

Personally Escorted Holidays

# MISSISSIPPI CRUISE & NATIONAL PARKS TOUR

23 days visiting New Orleans, Natchez, Vicksburg, Memphis and GRACELAND, Grand Teton, Yellowstone, Bighorn, Crazy Horse & Mt Rushmore



Personally escorted special group departure from Melbourne

Departs Friday 25th May, 2018

East Burwood Travel & Cruise Phone: (03) 9808 1177

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# Your Mississippi Cruise & National Parks itinerary

#### **TOUR INCLUSIONS:**

- Fully escorted from Australia
- Internal airfares
- Chartered coach transport as per itinerary
- Sightseeing as specified in itinerary
- Meals as per itinerary
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- All applicable taxes and fuel surcharges
- Tips where applicable





#### **TOUR PRICING:**

Land tour price: \$14,480\* per person twin share | Single Supplement on request

**Airfare:** Economy Class \$1,400\* per person | Premium Economy Class \$4,500\* | Business Class \$8,400\* per person

#### **TOUR ITINERARY:**

#### Day 1 Friday 25th May 2018

MELBOURNE - NEW ORLEANS

Meet at Melbourne Airport and fly Qantas to New Orleans via Los Angeles. **Inflight** 

Accommodation: Hilton New Orleans Riverside

## Day 2 Saturday 26th May

**NEW ORLEANS** 

Day at leisure. **B** 

Accommodation: Hilton New Orleans Riverside or similar

#### Day 3 Sunday 27th May

**NEW ORLEANS** 

Welcome to the Big Easy, a vibrant and energetic city sure to keep you entertained and satisfied while you prepare for your voyage up the Mississippi!

Today, indulge yourself with the treasures of New Orleans, as you uncover iconic cuisines spiced with the cultural flavors of the city's past, explore the unique sites and attractions lining the historic streets as seen in the famous French Quarter, or admire the beauty of nature in the stunning Garden District or City Park. **B** 

Accommodation: Hilton New Orleans Riverside

#### Day 4 Monday 28th May

**NEW ORLEANS** 

Today is the big day! Spend your last day here





in the city of New Orleans before embarking on an unforgettable journey!

Depart on a Premium Pre-Cruise Shore Excursion at 10:00am as we begin an exclusive adventure through New Orleans before continuing to the vessel dock at 3:30pm.

After you are comfortably aboard the vessel, wave "Au Revoir" to New Orleans as we set off on an incredible adventure up the Mighty Mississippi!

Departure at 5pm. **B,D** 

#### Day 5 Tuesday 29th May

NOTTOWAY

Nottoway is the South's largest, most glorious remaining Antebellum mansion with a rich history dating back to 1859. In a fabulous location along the great River Road overlooking the grand Mississippi River, this "White Castle" of the South transports visitors back to an era of glory and grandeur. Set





amongst a natural backdrop of vibrant gardens and two hundred-year-old oak trees, Nottoway Plantation captivates all with a brilliant blend of true Southern hospitality, history and mystery.

#### 3.L.D

### Day 6 Wednesday 30th May

ST. FRANCISVILLE

St. Francisville is the oldest town in the Florida Parishes. The town is referred to as "two miles long and two yards wide," but that definitely doesn't mean they have nothing to offer!

Stop in at one of the unique shops, historical homes, beautiful churches, or breathtaking parks and you will agree with that! Spanish moss trees grow throughout the town, which creates a beautiful southern comfort to the atmosphere. **B,L,D** 

# Day 7 Thursday 31st May

NATCHEZ

This charming river town was first inhabited



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by Natchez Indians and French explorers who shared the land. It was founded in 1716, making it the oldest city on the Mississippi.

The city is known for its elegance, hospitality, and impressive preservation of history – found on every street corner throughout Natchez.

#### B.L.D

#### Day 8 Friday 1st June

**VICKSBURG** 

Vicksburg perfectly blends Southern culture and heritage with exciting modern-day attractions. Described as the "Key to the South" by Abraham Lincoln, this southern town carries a history unlike any other Civil War city.

Today, Vicksburg is a popular spot for tourists to learn about the battles of the city, taste the cuisine, visit the many museums, and pick out the perfect souvenir. **B,L,D** 

#### Day 9 Saturday 2nd June

**GREENVILLE** 

Greenville is at the very heart and soul of Mississippi Delta. Located on the banks of Lake Fergusson, Greenville is a short drive to Indianola, the birthplace of B.B. King and many other blues singers, so naturally Greenville has its fair share of Blues integrated into its culture.

Many authors and writers were born or reside in the small town of Greenville; local legend says that the Greenville water grows writers.

The town is also known for their gardening, which they were recognized for growing the largest carpet plant in the nation; and museums of which the town has one for practically everything!

This beautiful town is sure to win your heart with its southern charm and soul. **B,L,D** 

#### Day 10 Sunday 3rd June

LEISURELY RIVER CRUISING

There is always plenty to do between dawn and dusk on the river and today is the perfect day to enjoy the many public spaces and activities that are available to you onboard. **B,L,D** 

#### Day 11 Monday 4th June

**MEMPHIS** 

Arrival 8:00am. Enjoy Memphis at your leisure. Today we visit GRACELAND the iconic home of THE KING Elvis Presley. **B** 

Accommodation: Sheraton Memphis Downtown

#### Day 12 Tuesday 5th June

MEMPHIS

Enjoy a day at leisure. Elvis fans – perhaps



another visit to Graceland to see Elvis personal aircraft or more of the museum? **B** 

Accommodation: Sheraton Memphis Downtown

#### Day 13 Wednesday 6th June

JACKSON

Fly from Memphis to Jackson Hole via Denver. Welcome to Wyoming and the Tetons. Wyoming's iconic western landscape includes vast grasslands and towering mountain ranges, the historic town of Jackson, and majestic Grand Teton National Park with its jagged peaks, glaciers, lakes, and dense forest.

Welcome reception and dinner at your scenic lakeside resort in the heart of the national park.

Overnight at Jackson Lake Lodge. **D** 

## Day 14 Thursday 7th June

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Today, view some of North America's most spectacular mountain scenery during a ten-mile float trip\* along the Snake River in Grand Teton National Park and enjoy the majestic peaks of the Tetons.

Then pay a brief visit to the park's Mormon Row Historic District, whose preservation is being supported by a major grant from Tauck. A homesteaders' settlement dating back to 1890 located in an undeveloped area of the park, Mormon Row is home to a number of weathered historic structures – including the iconic T.A. Moulton barn, an unofficial symbol of the park – that (along with their dramatic Teton Range backdrop) attract photographers from around the world, and convey the sense that you've travelled back in time.

Overnight at Jackson Lake Lodge. B,D

#### Day 15 Friday 8th June

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

This morning is at leisure before heading out of Grand Teton National Park and travelling to Yellowstone National Park, established as the



world's first national park, and known for its unique geothermal activity.

Arrive at your historic lodge in time for lunch – it's just steps away from Old Faithful Geyser, shooting up to 184 feet in the air approximately every 90 minutes. Learn more about this phenomenon and check out the Upper Geyser Basin (which includes Old Faithful and many more) on this afternoon's guided excursion in the park.

Enjoy dinner at your leisure at your classic inside-the-park lodging close to Old Faithful itself

Overnight at Old Faithful Inn. B,L,D

#### Day 16 Saturday 9th June

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

With 10,000 hot springs, thundering waterfalls, two-thirds of all geysers in the world and endless forests, Yellowstone inspires awe. Explore its geologic wonders – including hundreds of geysers, brilliantly coloured hot springs, steaming fumaroles and more – that early 19th century sceptics found too astounding to be believed as you follow the Lower Grand Loop Road to Fountain Paint Pot's collection of colourful, bubbling mud pots.

Then view the dramatic Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, carved by the churning waters of the Yellowstone River. Make your way through Hayden Valley before arriving for an overnight at the Lake Yellowstone Hotel, a historic 19th century property on the tranquil shores of Yellowstone Lake, where you'll settle in and have dinner this evening.

Overnight at Lake Yellowstone Hotel. **D** 

# Day 17 Sunday 10th June

CODY

Leaving the mountains for the open grazing land of western Wyoming, arrive in the quintessential 1890s town of Cody, named for its famous founder, William "Buffalo Bill" Cody.





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Western fun beckons during an overnight stay in Cody as you enjoy Dan Miller's Cowboy Music Revue – a program of authentic western music, poetry and comedy – in the afternoon.

Overnight at Holiday Inn Cody at Buffalo Bill Village. **B,D** 

#### Day 18 Monday 11th June

LICROSS

Upon departing Cody this morning, traverse the Bighorn Mountains with their breathtaking vistas of rugged canyons, sparkling waterfalls, miles of grassland, and colourful vegetation en route to a double dose of authentic Wyoming ranch life

First, feel the spirit of the West during an authentic and real working cattle ranch in the heart of "cowboy country." The TA Ranch was the site of a famous siege and shoot out during the infamous "Johnson County War" in 1892; you can still see the old gunshot holes in the ranch's original horse barn!

Later, continue on to an overnight and dinner at your leisure at yet another real Wyoming ranch – The Ranch at Ucross.

Overnight at The Ranch at Ucross. **B,L,D** 

#### Day 19 Tuesday 12th June

RAPID CITY

Travel into the Black Hills of South Dakota today, where you'll have lunch and visit the inprogress Crazy Horse Memorial. Work on the colossal rock sculpture has been ongoing for more than 50 years; it will be the largest stone carving in the world when completed.

Continue on to one of America's best-known icons – Mount Rushmore National Memorial, where the faces of former presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln are carved into granite bluffs. Later, arrive in Rapid City, where you'll share favourite highlights of this most unforgettable of Yellowstone tours at tonight's farewell reception and dinner.

Overnight at The Rushmore Hotel & Suites. **B.I.D** 

## Day 20 Wednesday 13th June

Rapid City

This most memorable of Grand Teton and

Yellowstone tours ends in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Overnight at Rapid City. B

#### Day 21 Thursday 14th June

RAPID CITY - MELBOURNE

Fly from Rapid City to Melbourne via Dallas and Los Angeles. Or own arrangements.

Arrive back into Melbourne 16th June.

**Meal key: B** Breakfast **L** Lunch **D** Dinner **Inflight** Inflight meals



# **Booking Conditions**

## Please read carefully

\*Tour Price: The cost of the tour is based on Qantas and other domestic airline airfares, tariffs, costs and exchange rates which are current at the time of printing and may be subject to increases in the basic fares, tariffs or costs or movements in exchange rates. All payments are received by Magic Carpet Tours on this understanding.

Magic Carpet Tours reserves the right to vary or cancel any of these arrangements contained in the itinerary, final routing of which is subject to airline regulations. Tour price is based on a minimum of 10 full paying passengers travelling together. Subject to availability.

**RESERVATIONS:** Firm reservations will be made upon receipt of a \$1,500 non-refundable deposit per person. A progress payment of \$5,000 per person is due by 30 November 2017. Final balance is due 15 March 2018.

Payment by Visa or Mastercard will attract a service fee of 1% and 2% for American Express.

Itinerary: Itinerary is subject to change at any time due to unforeseen circumstances. The hotels listed are intended to be used, however, if a change becomes necessary for any reason, the accommodation substituted will be equivalent in standard to the hotel advised. Every effort is made to reserve twinbedded rooms. It may occasionally happen that an accommodation provides some double bedded rooms instead. These rooms will be allocated to couples where possible.

**Travel Insurance:** All passengers must have adequate international travel insurance. We are happy to arrange this for you.

**Cancellation:** Cancellation fees apply as follows: Prior to 30 November 2017: \$1,500 per person ^ After 30 November 2017: subject to supplier cancellation fees ^

After departure: 100%

^ plus any cancellation charges that may be assessed by the hotels, airlines, and/or other contractors.

**Baggage:** Luggage allowance is 20kg per person. This must be kept to only one suitcase plus your hand luggage.

**Travel documents:** All passengers must be in possession of a valid passport within a minimum validity of 6 months from return date.

**Health requirements:** All tour participants must be physically fit. Please seek advice from your family doctor regarding immunisations, etc.

**Tour Fare does NOT include:** Items such as (& not limited to): • International airfares • Meals & beverages not shown above • Any airfare or airport tax increases unless specified • Excess baggage charges

- Optional tours and sightseeing not detailed in the itinerary Night time entertainment Travel insurance
- Passport and Visa fees Items of a personal nature
- Laundry Fuel surcharges

Responsibility: Magic Carpet Tours, operator of the tour herein outlined and/or its associated companies or Agents, hereby give notice that all tickets, vouchers, coupons or exchange orders are issued and all arrangements for transport, conveyance, accommodation and other services are made by them as Agents, upon conditions that they shall not

be liable for any loss, injury, accident, damage, delay, or irregularity that may be caused or arising during the tour. All losses or additional expenses arising from delays, variations or cancellation of any arrangements, sickness, quarantine, strikes, war, weather or other causes are to be borne by the passenger.

The transportation companies or firms shall be exempt from all liabilities in respect of any detention, delay, loss, damage, sickness or injury however and by whomsoever caused and of whatever kind occurring of or to the passenger at any time when the passenger is not on board a carrier or conveyance used or operated by the transportation companies of firms. The passage contract in use by the transportation companies or firms concerned shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies or firms and the purchaser of these tours and/or passage.

All tickets, vouchers, coupons and exchange orders are furnished and issued subject in all respect to those terms and conditions under which the means of transportation of other service provided thereby are offered or supplied by owners, operators, public carriers, managing agents or agents.

This brochure is issued on the sole responsibility of the Tour Operator. It is not issued on behalf of, and does not commit the airlines mentioned therein, or any airlines whose services are used in the course of the

# For bookings and further information, contact:

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