



WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL
of Philadelphia & Cooperating Councils



A VOYAGE ALONG THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER

New Orleans to Memphis
aboard the paddle-wheeled *American Splendor*
March 5–13, 2024

Featuring special guest lecturer **Doris Kearns Goodwin**

Dear Council Travelers,

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.

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.

The *American Splendor* offers modern amenities among surroundings of 19th-century riverboat opulence, including lovely cabins--most featuring private balconies--in the style of a bygone era, fine cuisine, and lively performances by onboard musicians.

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**. She will discuss her Lincoln Prize-winning book *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*. Throughout the trip, travelers will also enjoy panel discussions and opportunities for direct engagement with an outstanding lineup of lecturers..

This unique journey along one of North America's great waterways is expected to sell out, I urge you to reserve your space today. Call our office at **(800) 942-5004 ext. 209 or 231**, or email **travel@wacphila.org**.

We look forward to traveling with you,



Andrew Haught
Director of Travel
World Affairs Council of Philadelphia

Study Leaders



Doris Kearns Goodwin is a world-renowned presidential historian, public speaker and Pulitzer Prize-winning, *New York Times* #1 best-selling author. Since 2020 she has served as executive producer

for the History Channel's miniseries events *Washington*, *Abraham Lincoln*, and *Theodore Roosevelt*, with more to come!

Goodwin is the author of seven critically acclaimed and *New York Times* best-selling books, including her most recent, *Leadership in Turbulent Times*, which incorporates her five decades of scholarship studying Presidents Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt and Lyndon Baines Johnson. Goodwin was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in history for *No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II*.

Goodwin graduated magna cum laude from Colby College. She earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Government from Harvard University, where she taught Government, including a course on the American Presidency.

Ed Baptist, Professor of U.S. History at Cornell

Philip Deloria, Professor of Native American History at Harvard University

Andy Flory, Professor of Music at Carleton College

John Meffert, consultant on heritage conservation

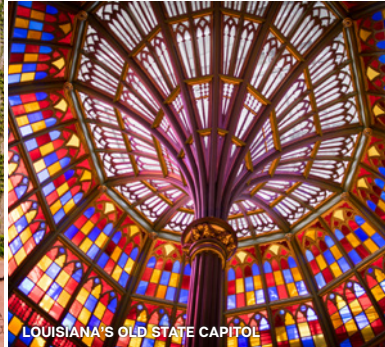




NEW ORLEANS' GARDEN DISTRICT



STANTON HALL IN NATCHEZ



LOUISIANA'S OLD STATE CAPITOL



ELVIS STATUE IN MEMPHIS

Itinerary

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. *(B,L)*

American Splendor



American Splendor allows guests to experience the nostalgia of classic paddlewheel 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 ambiance 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.

Program Rates (per person)

CATEGORY		DOUBLE
A	STANDARD STATEROOM Main Deck; Opening window; 290 sq. ft.	\$7,990
B	PRIVATE BALCONY SUITE Deck 2; 245 sq. ft. plus balcony	\$8,490
C	PRIVATE BALCONY SUITE Deck 3; 245 sq. ft. plus balcony	\$8,990
D	PRIVATE BALCONY SUITE Deck 4; 245 sq. ft. plus balcony	\$9,490
E	PRIVATE BALCONY SUITE Deck 5; 265 sq. ft. plus balcony	\$9,990
F	OWNER'S SUITE Decks 3/4/5; 375 sq. ft. plus private balcony	\$11,490
CATEGORY		SINGLE
S	PRIVATE BALCONY SUITE (single) Decks 2/3/4; 185 sq. ft. plus balcony	\$8,990



General Information

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

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.

WHAT TO EXPECT

We consider this to be a moderately active program, 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, in good health, and capable of undertaking this level of activity without assistance from tour staff. In March, the weather is generally mild and comfortable, with high temperatures usually in the mid-70s, and rain is always a possibility. The *American Splendor* has been chartered for this departure

A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Tour rates are based upon current fuel prices, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details will be advised prior to departure.

Complete Terms and Conditions including a Statement of Responsibility will be made available at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE
Airfare • Passport/ visa expenses • Medical expenses, immunizations, and COVID-19 testing if required at the time of travel • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Airport transfers upon arrival • Private airport transfers upon departure • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

GROUP SIZE
This program can accommodate 92 participants, including travelers from Carleton College, the Commonwealth Club of California, Cornell's Adult University, Dartmouth Alumni Travel, Harvard Alumni Travel, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

INSURANCE
Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Trip cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS
To reserve space, call (800) 942-5004 ext. 209 or 231, or email travel@wacphila.org, or return the completed reservation form with your \$1,000 per person deposit (payable to Criterion Travel) to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005. Final payment is due November 6, 2023 (120 days prior to departure). For those who register after November 6, 2023, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment must be made by check or bank transfer.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS
Upon payment of the \$1,000 per person deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person admin fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After the August 7, 2023 final payment deadline: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. NOTE: Neither the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

HEALTH
All participants should be in good health and capable of keeping up with an active group of travelers. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the passenger certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers.

ITINERARY CHANGES
The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, Criterion Travel reserves the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

California Seller of Travel
Program CST #2088800-40

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To reserve a place, please contact the World Affairs Council by phone at (800) 942-5004 or (215) 561-4700 x209 or x231, or mail a completed reservation form to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005.

For more information, please visit our website at www.wacphila.org/travel or email travel@wacphila.org.

NAME #1 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) BIRTHDATE

NAME #2 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) BIRTHDATE

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP OR POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE

EMAIL 1

EMAIL 2

DEPOSIT

☐ I'd like to pay my deposit by credit card. Once a request is received, a Travel Counselor from Criterion Travel will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Deposit may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to Criterion Travel and include with the form.

—or—

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel), to reserve _____ place(s) on *A Voyage Along the Lower Mississippi River*.

SINGLE TRAVELERS

☐ I prefer to have single accommodations. *(limited availability)*

or ☐ I plan to share accommodations with: _____

ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin Category Preference:
1st _____ 2nd _____
Bed Preference (not guaranteed): ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds

I/We have read the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated herein:

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE

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Doris Kearns Goodwin



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