



INTERNATIONAL BLUEGRASS MUSIC ASSOCIATION

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The American Steamboat Company, in conjunction with IBMA, will produce two nine-day "Bourbon & Bluegrass" riverboat cruises on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, from St. Louis to Cincinnati Aug. 29-Sept. 6, and then back from Cincinnati to St. Louis from Sept. 5-13. Individuals who identify themselves as IBMA members or say they heard about the cruise from IBMA will receive a \$100 coupon that may be used for items in the gift shop or drinks. IBMA will receive 5% of fare rates collected for the Bourbon & Bluegrass cruises, which will help fund the trade association's professional development and marketing efforts for bluegrass music year round.

Fares, which range from \$3,699 - \$7,099 per person depending on the size and location of the cabin or suite, include five-star level meals and snacks (with complimentary beer and wine during dinner) during the week plus daily entertainment. "Hop On / Hop off" guided bus tours of historic sites, museums and boutique craft shops at the following daily ports are also included with the package tour: Cape Girardeau, MO; Paducah, KY; Henderson, KY; Louisville, KY; and Madison, IN.

Rhonda Vincent & the Rage, Chris Jones and the Night Drivers, and Storefront Congregation have been booked for the Bourbon & Bluegrass tours in 2014, with additional lectures, bourbon and moonshine tasting events, and plenty of designated jamming areas.

"I wish Bluegrass Hall of Fame member and riverboat pilot John Hartford was still with us to celebrate IBMA's new collaboration with the American Queen," said IBMA executive director Nancy Cardwell. "There's a natural connection between bluegrass music and rivers" based on the number of song titles alone that mention rivers and boats. A Mississippi/ Ohio River-based floating bluegrass festival experience sounds like a lot of fun for bluegrass fans. Like the ocean liner-bluegrass cruises a few of our members produce, this event will provide a

place for the bluegrass community to enjoy access to some of their favorite artists and daily live performances, along with time to jam and enjoy each other's company in a beautiful, natural setting with fascinating places to explore at every port. I hope the Bourbon & Bluegrass Cruise will become an annually anticipated event for fans on their bluegrass calendars.?

The American Queen, with accommodations for 450, is the largest riverboat in the world. The steam engine paddle wheel-propelled boat hosts a range of amenities and programs including a state of the art gym, bicycles available for exploring port towns (as an option to the bus tours), the American Queen Spa, meal options at the Front Porch Café and the River Grille in addition to the Romanov Dining Room, late evening entertainment at the Engine Room Bar and the Main Deck Lounge, Q&A presentations on the legend and lore of the river from the boat's official "riverloarian," and tours of the engine room and pilot house.

Call the IBMA office at 615-256-3222 for your special discount code before reserving your spot on the boat (call 888-749-5280 or go to www.aqsc.com [2]). Thanks for supporting IBMA and bluegrass music by considering the Bourbon & Bluegrass riverboat cruise on the American Queen in 2014!

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