Historic South Golden Isles

Cruise | Aboard the Independence

March 7-16, 2019
Featuring John B. Boles,
William P. Hobby Professor of History
Other dates available upon request

RICE ALUMNI TRAVELING OWLS

Featuring Charleston & Savannah plus other scenic ports!
Independence
Small Ship Cruising Done Perfectly™

Travel in style and comfort to exciting ports in the historic South on a sleek coastal cruise ship. Experience gracious service in an intimate atmosphere that includes nightly entertainment and complimentary cocktail hours. Enjoy delicious, locally sourced cuisine, spacious staterooms, elevator access to all decks and complimentary Wi-Fi.

The Independence is equipped with large, roomy staterooms, most featuring a private balcony. With the latest in navigation and safety technology, the ship is fully stabilized, allowing American Cruise Lines to reach even more fascinating destinations in smooth comfort. Complete with an exercise area and putting green, the Independence offers guests a relaxed and casual atmosphere.

Highly personalized service and a relaxed ambience prevail on board the entire modern fleet of ships. The accommodating, all-American crew welcomes you with an unequaled level of attention. Each evening before dinner, enjoy complimentary cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, as you mingle with other passengers to share the adventures of the day. Set your own pace on your vacation and relax in the casual comfort and exceptional care that is the hallmark of cruising with American Cruise Lines.

What Sets American Cruise Lines Apart

Modern Ships
The newest and most environmentally friendly small cruise ships and riverboats in America.

All-American Experience
American-built, flagged and crewed ships.

Spacious Amenities
Large staterooms with interior entrances. Elevator service to all decks. Comfortable lounges and public spaces on board.

Exquisite Cuisine
Delectable cuisine from American Cruise Lines’ highly trained chefs. Open seating to dine where you want.

Splendid Vistas
Unobstructed views and breathtaking scenery from the privacy of your stateroom.

Complimentary Experience
Daily cocktail hour, plus complimentary wine and beer with meals.

Gracious Hospitality
Attentive and personalized service, the hallmark of American Cruise Lines.

Education and Entertainment
Historians, naturalists, local experts and performers on every cruise. Lectures ranging from history and ecology to culture and cuisine.
Dear Rice Alumni and Friends,

Savor an enriching journey along the South Carolina and Georgia coastline led by Rice’s William P. Hobby Professor of History Dr. John B. Boles and experience the South’s rich heritage, world-famous hospitality and tantalizing cuisine. You’ll sail alongside fellow Owls for seven nights through the scenic Intracoastal Waterway to iconic coastal cities and tranquil islands aboard a first-class ship, plus spend two nights in the heart of lovely Charleston.

Featuring a variety of lectures given by Dr. Boles throughout the trip, delve into the region’s history and natural beauty on engaging elective excursion choices, such as walking tours, carriage and trolley tours, alligator and shrimping tours and more in your ports of call: Beaufort and Hilton Head Island, South Carolina; Savannah, St. Simons Island and Jekyll Island, Georgia; and Amelia Island, Florida. Along the way, you’ll feast on the South’s tastiest, traditional fare, where the tea is sweet and fresh seafood – shrimp, crab and oysters – reigns supreme!

During your voyage, enjoy attentive, personalized service and an enriching program of lectures and entertainment, as well as daily complimentary cocktail hours and fun Travelers’ Corners. Explore the historic and beautiful South in style and comfort. Space is limited and programs featuring Dr. Boles sell out quickly, so I encourage you to make your reservation today. I look forward to welcoming you on this journey!

Sincerely,

Dan Stypa
Associate Director of Alumni Programs
Office of Alumni Relations

For further information, please call the Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS (87477) or email travelingowls@rice.edu. You may also contact our tour operator, AHI Travel at 800-323-7373.
Inspiring Moments

▶ Watch glorious sunsets over the quiet marshes and serene bays of the Intracoastal Waterway.
▶ Bask in true Southern charm in wonderfully preserved Charleston.
▶ Step back in time along the streets of romantic Savannah, amid stately mansions, moss-draped oaks and lush, secluded gardens.
▶ Marvel at the breathtaking, unspoiled landscapes of the Golden Isles, nestled along the Georgia coast.
▶ Delight in the colorful history, native wildlife and relaxed vibe of Florida’s gem, Amelia Island.
▶ Relish the laidback, Lowcountry character of Beaufort.
▶ Socialize and make new friends during fun, casual Travelers’ Corners.

Charleston | South Carolina

Experience graceful, welcoming Southern charm in one of the best-preserved cities in the region. Established in 1670, Charleston thrives as a living museum – the scene of Revolutionary War naval battles, legendary pirate tales and Civil War sieges. In its grand historic district, you may feel as though you’ve journeyed to another era, as horse-drawn carriages amble past handsome mansions and steepled churches on cobblestone streets. And while Charleston has taken care to preserve the past, it’s forged a stellar reputation for innovative dining and great culture. Acclaimed for its top-notch restaurant scene, it also hosts the annual Spoleto Festival USA, an internationally renowned performing arts festival. It’s no wonder that Charleston regularly ranks as a top favorite U.S. city by readers of Condé Nast Traveler!

Beaufort | South Carolina

Located in the heart of the Sea Islands amid the scenic Lowcountry, quaint Beaufort was voted “The South’s Best Small Town” in 2017 by readers of Southern Living. Its storied history features European explorers, British settlements and Civil War battles. Take in the inviting ambience of its historic center filled with colonial and antebellum homes under the silvery-green canopy of old oak
trees. The Lowcountry’s unique character was shaped by a medley of diverse cultures, including Native Americans, planters from Barbados, French settlers and West African and Caribbean slaves. The Gullah people, descendants of the West African slaves, formed communities in the Lowcountry and continue to preserve their culinary heritage and artistic tradition of basket-weaving with sweetgrass.

**Hilton Head Island | South Carolina**

Kick off your shoes, unwind and feel the sand beneath your feet on this easy-going island retreat! Vacationers cherish the wide, pristine beaches and the bevy of championship golf courses (more than 30!). Its placid marshes, coastal waters and brilliant skies are also teeming with wildlife, including alligators, loggerhead sea turtles, dolphins, manatees, egrets, storks and great blue heron.

**Savannah | Georgia**

Full of warm hospitality, Savannah radiates a singular, romantic charm that invites exploration. Founded in 1733, it’s a magnet for history and culture seekers, drawn to its dignified homes, houses of worship and famous forts. Meander down streets in the historic and Victorian districts that reveal elegant buildings, smartly accented with ironwork and gingerbread trim. Best of all, the city planners laid out 22 beautiful squares to anchor the neighborhoods. Shaded by huge live oak trees, each one offers a peaceful oasis to appreciate the city’s magical atmosphere. Head to the riverfront in this bustling seaport, and you’ll discover old cotton warehouses now converted into trendy restaurants, hip galleries and chic nightspots. With something remarkable around every corner, lovely Savannah remains a must-see (and experience) destination!
**St. Simons Island | Jekyll Island | Georgia**

Encounter the alluring, tranquil landscapes of the Golden Isles, tucked along the Georgia coast. You’ll sense a more relaxed pace, as people venture out on foot or on bikes, by horseback or kayak, to embrace the natural beauty that surrounds them. The fascinating history here also proves captivating, from St. Simons Island’s 18th-century battlefield to Jekyll Island’s past as a private winter getaway for some of America’s richest families.

**Itinerary**

**Day 1**  Depart gateway city+ | Arrive in Charleston | Transfer+ to the Francis Marion Hotel

**Day 2**  Charleston

**Day 3**  Charleston | Embark the ship

**Day 4**  Beaufort

**Day 5**  Hilton Head Island

**Day 6**  Savannah

**Day 7**  Cruising the Georgia coast

**Day 8**  St. Simons Island | Jekyll Island

**Day 9**  Amelia Island

**Day 10**  Jacksonville | Disembark ship | Depart for gateway city+

+Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

**Note:** Itinerary may change due to local conditions. Walking is required on many excursions, and surfaces may be uneven or unpaved.

**Amelia Island | Florida**

On this beguiling island, enjoy all the simple pleasures of a beloved vacation spot, from miles of quartz beaches and rolling sand dunes, to fun outdoor activities and a charming town ideal for strolling and exploring. Fernandina Beach harbors a treasure trove of antique shops, eclectic boutiques, galleries and restaurants, plus blocks of restored, 19th-century buildings.
Accommodations
(with baggage handling)
- 2 nights in Charleston at the first-class Francis Marion Hotel.
- 7 nights aboard the first-class Independence.

Transfers
- Deluxe motor coach transfer from your hotel to the ship, plus baggage handling.

Extensive Meal Program
- 9 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 7 dinners, including a Captain’s Dinner; complimentary cocktails and hors d’oeuvres before dinner during the cruise; coffee, tea or soft drinks with all meals, plus wine and beer with lunch and dinner during the cruise.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey
- Expert-led Enrichment programs enhance your insight into the region.
- Included and elective excursions provide additional opportunities to immerse yourself in the local culture, heritage and history.
- Chat and socialize with your fellow guests during casual Travelers’ Corners.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- Tipping of guides and drivers on included excursions.

FRANCIS MARION HOTEL | CHARLESTON

Our travel experts have carefully selected this first-class property for its prime location on King Street within walking distance of many attractions. It is ideally situated for exploring Charleston’s beautifully preserved landmarks, while providing opportunities to immerse yourself in local life. Of utmost importance is the superior quality of the services, amenities and accommodations, allowing you to enjoy your stay fully.
We’ve taken special care to plan engaging, customized excursions so that you have a truly memorable experience. You may sign up for most excursions on board. These shore excursions come in two categories:

**Featured** | This excursion is complimentary to all travelers. *(Included)*
**Premium** | These excursions typically cost between $20 and $70 per person and can be paid for on board, near the end of your cruise. *(Elective)*

*Note: Excursion options are subject to change.*

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**Charleston**

**Featured | Charleston Walking Tour.** On a pleasant guided walk, see historic highlights including Catfish Row; the brightly painted Georgian row houses on Rainbow Row; and the picturesque Battery promenade.

**Beaufort**

**Premium | Beaufort Carriage Tour.** In a comfy, horse-drawn carriage, take a relaxed ride through the scenic Bay Street area, noted for its antebellum homes, parks and shops.

**Premium | Lowcountry Heritage Tour.** Learn about daily life on a plantation as you discover historic Beaufort. Then visit Lady's Island and St. Helena to explore the grounds and main house of a former plantation.

**Hilton Head Island**

**Premium | Alligator and Wildlife Tour.** Cruise through the Sea Pines Resort Forest Preserve, a 600-acre wildlife habitat, to see native plants and animals close up, including the American alligator.

**Premium | Dolphin Cruise.** Observe the playful antics of bottlenose dolphins and gain insights about these endearing and intelligent creatures from your guide. Make sure to bring your camera to capture it all!

**Savannah**

**Premium | Guided Walking Tour.** Admire legendary landmarks, such as Colonial Park Cemetery, the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist and some of its quiet, leafy squares.

**Premium | Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum.** This interesting museum brings the famed World War II division to life through a splendid collection of aviation artifacts and memorabilia, as well as fully restored aircraft.

**Premium | Trolley Tour.** Hop aboard a trolley to discover Savannah's historic and Victorian districts with a guide. See Factor's Walk, the Cotton Exchange, several of the city's pretty squares and more. Afterward, keep riding the trolley and explore on your own.

**St. Simons Island | Jekyll Island**

**Premium | St. Simons Island Tour.** On the largest of the Golden Isles, visit historic sites including the Bloody Marsh Battle Site, where British forces defending colonial Georgia defeated Spanish troops in 1742. See Christ Church’s exquisite stained-glass windows.

**Premium | Jekyll Island Tour.** The island's geography has made it an ideal nesting ground for sea turtles. At the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, learn about the life of a sea turtle and watch sick turtles being treated. Later, take a tram tour of the island’s historic district, filled with lavish “cottages” owned by wealthy tycoons.

**Premium | Lady Jane Shrimp Boat Tour.** Meet your skipper and sail to your captain's favorite shrimping grounds. Be on the lookout for wildlife such as dolphins and pelicans, and then try your hand at pulling in a catch!

**Amelia Island**

**Premium | Historic Walking Tour.** Savor the small-town feel of Fernandina Beach as you stroll past its many colorful Victorian-era homes and churches and learn about its history.

**Premium | Amelia Island River Cruise.** From the water on this leisurely cruise, revel in gorgeous views of Fernandina Beach. See Fort Clinch, the lighthouse and unique marine life.
Reserve your Historic South cruise today!

Trip #3-24297W

Send to: Office of Alumni Relations-MS 520 Rice Alumni Traveling Owls Rice University P.O. Box 1892 Houston, TX 77251-1892

Please contact the Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS (87477) to make reservations or with questions regarding this tour. Or fax this form to 713-345-5210.

Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

1) Title First Middle Last Date of Birth
Email: Rice Class Year(s)

2) Title First Middle Last Date of Birth
Email: Rice Class Year(s)

Street Address:
City:
State: ZIP:

Home: ( ) Cell: ( )

Sharing with (Form sent separately)

I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:

Cabin category requested: 1st choice 2nd choice

Bedding Request: Twin King

Land | Cruise Program and AHI FlexAir
I/we reserve the Land | Cruise Program and request the AHI FlexAir to Charleston, South Carolina, with a return from Jacksonville, Florida, to depart from:

Department City:

Please contact me regarding air options.

Please send me information on upgrading my flights.

Land | Cruise Program
I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.

Single Accommodations
I prefer single accommodations at an additional cost (limited availability).

I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations will be paid in full in November 2016, 120 days prior to departure. Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa, Discover or Amex. Make checks payable to AHI Travel.

Enclosed is a deposit of ( ) ($600 pp required) to reserve place(s).

Accept my check made payable to AHI Travel.

Charge my: MasterCard Visa Discover Amex

Card # _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______
Expires: __/____

Signature (as it appears on credit card)

Please note: Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

ULTIMATE FLEXIBILITY The AHI Travel Passenger Protection Plan offers an Any Reason Cancellation feature (don’t worry, travel happy!) NOT INCLUDED Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas, entry/departure fees, personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning, excursions, wines, liquors, mineral water and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature.

MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL The ticket is subject to change to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may discourage travel with others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair; must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who is totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

AIR TRANSPORTATION The price of air transportation offered by AHI Travel is based on Advance Purchase Exclusion fares. After tickets are issued, penalties up to 100% of the ticket price may be levied. If connecting flights are requested, special promotional fares may be used, in which case penalties as much as 100% may be assessed by the airlines if reservations are changed or canceled after ticketing. After departure, if the reservations are changed, you will be charged the higher, all year economy class fare. VARIATIONS TO THE GROUP ITINERARY MUST BE REQUESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. Passengers who choose to make their own airline reservations independently will be wholly responsible for air travel, visa fees or penalties incurred as a result of program cancellation and/or change in travel dates, or airline schedules.

BAGGAGE Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price; plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner’s risk throughout the travel program.

AUTHORITY TO USE IMAGES AND AUDIO RECORDINGS On occasion, AHI Travel obtains, from its staff, or from trip participants, photographic or video images of passengers and trip activities. By participating in this travel program, you authorize AHI Travel, without providing compensation to you, or obtaining additional approvals from you, to include photographic and video recordings of you, as well as video recordings included with any video, in AHI Travel’s sales, marketing, advertising, publicity and/or training activities.

RESPONSIBILITY AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association do not own or operate any entity which provides the programs or package for this trip, and act only as agents for the independent suppliers of travel conveyance, transportation, accommodation, meals, sightseeing, activities or entities are independent contractors. As a result, AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association are not liable for any negligence or willful act of such person or entity or any third person. In addition and without limitation, AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association are not responsible for any delays, delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, loss, death, damage or injury to person or property or accident, mechanical defect, failure or negligence of any nature however caused in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or any substitution of hotels or of commercial carrier equipment, with or without notice, or for any additional expense occasioned thereby. Dates, Program Details and Tour costs, although given in good faith and based on tariffs at the time of printing, are subject to change at any time before the date of departure. No revisions of the printed itinerary or its visual features are anticipated; however, any change is reserved to make any changes, with or without notice, that in the sole discretion of AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association, is made to the understanding that any additional expenses will be paid by the individual passenger. Change of Passenger/Person. If the trip is canceled or the responsibility of the owners at all times. If the entire program is canceled for any reason, participants shall have no rights against AHI Travel or any of its agents, unless he has been notified in writing by AHI Travel prior to the date of departure. AHI Travel reserves the right to adjust the itinerary to accommodate known events or acts of nature. Any passenger, in the sole discretion of AHI Travel, who is unable to successfully participate in the trip as a result of any act, omission, or event, during the time passengers are not bound their conveyances.

The passage contract in use, when issued, shall constitute the entire contract between the company(s) and the passenger and/or purchaser of this trip.

CANCELLATION All cancellations for any reason will be subject to a $300 person administrative fee. You may choose, at the time of cancellation, to apply the withheld administrative fee to a future AHI Travel program that will operate in the current calendar year or year following. Cancellation from 210 days to 91 days prior to departure will result in a $500 fee. Cancellation from 120 to 91 days will result in a forfeiture of 20% of the entire cost of the trip. Cancellation from 90 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire trip cost. In the event of a weather-related delay, trip cancellation for forces of nature, all reservations are non-refundable. AVOIDING CANCELLATION FEES: The following terms and conditions apply: CANCELLATION OF optional excursions, trip extensions and additional hotel nights are non-refundable. Cancellation prior to 90 days will result in a 20% forfeiture of the entire trip cost. CANCELLATION after 90 days will result in a 100% forfeiture of the entire trip cost.

All prices listed are in USD. Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

PROGRAM DATES

Air Program dates: March 7-16, 2019
Land | Cruise Program dates: March 7-16, 2019

LAND | CRUISE PROGRAM

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<th>Category-Deck</th>
<th>Special Price</th>
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<td>AAL-2nd (Forward/Aft)</td>
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<td>AAC-3rd (Forward/Aft)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Owner’s Suite-2nd &amp; 3rd (Forward/Aft)</td>
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Owner’s Suite, AAC and AAL categories feature a private balcony and window. Category A features a large picture window.
Port charges are an additional $250 per person.
All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).
Single prices are available upon request (limited availability).

Let us arrange your flights!

✈️ AHI FlexAir | Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

✈️ price guarantee to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase.
✈️ arrival and departure transfers on most flights.
✈️ assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays.
✈️ flight insurance worth up to $250,000, subject to policy terms.

Travel stress-free with AHI FlexAir.

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AHI Travel Expertise
From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

**Before you go:**

- **Travel Consultants** | These experts stand ready to answer your questions about activities, meals, accommodations and more as they guide you through the reservation process.

- **Passenger Service Representative** |
  Once you have reserved your spot, enjoy personalized assistance from this specialist, your one point of contact who will help you with everything from arranging flights to booking elective activities to fulfilling special requests.

- **Travel Information** | Receive extensive destination information and travel tips compiled by our travel-savvy team to prepare you fully for your journey.

**Once you arrive:**
On the ground, three layers of top-quality professionals offer their insiders’ perspective. From suggesting the best café or pub to sharing a laugh over the stories of the day, our dedicated team takes your adventure to the next level.

- **Travel Director** | Throughout your journey, you will be in the care of a seasoned AHI travel professional who will manage all the logistics, allowing you to relax and simply soak up the ambiance. Resourceful, knowledgeable and attentive, your Travel Director helps to ensure you enjoy an unforgettable travel experience.

- **Expert Guides** | Who better to show you around than the people who live there? We’ve specially selected informed and enthusiastic local professional guides who understand the needs of our educated and curious travelers. Warm and genuine, they’re ready to share their passion for the region with you.

- **Lecturers** | Coming from all walks of life, entertaining local lecturers open your eyes to history and current events. The breadth of their knowledge deepens your appreciation for the region and its heritage.
Explore coastal South Carolina and Georgia on this delightful, first-class cruise!

**AHI Travel's** mission is to deliver inspirational educational and cultural travel programs that delight travelers.

**With AHI you can rely on:**
- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.

Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and pricing.

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