

*** NEW ITINERARY ***



Photo ©PHILIP GOULD/Lafayette Travel

LAFAYETTE MARDI GRAS

CAJUN COUNTRY JUBILEE

New Orleans • Avery Island • Lafayette Mardi Gras Parade

Louisiana . . . even the name has a certain festive ring to it. You'll discover the heart of this flamboyant state in the Cajun Country Jubilee. Our group will travel to **Lafayette**, the center of the traditional Cajun culture and to the state's largest and most important metropolis, New Orleans.

We'll attend Lafayette's family friendly **Mardi Gras** parade and discover all kinds of wildlife and unusual vegetation as we cruise through the **Atchafalaya swampland**. Avery Island features beautiful gardens and is the home of the famous Tabasco sauce. You'll tour the factory. Sample a variety of Cajun foods and enjoy the spectacular live music at Mulates.

In colorful and fun-filled **New Orleans** you'll stay two nights in a French Quarter hotel, tour the major attractions and have time to explore the famous French Quarter on your own. Discover great shops and galleries, exquisite dining and Dixieland jazz spots.

Travel 1800 miles on the train made famous in the song **The City of New Orleans**.

Days 1-2 Chicago to Lafayette
Day 2.....Lafayette
Day 3.....Avery Island

Day 4.....Atchafalaya River Basin
Cruise
Day 5.....New Orleans
Days 6-7 En Route to Chicago

TOUR DATE(S):

2018

Sun., Feb. 11 to Sat., Feb. 17

TOUR PRICE:

All prices are per person / double occupancy unless otherwise stated.

\$2,095 - 7 Days

Upgrades: Roomette + \$345
Bedroom + \$495

SINGLE \$2,395

Upgrade: Roomette + \$690

FLY OPTION - Fly to Lafayette and return from New Orleans. 5 Days

Price: \$1,795

Single \$2,095

America by Rail will be happy to arrange your flights. Air is not included in above price.

YOUR TRIP INCLUDES:

- Round-trip transportation by Amtrak rail and deluxe motorcoach.
- Reclining coach seats with leg rest on the train for two nights.
- First-class hotel accommodations for four nights.
- 14 meals.
- Sightseeing tours and admissions to all included attractions.
- Baggage handling, taxes & tips.
- Services of a professional America by Rail Tour Director.

AMERICA BY RAIL WILL BE HAPPY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR CONNECTING TRANSPORTATION TO CHICAGO AND BACK BY RAIL OR AIR.

Day 1: En Route

Cajun Country Jubilee tour members will meet the Tour Director upon arrival into Chicago's Union Station. The Willis Tower, one of the world's tallest buildings, is close by. Other Chicago attractions are a brief cab ride away.

At approximately 7:30 p.m., we'll board the Amtrak train made famous in the Arlo Guthrie song, The City of New Orleans. Departure is scheduled for 8:05 p.m. It features double-decker Superliner equipment. Relax in your comfortable reclining coach seat with leg rest. Roomettes or Bedrooms are available at an additional cost. All dining car meals are included beginning with dinner this evening. After settling in, you'll want to go to the glass-walled Sightseer Lounge car for spectacular viewing. **D**

Day 2: Lafayette

We'll be rolling through the Mississippi Delta area this morning. We're scheduled to arrive in Hammond, Louisiana, at 1:28 p.m. We'll board a deluxe motorcoach and continue on to Lafayette, the largest city in the Louisiana Cajun Country.

The Cajuns are descendants of nearly 4,000 French-Canadians who settled in South Louisiana in the late 1700's after refusing to swear allegiance to the British Crown. The term "Cajun" resulted from the corruption of the pronunciation of "Acadian." Today we'll begin to discover the unique Cajun lifestyle and the fascinating lush greenery and unique terrain of the Louisiana bayou country.

We'll check in to the Hilton Garden Inn Lafayette/Cajundome, our home for the next two nights. We will enjoy dinner at Don's Seafood Restaurant. **B, L & D**

Day 3: Cajun Country

Today, February 13, is Fat Tuesday, Mardi Gras day in Louisiana. Following a hot breakfast in our hotel we will board our motorcoach and head downtown for the King Gabriel Parade. You'll enjoy King Cake and a specialty drink.

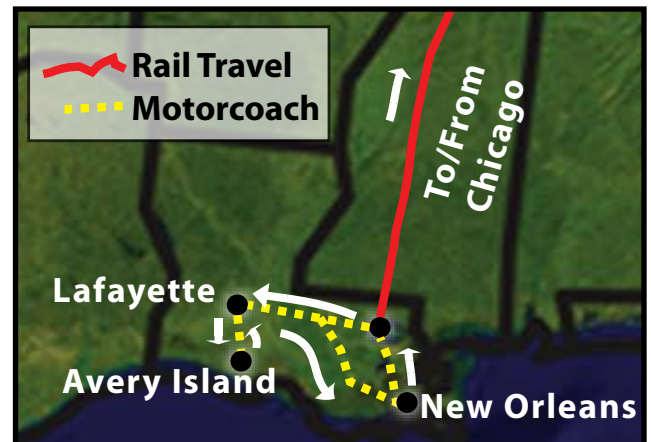


Photo: PHILIP GOULD/Lafayette Travel

You'll see the uniquely decorated floats as they go by and catch beads, doubloons and other trinkets as they are thrown to the spectators.

After lunch (included) we'll travel on to Avery Island where we'll visit the Jungle Gardens and the Tabasco Pepper Sauce factory. The Gardens encompass 200 acres of tropical flora, aged live oaks, sunken gardens and a bird sanctuary. Camellias, Azaleas and Irises are in bloom this time of year. Bright red Tabasco pepper sauce is processed from the capsicum pepper plants that grow on Avery Island. You'll view a brief film showing the production of the sauce and actually see the filling, bottling and labeling of the famous Cajun product.

On our return to Lafayette, we'll tour through the heart of Evangeline Country to St. Martinsville. This area was immortalized in Henry Wadsworth



Longfellow's tragic love story, Evangeline.

We'll have a night of great Cajun dining and entertainment. Dinner will be at Pont Breaux's Cajun Restaurant. We'll be entertained by a genuine Cajun band. Following dinner, you can roll up your sleeves, put on your dancing shoes and move across the floor. We'll return to our hotel for another night.

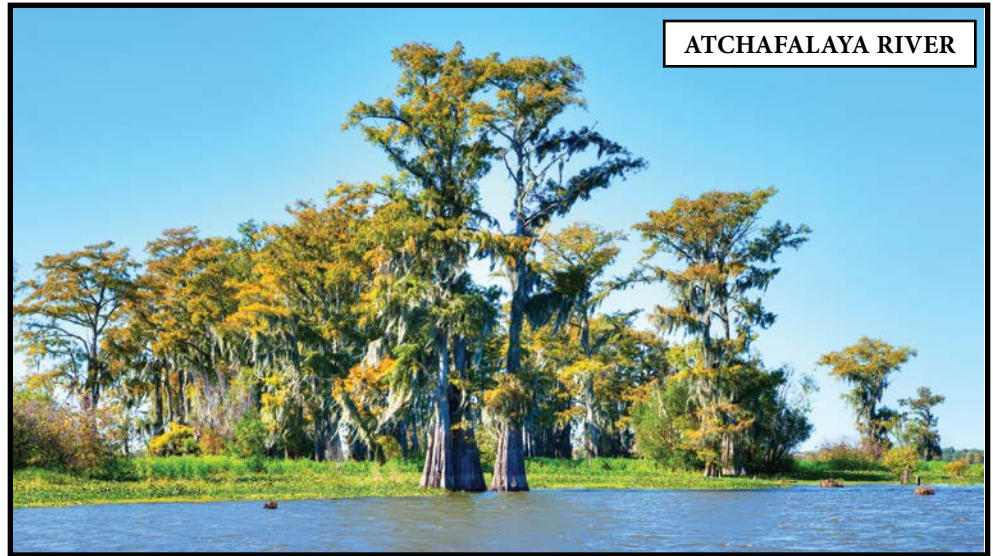
B, L & D

Day 4: Cajun Country / New Orleans

Following breakfast we'll strike out on a day of discovery. First on our list is the Jean Lafitte Acadian Cultural Center. We'll see exhibits detailing the various aspects of Cajun Culture and a film illustrating the history of the Acadian people.

We'll head east to Henderson where we'll embark on a cruise out onto the vast Atchafalaya River Basin. You'll pass by gnarled cypress trees with moss hanging like gray beards. As we progress deeper into the swamp, thin streams of sunlight penetrate the thick tangle of vines and foliage to illuminate ponds full of water hyacinth and lilies. Wildlife you're likely to see include alligators, mink, gray foxes, bobcats and a variety of waterfowl. We'll have lunch at a Café McGees Atchafalaya Café overlooking the swamp (included).

Following our swamp adventure, we'll continue on to the world-famous city nicknamed, "The Big Easy." Our home



ATCHAFALAYA RIVER

in New Orleans is the Hampton Inn Downtown French Quarter. You're in one of the most attractive cities in the world. Take full advantage of all there is to see, do and taste over the next two days. **B & L**

Day 5: New Orleans

Following a Continental breakfast we'll embark on a two-and-a-half-hour sightseeing tour of the Greater New Orleans area. The tour will include the St. Louis Cemetery III where the above ground burial system will be explained, beautiful City Park, the Lakefront area, the uptown section with its antebellum and new homes, Tulane University, Audubon Park, the French Market and the Old Mint.

This afternoon you're free 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 Café du Monde. Wander through the exquisite shops and galleries along Royale Street.

Tonight we'll spend our second night at the Hampton Inn. **CB & D**

Day 6: New Orleans

Continue to enjoy all that this great city has to offer this morning. Early this afternoon we'll transfer to Union Station prior to the 1:45 p.m. departure of the northbound City of New Orleans. Relax in your comfortable reclining coach seat or optional private room, available for an additional cost. You'll want to spend some time in the Sightseer Lounge reminiscing with your fellow tour members about the great experiences you shared the past week. **CB & D**

Day 7: En Route

After a delicious dining car breakfast, we'll arrive in Chicago's Union Station at 9:00 a.m. Tour members will depart for home destinations throughout the day. **B**

"HAVE DONE 19 TOURS WITH YOU AND HAVE BOOKED OUR 20TH AND 21ST."

JERRY G.
MILWAUKEE, WI



ROYAL STREET, NEW ORLEANS

GENERAL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION AND DEPOSIT:

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

TOUR CANCELLATIONS:

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

- 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. All pricing is per person / double occupancy unless otherwise stated.

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

TRANSPORTATION

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

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.

HOTELS

Accommodations are based on two persons sharing a room. 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 single 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. An overnight bag 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 for the America by Rail Tour Directors are at your discretion; \$3-\$10 per person per day is the industry standard. 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:

America by Rail will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the special needs of tour participants. Such participants, however, should be aware that the Americans with Disabilities Act is inapplicable outside of the United States and facilities outside the United States for disabled individuals are limited. Any type of disability requiring special provisions must be reported to America by Rail at the time of registration. America by Rail is not required to provide participants with personal devices, such as wheelchairs or individually prescribed devices such as prescription eyeglasses, or to provide services of a personal nature including assistance in eating, toileting or dressing. Accordingly, all participants are responsible to participate without assistance of the America by Rail Tour Director or other attendant. Tour Directors are prohibited from providing physical assistance or accommodations (beyond normal civil courtesies, such as holding doors open for passing). It is recommended that participants requiring assistance, including those requiring the use of a mobility device, be accompanied by a travel companion who will be responsible to provide required assistance. Participants will be asked to submit a confidential medical form for each tour.

Those travelling with oxygen are required to advise America by Rail at least two weeks prior to departure. Amtrak requires all equipment, including oxygen concentrators, must be able to operate a minimum of four hours without available onboard electrical power (in the event of a power disruption onboard). Oxygen equipment must be Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM) listed. The total weight of all tanks may not exceed 120 lbs. Within this limit, no more than 2

tanks 50 lb each, or no more than 6 tanks 20 lbs each

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 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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