

ON THE ROAD TO CIVIL RIGHTS: MISSISSIPPI, ARKANSAS, TENNESSEE & ALABAMA MARCH 11-18, 2018

The history of the United States has been shaped by many movements, but perhaps one of the most significant is that of civil rights. On this program, trace the history of the civil rights movement, visiting the major sites—from Selma to the Little Rock High School—and meeting with many of the figures who were involved. Framed within the civil rights story are the histories of the music and cuisine of the South. Some of the most powerful and inspired creations of both Southern sound and cuisine were born out of hardship, and they continue to evolve as new populations, ingredients, and instruments influence regional culture.

For those interested in social justice today, there are great lessons to be learned from these struggles in our history, where a profound demonstration of commitment, against all odds, succeeded. In the words of Dr. King: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

GROUP SIZE: To be announced

PRICING: \$3,995 per person, double occupancy / \$920 single supplement

STUDY LEADER: Timothy Patrick McCarthy AB '93 is an award-winning scholar, educator, and public servant. He holds a joint faculty appointment in Harvard's undergraduate honors program in History and Literature, the Graduate School of Education, and the John F. Kennedy School of Government, where he is Core Faculty and Program Director at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy. His courses—"American Protest Literature," "Stories of Slavery and Freedom," and "Arts of Communication"—are consistently among the most highly rated at Harvard. A historian of politics and social movements, protest literature, and media culture, Tim is the author or editor of five books with the New Press, including *The Radical Reader: A Documentary History of the American Radical Tradition* (2003), *Prophets of Protest: Reconsidering the History of American Abolitionism* (2006), and *Stonewall's Children: Living History in the Age of Liberation, Loss, and Love* (2017). He has also served as an advisor on numerous political campaigns, including the Presidential campaigns of Barack Obama (2008) and Hillary Clinton (2016). He graduated with honors in History and Literature from Harvard College and earned his MA, MPhil, and PhD in History from Columbia University. Tim and his husband, CJ Crowder, live in Quincy House, where they have been Resident Scholars since 2010.

SCHEDULE BY DAY

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

SUNDAY, MARCH 11 JACKSON

Arrive in Jackson and begin the afternoon with an optional visit to the home of author Eudora Welty, whose art was grounded in the grand oral tradition of the South. This evening enjoy a welcome reception and dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Old Capitol Inn (D)

MONDAY, MARCH 12 JACKSON

This morning visit the COFO Civil Rights Education Center before touring the Medgar Evers Home Museum, where Evers lived and was later assassinated in 1963. Here you will have the opportunity to meet with the museum's curator, Minnie White Watson.

En route to lunch, pass by the Freedom Corner, a memorial to the martyred civil rights leaders Martin Luther King Jr. and Medgar Evers. Enjoy lunch at the Big Apple Inn, which has attracted celebrities like BB King and President Obama.

After lunch visit the former Greyhound Bus station, a site that played a prominent role in the 1961 Freedom Rides against segregation. Continue to the Capitol building, where the Mississippi legislature passed Jim Crow laws and where James Meredith ended his "March Against Fear" with a rally.

Stop by the Smith Robertson Museum, the site of Jackson's first school for African-American children, including future literary giant Richard Wright.

This evening enjoy a welcome dinner at Parlor Market, one of Jackson's most highly rated restaurants.

Overnight: Old Capitol Inn (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 13 LITTLE ROCK

Depart Jackson this morning for Little Rock, driving through the beautiful flatlands of the Mississippi Delta. Stop by the BB King Museum to experience and learn about blues music, founded here in the Mississippi Delta. Afterwards, continue on to Baptist Town, best known as the final residence of Robert Johnson, the King of the Delta Blues Singers.

Stop in at Hoover's Store, owned by Sylvester and Mary Hoover. Tour the Back in the Day Museum, a community museum exploring the history of the blues, Baptist Town, and African-American culture in the Delta. Enjoy lunch at Spooney's, renowned for its barbecue dishes.

Continue on to the nearby town of Money, where the first marker on the Mississippi Freedom Trail was placed at the remains of the Bryant's Grocery, the site associated with the murder of black teenager Emmett Till.

Next, stop at Dockery's Farms, one of the most important plantations in the Delta, which is said to be one of the centers of the origin of blues. Listen to recordings of Charley Patton, one of the most important early Delta Blues musicians, who spent most of his life at Dockery's Farm.

Make a stop in Sumner at the Emmett Till Interpretive Center, which exists to tell the story of the Emmett Till tragedy and point a way towards racial healing through arts and storytelling.

Continue on to Little Rock with time for dinner on your own.

Overnight: Burgundy Hotel (B, L)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14 MEMPHIS

This morning visit Little Rock High School, now Central High School National Historic Site. The violent struggle over school desegregation 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.

Continue on to the William J. Clinton Presidential Center, housed in a gleaming modern space overlooking the Arkansas River. The center supports the Clinton library, foundation, and school. Eat lunch at the presidential center.

After lunch, visit the Anne Frank exhibit outside the center before continuing on to the headquarters of Heifer International. Their mission is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the earth.

Enjoy dinner this evening at the Four Way, which has been serving meals since 1946 and has fed the likes of Martin Luther King Jr., Elvis, Aretha Franklin, and Ike and Tina Turner.

Overnight: Peabody Memphis (B, L, D)

THURSDAY, MARCH 15 MEMPHIS

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. When he stepped out to talk to friends, a bullet struck him in the neck, taking his life instantly. Retrace some of the final footsteps of the most iconic leader of the civil rights movement and learn about the ongoing movement for racial justice and equality.

Next, walk across the street to the Legacy Building, the boarding house from where the assassin's shot was allegedly fired, which examines the investigation of the assassination, the case against James Earl Ray, and ensuing conspiracy theories.

Eat lunch at world-famous Gus's Fried Chicken.

This afternoon, focus on the music history of Memphis with a special tour led by a professional Beale Street musician. Enjoy live music as you learn about Memphis's strong affiliations to rock 'n' roll, soul, and blues music. Stop at the Stax Museum of American Soul, which traces the history of the blues and its impact on American music.

A mile north is the Slave Haven Underground Railway house 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.

Overnight: Peabody Memphis (B, L)

FRIDAY, MARCH 16 MONTGOMERY

This morning, before traveling to Birmingham, stop at Americana at Jerry's Sno Cones for a chance to sample their famous snow cones.

Continue on to Birmingham to the 16th Street Baptist Church, where four young girls were killed in a bombing as they prepared to sing in their choir on September 15, 1963. The incident caused national outrage and gave rise to a momentum that led to the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. We have asked Carolyn McKinstry, who was inside the church during the bombing, to join your visit. In the basement of the church, share a lunch of southern fried chicken while you meet with attorney Doug Jones, who brought the last of the 16th Street Baptist church bombers to justice just a few years ago.

This afternoon, drive to Selma and the Edmund Pettus Bridge to walk in memory of those who were beaten seeking the right to vote. We have requested a meeting with Reverend FD Reese, who marched hand-inhand with King in three marches. His front-row presence made him a symbol of and leader in the civil rights movement. You'll also visit the Selma Interpretive Center, located at the foot of the bridge where armed forces attacked the first wave of unarmed marchers during Bloody Sunday.

Next, continue along the 54 miles known as the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. A series of marches along this route brought the conflicts of the voting rights movement into homes across the country. Stop at the Lowndes Interpretive Center, which screens a film about the marches and the memorial dedicated to Viola Liuzzo.

This evening, dine together at Leks Thai Restaurant.

Overnight: Renaissance Montgomery Hotel (B, L, D)

SATURDAY, MARCH 17 MONTGOMERY

Begin the morning with a short walk to the Rosa Parks Museum, where the civil rights movement truly found its footing in 1955. The museum is set in front of the bus stop where Parks took her defiant stand in the pivotal moment that is recreated at the museum.

Walk a short distance to the Freedom Rides Museum, located in the former Greyhound Bus Station. On May 20, 1961, a group of Freedom Riders were attacked by a local mob at the Montgomery Greyhound Bus Station.

End the morning at Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church and Parsonage where Martin Luther King Jr. was pastor from 1954-1960. Stand in the pulpit from which he preached about his passionate views on the power of nonviolence and civil disobedience.

Enjoy lunch at Chris' Hot Dogs, which was founded on historic Dexter Street in 1917. After lunch, visit the Southern Poverty Law Center, a non-profit civil rights organization dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry. We will request a meeting with Mark Potok, one of the country's leading experts on the world of extremism.

Conclude at the Civil Rights Memorial where Vietnam Veterans Memorial designer Maya Lin created a circular black granite table that records the names of the martyrs and chronicles the history of the movement in lines that radiate like the hands of a clock. Water emerges from the table's center and flows evenly across the top. Engraved on a curved black granite wall behind the table is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s well-known paraphrase of Amos 5:24, "We will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream."

Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner at the Central Restaurant.

Overnight: Renaissance Montgomery Hotel (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, MARCH 18 DEPART

Depart for your independent travel to the airport for flights home. (B)