Dear alumni and friends,

The University of Rochester Travel Club is pleased to invite you to join us on a thoughtfully-designed program, which focuses on understanding the Civil Rights Movement, perhaps the most significant movement to shape American history. Our program traces the history of this struggle, which began in 1955 when Rosa Parks, an African-American woman, was arrested for refusing to give up her seat at the front of a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. However, this was not a movement that just took off. It was one that grew over time, through massive grassroots organization, a commitment to achieve racial equality through non-violence, legislative victories, brilliant leadership and collaboration, and the sheer courage and determination of hundreds of thousands of participants. Travel to the sites of the movement—from Selma to the Little Rock High School—and meet 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. From blues, to jazz, to fried chicken and biscuits, some of the most powerful and inspired creations of both southern sound and cuisine were born out of hardship and poverty, and continue to evolve today, as new populations, ingredients, and instruments influence regional culture. Please enjoy the detailed itinerary for this tour, and do not hesitate to reach out to me at corinne.dagen@rochester.edu with any questions you may have.

We look forward to welcoming you for this extraordinary learning adventure!

Meliora,

Corinne Dagen ’03
Director, University of Rochester Travel Club
March 7: Sunday - Jackson.

Independent arrival into Jackson this morning and check into the Westin Jackson Hotel.

Afternoon visit to the recently opened Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. This museum provides an honest and painful account of the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi, beginning with the backstory to the civil rights period—the European slave trade.

This evening, enjoy a lovely welcome reception and dinner.

March 8: Monday - Jackson.

Our day begins at the Medgers Evers’ Home Museum, where Evers lived and was later assassinated in 1963. Walk through the home, which has been preserved to maintain the way it looked in 1963. Here, we will have the opportunity to meet with the home’s curator, Minnie White Watson.

Continue on to Malaco Records, an American independent record label, based in Jackson, that has been the home of various major blues and gospel acts, such as Johnnie Taylor, Bobby Bland, Z. Z. Hill, Denise LaSalle, Benny Latimore, Dorothy Moore, Little Milton, Shirley Brown, Marvin Sease, and the Mississippi Mass Choir.

Stop by the former Greyhound Bus station, a site that played a prominent role in the 1961 Freedom Rides against segregation and has been lovingly renovated to preserve the original art deco architecture. Here we will be met by local business owner Daniel Dillon, who is working to try and revitalize the area. In 2009 he opened Frank Jones Corner, the only restaurant and live music venue on a nearly empty street.

Explore Farish Street, which was the thriving center of African-American life in Jackson during the Jim Crow era. In recent years, the street has fared poorly with boarded-up buildings, vacant lots, and a few lone businesses struggling to survive.

Stop for a snack at the Big Apple Inn, whose famous Pig’s Ear Sandwich, has attracted quite a few celebrities, including BB King and even President Obama. We will have a chance to chat with the owner, Geno Lee.

Enjoy lunch at Johnny T’s Bistro and Blues where we will be joined by Dr. Robert Luckett, Director of the Margaret Walker Center and an Associate Professor of the Department of History at Jackson State University.

End the day at the Smith Robertson Museum. The Museum is dedicated to increasing public understanding and awareness of the historical experience and cultural expressions of people of African descent.

Depart the hotel to enjoy a private music performance by a renowned blues musician and dinner at Frank Jones Corner.

March 9: Tuesday - 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. Explore the museum and soak in the sounds that transformed the history of music in America.

Afterward, continue on to Museum of the Mississippi Delta, where Mary Hoover has prepared barbecue ribs for the group lunch and, of course, her famous butter-roll, similar to a cobbler but without the fruit.

After lunch head to Baptist Town, best known as the final residence of Robert Johnson—the King of the Delta Blues.
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.

Continue on to the nearby town of Money, where the first marker on the Mississippi Freedom Trail was placed at the remains of Bryant’s Grocery, the site associated with the murder of black teenager Emmett Till. Today the site has almost crumbled to the ground from neglect, but still remains a historic location of the Civil Rights Movement.

Make a stop in Sumner at the Emmett Till Interpretive Center which tells the story of the Emmett Till tragedy and points a way towards racial healing through arts and story-telling. Meet with staff member Benjamin Saulsberry and learn about the apology resolution written by the community.

Enjoy dinner at Sumner Grille before continuing on to Little Rock and the Burgundy Hotel.

March 10: Wednesday - Memphis. B,L,D.

This morning visit Little Rock High School, now Central High School National Historic Site, 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 v. Board of Education decision, a major triumph of the movement.

Tour the school and then meet with Ms. Elizabeth Eckford, one of nine African-American students who broke the color barrier at Central High School in 1957.

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, as well as a mock Oval Office as it looked during his administration.

Enjoy a lovely lunch at a beautiful restaurant, located at the presidential center.

After lunch, walk to the Anne Frank exhibit located right outside the Center, before driving to Memphis and checking into the Hu Hotel. Enjoy dinner this evening at Rendezvous.

March 11: Thursday - Memphis. B,L.

We 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 in Room 306. When he stepped out to talk to friends in the parking lot below, a bullet struck him in the neck, taking his life instantly.

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.
Enjoy lunch at Four Ways Soul Food Restaurant, 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 which provides insights to the civil rights story set within the Memphis music scene. A fascinating exhibit traces the history of the blues and its impact on American music. Here we will meet with a staff member of the museum.

Drive a mile north to visit 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. Here we will have the opportunity to learn about the Memphis slave trade and the Underground Railroad.

Enjoy dinner this evening at leisure.

March 12: Friday - Montgomery. B.L.
This morning, depart Memphis and drive to Birmingham.

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. The incident caused national outrage and gave rise to a momentum that ensured the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Meet with Carolyn McKinstry, who was 14 and inside the church when the bomb exploded. Here she will share with us her story of the day of the bombing and the work she has dedicated her life to since.

Across the Street is the historic Kelly Ingram Park, site of civil rights rallies, demonstrations, and confrontations in the 1960s. Sculptures throughout the park provide vivid depictions of police dog and fire hose assaults on demonstrators, many of them children.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, where we will be joined by Carolyn McKinstry.

Drive to Selma and 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. Meet with Annie Pearl Avery, a foot soldier, whose civil rights work spans decades.

Walk across the street to visit the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where we will walk two-by-two in memory of those who were beaten seeking the right to vote. We are hoping that we can meet with Reverend FD Reese, who marched hand-in-hand with King in three marches. His front-row presence made him a symbol of and leader in the Civil Rights Movement.

Continue along the 54 miles known as the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. This route helped change American history as a series of marches brought the conflicts of the voting rights movement into homes across the country.
Arrive in Montgomery and check into the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel.

Enjoy dinner this evening at leisure.


Begin the day with a visit to the Dexter Parsonage Museum, the house in which Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was living in when it was bombed on January 30, 1956. It was that day that Dr. King made the personal commitment to non-violence.

Continue on to Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration. Created by the Equal Justice Initiative, the museum looks into the history of racial injustice and the narratives that have sustained injustice across generations. End the day with a briefing at the Equal Justice Initiative, an organization committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, to challenging racial and economic injustice, and to protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

After lunch, visit the recently opened Equal Justice Initiative’s National Memorial for Peace and Justice. The memorial is the nation’s first dedicated to the legacy of enslaved blacks terrorized by lynching, African-Americans humiliated by racial segregation and Jim Crow, and people of color burdened with contemporary presumptions of guilt and police violence. The Memorial for Peace and Justice was conceived with the hope of creating a sober, meaningful site where people can gather and reflect on America’s history of racial inequality.

Continue on for a briefing by staff members of the Equal Justice Initiative. The briefing will take place in the new Visitor Center, which is located across the street from the National Memorial for Peace and Justice.

Enjoy a farewell dinner at Central Restaurant.

**March 14: Sunday - Depart. B.**

Independent departures from Montgomery this morning.
You are reading the Program Costs and Inclusions section of the document. It includes the following details:

**Trip price:** $3,975 per person based on double occupancy

**Single room supplement:** $960

- Includes all hotel accommodations based on double occupancy, meals as listed in program (B,L,D), all tours, excursions, sightseeing, entrances to museums and other venues, transportation in an air-conditioned motor coach, services of a Distant Horizons tour manager, and all gratuities.

- Does not include airfare into Jackson and departing from Montgomery, drinks other than soft drinks and ice tea at meals, except at welcome and farewell dinners, porterage, personal insurance for health, baggage and trip cancellation, and items of purely personal nature.

**To register:** Please submit the attached application, along with a deposit of $1,000 per person, and a copy of your passport to Distant Horizons.

For additional information, please contact Charleen Mayorga at 800-333-1240 or via email at charleenm@distant-horizons.com.

Please note that our itinerary involves some time driving. We use comfortable buses that seat up to 40 travelers, depending on the size of the group. There will be a fair amount of walking involved around the sites and museums, including climbing up and down stairs (sometimes without handrails), as well as walking tours in some cities.

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**Your University of Rochester Host**

John Barker ’09W (PhD)
Senior Associate Dean of the Faculty for Arts, Sciences & Engineering

John Barker ’09W (PhD) is the senior associate dean of the faculty for Arts, Sciences & Engineering, where his goals for higher education includes three tenets: “access, equity, and social justice for all.” Barker, who was most recently dean of international education at Tufts University served in various roles at Rochester earlier in his career. In addition, he is also a professor in both the Frederick Douglass and Susan B Anthony Institutes and has worked to expand the educational pipeline both domestically and internationally.

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WHEN YOU RETURN THIS APPLICATION, PLEASE INCLUDE A DEPOSIT OF $1,000 PER PERSON AND A LEGIBLE PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR DRIVER’S LICENSE OR IDENTIFICATION CARD
(Please print)

University of Rochester Travel Club: On the Road to Freedom, Understanding the Civil Rights Movement

Trip Dates: March 7–14, 2021

Name: Mr. / Ms. / Mrs. ____________________________________________
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Preferred first name: ____________________________________________

Mailing Address: ________________________________________________

Home Phone: ___________________ Business Phone: ___________________ Cell Phone: ___________________

E-mail Address: ________________________________________________

Describe your health: ____________________________________________

Do you have any allergies or physical limitations? ______________________

Do you have any diet restrictions? _________________________________

Are you presently under a doctor’s care or taking any medications? If yes, please elaborate. ______________________

Emergency contact person, phone number, and relationship: ________________

________________________________________

ACCOMMODATIONS
Distant Horizons will do everything possible to satisfy requests to share a room for single tour members. On occasions when it is not possible, the single supplement will apply.

☐ I want a single room ☐ I will share a room with: ______________________

BED TYPE (not guaranteed): ☐ One large bed ☐ Two twins

I have read the terms and conditions and agree to abide by them.

________________________________________

Mail completed and signed application, copy of driver’s license, and a check for $1,000 (per traveler) made payable to Distant Horizons to: Distant Horizons, 350 Elm Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802
Terms and Conditions

Payments:
Registration requires a $1,000 per person deposit. Final payment is due by December 7, 2020, 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 brochure when necessary. Distant Horizons will do all possible for single participants to satisfy requests to share rooms. On occasions when it is not possible, the single room supplement will apply. If Distant Horizons assigns you a roommate and your roommate cancels or changes their mind about sharing a room, you will be liable for the single room supplement. American breakfast (B), lunches (L), and dinners (D) are included as specified in the itinerary. Soft drink is included with lunch and one with dinner; welcome and farewell receptions include beer and wine. Also included: educational program of discussions; entrance fees to monuments; bottled water kept on the bus; transportation in a deluxe, air-conditioned motor coach; 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.

Tour Price Does Not Include: Air service to Jackson and from Montgomery; international airfare; meals not specified in the itinerary; transfers to and from airports; chambermaid gratuities; alcoholic drinks at included meals except for welcome and farewell receptions; drinks other than soft drink at meals; personal items such as laundry; email; fax or telephone calls; liquor; room service; independent and private transfers; luggage charges and private trip insurance. Any increases in the in-tour security, or fuel surcharges imposed after the initial pricing of this program are not included.

Tour Cost is based on rates of currency exchange at time of printing (January 2020) and is subject to change with or without previous notice. If there is a price increase prior to the day of departure in the basic costs, such increases may be passed on to the participant. If bookings fall below the minimum required, passengers will be advised of additional costs for that departure date. The minimum group size of this departure is 15 paying participants. Should the number of participants fall below this number, a small group surcharge and/or revised staffing will apply.

Cancellations:
Distant Horizons and the University of Rochester, Office of Alumni Relations and Constituent Engagement reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason, including an insufficient number of participants, and to decline to accept or retain any person as a participant at any time. Should this happen, refunds will be made, although we cannot be held responsible for any additional costs already incurred by participants. The tour price is based on a minimum number of travelers. If bookings fall below the minimum 15 required, passengers will be advised of additional small group surcharge costs. If the small group surcharge is more than $300 per person, travelers can cancel without penalty. Otherwise, if a participant cancels, the following refunds will be available upon written notice of cancellation to Distant Horizons:

Notice more than 90 days prior to departure: a refund less a $500 cancellation charge.
Notice between 89 and 60 days prior to departure: a refund less 50% of trip price
Notice between 59 days and 30 days prior to departure: a refund less 75% of trip price.
No refund shall be issued if cancellation is received less than 30 days prior to departure date.
No refunds shall be issued after the tour has commenced. No refunds shall be issued for occasional missed meals, sightseeing tours, or any unused services.

Travel Insurance: The purchase of trip cancellation insurance is highly recommended. Travel insurance information will be mailed to you by Smith Travel upon receipt of your registration form and deposit.

Responsibility:
Distant Horizons and the University of Rochester Office of Alumni Relations and Constituent Engagement act only in the capacity of agents for the hotels, airlines, bus companies, railroads, ship lines or owners or contractors providing accommodations, transportation or other services. As a result, all coupons, receipts or tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the supplier. By acceptance of tour membership, the participant agrees that neither Distant Horizons nor the University of Rochester Office of Alumni Relations and Constituent Engagement nor any of their subsidiaries shall become liable or responsible for personal injury, damage to persons or property, loss, delay or irregularity caused by persons not controlled by it, such as (without limitation) airlines, bus and shipping companies, suppliers of accommodations or other services, or resulting from any acts of God, defects in vehicles, strikes, wars, whether declared or otherwise, civil disturbances, medical or customs regulations, acts of terrorism, epidemics or government restrictions. Distant Horizons and the University of Rochester Office of Alumni Relations and Constituent Engagement cannot be held responsible for unfavorable weather or closure of access routes due to bad weather conditions. Distant Horizons and the University of Rochester Office of Alumni Relations and Constituent Engagement cannot be held responsible if the tour lecturer or leader cancels, and passengers will be advised of a comparable replacement should time permit. Distant Horizons and the University of Rochester Office of Alumni Relations and Constituent Engagement are not responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the participant as a result of the above mentioned causes.