

info@small-cruise-ships.com

## **GREAT RIVERS OF FLORIDA CRUISE**

On this epic cruise, you'll sail a route that adventurous passengers first followed in the 19th Century in their search for a tropical paradise. Start your voyage on St. John's River, a designated American Heritage River, and one of the few north-flowing rivers above the equator. Then travel to Palatka, a charming town with restored plantation houses and beautiful parks. As you cruise from St. Johns River to Lake George, journey to the heart of the Ocala National Forest and observe alligators, playful manatees, and majestic bald eagle in their natural habitats. Take a horse-drawn carriage through Green Cove Springs like the travelers of yesteryear and explore the historic ruins, unique architecture, and narrow streets of St. Augustine. As you stroll along its tree-lined streets, bask in Amelia Island's charm and admire its many restored 19th Century Victorian homes.



#### ITINERARY

Day 1 Jacksonville, FL area (Amelia Island)

Departing for Palatka, you will enjoy a journey along the waters of St. Johns River, one of only three rivers in the nation that

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flows north. This river is home to over 200 species of birds including the bald eagle, swallowtail kite, and wood stork. Discover unlimited recreation, celebrated history, and protected wildlife - has been distinguished as one of the fourteen American Heritage Rivers.

#### Day 2 Palatka, FL

Once known for its worldwide shipping commerce of citrus and timber, Palatka also attracted a vast number of tourists and wealthy northerners looking to relocate to Florida. Today, it remains a charming river town with restored plantation houses standing as a testament to distinguished residents that once called Palatka home. Nature enthusiasts will enjoy visiting the beautifully landscaped Ravine Gardens State Park.

#### Day 3 Cruising the St. Johns to Lake George (Ocala National Forest)

Continue your cruise from St. Johns River to Lake George, which shares a border with the Ocala National Forest. The lake hosts a variety of wildlife ranging from migratory water birds to a number of marine animals. Local springs in Lake George feed enough salt to the system to make the habitat suitable for marine species like Atlantic stingray, striped bass and blue crab.

#### Day 4 Green Cove Springs, FL

In the 1800s, Green Cove Springs attracted a surge of vacationers from the North, drawn to the warm mineral springs reputed to have medicinal qualities and healing powers. Steamboat services brought members of high society, searching for a warm retreat from the winter's harsh climate. Today, visitors can explore the historic district, which includes vintage homes and gorgeous surroundings.

Travel along one of the most impressive stretches of inland waterways in the United States, the Tolomato River. See many spectacular sites, including a rare view of the Atlantic Ocean, visible over the Barrier Islands. Join our onboard naturalist on the open observation decks for views of native wildlife, captivating sunsets, hidden villages, and miles of pristine landscapes.

#### Day 6 St. Augustine, FL

In the late 1800s, oil tycoon Henry Flagler developed St. Augustine in an attempt to fulfill his vision of establishing an American Riviera along Florida's eastern shores. Although this "golden era" ended in the early 1900s, Flagler's legacy remains. Explore historic ruins, unique architecture, and the narrow streets of a city once used as a remote outpost by the Spanish Empire.

#### Day 7 Amelia Island, FL

Discover the unspoiled beauty of Amelia Island, with miles of quartz beaches and rolling sand dunes. Fernandina Beach, the island's only city, harbors a treasure trove of history, antiques, and collectibles. Join a walking tour of Centre Street's Historic District, featuring restored 19th Century Victorian homes and shops. Explore Amelia Island's charm as you stroll along the tree-lined avenues.

#### Day 8 Amelia Island / Jacksonville, FL

Take in the beautiful weather of northern Florida as you disembark from your tour of the South. Jacksonville offers a number of wonderful activities, including a tour of Cummer Art Museum, which houses an exclusive collection of art, including rare porcelain.

#### Day 5 Cruising the Tolomato River

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#### Please Note:

We do not guarantee departure point, termination point or any intermediate stop. Itineraries, schedules, routes, ships, and staterooms are always subject to change at any time without notice due to weather conditions, availability of docks, shoaling, river conditions, operation of locks, mechanicals, or any other reason. The times and dates of departure and arrival are also subject to change.

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### **YOUR SHIP: AMERICAN STAR**

YOUR SHIP:	American Star
VESSEL TYPE:	Coastal Cruise Ship
LENGTH:	
PASSENGER CAPACITY:	100
BUILT/REFURBISHED:	2007

From charming small towns to gracious ports, the American Star will bring guests to places of historic interest and magnificent beauty. Onboard, each guest will be able to unwind in the friendly and accommodating atmosphere, which is serviced by attentive all--American staff. Finely Appointed Staterooms American Star's staterooms are the most spacious in small ship cruising - all over 200 square feet in size, and each with large opening picture windows and a private bathroom. Each spacious stateroom is a comfortable haven and the perfect place to relax and unwind. Passangers can enjoy the ever-changing scenery from large, opening picture windows or from private balconies. American Star Amenities and Features: Complimentary wi-fi, Elevator access to all decks of the ship, Many lounges offer an atmosphere for every mood, Grand dining room accommodates all guests together, Open-air exercise area with views of passing scenery, Satellite tv and dvd player in all staterooms, Spacious staterooms are the largest on any crusie ship, Hotel-size private bathrooms with a full set of amenities, Private balconies, Twice daily stateroom service, Putting green the top deck, Individual climate control, Evening on entertainment focuses on music and history, Built in the USA, All

american crew, Complimentary cocktail hour each evening, Onboard historians and naturalists, Culinary program featuring locally sourced ingredients, Personalized service, Open



picture window

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# **INSIDE YOUR SHIP**



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# PRICING

ADDITIONAL CHARGES:

Port Charges. From 250 USD pp

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