On the Road to Freedom
Understanding the Civil Rights Movement
October 8-15, 2023

Jackson • Little Rock • Memphis • Birmingham • Selma • Montgomery
Robert Greene is the CEO/Principal of Cedar & Burwell Strategic Consulting, specializing in the application of DEIBA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity, Belonging, and Accessibility) technologies in broad-scale organizational development consulting. Prior to Cedar & Burwell, Robert served as a teacher and administrator in educational organizations, department leader in for-profit organizations, and trustee and director for non-profit and social entrepreneurship agencies. He brings insightful thinking, writing, and consulting to issues ranging from organizational development and leadership design; diversity and inclusion leadership and management strategies; wealth and social class disparities; the impact of identity differences in employee culture; and bias awareness and bias resistance training.

He’s partnered with an extensive and varied list of leaders and organizations including Berkeley Law School; BlackRock; Capital Group; The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; Harvard-Westlake School; Marin Country Day School (CA); Media Rights Capital Studios; Occidental College; Phillips Academy Andover; St. Mary’s College; SFFilm; and YPO among many others.

Robert earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from Brown (econ/political science) and Harvard (administration, planning, and social policy) respectively.

Discussion Leader
Robert Greene

JACKSON
Sunday, October 8  R,D
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 back story to the civil rights period – the European slave trade. Evening welcome reception and dinner at the hotel.

JACKSON
Monday, October 9  B,L,D
Our morning begins at the Medgar Evers Home Museum, where Evers lived and was later assassinated in 1963. 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 COFO’s 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 from 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 Riders. 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, Pig’s Ear Sandwich, has attracted the likes of BB 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 10  B,L,D
Depart Jackson today for Little Rock, stopping by the BB King Museum.

Drive to Greenwood and the Museum of the Mississippi Delta where we have an authentic delicious barbeque 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 the Bryant’s Grocery, the site associated with the murder of black teenager Emmett Till.

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

MEMPHIS
Wednesday, October 11  B,L,D
Today begins with a visit to Little Rock High School, a national emblem of the often violent struggle over school de-segregation. 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 William J. 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.

MEMPHIS
Thursday, October 12  B,L
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...
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 (°F) and can be slightly humid. This program will be covering topics that include violence, and that may be difficult for children. Lectures and discussions are geared to an adult audience. Therefore, we do not recommend this program for people under 16.

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’ music history with a visit to the **Stax Museum of American Soul**, 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 13  
**B,L**

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. Rev. 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 and 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 into the **Renaissance Montgomery Hotel**. Dinner this evening is at your leisure.

**MONTGOMERY**  
Saturday, October 14  
**B,L,D**

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 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. This will allow an opportunity to discuss our experiences of the week.

Enjoy a farewell dinner at Central Restaurant.

**DEPART**  
Sunday, October 15  
**B**

Independent transfers to the airport for return flights home.

*Itinerary is subject to change.*
### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Commonwealth Club (CWC) has contracted with Distant Horizons (DH) to organize this tour.

**Reservations and Payments:** A $1,000 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 on two persons sharing a twin room. Distant Horizons reserves the right to substitute hotels for those named in the itinerary; and gratuities to the local tour manager; special activities as quoted in the itinerary; and 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.

**SINGLE TRAVELERS ONLY:** If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

- [ ] I plan to share accommodations with ___
- [ ] OR I wish to have single accommodations.
- [ ] OR I’d like to know about possible roommates.

I am a [ ] non-smoker / [ ] smoker

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**PAYMENT:**

Here is my deposit of $________ ($1,000 per person) for _____ place(s).

Enclosed is my check (make payable to Distant Horizons) OR ___ Charge my deposit to my credit card listed below.

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Authorized Cardholder Signature

Mail completed form to: Commonwealth Club Travel, 110 The Embarcadero, San Francisco, CA 94105. For questions or to reserve by phone call (415) 597-6720.

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**Medical Information:** Participation in this program requires that you be in good health (should we say the trip requires travelers to be able to walk a total of a mile per day and be on their feet for about an hour at a time). It is essential that persons with any medical problems and related dietary restrictions make them known to us well before departure. Dietary restrictions must be known well in advance as we may not be able to accommodate all requests and restrictions.

COVID-19: Guests will be required to show proof of vaccination. During the trip, we will follow the recommended precautions from the Centers of Disease Control (CDC), state and local agencies at the time of travel. Our aim is to protect our travelers, guest speakers, local staff, and communities we visit.

**Itinerary Changes & Trip Delay:** This itinerary is based on information available at the time of printing (January 2023) and is subject to change. We reserve the right to change a program’s dates, staff, itineraries, or accommodations as conditions warrant.

If a trip must be delayed, or the itinerary changed, due to bad weather, road conditions, transportation delays, airline schedules, government intervention, sickness or other contingency for which CWC or DH or its agents cannot make provision, the cost of delays or changes are not included. The minimum group size of this departure is 15 paying participants. Should the number of guests drop below 15 a small-group surcharge will be proposed.

**Limitations of Liability:** CWC and DH, its Owners, Agents, and Employees acting as the agent for any transportation carrier, hotel, ground operator, or other suppliers of services connected with this program ("other providers"), and the other providers are solely responsible and liable for providing their respective services. CWC 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 defect in any aircraft, or 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, revulsion, terrorism, revolution, sickness, quarantine, pandemics, epidemics, theft, or any other cause(s) beyond their control. The participant waives any claim against CWC/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 him/herself or other participants. CWC/DH shall not be liable for any air carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable 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:** The Commonwealth Club (CST#: 2096989-40). Distant Horizons, (CST #2046776-40).
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
• Pre-departure materials and reading list
• The services of a professional tour manager to accompany the group
• Gratuities

Tour Price Per Person: $4,995 • Single Occupancy Room: $6,205
Based on a minimum of 15 travelers

Does not include:
• Airfare to Jackson and back from Montgomery
• Alcoholic beverages except for wine and beer at welcome and farewell events
• Excess luggage charges
• Trip Insurance
• Items of a purely personal nature

Edmund Pettus Bridge, Selma