On the Road to Freedom
Understanding the Civil Rights Movement
March 19-27, 2023

COMMONWEALTH CLUB TRAVEL

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, March 19

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. R,D

**JACKSON**

Monday, March 20

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 Mississippi 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 a throng of 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. B,L,D

**LITTLE ROCK**

Tuesday, March 21

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 Grille before continuing on to Little Rock and the *Burgundy Hotel*. B,L,D

**MEMPHIS**

Wednesday, March 22

Today begins with a visit to *Little Rock 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 *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 before dinner at a local restaurant. B,L,D
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.

MEMPHIS
Thursday, March 23
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’ 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. B,L

BIRMINGHAM
Friday, March 24
This morning, travel to Birmingham and stop 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. We have asked Rev. Carolyn McKinstry, who was 14 and inside the church when the bomb exploded, to join us on our visit. 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. We have invited Rev. McKinstry to join us for lunch. After lunch, visit the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, an interactive museum that tells the story of the Civil Rights Movement. The institute is also home to an expansive archive of nearly 500 recorded oral histories relevant to the period.

MONTGOMERY
Saturday, March 25
Drive 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.

Continue to the Selma Interpretive Center for 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.

Enjoy lunch in Selma at the Selma Center for Nonviolence, Truth and Reconciliation. The lunch will be based on MLK’s favorite food and prepared by Ms. Callie Greer who founded a non-profit organization, Mothers Against Violence in Selma (MAVIS).

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. B,L

MONTGOMERY
Sunday, March 26
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.

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 staff members of the Equal Justice Initiative.

Enjoy a farewell dinner at the Central Restaurant. B,L,D

DEPART
Monday, March 27
Independent transfers to the airport for return flights home. B

Itinerary is subject to change
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
On the Road to Freedom: Understanding the Civil Rights Movement

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 based on two persons sharing a twin room.

Cancellation and Refund Policy: Notification of cancellation must be received in writing. At the time you receive your written cancellation, the following penalties will apply:
- 120 days or more before departure: no penalty
- 90-119 days before departure: $500
- 60-89 days before departure: $1000
- 59 days or less before departure: No refund

The tour can also be cancelled due to low enrollment. Neither CWC nor DH accepts liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets purchased in conjunction with the tour.

Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance: We strongly advise that all travelers purchase trip cancellation and interruption insurance as coverage against a covered unforeseen emergency that may force you to cancel or leave trip while it is in progress. A brochure describing coverage will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation.

Medical Information: Participation in this program requires that you be in good health. 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: We understand that travelers have concerns about booking trips due to COVID-19. The Commonwealth Club has instituted a vaccine requirement for their departures. 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 (July 2022) 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 cancellations, government intervention, sickness or other contingency for which CWC or DH or its agents cannot make provision, 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
Commonwealth Club of California CST# 2096889-40 Distant Horizons CST# 2046776-40

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

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

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

We require membership in the Commonwealth Club to travel with us. Please check one of the following options:
- I am a current member of the Commonwealth Club.
- Please use the credit card information below to sign me up or renew my membership.
- I will visit commonwealthclub.org/membership to sign up for a membership.

Mail completed form to: Commonwealth Club Travel, 110 The Embarcadero, San Francisco, CA 94105 or fax to (415) 597-6729.

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