

state-supported college for women in the U.S. and school of the Honorable Burnita Mathews, the first woman federal judge. About twelve minutes south of town, look for Copiah-Lincoln University.

BROOKHAVEN A recruiting and hospital center during the Civil War, Brookhaven has flourished since completion of the railroad. Today, industrial development is focused around the region's natural resources of petroleum, wood pulp and clay. Just before the station, you'll notice a GM-Packer plant to your left. You'll also pass a junction known as "Lawn Mower Crossing" because of the huge number of these machines manufactured by Homelite Textron. As you pull into Brookhaven Station, note the regal magnolia trees, beautiful azaleas and fragrant camellias. You may also see a small monument on the right that offers a brief account of the town's history. Leaving the station, you'll notice some fanciful Victorian homes. The Bogue Chitto River makes the first of several brief appearances on the left. If you want to know how flat the Illinois flatlands really are, keep in mind that this is the highest point on the route!

MCCOMB This town was named for Colonel Henry Simpson McComb, president of the New Orleans, Jackson and Great Northern Railroad. He spearheaded reconstruction of the track following the Civil War. At the station, you can see some of the historic old cars of the Illinois Central Railroad. The last steam locomotive, refrigerator car and steam engine that ran on the line are also here. McComb enjoys the distinction of being the "Camellia City of America," as no city can boast of a larger variety. McComb is also renowned as the home of the Lighted Azalea Festival. Each year, since 1953, residents have pinned tiny lights around the delicate pink and white blossoms of their bushes. After having been

inspired by Japan's traditional lighting of the Cherry Blossoms, a Methodist minister who had served in Korea suggested the festival.

Magnolia Two Colonial mansions can be seen on the right through the trees. Minutes later, you'll cross the Tangipahoa River which then follows intermittently on your left. Near here you cross the edge of Osyka and state line into Louisiana.

Camp Moore Further on, you'll pass Camp Moore Confederate Cemetery. Once a major training camp for the Confederate Army, this site is now a museum of Civil War relics. Beautiful estates grace the landscape just south of Tangipahoa.

Amite The first vestiges of French influence can be detected in the curlicues and trelliswork adorning the town's homes. At the fire station on your left, look for the colossal old bell enshrined out front. This entire region and southward is known as the "Florida Parishes," so named because the area belonged to Florida until 1810, six years after the Louisiana Purchase.

Independence On the southern outskirts of Independence, note the intriguing cemetery. Like many of Louisiana's gravesites, the tombs are positioned above ground to prevent moisture from seeping in. Legend has it that the graves in this particular cemetery all face east-to-west, except for one lone plot facing north-to-south. The perpetrator of a heinous crime is reportedly buried here in this position to help speed his journey to purgatory! You'll also see Southeastern Louisiana College, founded in 1925.

HAMMOND This is one of the "Strawberry Capitals of America" and the town from which the old *Crimson Flower* used to make its run to Chicago, racing the fresh strawberries north.

Louisiana's Bayou Suddenly, you're in the bayou – Louisiana's exotic swamps. Here, amidst the haunting beauty of moss-laden

cypress trees, an entire Acadian culture has survived. The early French-Canadian settlers arrived in the late 1700s, having been driven from their homes in Eastern Canada by British soldiers. Their descendants came to be known as Cajuns and have greatly influenced the culture in and around New Orleans. Another group that makes up much of the population are the Creoles, descendants of the original French and Spanish settlers.

If you're passing through on a sunny day, you may see alligators sunning themselves on floating logs. Keep an eye out for pelicans, too. They are so abundant in the marshes that Louisiana is nicknamed the "Pelican State." Soon, you'll cross Pass-Manchac waterway, connecting Lake Maurepas with Lake Pontchartrain. Lake Pontchartrain covers 625 square miles, big enough to accommodate fresh water on its west side and salt water on its east! Look across the lake and watch for the skyline of New Orleans – cradle of Jazz! In the bayous to your right, watch for the beautiful fields of lavender water lilies that grow so abundantly here.

NEW ORLEANS After paralleling the shore of massive Lake Pontchartrain for several miles, you'll arrive in "Nawlins," the Crescent City – one of this nation's greatest ports. New Orleans has existed under four different flags since it was founded in 1723 – the French, the Spanish, the Confederate States and the United States. New Orleans preserves the flavor of the Old South, with a distinctly French accent. It is famed for its filigree wrought iron balconied Vieux Carre (French Quarter) and festive Mardi Gras celebrations that herald the beginning of Lent. It is considered the birthplace of Jazz and home to some of the best restaurants in the world. With so much to offer, it's easy to see why many call New Orleans a city that never sleeps!

Shop at the beautiful River Walk, where you can see the lights of the Greater New Orleans Bridge cross

the "Ol Miss" into Algiers. Take a ride on the St. Charles Streetcar line, which was built in 1835 and features streetcars that date to the 1920s. Visit Jackson Square at the heart of the French Quarter, where the gray spires of the St. Louis Cathedral tower high in the air. Canal Street is the area's business district, running northward from the river. The street ends in an area called the Cemeteries, which houses some of the city's oldest and most historic graveyards.

To the right lies the French Quarter, the oldest and most famous section of town.

The area looks much as it did in the 1700s and 1800s, with buildings crowding the edge of narrow sidewalks. Here is the infamous Bourbon Street, where the music never stops! The Garden District is an area filled with flowers, trees and some of New Orleans's grandest homes. Uptown New Orleans is a pleasant residential area centering on Audubon Park and the campuses of Tulane and Loyola universities.

SCENIC PHOTO TIPS

The "camera" symbol on your Route Guide Map marks the best spots, so have your camera ready.

Outside shots: Medium speed films (ISO 200 or higher) are recommended for shooting scenery through the train windows. If your shutter speed is adjustable and light conditions permit, set it at a higher speed (1/125 or 1/250 sec.) for the clearest results. Hold your lens close to the window to eliminate glare and reflections.

Inside Shots: Flash is recommended. To avoid glare and reflections, do not point the flash directly at the windows.

HOST RAILROADS

are the freight and commuter railroads that Amtrak contracts with to operate Amtrak passenger trains. Chicago-New Orleans — Canadian National (CN).

WELCOME ABOARD

Explore the beauty, romance and exciting history of the Mississippi River Basin, the heartland of America and "all that jazz."

On board the *City of New Orleans*SM you will experience the comfort and relaxation of train travel and watch the prairies, farms, plantations, famous cityscapes and small towns go by. We are happy to have you aboard today and want to ensure your trip is everything you want it to be. If there is anything that can be done to make your trip more enjoyable, please do not hesitate to call any train employee.

THE TRAIN STAFF

The staff of the *City of New Orleans* is here to make your trip a special and unique experience.

Conductor is responsible for the entire On-Board Services staff as well as ticket collection, the safety of passengers and the safe operation of the train.

Dining Car Steward is responsible for the operation of the Dining Car and Dining Car staff.

Lounge Car Attendant is responsible for the operation of the Cafe/Lounge Car.

Sleeping Car Attendant is responsible for providing all services for passengers ticketed in Sleeping Car accommodations including room preparation, luggage service and any assistance necessary to ensure a comfortable journey.

Train Attendant is responsible for providing service for passengers ticketed in coach. This includes seat assignment, pillow service, luggage service and any assistance to ensure a comfortable journey.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Sleeping Car accommodations provide private rooms with amenities for day and night use. From Roomettes to Bedrooms featuring a private lavatory and shower, Sleeping Car accommodations will suit any need and can be described in more detail by any member of the crew. Please consult with the Conductor regarding available rooms. Amtrak's Metropolitan Lounge[®] is available in Chicago and a private waiting area is available in New Orleans for First Class Service Passengers.

Coach seating provides a wide reclining seat with a leg rest. Free pillow service is also available.

Dining Car service offers a wide range of complete meals prepared on board. Spectacular scenery and a great staff make dining on the *City of New Orleans* a memorable experience. The Dining Car Steward will make announcements throughout the trip regarding service hours.

Sightseer Lounge/Cafe Car is the perfect car for scenic viewing and lighter fare. Large panoramic windows provide the perfect atmosphere for viewing and making new friends. The Cafe is located on the lower level of this car. At night a feature movie is shown and seasonally a Trails & Rails National Park guide will fill you in on the history, culture and natural resources from Jackson to New Orleans.

Information contained in this route guide as well as described amenities and other on board features are subject to change without notice. Tipping is certainly not required, but it is a much appreciated way to let employees know they have made your trip more enjoyable.

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Smoking is prohibited entirely on this train. Passengers may smoke on the station platforms as announced by train crews and must remain next to the train, ready to reboard immediately upon hearing the sound of the locomotive horn and verbal "All Aboard" calls.



ROUTE GUIDE

Chicago ★ Memphis

Jackson ★ New Orleans



02-0622

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CITY OF NEW ORLEANS SM

The *City of New Orleans* SM is successor of two famous Illinois Central Railroad trains: a daytime run known as the *City of New Orleans* and an overnight train called the *Panama Limited*. Amtrak® originally retained the *Panama Limited* name for its overnight train. After Arlo Guthrie recorded the famous folk ballad, the *City of New Orleans*, the song called so much attention to the route that Amtrak switched the name! It is fitting, indeed, that music determines the name of this route because it is along this route that the “Blues” grew up. Some folks say the music came from a plantation in Mississippi and journeyed northwest on the train. Others contend that it was born in Memphis and later carried in other directions.

Amtrak’s service from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico explores some of this country’s most unique and historic regions. The *City of New Orleans* carries passengers between Chicago and New Orleans, crossing the Illinois central farmlands. In addition, the western corner of Kentucky, the forests of Tennessee and Mississippi and the famous bayous of Louisiana are passed by along the way.

This guide is written from north to south. The guide provides information on sights and interesting facts about towns along the route. Note that all **AMTRAK STATIONS** are in capital letters to set them apart from towns and regions through which the *City of New Orleans* travels but makes no stop. Use this guide along with an Amtrak timetable to determine station times.

CHICAGO As the train heads south, look to your left for a dramatic view of the towering city skyline. The Sears Tower, Daley Center and the domed Wrigley Building are among the many magnificent structures you can see. Chicago Union Station, completed in 1909, is the only surviving example of Chicago’s great turn-of-the-century train stations. Chicago is one of the largest marketing and transportation centers in the Midwest, as well as one of the largest rail centers in the U.S.

As you continue south, you’ll cross

the Chicago River, famous as “the world’s only river that flows backwards” because of its westward course away from Lake Michigan. Sanitary engineers reversed its flow in the early 1900s in an attempt to prevent a recurrence of epidemics. The Chicago River was largely responsible for Chicago’s early settlement, following the discovery by French explorers Louis Joliet and Pere Jacques Marquette in 1673. They discovered that the river’s arms reached nearly to the drainage basin of the Mississippi River system, forming a natural route for early trappers and traders. Soon, you’ll be able to catch a glimpse of



Lake Michigan, the largest body of fresh water in the United States.

Chicago State University Well known as a progressive educational institution, you’ll see the campus as you leave town. The university began as a teachers school in a leaky railroad freight car in 1867. After you pass some of Chicago’s giant steel mills, you’ll cross the Calumet River. This river flows into Lake Calumet, one of Chicago’s largest harbors.

HOMEWOOD Our charming stucco station with its red tiled roof sets the tone for the attractive Chicago suburb of Homewood. Homewood is recognized as one of Chicago’s finer

southern suburbs while retaining the flavor of a “country town.”

KANKAKEE Set along the banks of the Kankakee River, many vestiges of early French influence still pervade this city. Ornate stonework, domes and spires mark many of the town’s buildings. It was once the home of Frank Lloyd Wright, one of America’s greatest architects. He designed many houses in Chicago and its suburbs that were revolutionary in both design and appearance. From here to Rantoul, you’ll begin to see the farms that dot the gently rolling Till Plains.

The Till Plains region extends southward through Carbondale and is part of the great Corn Belt extending westward from Ohio to Kansas and

Nebraska. Corn has been the chief crop of Illinois since pioneer days and grows on one of every three acres. The state also raises more soybeans than any other.

Rantoul First settled in 1848, Rantoul was originally named “Neipswah” by the Illiniwek Indians, meaning, “where the minks are.”

Chanute Air Force Base This base is one of the largest technical training centers of the U.S. Air Force. Aircraft and missile exhibits are the focus of its on-base museum.

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA Illinois’ “twin” cities appear to be one, but have retained their independence since the mid-19th century. Champaign has evolved into a commercial and industrial center, while Urbana is collegiate-oriented

with the University of Illinois campus lying mostly within its boundaries. This university, chartered in 1867, was the first school west of the Allegheny Mountains to offer architectural instruction and opened the first state-supported school of music in 1897. In addition, the school organized the first engineering experiment station in 1903 and was the building site for the first betatron electron accelerator in 1940. The Morrow Plots, established on campus in 1876, make up the oldest continuously cultivated soil experiment areas in the U.S.

MATTOON An industrial community and service center for the surrounding farmlands, Mattoon is a convenient stop for students attending Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. If it were daytime when the train passed through, you would see endless fields resembling a huge green and brown checkerboard, broken

only by small islands of trees that stand near the farmhouses and barns.

EFFINGHAM This small town is a service, manufacturing and transportation center for the even smaller agricultural communities around it. Note the grain silos that punctuate the surrounding skies.

CENTRALIA This city was founded by the Illinois Central Railroad in 1854. Towering above Centralia’s business district is one of the largest carillons in the world. It sports 65 bells, the largest weighing 5.5 tons, and can play any kind of music including classical, pop, ragtime and rock.

CARBONDALE The train makes its last Illinois stop here in the middle of the night. Carbondale lies in the Shawnee Hills region, often called the Illinois Ozarks. Here, the land

ranges from 300 to 1,065 feet above sea level. The city sits in the midst of extensive coal fields that provide the basic industrial staple of this community. The home of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale is a short distance from the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. In addition to being a popular recreational area, the refuge is home to hundreds of Canadian Geese each winter. Here, too, is Bald Knob, a high point in the Ozarks overlooking three states.

Thruway bus service provides connections for passengers from Kansas City and St. Louis at this station.

Cairo Before leaving Illinois, the train passes through Cairo (pronounced care-row), a river port at the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Early settlers

nicknamed this region “Little Egypt,” probably because the land resembled the Nile River delta near the ancient Egyptian city of the same spelling. It was here that General Grant established his Civil War headquarters because it afforded him complete command of the waterways that split the slave and free states. Many slaves escaped across the “wide Ohio” as they followed the Underground Railroad to Canada. After Cairo, the train crosses into Kentucky.

FULTON This twin city to Fulton, Tennessee, separated only by a street that runs through the two towns, is known as the “Banana Crossroads of the U.S.” The majority of banana shipments to middle America stopped

in Fulton, while refrigerator cars were re-iced and the fruit was prepared for distribution. Although this practice has since been discontinued, bananas continue to dominate Fulton’s lore.

NEWBERN-DYERSBURG Created in 1823 following consummation of an 1818 treaty between the Chickasaw Indians, Andrew Jackson and Governor Issac Shelby of Kentucky, Dyersburg was once the fourth largest port in Tennessee.

The Great American Pyramid As you roll across the high bluffs toward Memphis on the east bank of the Mississippi, you’ll see the Great American Pyramid to your right – a gleaming 32-story fusion of modern technology and ancient mystery. This mixed-use development connects to Mud Island on the Mississippi River.

Here, you’ll find boat rides, a river museum and restaurants. Along the way watch for colorful steamboats lining the shores. To your left is Cotton Row, where the price of cotton was once set. The area between the train and Cotton Row is known as Confederate Park, site of Civil War gun emplacements during the short Battle of Memphis.

Beale Street As the train nears the Memphis station, you’ll see Beale Street. Covering 15 city blocks, Beale Street offered all that was legal and

illegal in the New South. One of the area’s most unique businesses is the venerable Schwab’s, selling everything from shoes to voodoo supplies since 1876. Beale Street created its own music to accompany the powerful and intense economic and social evolution Memphis underwent at the turn of the century. It was the attraction of this area that lured W.C. Handy here in 1912, to create America’s first original music... the Blues.

MEMPHIS Known as the “Birthplace of the Blues,” Memphis is also the home of the “King;” it was here that Elvis Presley built Graceland, the fabulous mansion in which he lived and ultimately came to rest.

Memphis also holds the distinction of being the “City of Churches” and the “Hardwood Center of the World.” Named after

the first capital of ancient Egypt, Memphis is the largest city in Tennessee and one of the world’s largest mule-trading markets. Memphis is also the birthplace of “Piggly Wiggly” Supermarkets – the nation’s first self-service grocery stores. Memphis’s Central Station, constructed in 1914, has been beautifully restored, and a vintage trolley car line once again

stops at the station’s front door. Shortly, you’ll cross the Tennessee/Mississippi state line.

Jackson, TN (90 miles east of Memphis) Here you’ll find the home and museum of Casey Jones, the heroic esteemed engineer of the Illinois Central Railroad who stuck to his post and lost his life during the disastrous collision that occurred when the southbound passenger train, “Old 382,” ran into the back of a freight train at Vaughn Station on April 29, 1900. A song about Casey Jones was first written in 1909 and many versions and some interesting variations have been published since.

Lower Mississippi Delta Region Historic farms and small towns are important to the Delta region. The porch not only reflects the Delta climate’s high temperature and humidity, but also the influences of Caribbean and African architecture.

This region is an enduring theme in American literature – the source of great fiction, travel, history and tales – and an inspiration to generations of writers, including Mark Twain.

Cottonlandia Museum This is where your discovery of the Delta begins. The museum focuses on the five A’s – art, archaeology, agriculture, antiques and animals. The museum boasts the largest

collection of Native American trade beads in the Southern U.S. You can also experience a life-size walk-through diorama of a Mississippi swamp.

Aberdeen Junction The crossroads here lead to Oprah Winfrey’s hometown – Koskuisko. Another five minutes and you’ll enter Wades Bottom, your first real taste of the eerie beauty of a Southern swamp.

GREENWOOD This area has a reputation as a cotton producer dating back to pre-Civil War times. Located next to the Yazoo River, the city grew steadily from a busy river landing to one of the largest cotton markets in the world. Today one-fifth of the world’s crop is warehoused and sold here.

Florewood River Plantation State Park This living history park is the re-creation of a 1850s Antebellum cotton plantation.

YAZOO CITY Located on the Yazoo River, this community relies on agriculture. It is known as the place where “The Delta Meets the Hills.” Attractions include the Oaks African American Cultural Center, the Triangle Cultural Center and the Confederate Memorial Monument. Also nearby is the Delta National Forest and Panther Swamp Wildlife Refuge.

JACKSON You’ll notice the tracks rising as you pull into Jackson Station. Beginning as LeFleur’s Bluff, a trading settlement on the banks of the Pearl River, in 1821, it was chosen as the state capital and named in honor of Andrew Jackson. The city grew in prominence, only to be invaded by General Sherman three times during the Civil War and burned to the ground. Some folks say that “Chimneyville,” as it came to be called, was where Sherman practiced for the burning of Atlanta. The city, however, refused to die and is now the state’s largest city and the hub of trading and transportation.

Attractions in Jackson include the Governor’s Mansion (which served as a hospital during the Civil War), the Dizzy Dean Museum, the Old Capitol Museum, the Mississippi Petrified Forest (the only such forest in the Eastern U.S.) Mynelle Gardens and the Oaks, Jackson’s oldest Antebellum cottage (which was occupied by General Sherman during the siege). About ten miles west, on the campus of Mississippi College, is Provine Chapel. Here, Confederate soldiers hid in the basement to avoid capture by Sherman’s army.

As the train leaves Jackson, you’ll see the Jackson skyline, distinguished by the gold dome of the state capitol. Built in 1903, this beautiful building is topped by a golden eagle. Its design closely follows that of the nation’s capitol in Washington, DC. Further on, are the Arts Center and the Planetarium. South of Jackson, you’ll start to see the pine trees of the famous Piney Woods. This area provides some of the raw materials for a huge output of products that make Mississippi a leading forest industry state, producing pine, oil rosin and turpentine.

HAZELHURST This city was surveyed, laid out by and named for George H. Hazelhurst, chief engineer for the railroad. It is also the home of Annie C. Peyton, founder of Mississippi State University for Women, the first