Dear Smith Alumnae and Friends,

Join us on our carefully designed program which focuses on understanding the Civil Rights Movement, perhaps the most significant movement to shape modern American history. This will be Smith Colleges’ second year hosting the program due to its successful 2019 inaugural trip. Our program traces the history of this struggle, which was not a movement that just took off, but 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 Little Rock High School - and meet with many key figures who were involved and are exclusive to the Smith Travel tour. Framed within the civil rights story are the music and cuisine histories of the South. In fact, some of the most powerful and inspired creations of both southern sound and southern cuisine were born out of the hardship and poverty and continue evolving to this day. For those interested in contemporary social justice there are great lessons to be learned from earlier 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.”

We encourage you to join and make your reservation today!

Warmest regards,

Elizabeth A. Bigwood
Director, Smith Travel
March 15, Sunday: Jackson

Independent arrivals into Jackson. Transfer to the Westin Jackson.

This afternoon, visit the newly opened 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. The museum timeline moves through the Civil War, the birth of Jim Crow, World War II, and includes a harrowing room focusing on the abduction and murder of Emmett Till.

This evening enjoy a lovely welcome reception and dinner at the hotel.

March 16, Monday: Jackson

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

From here drive to Malaco Records, an American independent record label based in Jackson, that has been the home of various major blues and gospel acts. It was the unexpected success of Z.Z. Hill’s LP Down Home in 1982-83 that launched Malaco on a trajectory to become the dominant label in its field.

Drive to the former Greyhound Bus station, a site that played a prominent role in the 1961 Freedom Rides against segregation, that has been lovingly restored to preserve the original art deco architecture.

Continue to Farish Street to meet Daniel Dillon, local business owner, who opened Frank Jones Corner in 2009 which was the only restaurant and live music venue on a nearly empty street that revitalized the area. Walk from there to the historic Collins Funeral Home, where on June 15, 1963, a throng of 4,000 mourners marched from the Masonic Temple to see slain Civil Rights leader Medgar Evers’ body before it was prepared for burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

We will then stop by the adjacent Big Apple Inn to meet with the owner, Geno Lee, whose famous delicacy of pig ear sandwiches has attracted quite a few celebrities, including BB King and President Obama.

Enjoy lunch at Johnny T’s Bistro and Blues.

After lunch, visit COFO Civil Rights Education Center to meet with Dr. Robert Luckett, Director of the Margaret Walker Center and an Associate Professor of the Department of History at Jackson State University, who is a Civil Rights historian with expertise on the modern Civil Rights Movement and the African-American experience.

We will then head back to Frank Jones Corner restaurant to enjoy a special dinner followed by a private performance by a local blues musician.

March 17, 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 which was founded here in the Mississippi Delta. Explore the museum and soak in the sounds that transformed the history of music in America.

Afterwards, continue to Greenwood and the Museum of the Mississippi Delta. The museum was founded in 1969 at the crossroads of Delta history and art. The extensive collection includes artifacts related to agriculture, Native America, regional military history and one of the Delta’s most extensive collections of regional art.

Meet Sylvester and Mary Hoover, owners of the Hoover’s Store in Baptist Town. Mary Hoover will prepare barbecue ribs for the group lunch and, of course, her famous butter-rolls, which is similar to a cobbler but without the fruit. Mary is a fabulous cook. She owned a popular soul-food restaurant in the Baptist Town neighborhood for nearly 30 years, and was involved in preparing the spreads for the food scenes in the movie, The Help. Lunch will be served in the museum.
We will drive a short distance to Baptist Town which was established in the 1800s in tandem with the growth of the local cotton industry. Baptist Town, is best known for being the final residence of Robert Johnson, the King of the Delta Blues Singers.

Then 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 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.

Make a stop in Sumner at the Emmett Till Interpretive Center to meet with museum director, Patrick Weems, who will talk about the apology resolution written by the community of Sumner and issued from the steps of the courthouse in which Emmett Till’s murderers were acquitted.

Enjoy an early dinner at Sumner’s Grille before continuing to Little Rock and the Burgundy Hotel.

March 18, Wednesday: Memphis

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 decision, a major triumph of the movement. Scheduling permitted we will meet with Nancy Rousseau who has been the principal since 2002.

We will then visit the William J. Clinton Presidential Center that is 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 lunch in the beautiful restaurant at the center.

Check into the Hu Hotel before dinner at Rendezvous. We have invited Scott Shepherd to join us for dinner. He is a former Grand Dragon of the Klu Klux Klan in Tennessee and is now one of America’s most ferocious anti-racism campaigners.

March 19, Thursday: Memphis

Begin the morning at the Lorraine Motel, now the home of the National Civil Rights Museum. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stayed at this motel on April 4, 1968 in Room 306. At 6:01pm he stepped onto the balcony to talk with friends in the parking lot below and was fatally shot.

Enjoy lunch at The Four Ways Restaurant, one of the oldest soul food restaurants in Memphis whose regulars included Dr. 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 will provide insight into the civil rights story set within the Memphis music scene.

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.

Dinner is at your leisure this evening.
March 20, Friday: Montgomery  B,L

This morning, travel to Birmingham and visit the 16th Street Baptist Church, the site of the September 15, 1963 bombing where four young girls were killed as they prepared to sing in their choir. The incident caused national outrage and gave rise to a momentum that ensured the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. We have asked Carolyn McKinstry, who was age fourteen and inside the church when the bomb exploded, to join us on our visit.

Enjoy lunch at the Delta Blues Hot Tamales.

Drive to Selma and stop outside of the Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, the site of Malcolm X’s address in support of voting rights, Dr. King’s eulogy for Jimmie Lee Jackson, and Jackson’s funeral.

Visit the Selma Interpretive Center for a conversation with Foot Soldier, Annie Pearl Avery, who joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) at age sixteen and whose civil rights work spans decades.

Continue to the Edmund Pettus Bridge where we will walk two by two in memory of the Bloody Sunday conflict and those who were beaten seeking the right to vote.

Drive 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.

Dinner this evening is at your leisure.

March 21, Saturday: Montgomery  B,L,D

Begin the morning with a visit to the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church and Parsonage where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was pastor from 1954-1960. Stand at the pulpit from which he preached as a minister about his passionate views on the power of nonviolence and civil disobedience.

End the morning at the Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration. Created by the Equal Justice Initiative, the museum explores the history of racial injustice in the United States and the narratives that have sustained injustice across generations.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

After lunch visit the Civil Rights Memorial in downtown Montgomery to experience the powerful piece designed by Maya Lin, who is famous for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the chief architect of the new Neilson Library at Smith College. The memorial is a black granite inverted cone fountain on which the names of the 41 Civil Rights Martyrs are engraved and over which water flows continuously.

Visit the newly opened National Memorial for Peace and Justice where Smith alumna Sierra Bainbridge ‘99, helped design the memorial. Continue on for a briefing at the Equal Justice Initiative.

Enjoy a farewell dinner at the Central Restaurant.

March 22, Sunday: Depart  B

Independent transfers to the airport for return flights home.

Smith Scholar

Josh Miller has been a professor at Smith College School for Social Work since 1992. He has worked as a social worker, therapist, group worker and community organizer. Miller has focused on two major areas for his scholarship, teaching and writing. The first area is racism in the U.S. and the second is helping individuals and communities to recover from major disasters. He is the co-author of Racism in the United States: Implications for the Helping, now in its second edition, and the author of Psychosocial Capacity Building in Response to Disasters. Miller has focused on the impact of historical, structural and interpersonal racism on white people, as well as people of color and has also tackled racial stereotypes, micro-aggressions, implicit bias and how organizations can become antiracism institutions. His disaster work has taken him to Haiti, China, Sri Lanka and Uganda, as well as responding to domestic events such as 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina.
Program Costs and Inclusions

**Trip Price:** $3,920 per person, double occupancy
**Single room supplement:** $980 (Limited Availability)

**Trip price includes:** All hotel accommodations as listed in the itinerary based on double-occupancy; meals as listed in the itinerary (B,L,D); all tours; excursions; sightseeing; entrances; transportation in an air-conditioned motor coach; a Distant Horizons tour manager; gratuities and porterage. Trip price based on a minimum of 15 travelers. Price subject to small group surcharge if group size is under 15.

**Trip price does not include:** Airfare to Jackson and departing from Montgomery; beverages outside of the included one soft drink at mealtimes; personal insurance for health; baggage and trip cancellation; chambermaid gratuities and items of a purely personal nature.

*Note: Program not recommended for children under 11 years of age. Participants must be able to walk for long distances and up and down stairs without problems. Please note that this itinerary is subject to change.*

**For additional information or a more detailed itinerary,** contact Smith Travel at alumtrav@smith.edu or (800) 225-2029

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**On the Road to Freedom**

**Understanding the Civil Rights Movment**

March 15-22, 2020

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**To make a reservation please mail this form with a $1,000 deposit* check (per person) payable to “Distant Horizons” to:**

Smith Travel, Office of Alumnae Relations, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063

*Your deposit is refundable up to 60 days prior to departure less a $500 administration fee.

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**I/We have read the terms and conditions and authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:**

- [ ] I will share accommodations with: ____________________________
- [ ] I prefer single accommodations (limited availability, single supplement applies).
- [ ] I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is not available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first come, first served basis. Reservations to be paid in full 90 days prior to departure. Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, payable to Distant Horizons.
RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS: Reservations for this tour require a deposit of $1,000 per person and an application form signed by the participant. Final payment is due by January 15, 2020 and must be paid by check, payable to “Distant Horizons”.

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; 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.

Responsibility: Distant Horizons and Smith College act only in the capacity of agent 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 Smith College 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 Smith College cannot be held responsible for unfavorable weather or closure of access routes due to bad weather conditions. Distant Horizons and Smith College 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 Smith College are not responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the participant as a result of the above mentioned causes.

Tour participant acknowledges receipt of a copy of these terms and conditions and signifies acceptance of, and consents to, all of the terms and conditions set forth herein, on behalf of any participants they may act for and for themselves when registering for, or making payments on, this tour.