

NEW ORLEANS . . . HISTORY SINCE 1718

Sunday - Friday September 23 - 28, 2012

\$984 (\$180 single suppl)

Westlake, Elyria, No. Olmsted, Middleburg Hts, Independence, Beachwood, Boston Hts, Akron N, Akron S, As Applicable

Bourbon Street (Rue Bourbon, in French) is a famous and historic street that spans the length of the French Quarter in New Orleans, Louisiana. When founded in 1718, the city was originally centered in this area. While the city has expanded, "The Quarter" remains the cultural hub and Bourbon Street is the best known by visitors. You'll have several evenings to explore the "Big Easy", the casino or, as an optimal visit, take a dinner cruise aboard the Steamboat Natchez. On Tuesday we'll be starting the day with a morning guided tour of New Orleans. Our Tour Guide will be showing a city that's a "gumbo" of history, magic, famous architecture, haunted houses, excellent cuisine and the tomb of Marie Laveau, the voodoo queen of New Orleans. In keeping with its reputation for fabulous restaurants, we will be dining at the award-winning Court of Two Sisters, located in the area originally known as "Governor's Row". We will be arriving mid-day to enjoy their Jazz Brunch, with special salads, carving stations, special hot entree offerings, fresh bakery and a dessert table with fresh fruit. This afternoon we'll be visiting the National World War II Museum. This new attraction, with several floors of displays, assesses the political, social and economic conditions that led up to World War II and D-Day. In its large atrium, full-sized aircraft and other items are suspended from the ceiling. Two auditoriums at the museum offer videos to assist visitors in learning even more. The rest of the day and evening are yours to enjoy Harrah's Casino or Bourbon Street, one of the most popular areas in this historic city. For those who would like to expand their visit, we are offering the evening dinner cruise aboard the Steamboat Natchez. This two-hour cruise, departing only blocks from our hotel, takes you back to a life that was as slow and graceful as the current on the Mississippi. There will be a Southern buffet as the Grammy-nominated Dukes of Dixieland play. Add \$68 if you'd like to include this dinner cruise.



In addition to our New Orleans experience, we will also be doing some interesting things enroute. A visit will be made to Birmingham, the largest city in Alabama. Much like Pittsburgh, the city's major industry was its iron and steel production, just as Birmingham in the United Kingdom, where many of the early residents had immigrated from. Of course you'll be seeing Vulcan, Alabama's colossal statue that is the world's largest cast iron statue, considered one of the largest most memorable works of civic art in the United States, commemorating the steel industry and its impact on the area. Afterward we anticipate stopping to purchase our luncheon at Irondale Cafe, the basis for Fannie Flagg's book and movie, "Fried Green Tomatoes". This evening we will be enjoying a buffet dinner and a live show. Being "down south", we'll be stopping at the American Outpost & Homestead to learn how moonshine and bourbon production began almost two centuries ago. Several evenings we will be dining at our hotel with cocktails, or other beverages, awaiting us. Ten meals are included (eleven if you have purchased the dinner cruise).

