

# 2024

## HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

DISCOVER • LEARN • CONNECT • EXPLORE



### SEMINAR ON THE MISSISSIPPI

New Orleans to Memphis aboard  
the paddlewheeler *American Splendor*  
March 5–13, 2024

With Harvard Study Leader **Philip Deloria**, Professor of History  
and featuring keynote address by Presidential Historian and  
Pulitzer Prize-winning Author **Doris Kearns Goodwin**



HARVARD

Alumni Travels



## A Voyage Along the Lower Mississippi River

Join us for a deep dive into U.S. history and culture aboard the 185-berth American Splendor, a riverboat built in 2016 in the classic paddle-wheeler style, on a voyage up the Mississippi River from New Orleans to Memphis.

**What makes this Mississippi River experience stand apart is the incredibly rich educational program, beginning with a keynote address in New Orleans by Presidential Historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning Author, Doris Kearns Goodwin, and continuing on board *American Splendor* with a slate of distinguished speakers covering a range of fields.**

Begin in New Orleans, exploring the distinctive architecture of the French Quarter, the gorgeous homes of the Garden District, and the renowned National WWII Museum. Then cruise upriver on the American Splendor, visiting the sugar plantations, Creole cottages, and lush landscapes of Bayou country; the city of Natchez, Mississippi, whose architectural grandeur reflects the prosperous Steamboat Era of the early 1800s; and Vicksburg, where a 47-day Civil War battle raged before control of the Mississippi River was taken by the North. Conclude in Memphis, exploring historic Beale Street to the rhythm of the Blues.

Activity Level 2: 

### A LITTLE MORE TO IT

The pace of this tour is moderately active with considerable walking at some destinations. Daily activities can involve up to two miles of walking, unaided, over varied terrain (e.g., uneven walkways, steep and sandy trails, dirt streets and paths in some locations). Participants must be physically fit, active, and in good health.

Left Photo: Louisiana State Capitol

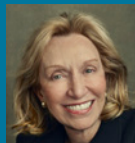
## Study Leaders



Philip J. Deloria is Leverett Saltonstall Professor of History at Harvard University, where his research and teaching focus on the social, cultural, and political histories of the relations among American Indian peoples and the United States, as well as the comparative and connective histories of indigenous peoples in a global context.

His courses have included American Indian history, Environmental history, the American West, and American Studies methods, as well as Food Studies, Songwriting, and Big History.

In 2023, he was awarded a Harvard College Professorship for excellence in undergraduate teaching.



Doris Kearns Goodwin is a world-renowned presidential historian, public speaker and Pulitzer Prize-winning, *New York Times* #1 best-selling author. Since 2020 she has served as executive producer for the History Channel's miniseries events *Washington*, *Abraham Lincoln*, and *Theodore Roosevelt*, with more to come!

Goodwin is the author of seven critically acclaimed and *New York Times* best-selling books, including her most recent, *Leadership in Turbulent Times*, which incorporates her five decades of scholarship studying Presidents Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt and Lyndon Baines Johnson. Goodwin was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in history for *No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II*.

Goodwin graduated magna cum laude from Colby College. She earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Government from Harvard University, where she taught Government, including a course on the American Presidency.

The lecture program aboard American Splendor will also include music historian Andy Flory, architectural historian John Meffert, and 19th century historian Ed Baptist.

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Left Photo: New Orleans' Garden District / Right Photo: Vicksburg National Military Park

## Schedule by Day

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

### New Orleans, Louisiana

Arrive in New Orleans and check into the centrally-located InterContinental New Orleans, just blocks away from the French Quarter and the bustling Riverwalk. This evening, meet fellow travelers at a festive welcome reception and dinner featuring a keynote address by Presidential Historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning Author, Doris Kearns Goodwin.

InterContinental New Orleans (R,D)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

### New Orleans

After a morning lecture, spend the day exploring New Orleans, including the distinctive architecture of the famous French Quarter and the extravagantly styled and landscaped homes of the Garden District, plus the highly acclaimed National World War II Museum. Board the *American Splendor* in the afternoon to begin the journey up the mighty Mississippi River.

*American Splendor* (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

### Oak Alley, Laura, and Whitney Plantations

Explore historic Oak Alley, a grand Greek Revival plantation home famous for its namesake double row of 18th-century canopy oak trees lining the approaching path. Nearby Laura Plantation, a restored Creole plantation, is a fascinating contrast to Oak Alley, offering further insight into the stories and culture of this area's inhabitants and boasting twelve buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, including slave quarters. The Whitney Plantation, the only plantation museum in Louisiana with a focus on slavery, features historic buildings, museum exhibits, modern

memorials, and first-person slave narratives that give a voice to enslaved people who worked and lived in Louisiana.

*American Splendor* (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

### Baton Rouge

Arrive in Baton Rouge, a busy port town and Louisiana's state capital. Take walking tours of the character-filled neighborhoods near the city center, marveling at the rich art and architecture along the route, including the Old State Capitol and its unexpected stained glass. For those that feel adventurous, board a small boat for a guided tour through the ecologically rich Louisiana Bayou for a chance to glimpse the local waterfowl and other Bayou residents.

*American Splendor* (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

### St. Francisville

Spend the day in the once-thriving cotton port of St. Francisville to learn about the town's rich legacy. Explore the magnificent mansions and plantation homes of the Historic District, including the Rosedown Estate and Garden, one of the few privately maintained formal gardens of the 19th century; Myrtles Plantation, reputed to be one of the most haunted homes in America; and the Oakley Plantation, the home of John James Audubon.

*American Splendor* (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

### Natchez, Mississippi

Natchez suffered little destruction during the Civil War and as a result, is home to one of the largest concentrations of restored pre-Civil War properties in the United States. Visit three of these historic homes: Longwood, with a unique octagonal design; Rosalie, which served as Union headquarters during the Civil War; and Stanton Hall, constructed in 1851 and regarded as

one of the most opulent mansions of its day. Then learn about the African American experience in Natchez with visits to the Forks in the Road historic site and the Natchez Museum of African American Culture. Also enjoy free time to explore central Natchez, including the option to have lunch ashore.

*American Splendor* (B,L,D)

MONDAY, MARCH 11

### Vicksburg

Vicksburg was one of the keys to victory in the Civil War. General Grant's successful 47-day siege in the summer of 1863 brought control of the Mississippi River into Union hands. Visit the National Military Park, considered to be the best-preserved battlefield in the United States; the ironclad gunboat *Cairo*; and the Lower Mississippi River Museum, with exhibits on ancient Vicksburg and an aquarium featuring local fish species. There will also be time to explore historic downtown Vicksburg independently.

*American Splendor* (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

### Cruising the Mississippi

During a full day of cruising, relax on deck and enjoy the passing scenery and the varied river traffic along with the continued lecture program.

*American Splendor* (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

### Memphis, Tennessee / Home

Upon arrival in Memphis, disembark for tours touching on the city's diverse heritage, including the Stax Museum of American Soul Music or a discussion about the Civil Rights Movement in Memphis with Rhodes College professor Dr. Charles McKinney. After lunch on iconic Beale Street, transfer to the airport for afternoon flights home.

(B,L)

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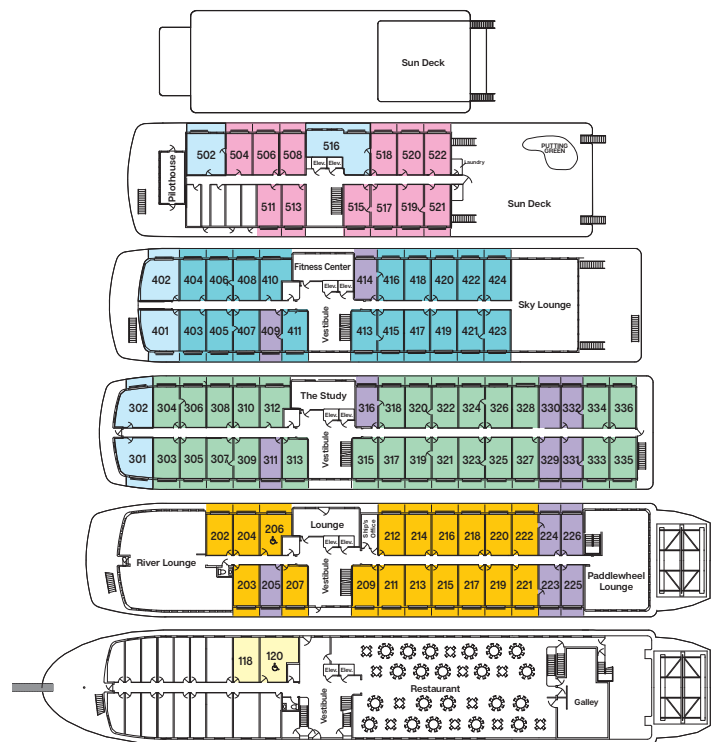
## American Splendor

The *American Splendor* allows guests to experience the nostalgia of classic paddlewheeler travel while enjoying modern comfort and amenities. Recently renovated, *American Splendor* features serene color palettes, luxurious textiles and linens, new furniture and carpets, and updated artwork and flourishes. From the staterooms and suites to the lounges and dining rooms, the new décor pays homage to the legendary Mississippi River. On board, guests can relax in a casual ambiance while admiring panoramic views of the passing scenery. Each spacious stateroom is outward-facing, allowing commanding views of the riverside landscape, and includes all of the amenities you expect from a fine hotel. These staterooms also offer a sitting area, desk, and full-size bathrooms, and most feature floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors with a private balcony. With only 180 guests, fellow travelers will quickly become new friends.



## Rates per Person

| CATEGORY   | DOUBLE          |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>A STANDARD STATEROOM</b><br>Main Deck; Opening window; 290 sq. ft.            | <b>\$7,990</b>  |
| <b>B PRIVATE BALCONY SUITE</b><br>Deck 2; 245 sq. ft. plus balcony               | <b>\$8,490</b>  |
| <b>C PRIVATE BALCONY SUITE</b><br>Deck 3; 245 sq. ft. plus balcony               | <b>\$8,990</b>  |
| <b>D PRIVATE BALCONY SUITE</b><br>Deck 4; 245 sq. ft. plus balcony               | <b>\$9,490</b>  |
| <b>E DELUXE BALCONY SUITE</b><br>Deck 5; 265 sq. ft., plus 40 sq. ft. balcony    | <b>\$9,990</b>  |
| <b>F OWNER'S SUITE</b><br>Decks 3/4/5; 375 sq. ft. plus private balcony          | <b>\$11,490</b> |
| CATEGORY   | SINGLE          |
| <b>S PRIVATE BALCONY SUITE (SINGLE)</b><br>Decks 2/3/4; 185 sq. ft. plus balcony | <b>\$8,990</b>  |



**PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE** All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including 8 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 8 dinners, one hotel night in New Orleans, and 7 nights aboard *American Splendor* • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Keynote address by Doris Kearns Goodwin • Motorcoach transfer to airport for all participants on group departure day • All gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and shipboard personnel for all group activities • Entrance fees and port charges • Welcome reception and dinner with drinks included • Daily cocktail hour and nightly entertainment aboard *American Splendor* • Filtered water on motorcoaches • Comprehensive packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour managers throughout the program



**AIR ARRANGEMENTS** U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.



**BOOK ONLINE  
TO REGISTER**



# Trip Registration is Easy

## Step 1

Visit: [alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/mississippi-river-voyage](http://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/mississippi-river-voyage)

## Step 2

Click the Blue “**Register Today**” button and fill out the online form with your contact information and payment details.

## Step 3

Look for an **email confirmation** from Harvard Alumni Travels.

*All bookings are conducted online only.*

*Find complete trip-specific terms and conditions on the trip web page (link above).*

