Travel Through American History
In the footsteps of the heroes of the Civil Rights Movement

October 15—22, 2023
Jackson • Little Rock • Memphis • Birmingham • Selma • Montgomery
Itinerary

Jackson

Sunday, October 15
Includes: Reception and dinner

Independent arrivals in Jackson. Transfer to the Westin Jackson. Afternoon visit to the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. This museum provides an honest and painful account of the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi, beginning with the backstory to the civil rights period—the European slave trade. Evening welcome reception and dinner at the hotel.

Monday, October 16
Includes: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner

Our morning begins at the Medgar Evers Home Museum, where Evers lived and where, in 1963, he was assassinated. Walk past the home, which has been restored to the way it looked in 1963. Continue to Malaco Records, an American independent record label based in Jackson that has been the home of various major blues and gospel acts. Continue to the COFO Civil Rights Education Center and meet with Dr. Robert Luckett, director of the Margaret Walker Center. We also meet with Hezekiah Watkins, a civil rights activist who became the youngest Freedom Rider nearly 60 years ago.

After lunch, drive to the former Greyhound bus station, a prominent site from the 1961 Freedom Rides. Continue to Farish Street, a thriving center of African American life in the Jim Crow era, and pass by the Collins Funeral Home, where 4,000 mourners marched after the death of Medgar Evers.

Stop by the Big Apple Inn, where we will meet with the owner, Geno Lee, whose unique delicacy, the pig ear sandwich, or Ears, has attracted the likes of B.B. King and even President Obama.

Dinner tonight at Johnny T’s, and after, enjoy a private performance by a local blues musician.

Little Rock

Tuesday, October 17
Includes: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner

Depart Jackson today for Little Rock, stopping by the B.B. King Museum. Drive to Greenwood and the Museum of the Mississippi Delta, where we have an authentic, delicious barbecue lunch prepared by Mary Hoover, who catered for the movie The Help. Continue to Baptist Town with Sylvester Hoover who shows you their store and the Back in the Day Museum. Tour the community museum, which explores the history of African American culture in the Delta. Continue on to the nearby town of Money to see the remains of Bryant’s Grocery, the site associated with the murder of black teenager Emmett Till.

End the day in Sumner, and meet with Benjamin Saulsberry at the Emmett Till Interpretive Center, where we will learn of the apology resolution written by the community. Enjoy dinner at Sumner Grille before continuing on to Little Rock and the Burgundy Hotel.

Memphis

Wednesday, October 18
Includes: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner

Today begins with a visit to Little Rock Central High School, a national emblem of the often violent struggle over school desegregation. The crisis here forced the nation to enforce African American civil rights in the face of massive Southern defiance during the years following the Brown decision, a major triumph of the movement. Here we will have the opportunity to meet with Elizabeth Eckford, one of the Little Rock Nine.

Continue on to the Clinton Presidential Center, housed in a gleaming modern space overlooking the Arkansas River.

Continue on to Memphis and check in to the hotel. Dinner at a local restaurant.

Dr. Thomas Doughton
Senior lecturer, Center for Interdisciplinary and Special Studies, College of the Holy Cross

Thomas Doughton is a senior lecturer at the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies at the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts, where he has taught for 20 years. He has specialized in the Holocaust, comparative genocide, Native American studies, local history, and African American history and conducted seminars such as “Global African Diaspora” and the “African Experience in Europe.”

A longtime former resident of Paris, Professor Doughton did graduate work at the University of Paris, completing an advanced degree with a dissertation on the relationship of the philosophy of Jean-Paul Sartre and the emergence of postcolonial discourse in Black Africa. He has also led tours on New England’s African American history for adults.

In recent years, he has focused on the creation of the Worcester Black History Trail along with local organizations, including the city of Worcester, Holy Cross, the Worcester branch of the NAACP, and the Laurel Clayton Project. The goal is to establish five trails in total that include landmarks of historical significance throughout the city dating as far back as the eighteenth century.
Thursday, October 19
Includes: Breakfast and lunch

Begin the morning at the Lorraine Motel, now the home of the National Civil Rights Museum. Martin Luther King Jr. stayed at the motel on April 4, 1968, the day of his assassination. Enjoy lunch at the Four Way, one of the oldest soul food restaurants in Memphis, whose regulars included Martin Luther King Jr., Isaac Hayes, and Aretha Franklin. This afternoon, we will focus on Memphis’s music history with a visit to the Stax Museum of American Soul Music, located in Soulsville. End the day with a visit the Slave Haven Underground Railroad Museum, where dark cellars, hidden passageways, and trap doors were used by runaway slaves attempting to flee north to freedom. Dinner is at your leisure this evening.

Montgomery
Friday, October 20
Includes: Breakfast and lunch

This morning, drive to Birmingham and meet with Carolyn McKinstry at the 16th Street Baptist Church, where a bomb killed four young girls as they prepared to sing in their choir on September 15, 1963. The Reverend Carolyn McKinstry was 14 and inside the church when the bomb exploded. Across the street is the historic Kelly Ingram Park, site of civil rights rallies, demonstrations, and confrontations in the 1960s. Now sculptures provide visual reminders of the past.

Continue by road to Selma and stop at the Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, the site of Malcolm X’s address in support of voting rights. Three marches from Selma to Montgomery began here, and it served as the temporary headquarters for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

At the Selma Interpretive Center, enjoy a conversation with Foot Soldier Annie Pearl Avery, whose civil rights work spans decades. Walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where we will walk in memory of those who were beaten while seeking the right to vote.

Continue on to Montgomery via the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, and check in to the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel. Dinner this evening is at your leisure.

Saturday, October 21
Includes: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner

Morning drive to the home of Richard and Vera Harris with their daughter, Dr. Valda Harris Montgomery. Located four doors down from MLK’s parsonage, the house was a haven for freedom riders. Enjoy a short walking tour and a chance to hear of the extraordinary meetings that took place in this home.

End the morning at the Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration. Focusing on the history of racial injustice, the museum is situated on the site where enslaved people were once warehoused.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before visiting the deeply powerful National Memorial for Peace and Justice, created by the Equal Justice Initiative.

End the day with a debrief led by Robert Greene that allows an opportunity to discuss our experiences of the week.

Enjoy a farewell dinner at Central Restaurant.

Depart
Sunday, October 22
Includes: Breakfast

Independent transfers to the airport for return flights home.

What to expect
Please note that our itinerary involves some time driving from city to city, as well as a fair amount of walking around the sites, including climbing up and down stairs. Most days have an early morning start and include a full day’s schedule of activities, lectures, and special events. Participants must be in good health and able to keep up with an active group. The temperatures in the region average in the 60s–70s and can be slightly humid. This program will be covering topics that include violence and that may be difficult for children. Lectures and discussion are geared to an adult audience. Therefore, we do not recommend this program for people under 16.
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The New Republic (TNR) has contracted with Distant Horizons (DH) to organize this tour.

Reservations and Payments: A $1,500 per person deposit, will reserve a place for participants on this program. The balance of the trip is due 60 days prior to departure and must be paid by check.

Tour Price Includes: Accommodations in hotels as outlined in the itinerary based on double occupancy; prices listed are based upon two persons sharing a room. Distant Horizons reserves the right to substitute hotels for those named in the brochure when necessary. Distant Horizons will do all possible for single participants to satisfy requests to share rooms. On occasions when it is not possible, the single room supplement will apply. If Distant Horizons assigns you a roommate and your roommate cancels or changes their mind about sharing a room, you will be liable for the single room supplement. American breakfast, lunches, and dinners are included as specified in the itinerary. Iced tea or lemonade are included with lunch and dinner; welcome and farewell receptions include beer and wine; educational program of discussions; entrance fees to monuments; bottled water kept on the tour vehicle; the services of a Distant Horizons tour manager; special activities as quoted in the itinerary; and gratuities to the local guides, tour manager, driver, and waitstaff for included meals.

Cancellation and Refund Policy:

Notification of cancellation must be received in writing. At the time we receive your written cancellation, the following penalties will apply: Up until 120 days before departure: $500 of the $1,500 deposit. 90–90 days before departure: $1,000 of the $1,500 deposit. 60–61 days before departure: $1,500 deposit. 60 days before departure: No refund

The tour can also be cancelled due to low enrollment. The minimum group size of this departure is 20 paying participants. Neither TNR nor DH accepts liability for any air carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket to or from the departure city. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the traveler. Reasonable changes in the itinerary may be made where deemed advisable for the comfort and well-being of the passengers.

Limitations of Liability: TNR and DH its Owners, Agents, and Employees are solely responsible for providing their respective services. TNR and DH shall not be held liable for: (A) any damage to, or loss of, property or injury to, or death of, persons occasioned directly or indirectly by an act or omission of any other provider, including but not limited to any act or omission of any air carrier, vehicle operated or provided by such other provider, and (B) any loss or damage due to delay, cancellation, or disruption in any manner caused by the laws, regulations, acts or failures to act, demands, orders, or interpositions of any government or any subdivision or agent thereof, or by acts of God, strikes, fire, flood, war, rebellion, terrorism, insurrection, sickness, quarantine, pandemics, epidemics, theft, or any other cause(s) beyond their control. The participant waives any claim against TNR/DH for any such loss, damage, injury, or death. By registering for the trip, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical, or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other participants. TNR/DH shall not be liable for any air carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket to or from the departure city. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the traveler. Reasonable changes in the itinerary may be made where deemed advisable for the comfort and well-being of the passengers.

Registration: Distant Horizons, (CST #2046776-40)

Mail completed form to:
Distant Horizons, 350 Elm Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802
For questions or to reserve by phone, call 800-333-1240

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for this program and agree to them.

Signature

Date
Tour Price Per Person
*Based on a minimum of 20 travelers*

$4,970

Single Occupancy Room

+$1,150

Tour price includes:
- Accommodations and meals as per itinerary
- All sightseeing in an air-conditioned coach
- Bottled water on the bus
- All entrances and events as listed
- Discussion leader to accompany the group
- Predeparture materials and reading list
- The services of a professional tour manager to accompany the group
- Gratuities

Tour price does not include:
- Airfare to Jackson and back from Montgomery
- Alcoholic beverages, except for wine and beer at welcome and farewell events
- Excess luggage fees
- Trip insurance
- Items of purely personal nature

For additional information or to make a reservation, contact Distant Horizons:

Telephone: 800-333-1240

Email: emilyw@distant-horizons.com