

<u>FLIGHT TO NEW ORLEANS</u>: Settle into your hotel & enjoy the city at your leisure. Stroll to the **French Quarter** for a bit of jazz, as you explore this magical city, renowned for its delicious cuisine, vibrant music scene, & rich culture. Stroll the tree-lined avenues, take a carriage ride through the French Quarter, hop aboard a streetcar to the gorgeous Garden District, or visit the renowned National World War II Museum. One night at Hotel International.

CRUISING THE MISSISSIPPI: Board the American Splendor and be treated to a welcome reception. Savor the view as you enjoy the afternoon rolling on the mighty Mississippi. Enjoy onboard performances of the music born on the river. (Meals: B/D)

OAK ALLEY: Once serving as a sugar cane homestead, Oak Alley Plantation was named after its most distinguishing feature, a row of 300-year old oak trees. This leafy canopy forms a ¼-mile path leading to the Mississippi River. Restored to its 19th century grandeur, this classic Greek Revival-style antebellum mansion is breathtaking. Ask about optional excursions offered. (Meals: B/L/D)

BATON ROUGE: Meaning "red stick," Baton Rouge's 1699 French name references an ancient geographical marker & reflects the city's long history. As Louisiana's state capital, the city echoes with tales of characters who lived here, most notably Governor & Senator Huey Long. Learn about his career at the 1852 Old State Capitol Museum. Explore many of the well-known downtown neighborhoods, while embracing the rich art, architecture & nature along the route. Take an optional narrated boat ride through a Louisiana swamp. (Meals: B/L/D)

<u>VICKSBURG</u>: During the Civil War, the struggle to control Vicksburg proved to be a major turning point. The well-fortified connection between river & rail transportation was known as "The Gibraltar of the West." A narrated exploration of the well-preserved National Military Park battlefield enlivens this powerful story & highlights its significance. Several optional excursions are available. (Meals: B/L/D)

<u>RIVER CRUISING DAY</u>: Cruising toward the vibrant city of Memphis, enjoy the beauty of the heart & the soul of the Mississippi Delta. Mingle with guests in one of our comfortable lounges, read a book on your private balcony, or take part in the onboard guest speaker program, art class or culinary demo. (Meals: B/L/D)

MEMPHIS: This historic city, located up the hillside from the river, is adorned with grand oak trees, lush parks & historic sites that commemorate the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement. Choose from an array of customized excursions: take a motorcoach for an overview of this dramatic city; indulge in the glamor of the Peabody Hotel; explore the Elvis Presley's home, life & career; or make a pilgrimage to Sun Studio (*right*), where he recorded his earliest hits. The comfort of the ship awaits at the nearby Beale Street Landing, docked along the recently renovated city park. Be entertained onboard by local musicians as you savor a nightcap. (Meals: B/L/D)

HOMEWARD BOUND: Enjoy breakfast onboard before transferring to the airport for your journey home. (Meals: B)



<u>COSTS</u> (*per person*): See below. Group Discount fare is offered IF we register 10 travelers before Feb. 1, 2025. Single cabins are very limited. Register with \$800 deposit by Jan. 24, 2025. Final payment July 15.

Room Categories	Brochure Fare	Group Discount	Your Fare
Veranda Suite (VS)	\$7,795.00	\$300.00	\$7,495.00
Premium Balcony (PB)	\$6,575.00	\$300.00	\$6,275.00
Deluxe Balcony (DB1)	\$6,205.00	\$300.00	\$5,905.00
Deluxe Balcony (DB2)	\$5,865.00	\$300.00	\$5,565.00
Standard Balcony (SB1)	\$5,635.00	\$300.00	\$5,335.00
Standard Waterview (SW)	\$4,925.00	\$300.00	\$4,625.00
Single Balcony (SGB)	\$7,165.00	\$600.00	\$6,565.00
Single Waterview (SGW)	\$6,475.00	\$600.00	\$5,875.00

INCLUDED: Daily Enrichment Program, at least 1 daily shore excursion, evening entertainment, cocktail hours, wine & beer, Wi-Fi, all gourmet meals, gratuities, port charges, & other fees, plus 1 night in New Orleans.

OPTIONS offered by American Cruise Line: Roundtrip Air fare from RDU at \$495 per person; Cruise protection plan at

approximately 10% of total fare selected; pre-cruise hotel stay in New Orleans at \$175 per person; optional shore excursions (ask at registration).

Note for All ARTours: You should be in good physical condition to fully enjoy our tours. The Arts Council cannot provide individual assistance during the tours and therefore reserves the right to decline anyone who has a physical condition that could create a hazard to him/herself or could impact the enjoyment of other travelers on the tour.



Join the Arts Council on a 9-day tour to explore Maine's coast where artists have captured the light and beauty of its rocky shoreline for centuries. Highlights include a visit to Boston's Isabelle Stewart Gardiner Museum, artists colonies of Monhegan Island & Ogunquit, Winslow Homer's Studio in Prouts Neck, Portland Museum of Art, the Farnsworth & Wyeth Center in Rockland; a sail on Camden Harbor; & Maine's amazing lighthouses, culinary delights, such as lobster and blueberry pies.

<u>SEP. 17 | FLY TO BOSTON</u>: After arriving in Bean Town, we'll visit the amazing art collection at the **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum** before checking into **Hotel Boxer** for one night.

SEP. 18 | CAMDEN: Board the Downeaster Train to Brunswick, Maine, to visit the **Bowden Museum of Art**. This historic museum is on the campus of Bowdoin College & was designed by the architectural firm McKim. Later, we stop at Boothbay's **Coastal Maine Botanical Garden** before continuing to **Camden** to check in at **Lord Camden Inn** for 2 nights. (Meals: B)

SEP. 19 | FARNSWORTH & WYETH CENTER: Focusing on the arts & heritage of the mid-coast region, we visit the **Farnsworth Art Museum** offering one of the largest collections of works by sculptor Louise Nevelson. Next door, the **Wyeth Center** houses the artwork of Andrew,





SEP. 20 | MONHEGAN ISLAND & BOOTHBAY HARBOR: Take a ferry from the coastal town of Port Clyde to the isolated Monhegan Island, made famous in paintings by Rockwell Kent, Jamie Wyeth, & hundreds of other artists. Its rocky cliffs & breathtaking views are a perfect artist's escape. Enjoy the island at your leisure, tour the Monhegan Museum, take a coastal walk offering endless dramatic views, & enjoy lunch on your own, perhaps a lobster roll, fish tacos, or fresh oysters at the Fish House. Afterwards take a return ferry to Boothbay Harbor, our home for the night at Fisherman's Wharf Inn. (Meals: B)

Camden Harbor Cruise

<u>SEP. 21 | PORTLAND</u>: This morning, we **depart** for **Portland**, where we'll check into our hotel for the next two nights, **Hyatt Place Portland-Old Port**. Enjoy free time to explore Portland's waterfront and dine at your leisure. (Meals: B)

SEP. 22 | PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART/WINSLOW HOMER'S STUDIO: Explore the Portland Museum of Art, designed by I.M. Pei. The museum's collection includes works by Andrew Wyeth, Winslow Homer, Rockwell Kent, Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, & Pablo Picasso. After a drive to Prout's Neck for a private tour of Winslow Homer Studio. Meals: B/D)

<u>SEP. 23 | KENNEBUNKPORT</u>: We continue along the south coast of Maine to Kennebunkport to visit Nubble Light (one of the most painted lighthouses in Maine) & Stonewall Kitchen Café with something for every palate including lobster rolls. We finish the day in **Ogunquit** for a 2-night stay at **Anchorage By the Sea**. This coastal town entices visitors to its seaside cliff walk, great shopping, & 3.5 miles of sandy beaches. (Meals: B)



SEP. 24 | OGUNQUIT: Artists have called Ogunquit home for 100+ years, which will be

evident on a visit to the **Ogunquit Museum of Art** that sits on the edge of the Atlantic in Narrow Cove. Often called one of the most beautiful small museums in the world, the museum's collection includes works by Walt Kuhn, Robert Laurent, Yasuo Kuniyoshi, & a sculpture gardens that surround the museum. With your free time, take in the **Marginal Way**, shops, galleries, & **Perkin's Cove**. (Meals: B/D)

SEP. 25 | RETURN HOME: Transfer to train station for the Downeaster train back to Boston where we transfer to airport for our flight home. (Meals: B)

<u>COST</u>: ACMC Members: Double = \$4,385 Single = \$5,999 (Nonmembers add 15%) (per person) Registration with \$1,000 deposit by February 15, 2025. Full payment due by July 15, 2025.

Cost Include: Group airport transfers in NC & Boston, round-trip train in Maine & Boston, 8 nights lodging,

8 breakfasts, 3 dinners, private bus transportation in Maine and driver and local guide gratuities.

Not Included: Non-stop airfare from RDU to Boston (estimated at \$385 - Ask for group rates at registration), meals

not listed, alcoholic beverages, & luggage porterage.

CANCELLATION POLICY: 35% of the total cost will be withheld for cancellation after registration deadline on **ALL** ARTours. **NO** refunds after advertised full payment deadline unless substitute traveler is found—at which time transfer fees, if applicable, will be withheld. Trip cancellation insurance is available upon request & must be purchased at registration.