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
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.
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 a tour touching on the city’s diverse heritage including indigenous groups, cotton tycoons and enslaved people, Civil Rights icons, and musicians vital to the growth of the Blues and Rock ‘n’ Roll. After lunch on iconic Beale Street, transfer to the airport for afternoon flights home.

American Splendor (B,L)
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 ambience 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

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<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>DOUBLE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>A STANDARD STATEROOM</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,990</strong></td>
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<td>Main Deck; Opening window; 290 sq. ft.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>B PRIVATE BALCONY SUITE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,490</strong></td>
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<td>Deck 2; 245 sq. ft. plus balcony</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>C PRIVATE BALCONY SUITE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,990</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deck 3; 245 sq. ft. plus balcony</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>D PRIVATE BALCONY SUITE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,490</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deck 4; 245 sq. ft. plus balcony</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>E OWNER'S SUITE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,990</strong></td>
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<td>Decks 3/4/5; 375 sq. ft. plus private balcony</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>F DELUXE BALCONY SUITE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11,490</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>221 sq. ft., plus 40 sq. ft. balcony</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>SINGLE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>S PRIVATE BALCONY SUITE (SINGLE)</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,990</strong></td>
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<td>Decks 2/3/4; 185 sq. ft. plus balcony</td>
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**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.

**REGISTER** alumni.harvard.edu/travel

**CALL US** 800-422-1636

**EMAIL US** haatravels@harvard.edu

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS** alumni.harvard.edu/
Trip Registration is Easy

Step 1
Visit: 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).