the voyage. Our passengers tend to be well-traveled. They have successful careers, out-of-the-ordinary life experiences, and interesting stories to tell. They tend to be confident, outgoing, friendly. They enjoy exploring new places and making new friends. Aboard Yorktown, you are not an anonymous tourist lost in a crowd of strangers; you are a welcome member of a small shipboard community.

Mark Twain & the Mississippi

“The Mississippi Valley is as reposeful as a dreamland, nothing worldly about it…nothing to hang a fret or a worry upon.” –Mark Twain

It’s impossible to think of Mark Twain and not think of the Mississippi River. It is the setting for two of his greatest novels, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, as well as Life on the Mississippi, his memoir of training as an apprentice pilot on a steamboat. Twain loved the river as he loved the characters in his novels. It was unpredictable, but it had grandeur, and it carried everyone who sailed upon her into the heart of America. On our journey, you will sail these fabled shores and witness firsthand what inspired, in the words of William Faulkner, “the father of American literature.”

For reservations, call 1-800-462-8687
Legacy of the American South on a
the Gulf Coast

The Flavors of the South
Of all of America’s regional cuisines, Southern may be the most popular. Southern classics such as fried chicken, barbecue, and bread pudding have become American staples.

Southern cuisine draws upon a host of influences. The Caddo, Choctaw, and Seminole Indians introduced European settlers to deep-pit barbecue. African slaves prepared the first gumbo. And Cajun and Creole specialties such as shrimp etouffee and jambalaya began with French and Spanish colonists in Louisiana. This multitude of influences has created the ultimate American comfort food, and turned Southern cities such as New Orleans into one of the culinary capitals of the United States.

On our cruise along the Mississippi River and the Gulf Coast, Yorktown’s chefs will introduce Southern specialties, along with other choices, in the menus.

Enjoy Jazz Performances Aboard by Renowned Artists
Jazz was born in the African American community of New Orleans in about 1900. It draws upon ragtime, the big brass sound of marching bands, the hymns of African American churches, and the rhythms of traditional African drumming.

Accompanying us on this voyage will be a trio of musicians from the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra (SJMO), whose mission is “to explore, present, promote, and perpetuate the historical legacy of jazz.” Under the leadership of Kenneth Kimery, the trio will perform exclusive concerts onboard.

KENNETH KIMERY, Executive Director of the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra and Jazz Oral History Program, has produced over 300 concerts in Washington, D.C. as well as nationally and internationally.

JAMES KING, a well-known bassist from the Mid-Atlantic region, has a successful music career that spans more than 25 years and has appeared at major jazz festivals in North America and abroad.

ROBERT REDD is a pianist based in the Washington, D.C. area who has accompanied many major jazz artists and performs frequently with the Smithsonian Masterworks Jazz Orchestra.
The Siege of Vicksburg

On May 18, 1863, 77,000 Union troops under the command of General Ulysses S. Grant surrounded Vicksburg, trapping Confederate forces numbering less than 33,000 men under General John Pemberton. After several attempts to storm the city’s fortifications failed, Grant settled down to a siege. Throughout the month of June, both the garrison and the civilian population endured a heavy bombardment from Union artillery on land and from Union gunboats in the Mississippi River. Casualties were heavy on both sides: Pemberton lost more than 9,000 men; Grant lost more than 10,000. With supplies low, casualties mounting, and no hope of rescue, Pemberton surrendered on July 4th.

The Itinerary

Monday, April 8, 2013

NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana | EMBARK
Fly to New Orleans to embark Yorktown. Overnight aboard ship. (D)

Tuesday, April 9

NEW ORLEANS
Spend the day on a walking tour of New Orleans’ French Quarter, or Vieux Carré, the 80-block area that is the geographical and spiritual heart of the city. Admire the old architecture that lines the Quarter’s narrow streets and passageways. You will also have free time to explore what some call the “most unique” city in America. (B, L, D)

Wednesday, April 10

MOBILE, Alabama
Sailing the spacious Mobile Bay, Yorktown will dock in the graceful city of Mobile. Tour Mobile’s historic landmarks and sites, which include Fort Condé, originally built in 1711, the Condé-Charlotte Museum, the Bragg-Mitchell Mansion, one of the city’s finest Antebellum homes, and the Bellingrath Gardens and Home, beautifully set along the Fowl River. (B, L, D)

Thursday, April 11

PENSACOLA, Florida
Pensacola is a beautiful Deep South city with a rich historic past. Visit the 19th-century buildings of Historic Pensacola Village and the Naval Aviation Museum, one of the largest in the world with over 150 restored aircraft including an A1 Triad (1911), the U.S. Navy’s first aircraft. Alternatively, travel to Fort Barrancas, with fortifications dating to 1797 and trails overlooking Pensacola Bay. (B, L, D)

Friday, April 12

HORN ISLAND and SHIP ISLAND, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Mississippi
Considered the jewel of the Gulf Islands National Seashore, Horn Island is a 13-mile-long isle with lagoons that attract over 280 bird species as well as pine and palmetto forests. Ship Island is the most historic of these barrier islands. (B, L, D)

Saturday, April 13

LAURA PLANTATION | OAK ALLEY PLANTATION, Louisiana
The only plantation that retains its original slave cabins, the Laura Plantation was the location where Alcée Fortier recorded the tales of Br’er Rabbit in the 1870s. Explore the homes of the owners and the slaves, as well as the lovely grounds. Continue to Oak Alley Plantation, with its breathtaking one-quarter-mile canopy of live oaks that lead from the Mississippi to the entrance of the elaborate Greek Revival mansion. (B, L, D)
Natchez, Mississippi
Natchez was the first European settlement on the Mississippi River, founded in 1716—two years before the founding of New Orleans. The town’s streets are lined with hundreds of 18th- and 19th-century homes and buildings, including grand and small plantations. We will visit some of these sites as we explore this quaint town, then return to Baton Rouge for a tour of the Old State Capitol Museum. (B, L, D)

Tuesday, April 16
VICKSBURG
Vicksburg’s position on a bend in the Mississippi River made it a bustling trade port and a prime target during the Civil War. Once inhabited by the Natchez and later the conquering Choctaw tribes and the Spanish, the final Confederate stronghold saw one of the longest sieges in military history—47 days in 1863—and was considered by President Lincoln imperative to Union victory. In addition to its Civil War sites, Vicksburg is home to lovely plantations and mansions, some of which we will visit. (B, L, D)

Wednesday, April 17
CRUISING
Spend a relaxing day on the Mississippi River enjoying Yorktown’s amenities. (B, L, D)

Thursday, April 18
NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana | DISSMBARK | FLY HOME
Disembark in New Orleans and transfer to the airport for return flights home. (B)
Yorktown

_Yorktown_ is the ship that makes this itinerary possible. There’s a congenial ambiance aboard this comfortable, homey vessel that was built specifically to cruise the waterways of North America. The ship flies the American flag is staffed by a seasoned, friendly, all-American officer and crew. And _Yorktown_ guarantees a unique experience: thanks to its American registry, it can visit destinations that are off-limits to foreign vessels.

The ship accommodates only 138 guests in 69 cabins. All cabins are exterior and have two twin or one queen bed; superior category cabins have a walk-out balcony.

_Yorktown’s_ chefs are masters of American regional cuisine. At meals, all guests are served in a single, unassigned seating in the dining room, where the large picture windows offer unobstructed views of the passing scene.

Coffee is available all day in the Lounge, which is also the setting for afternoon tea. Upon your return from an excursion, complimentary refreshments will be waiting for you. In the evening, cocktails are served as the ship’s pianist performs on a Steinway piano.

In addition, _Yorktown_ has a large sun deck, Internet access, and a swimming platform.
Cheerful bathrooms are appointed with fine toiletries.

Inside the comfortable Lounge:

Most cabins feature a picture window.

Yorktown’s spacious Lounge is surrounded by windows.

Penthouse Suite balcony.

Relaxing on Yorktown’s Sun Deck.

Cheerful bathrooms are appointed with fine toiletries.

Inside the comfortable Lounge.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT www.AMNHEXPERITIONS.org
**Program Inclusions**

- 10-night cruise aboard the 138-guest *Yorktown*
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard ship
- All meals aboard ship, including house wine, beer, and soft drinks with lunch and dinner
- Complete program of tours and excursions
- Enrichment program of lectures and discussions by accompanying AMNH Study Leader Sidney Horenstein
- Onboard concerts by accompanying jazz trio
- Professional Travel Dynamics International tour staff
- Complete pre-departure materials
- Gratuities to guides and drivers

**Not Included:** Airfare; port and embarkation taxes; transfers; luggage and trip cancellation insurance; alcoholic beverages other than wine and beer with lunch and dinner; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls, faxes, and e-mail service; and gratuities to shipboard personnel

**Airfare:** Airfare is not included in the Cruise and Land Rates. Please contact your preferred airline, travel agent, or the Travel Dynamics International air desk operated by Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc. (VWTI) for airfare information and to reserve flights. Consultants are available Monday – Friday from 9:00 am – 5:30 pm (EST) toll-free at 1-877-711-9896. Please have your tour code (13609) and dates handy for reference.

**Deck Plan**

**Cruise and Land Rates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>E</strong></td>
<td>Outside cabins with two lower beds, two portholes, and private bathroom. Cabins M11-M17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D</strong></td>
<td>Outside cabins with two lower beds, two windows, and private bathroom. Cabins L43-L48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong></td>
<td>Outside cabins with two lower beds, two windows, and private bathroom. Cabins P49-P76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B</strong></td>
<td>Outside cabins with two lower beds, picture window, and private bathroom. Cabins M18-M26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong></td>
<td>Outside cabins with two lower beds, picture window, and private bathroom. Cabins L29-L42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AA</strong></td>
<td>Outside cabins with two lower beds that can convert to a queen bed, picture window, and private bathroom. Cabins L27, L28, P59*, P60 **P59’s two lower beds cannot be converted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>S</strong></td>
<td>Superior outside cabins with walk-out balcony, full-size bed, private bathroom, and mini-refrigerator. Cabins S77-S80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>E</strong></td>
<td>$4,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D</strong></td>
<td>$5,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong></td>
<td>$6,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B</strong></td>
<td>$6,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong></td>
<td>$7,595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AA</strong></td>
<td>$8,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>S</strong></td>
<td>$8,695</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Port Taxes & Charges:** $235 per person

**Single Rates**

A limited number of cabins for solo travelers are available in Category C for $6,730; Category B for $7,990; and Category A for $8,590.
Bellingrath Gardens & Home

Mr. Walter Bellingrath placed an ad in a Mobile newspaper inviting anyone who wished to visit his garden, free of charge. Visitors were so delighted by the beauty and variety of the garden that in 1934, Mr. and Mrs. Bellingrath decided to keep it open to the public year round, a tradition that has continued to this day. Today Bellingrath Gardens covers 65 acres. During this springtime voyage, Bellingrath’s justly famous 250,000 azaleas will be in bloom, including such celebrated varieties as “Formosa,” “Daphne Salmon,” “Southern Charm,” and “Pride of Mobile.”

The following is abridged; complete terms are available at www.amnhexpeditions.org; upon request, and will be included in confirmation materials.

Responsibility Statement: The AMNH Expeditions are managed and operated by Academic Travel Abroad, a professional tour operator, hired as an independent contractor. ATA also may sub-contract with and appoint Tour Operators to operate AMNH Expeditions. The American Museum of Natural History provides the educational enrichment and the Study Leader for the tour. By registering for an AMNH Expedition, the participant waives and releases any claim against us for any loss, damage, injury, or death, and each participant is required to sign a confirmation of such waiver and release as a condition to participating in the tour.

Eligibility and Health Requirements: Participation is a benefit of AMNH membership. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. There is no upper age limit; however, all participants must be in good physical and mental health.

Basis of Rates: All prices are per person based on two sharing a room or cabin, and fares are quoted in U.S. dollars. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

Deposits and Payments: A deposit of $750 per person is required to reserve space. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. Full payment is required for reservations made after the final payment date. Acceptable forms of payment are check or credit card.

Cancellation by Traveler: Once confirmed, if you cancel 121 days or more prior to departure, a refund less an administrative fee of $300 per person will be made. Cancellations that occur between 91 to 120 days prior to departure are subject to full forfeiture of the deposit. Per person charges for cancellations that occur between 61 to 90 days prior to departure are subject to forfeiture of 50% the expedition price. Per person charges for cancellations that occur less than 61 days prior to departure are subject to full forfeiture of the expedition price.

Travel Insurance: For your protection, trip cancellation and travel insurance is strongly recommended. Detailed information on the cancellation and travel insurance available through AMNH Expeditions will be provided with your reservation confirmation and is available online at www.amnhexpeditions.org. Certain policy protections are only available within 14 days of booking your tour. This insurance is at an additional cost and is available up until you make final payment for the expedition.

Single Travelers: A limited number of single rooms are available at extra cost on a first-come, first-served basis, but availability cannot be guaranteed. We make every effort to match single travelers who request a roommate.

Itinerary Changes: The itineraries and study leader staff presented are subject to modification and change. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate programs as planned, but alterations may still occur without allowance of refund.

Fuel Supplement: Travel Dynamics International reserves the right to charge a fuel supplement, without prior notice, if the NYMEX oil price exceeds $85 per barrel. This supplement may be charged even if the cruise fare has been paid in full.

Reserve your space on Springtime on the Mississippi River & the Gulf Coast today!

Call 1-800-462-8687 (Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm EST)

Or Register Online: www.amnhexpeditions.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT www.AMNHEXPEDITIONS.org
Springtime on the Mississippi River & the Gulf Coast
Aboard the 138-Guest Yorktown

April 8 – 18, 2013

Join Geologist Sidney Horenstein on a Unique Cruise to America’s Southern Waterways this Spring
April 8 – 18, 2013
~

www.amnhexpeditions.org
1-800-462-8687

Laura Plantation, Louisiana

Rosedown Mansion, St. Francisville, Louisiana

Sunset over the Mississippi in Natchez

Dining alfresco aboard Yorktown