

# NEW ORLEANS / WEST CARIBBEAN CRUISE

New Orleans • Costa Maya • Belize City • Roatan • Cozumel •  
Norwegian Star®

NORWEGIAN STAR®



- This vacation offers so many things to do and see. **New Orleans**, the fabulous “Big Easy” with all of the history and charm.
- All four ports of call were centers of the Mayan culture. **Mayan** civilization began more than 2,000 years ago and reached its zenith between A.D. 300 and 900. At the time Europe was suffering through the Dark Ages, the Mayans enjoyed a creative blossoming more advanced than any of their contemporaries in the known world.
- In **Costa Maya**, visit the Kohunlich Ruins; in **Roatan**, visit the Dolphin Encounter; in **Belize**

A VALID PASSPORT IS REQUIRED FOR THIS TOUR

- **City**, visit the ruins of Xunantunich and Marimba; in **Cozumel** you can take a ferry to the ruins of Tulum, spectacularly sited on sea cliffs.
- Our ship, the **Norwegian Star**, will provide a fabulous variety of food and fun as we relax from our full days of shore activities and for our two days at sea.
- The **Sunset Limited** will provide our comfortable, first-class rail travel between Los Angeles and New Orleans and back.

Days 1-3 ..... Los Angeles to New Orleans  
 Day 4 ..... New Orleans  
 Day 5 ..... Norwegian Star  
 Day 6 ..... At Sea  
 Day 7 ..... Costa Maya, Mexico  
 Day 8 ..... Belize City, Belize

Day 9 ..... Roatan, Bay Islands,  
 Honduras  
 Day 10 ..... Cozumel, Mexico  
 Day 11 ..... At Sea  
 Day 12 ..... New Orleans  
 Days 13-15 ..... New Orleans to  
 Los Angeles

**TOUR DATE(S):****Wed., Nov. 28 to Wed., Dec 12****TOUR PRICE:****\$2,995 - 15 Days**

Per person /double occupancy

Upgrade pricing (per person/double occupancy):

Bedroom on Amtrak + \$795  
 Ocean View Stateroom + \$60  
 Balcony Stateroom + \$270

**\$4,340 Single** (Inside Stateroom)

Ocean View Stateroom + \$120  
 Balcony Stateroom + \$540

**YOUR TRIP INCLUDES:**

- Round-trip transportation by Amtrak, Norwegian Cruise Line and connecting motor coach from Los Angeles.
- Inside cabin on the Norwegian Star cruise ship for seven nights.
- First class hotel accommodations for three nights.
- Sightseeing tour in New Orleans.
- Baggage handling, taxes and tips.
- 34 meals.
- All gratuities are included; rail, cruise and motor coach.
- Services of a professional America by Rail Tour Director from New Orleans.

America by Rail will be happy to assist you in making your connecting reservations to/from Los Angeles by rail.

**Day 1: En Route**

America by Rail will arrange for all participants to connect with the tour/cruise in Los Angeles by rail from your nearest Amtrak station. Olivera Street, with its Mexican Market, is near the Union Terminal.

At about 1:45, we'll board the Sunset Limited for our 2,000-mile journey across six states to New Orleans. Departure is scheduled for 3:00. Get comfortable in your Roomette or Bedroom. You'll then want to head for the Sightseer Lounge car for viewing of the passing scenery. During the remainder of the afternoon, our train will roll through the lush California countryside. We'll encounter the arid desert of western Arizona around dinner time. All delicious dining car meals are included. Additional California participants will join us in Palm Springs (5:35 p.m.). **D**

**Day 2: En Route**

Plan on a train side stroll during our 40-minute layover in El Paso at 8:16 a.m. The rest of the day we'll encounter the stark, desolate -- almost hostile -- land of West Texas. This is the sparsely-populated Rio Grande Valley.

It's 605 miles from El Paso to San Antonio with only three stops at remote stations.

We'll be west of Alpine at lunch time and near Del Rio when we sit down to dinner. Just west of Del Rio we'll cross the Pecos High Bridge spanning a magnificent canyon cut by the Pecos River 321 feet below.

We'll arrive in San Antonio at 10:25 p.m. and lay over for two-and-a-half hours. You can remain on the train or take a stroll. **B, L & D**

**Day 3: En Route / New Orleans**

Early birds can catch a stroll trainside in Houston between 5:45 and 6:15 a.m.. Relax and enjoy your final day of luxury aboard the Sunset Limited. Further east we'll roll by rice and sugar cane fields. Soon we're in the famed bayou country of Louisiana with its verdant, moss-covered forests and flowers that bloom year around. We'll pass over many inlets from the nearby Gulf of Mexico.



We'll know we're almost there when the train ascends the 4.4-mile-long Huey P. Long Bridge. The New Orleans skyline will dominate the horizon. Arrival into New Orleans is scheduled for 2:55 p.m. Please arrange for a taxi to take you to our hotel.

Our home in New Orleans is the Hampton Inn near the famous French Quarter. You're in one of the most attractive cities in the world. Take full advantage of all there is to see, to do and to taste. **B & L**

**Day 4: New Orleans**

You are free to enjoy this interesting city. There are numerous sites and shops for you to explore. Your Tour Director will arrive at the hotel between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. and will be in contact with you.

**Day 5: Embarkation**

This morning you're free to rest or pursue those activities that are of particular interest to you. Enjoy coffee and beignets (a special doughnut-like pastry) at the famous Café du Monde. Wander through the exquisite shops and galleries along Royale Street.

At noon we'll transfer from our hotel to the beautiful Norwegian Star®, our fantastic home for the next seven days and nights. Get settled, enjoy a buffet lunch and spend the afternoon exploring this beautiful ship. We're scheduled to set sail from New Orleans at 5:00 p.m. **L & D**

**Day 6: At Sea**

Do as little or as much as you care to aboard the beautiful Norwegian Star. This ship is a jewel on the high seas, filled with innovative features and luxurious amenities. Swim in one of the sparkling pools, shop the Galleria boutique or get a

massage in the Barong Spa & Salon. Dine in one of the dining rooms or specialty restaurants. Head to the internet cafe' or library. Tee up at the driving range. There is a jogging track and state of the art fitness center for those looking to work off some of the fantastic cuisine. Catch up on your favorite team at the Sports Bar. Grab a latte' at the Java Café. Try your luck at the Star Club Casino featuring a variety of table games, slots (including nickel slots for the not-so-high roller), video poker, etc.

Other daily activities include bingo, craft-making, art auctions, pool games, trivia contests, wine and cocktail tasting; and that traditional cruise favorite, shuffleboard! Of course you can always just cuddle up with a good book as the Pacific Ocean drifts by. The evening entertainment is stellar. Don't miss the colorful Broadway-style production shows in the Theater. **B, L & D**

### Day 7: Costa Maya, Mexico

The quiet side of Mexico; here, along an unspoiled coastal paradise, archeology buffs discover Mayan ruins shrouded in magic and mystery.

Optional shore excursions include: Kohunlich Mayan Ruins; Coral Reef Snorkel; 4x4 All-terrain Expedition. A sightseeing tour to Chichén, the majestic city that holds both magic and mystery. Under the direction of expert guides, explore this as well as other buildings and sites.

Consider the tour to Xcaret, a place where Mayas came to purify themselves. This is now one of the world's most unique parks. Horseback riding and snorkeling are available as well. **B, L & D**

### Day 8: Belize City, Belize

An eco-tourist's paradise; offshore, friendly stingrays glide over the second-largest barrier reef in the world; inland, brilliant butterflies loop through steamy jungles.

Sample shore excursions include: Mayan Ruins of Xunantunich and Marimba Lunch; also Shark Ray Alley and San Pedro. **B, L & D**

### Day 9: Roatan, Bay Islands, Honduras

One of the Honduras Bay Islands, Roatan is a hidden gem with some of the most beautiful white beaches and the best

snorkel and diving spots in the Caribbean.

Optional shore excursions include: Dolphin Encounter & Tabyana Beach, Jolly Roger Catamaran & Gumbalimba Park, Island Sightseeing & Beach, Island Nature & Culture Tour and, Mayan Reef Clear Kayak. **B, L & D**

### Day 10: Cozumel, Mexico

Once the destination of Mayan women playing homage to Ixchel, Mayan goddess of fertility, today it's ranked among the world's premier dive spots. Just a ferry ride away: the Mayan ruins of Tulum, spectacularly situated on the sea cliffs.

Optional shore excursions include: Chac Tun Caverns and Mayan Riviera Beach; Mayan Ruins of Tulum; Snorkel at Chankanaab National Park; and the Clear Kayak Peek and Paddle. **B, L & D**

### Day 11: At Sea

This is the last full day of our Rail/Sail Vacation at sea. Enjoy this opportunity to participate in many of the optional activities onboard or relax with a good book on deck with the invigorating salt air. **B, L & D**

### Day 12: New Orleans

Following our disembarking from the Norwegian Star, we'll transfer to our hotel. You're free this full day in New Orleans to rest or pursue those activities that are of particular interest to you. The nearby D-Day Museum and the Aquarium are highly recommended. Enjoy coffee and beignets (a special doughnut-like pastry) at the famous Cafe du Monde. Wander through the exquisite shops and galleries along Royal Street.

You may want to embark on a Gray Line tour. They include Hurricane Katrina sites, Oak Alley Plantation and Swamped Bayou. **B**

### Day 13: En Route / Sunset Limited

At 10:45 a.m. we'll transfer to the New Orleans Union Station. Our travelers will prepare for their return to Los Angeles. We'll travel first-class on the Sunset Limited. Relax in your comfortable private Roomette bedroom or upgraded Bedroom sleeping accommodations. Go to the glass-walled Sightseer Lounge car



for spectacular viewing. All tastefully prepared full-course dining car meals are included.

Departure is at 11:55 a.m. Lunch will be the first of our six included dining car meals.

After lunch, options include visiting with new friends, and watching the famous swampland of Louisiana (known as the Bayou) from the all-glass Sightseer Lounge car. How about a post-lunch nap in your comfortable private bedroom accommodations! Soon we'll be passing through the sugar cane fields. We'll arrive in Houston shortly after 9:00 p.m. You'll have about a half-hour to walk off some of the excesses of dinner. **CB, L & D**

### Day 14: En Route

During the night the landscape changed drastically. You're now in the sparsely-populated Rio Grande Valley of West Texas. Tumbleweeds and arid lands surround our train. Just west of Del Rio we'll cross the Pecos High Bridge spanning a magnificent canyon cut to the Pecos River 321 feet below.

Plan on a train side stroll during our late afternoon stop in El Paso. The rest of the day we'll encounter the stark, desolate -- almost hostile -- land of southern New Mexico and Arizona. If you're still active when we arrive in Tucson at 11:20 p.m., enjoy another walk. **B, L & D**

### Day 15: En Route / Los Angeles

Palm Springs . . . Ontario . . . Pomona . . . Los Angeles Union Station. Enjoy your final morning on the Sunset Limited. Breakfast will be served as the train rolls along the lush California countryside. Huge clusters of power generating windmills cling to a number of mountainsides.

Arrival into Los Angeles Union Station is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Throughout the morning, and early afternoon, tour members will depart for home destinations. **B**

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## REGISTRATION AND DEPOSIT:

A deposit of \$200 per person (\$500 for cruise), of which \$100 per person is non-refundable, is required to finalize registration. The balance is due 75 days prior to departure (90 days for cruise). If payments are not received by the due date(s) specified, reservations may be cancelled without notice.

Cruises: If reservation is made after final payment due date, prevailing rates and availability apply.

## TOUR CANCELLATIONS:

If cancellation is received by America by Rail more than 75 days prior to departure (90 days for cruise), \$100 of your deposit will be retained. For cancellations received within 75 days of departure, the following per person cancellation fees apply (90 days for cruise):

- 76-90 days prior to departure: (cruise only)  
20% of total tour cost.
- 46-75 days prior to departure:  
25% of total tour cost.
- 15-45 days prior to departure:  
50% of total tour cost.
- 14 days or less prior to departure through duration of the tour: 100% of total tour cost.

The total tour cost includes tour price, add-ons and upgrades.

Refunds will be made approximately 30 days after the conclusion of the tour.

Payment / cancellation exceptions are noted on tours.

## TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

### TRANSPORTATION

Rail transportation over the tour route and motorcoach, van, or other modes of transportation where specified in the tour description.

### TRAIN ACCOMMODATIONS

All tours except those categorized as Coach Class include private Roomette on Amtrak overnight trains and Bedrooms (double occupancy) or Roomettes (single occupancy) on VIA Rail Canada overnight trains. Bedrooms on Amtrak are available at an additional cost. Reclining coach seats are included on U.S. and Canadian trains used only during the daytime except for those categorized as Coach Class. Coach Class tours include reclining coach seats with leg rests on Amtrak trains. Meals on the trains are included for those traveling Coach Class on the North American tours as indicated in the itinerary.

### CRUISE ACCOMMODATIONS

Cruise tours include inside staterooms (double occupancy) on cruise ships. Upgraded staterooms may be available at an additional cost.

### HOTELS

Accommodations are based on two persons sharing a room with bath. Two-bedded rooms are provided in most instances. However, sometimes their availability is limited. If a two-bedded room is required, please notify America by Rail at time of registration.

America by Rail reserves the right to substitute hotels for those named in any tour description, when necessary. Every effort is made to have hotel rooms available for occupancy upon arrival. There may be instances when rooms are not available until later.

### SINGLE ROOMS

Single rooms at hotels and Amtrak Roomettes on a single basis are available at a supplemental cost.

### SIGHTSEEING/ADMISSIONS

Sightseeing, as outlined in the itineraries, will be provided by motorcoaches in most instances. Admission fees are included as specified. Sightseeing tour arrangements may be altered if required.

## MEALS

All included meals are listed in the tour itinerary. Persons requiring a special diet must inform America by Rail at the time of registration. Not all restaurants/trains will be able to honor special requests. Due to events beyond our control, trains are sometimes delayed and supplies may become limited. If you have special dietary requirements, please make sure you have a sufficient supply of nourishment to meet your dietary needs.

In the itineraries, the meals are listed at the end of each day using CB for Continental breakfast, B for breakfast, L for lunch, and D for dinner.

## BAGGAGE

For your convenience and to expedite movement, baggage handling is limited to one suitcase per person. Transfer and portage of one suitcase per person is included at overnight stopovers. On most tours the one suitcase per person is handled by America by Rail and is checked through to the next destination. Carry-on luggage is used while en route. America by Rail is not responsible for loss or damage to your baggage or for any lost, stolen or destroyed item. Specified transfers between rail stations and hotels are included.

## TOUR DIRECTORS

Services of a qualified America by Rail Tour Director are included for all matters pertaining to the tour. Tour Directors will meet all tour members at the origination city.

## TIPS AND TAXES

All gratuities to hotel staff (except to chambermaids), sightseeing guides and drivers are included. Gratuities for sleeping car attendants and meals aboard the train are included. Gratuities for meals specified in the tour itinerary are included on escorted portions of the tour. Gratuities for cruise ship stateroom stewards and dining waitstaff are included.

## TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

Transportation and tips between your home city and the official origination city; charges for excess baggage; health, accident or baggage insurance; tips to chambermaids and for personal services; items of a personal nature such as laundry; meals, except those specified as included; gratuities for special services; charges for room service, and alcoholic beverages with included meals.

Gratuities to your America by Rail Tour Directors are an industry expectation. They should be extended on an individual basis, not as a group.

## RAIL SCHEDULES:

The routing and features described in tour descriptions may be altered to adjust to rail schedules in effect at the time of the tour. America by Rail reserves the right to substitute motorcoach or air travel for unavailable rail schedules, misconnections, delays or other causes.

## TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:

A valid passport will be required for any trip crossing international borders. i.e. into or out of the United States. At time of reservation we will need your date of birth; gender, passport number, passport expiration date and issuing country.

## HEALTH, MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL:

Any type of disability requiring special treatment must be reported to America by Rail at the time of registration. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitations those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance. Participants will be asked to submit a confidential medical form for each tour.

## SMOKING:

Smoking is not permitted on America by Rail motorcoaches. Those who smoke may do so at any of the frequent

stops we make. All Amtrak and VIA Rail trains are entirely smoke-free. If time is available at station stops, it will be announced by the conductor. Cruise ships policies vary from line to line, but all have designated areas to accommodate smokers.

## PLEASE NOTE:

America by Rail reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to accept or retain any individuals as members of the tour. The acceptance of any service provided as part of an America by Rail tour, or any ticket or voucher, shall be deemed to be acceptance of and consent by the tour member to these conditions.

All rates published herein are in U.S. dollars and based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on the printing date of the tour brochure. Prices and arrangements are subject to change without notice.

No persons, other than a representative of America by Rail, authorized by a document in writing, may vary, add or waive any term or condition set forth in the preceding provisions.

A \$50 per person fee will be assessed for each itinerary alteration requested after final arrangements are confirmed.

It is our company policy to issue a tour roster to all tour participants containing all tour participants' names and addresses. If you do not want your address included, you must let us know at time of reservation.

Times, schedules, entertainment and activities are subject to change without notice.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING FUEL SUPPLEMENT:

Please be advised America by Rail reserves the right to apply a fuel supplement for all guests should the price of oil warrant it.

## RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE:

America by Rail acts only in the capacity as an agent for the owners and contractors providing means of transportation, hotel or other services. All tour services, tickets and vouchers are subject to any and all terms and conditions under which such means of transportation, hotel or other services are offered or provided. America by Rail shall not be or become liable or responsible in any way whatsoever, for any loss, injury or damage from acts of God, sickness, theft, weather, strikes, war, or quarantine however caused or arising.

America by Rail reserves the right to cancel a tour in the event tour participation does not meet minimum requirements.

America by Rail shall not be obligated to honor any booking resulting from, nor shall be responsible or liable whatsoever in connection with, misprints or errors of any kind, whether in brochures, advertisements, on the Internet, during the booking process or otherwise, that result in traveler being undercharged for the tour. America by Rail reserves the right, prior to departure, to collect the correct fare or cancel the booking and refund any payment made by traveler.

## AMTRAK STATEMENT:

The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) is not to be held responsible for any act, omissions, or event during the time passengers are not on board their trains or conveyance. The passenger contract in use of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) and purchaser of these tours and/or passenger. All conditions are subject to the laws of the District of Columbia, U.S.A.

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