

**Dear Friends:** This announcement came last week and I am sure it will be as disappointing for you as it was for me. I have shared so many memories with you on our Delta Queen cruises and she has been an incredible American icon for many of us. You will soon be receiving my 2008 schedule of tours and cruises but since the incredible number of past passengers have been calling for reservations for this last year, I wanted to alert you of this last opportunity to experience this wonderful vessel.

I have two special group cruises on the Delta Queen - fortunately I planned them prior to this announcement because the company is no longer allowing anyone to book groups for 2008.

**May 20 - 27, 2008 Nashville to Cincinnati Civil War Theme**

Special guest historian: Robert Hicks, NY Times bestselling author for *Widow of the South*  
We'll also have a pre-night package in Nashville to study the Battle of Franklin, and visit the Carnton Plantation and the cemetery on which this book is based. Special events will be a lunch with some local people in Franklin, and a dinner with Robert Hicks who will also be your onboard lecturer. This is also a themed Civil War cruise and the company will have another historian onboard, Civil War entertainment and an included tour of Fort Donelson. Our group will have an optional exclusive shore tour package. A tax deductible contribution will be made to Franklin's Charge, a preservation organization endorsed by Robert Hicks.

**Group Discount and Free Airfare if deposited by October 31, 2007**

**August 19 - 26, 2008 Nashville to Cincinnati - A Grand Farewell to a Legendary Lady  
"The Commemorative Cruise to the Delta Queen"**

Special guest lecturer: Stan Garvey, author of *King & Queen of the River: The Legendary Paddle Wheel Steamboats Delta King and Delta Queen from Roaring Twenties to New Millennium*. Stan has gloriously chronicled the life of this "couple" and will share her stories, escapades and memories with us. Each passenger in our group will receive a personal autographed copy of his book, an included tour in Fort Donelson, and will be offered an optional exclusive commemorative shore tour package. The theme of our cruise is the life and legend of the *Delta Queen*. A very special event may happen on this cruise that will surely place this event in history (it's in the planning stage now).

**Group Discount and Free Airfare if deposited by October 31, 2007**

There are only 24 departures of the Delta Queen in 2008, these two have extra discounts because they are a special group. You may, however, choose any departure and receive a past passenger discount and the free airfare if you deposit by October 31, 2007. Discounts and free airfare are based on inventory and may be closed sooner so please don't wait to enjoy your last cruise on the Delta Queen. Share this with your friends as well!

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***You are receiving this advance email because you have been a past passenger and valued client or expressed interest previously . Please don't "miss the boat" on this one! I will see you on both group cruises!***



## **MAJESTIC AMERICA LINE ANNOUNCES FAREWELL CELEBRATION THROUGHOUT 2008 FOR THE LEGENDARY DELTA QUEEN**

Congress has decided not to enact legislation to grant the historic ship a statutory exemption; Ship will continue sailings through November 2008

Seattle, August 1, 2007 – Majestic America Line, one of the world's premier river cruise lines and the largest river and coastal cruising company in America, announced today that despite tremendous efforts by the company, many esteemed partners and thousands of previous guests, the U.S. Congress has decided that the Delta Queen should not continue operating on America's rivers beyond 2008. Majestic America Line is committed to providing this American treasure with a proper and well-deserved send off, and will spend the Delta Queen's 2008 farewell season celebrating this historic landmark with the communities and people who hold her storied tradition of sailing the waterways of the United States so dear.

Built in 1926, the Delta Queen features a steel hull and a superstructure constructed of wood – a direct reflection of the designs of her time. Subsequent Coast Guard regulations prohibited wooden superstructures, but Congress decided more than 40 years ago to provide a special exemption from these rules for the historic Delta Queen. This exemption, which Congress had extended no fewer than six occasions, was set to expire in November 2008. Majestic America Line recently joined forces with those who know and love the fabled ship to extend this exemption. A comprehensive campaign was launched to raise awareness for the Delta Queen's excellent safety record, its impeccable training program and the quality and experience of the crew. However, Congress recently chose not to include this extension on legislation. Without the extension from Congress, the Delta Queen will not be able to continue cruise voyages on the river.

"We are incredibly disappointed by this decision, but we are extremely grateful to those who worked tirelessly on behalf of the Delta Queen to preserve her place on the Mississippi River," said Joe Ueberroth, President and CEO, Ambassadors International, which owns and operates Majestic America Line. "This includes many congressional leaders such as Congressman Lacy Clay (D-MO), who gathered the support of so many of his colleagues, thousands of loyal guests, our hard-working travel partners and Delta Queen enthusiasts like Steamboats.org. We appreciate their efforts and we will continue to keep them involved as we plan the best way to honor the Delta Queen."

In addition to the leadership displayed by Congressman Clay, members such as Congressman Richard Baker (R-LA), representing congressional districts that are visited each year by the Delta Queen, were very supportive of the efforts to keep her operating on the river. These members include:

- o Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO)
- o Congressman Marion Berry (D-AR)
- o Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)
- o Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond (R-MO)

- o Congressman Steve Chabot (R-OH)
- o Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO)
- o Congressman Kenny Hulshof (R-MO)
- o Congressman Ron Kind (D-WI)
- o Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA)
- o Congresswoman Bettie McCollum (D-MN)
- o Congressman Charlie Melancon (D-LA)
- o Congresswoman Jean Schmidt (R-OH)
- o Congressman John Tanner (D-TN)
- o Congressman Bennie Thompson (D-MS)
- o Senator David Vitter (R-LA)
- o Congressman Timothy Walz (D-MN)
- o Congressman Zack Wamp (R-TN)
- o Congressman Ed Whitfield (R-KY)

Support and encouragement also came from districts which are not directly touched by the Delta Queen, including Congressman Roy Blunt (R-MO), Congressman Gene Taylor (D-MS) and Congressman Don Young (R-AK).

Based in Seattle, Majestic America Line is also grateful for the support from Washington state members, including Congressman Brian Baird (D-WA) and Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA).

For years, the Delta Queen has been a beloved fixture on the heartland rivers of the United States and provided guests with a view of America from the waters that shaped the country's expansion. The Delta Queen provides a wholly unique way to experience the great American communities, cultures and experiences along the Upper and Lower Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee, Arkansas, Black Warrior and Cumberland rivers, as well as the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.

In 1970, recognized as the last operational steam paddlewheeler with overnight accommodations plying the rivers, the Delta Queen was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In 1989, she was designated as a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of Interior. She was inducted into the National Maritime Hall of Fame in 2004.

A veteran of World War II and the only steamboat to transit the Panama Canal, the 80 year-old Delta Queen was host to three U.S. presidents and a princess. Stars of stage, screen and the entertainment world have also graced her decks, as well as some of the most prominent business leaders and statesmen of our time.

The ship itself is rich with art and antiquities such as original Tiffany-style stained glass windows, rich hardwood paneling, gleaming brass fittings, the only Siamese ironwood floor aboard a steamboat, the dramatic and often-photographed Grand Staircase, an 1897 steam calliope, and the very same ship's bell that sounded out landings for the steamboat that Mark Twain rode downriver in 1883.

Majestic America Line will dedicate the 2008 season to celebrating the Delta Queen's 80 years of service and her fabled time on the river.

"A journey on board the Delta Queen is a true American experience, providing guests with an authentic glimpse of our country's culture and a time in our history when steamboats ruled the rivers," said David A. Giersdorf, President, Majestic America Line. "We will make every sailing in 2008 a special event, allowing every guest, like so many before, the opportunity to share in the Delta Queen's legacy and honor the last chapter in her service on the river."

Majestic America Line is planning special commemorative events, exclusive departures for previous Delta Queen guests and commemorative gifts that will mark the farewell season. With just 24 departures on the Delta Queen during 2008, guests are encouraged to reserve their place in history soon.

The company is continuing to evaluate the best way to preserve her legendary spirit and her esteemed place in American history for future generations.

To find out more about traveling on the Delta Queen, please contact your Travel Professional.