MAY 5: JACKSON

• After arriving independently in Jackson, make your own way to The Westin hotel.

• Early this afternoon, visit the recently opened Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. The museum tells the story of the state’s complex history.

• Enjoy an evening welcome reception and dinner with fellow travelers.

MAY 6: JACKSON

• Begin the day at the Medgar Evers Home Museum. Evers, the first field secretary for the NAACP in Mississippi, was assassinated in the driveway of his Jackson home in the early-morning hours of June 12, 1963. The driveway still bears faint bloodstains that trace the path Evers crawled after he was shot. Meet with Minnie White Watson, the curator of the property.

• Continue on to the studio of Malaco Records to meet with co-founder Wolf Stephenson. Malaco Records defines the state of contemporary southern rhythm and blues, soul, and gospel, with more than 30 years of making black music for black people, focusing on local artists and songwriters.

• Visit historic Farish Street in central Jackson. This neighborhood was the center of African-American life in the city during the Jim Crow era. These days, many storefronts are shuttered, but the Big Apple Inn, which opened in 1939, still remains. We’ll stop here for a small bite of smoked-sausage sandwiches or, for the more
MAY 7: LITTLE ROCK

• Depart Jackson in the morning and head north through the flatlands of the Mississippi Delta. Stop at the B.B. King Museum. From the cotton fields, street corners, and juke joints of the Mississippi Delta came the blues. Considered by many to be the only truly indigenous American music, blues music has influenced musicians worldwide and is deeply rooted in the Delta soil—and so is the man who helped spread this musical form as its foremost ambassador, Riley B.B. King.

• Enjoy a special lunch prepared by Mary Hoover, who along with her husband Sylvester own Hoover’s Store in Baptist Town. Mary has run several popular soul restaurants over the years and was involved in preparing the spreads for the food scenes in the movie, The Help.

• Close by is a former Greyhound bus station. A prominent site from the 1961 Freedom Rides against segregation, it has been lovingly renovated by architect Robert Parker Adams, whose architectural firm now occupies the art deco structure. It’s a few blocks from the State Capitol, which was built in 1903 and is where the Mississippi Legislature passed its notorious Jim Crow laws. Local business owner Daniel Dillion will lead our group through the Farish Street Corridor.

• Stop for lunch at Johnny Ts Bistro and Blues. Schedule permitting, we will be joined by Jackson Mayor Antar Lumumba and his Chief of Staff, Dr. Safiya Omari.

• Meet with Dr. Charles Beady, CEO of Mississippi Food Network, which operates a food bank which distributes food and household items to member agencies in Jackson.

• Ride through Baptist Town, which was established in the 1800s in tandem with the growth of the local cotton industry. Known for its strong sense of community, it is anchored by the McKinney Chapel Missionary Baptist Church and a former cotton compress. Meet with Sylvester Hoover, who will lead the group through Baptist Town and 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 Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church, where blues legend Robert Johnson is buried.

• Afterward, visit the nearby town of Money, where the first marker on the Mississippi Freedom Trail was placed at the former site of Bryant’s Grocery. This is where Emmitt Till was accused of whistling at white shopkeeper Carolyn Bryant in August 1955. The 14-year-old was kidnapped, tortured, and killed a few days later in a crime that helped set the civil-rights movement in motion. Today, the dilapidated building has almost crumbled to the ground from neglect.
• Stop in Sumner at the Emmett Till Interpretive Center, which educates visitors about the Emmett Till tragedy and points a way toward racial healing. Meet with museum director, Patrick Weems.

• Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before continuing on to Little Rock where we will check-in to the Burgundy Hotel.

MAY 8: MEMPHIS  

• This morning, visit Little Rock High School, a national historic site. The school was at the heart of the often-violent struggle over school desegregation, which helped force the nation to resolve to enforce African-American civil rights in the face of massive Southern defiance during the years following the Brown v. Board of Education decision. Meet with current Principal of Little Rock Central High School, Principal Rousseau and Minnijean Brown (or Elizabeth Eckord) one of the nine African-American students who broke the color barrier at Central High in 1957.

• Continue on to the William J. Clinton Presidential Center, housed in a gleaming modern space designed by the award-winning architect James Polshek and overlooking the Arkansas River. Enjoy lunch at the center’s restaurant.

• Ride for about three hours to Memphis and check into the Napoleon Hotel Memphis/Madison Hotel.

• Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. Joining us will be Scott Shepherd, once a high-ranking member of the KKK and David Duke’s ex-right hand man.

MAY 9: MEMPHIS  

• Start the morning at the Lorraine Motel, now the home of the National Civil Rights Museum. The motel was bought in 1945 by Walter and Loree Bailey and became a modest safe haven for black travelers who were welcomed, served home-cooked meals, and offered an upscale environment. The motel was listed in The Negro Motorist Green Book, also known as the “Green Guide,” a listing of businesses that were friendly to African Americans during the Jim Crow era.

• On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. stepped out of Room 306 of the Lorraine Motel and spoke with friends in the parking lot below. As King turned to walk back to his room, a bullet struck him in the neck, instantly taking his life.

• The museum is filled with artifacts, films, oral histories, and interactive media that guide visitors through five centuries of history, from slave resistance to the numerous protests of the American civil-rights movement. A large white wreath hangs on the balcony outside Room 306. It’s possible to gaze into the room, which has been preserved to capture exactly what it looked like on that tragic night.
• Across the street is the Legacy Building (the boarding house from which the assassin’s shot was allegedly fired), which examines the investigation of the assassination, the case against James Earl Ray, and ensuing conspiracy theories.

• Lunch today is at the world-famous Gus’s Fried Chicken.

• This afternoon, we’ll focus on Memphis’s music history, with a special tour led by a professional Beale Street musician. Learn about Memphis’s strong affiliations with not one musical genre but three: It’s the birthplace of rock ’n’ roll and the cradle of soul, and—though the blues weren’t born here (that distinction goes to the rural parts of the Mississippi Delta)—it was the Memphis-based musician and “Father of the Blues” W.C. Handy who helped get those “lonesome songs” out into the world. Stop at the Stax Museum of American Soul, which provides an insight to the civil-rights story set within the Memphis music scene.

• A mile north is the Slave Haven Underground Railway Museum, where dark cellars, hidden passageways, and trapdoors were used by runaway slaves attempting to flee to freedom in the North. Built by abolitionist and German immigrant Jacob Burkle, this modest home tells the story of the Memphis slave trade and the Underground Railroad.

• Dinner is at your leisure this evening.

MAY 10: BIRMINGHAM B, L, D

• Travel to Birmingham and visit the 16th Street Baptist Church. It was here that a bomb killed four young African-American girls as they prepared to sing in their choir on September 15, 1963. The incident caused national outrage and brought attention to the horrors endured by Southern blacks at the hands of the Ku Klux Klan. Meet with Dr. Rev. Carolyn McKinstry, who was 14 and inside the church when the bomb exploded.

• Continue on to Selma and stop by Brown Chapel. Founded by freed slaves in 1908, the Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church was the site of Malcolm X’s address in support of voting rights, Dr. King’s eulogy for Jimmie Lee Jackson, and Jackson’s funeral. Here we will meet with Michelle Browder, founder of I AM MORE THAN..., a Montgomery-based non-profit which encourages and serves young adults.

• Drive to the Slavery Museum for a conversation with Foot Solider, Annie Pearl Avery, whose civil rights work spans decades.

• Continue on to the Edmund Pettus Bridge. A group of approximately 500 civil-rights advocates left Brown Chapel on March 7, 1965, and attempted to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge to march along US Route 80 to Montgomery, the state capital. At the bridge, the Alabama State Police blocked the road and ordered the assembled marchers to disperse. When the marchers refused, the troopers attacked and beat them, forcing them back to Brown Chapel.

• Though the marchers did not succeed in reaching Selma, their treatment by the police highlighted the danger to people of all races who supported the civil- rights movement and universal voting rights.

• In August of 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act, granting the redress sought by the thousands who marched and countless others throughout the country. The final Selma-to- Montgomery march that ended at Montgomery’s Capitol steps on March 25, 1965, was the culmination of the modern civil-rights movement.

• The group will travel the 54 miles between Selma and Montgomery and follow the route of the marchers who helped change American history.
The Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail commemorates the events, people, and route of the 1965 voting-rights march in Alabama.

- In Selma, visit the Interpretive Center, which marks the location where armed forces attacked the first wave of unarmed marchers on Bloody Sunday.

- Arrive in Montgomery and check into the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel.

- Dinner this evening is on your own.

**MAY 11: MONTGOMERY B, L, D**

- Depart the hotel and walk to the waterfront to learn more about African and Native American enslavement. Montgomery was the capital of domestic slave trade in Alabama.

- Walk to the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church and Parsonage, where Martin Luther King Jr. was a pastor from 1954 to 1960. See where he lived when his house was bombed, an event that cemented Dr. King’s commitment to nonviolence.

- Continue on to the Southern Poverty Law Center and meet with Lecia Brooks, Outreach Director for the center and Director of the Civil Rights Memorial, to learn more about the center’s key initiatives and work on social justice issues. Afterward visit the nearby Civil Rights Memorial, created by Vietnam Veterans Memorial designer Maya Lin.

- Enjoy lunch at Chris’ Hot Dogs, which was founded on historic Dexter Street in 1917. Dexter Street is where many momentous historical events occurred, including where the order to start the American Civil War was sent by telegram; where Martin Luther King Jr. accepted his call to ministry; and where Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat. Dexter Street has been an avenue of change over its many years.

- After lunch, visit with senior staff at the Equal Justice Initiative’s (EJI) headquarters to learn more about the organization’s work. Schedule permitting, meet with EJI Founder and Executive Director, Bryan Stevenson.

- Later visit the newly opened EJI’s National Memorial for Peace and Justice. The memorial is the nation’s first memorial dedicated to the legacy of enslaved black people, people 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 to the Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration. Created by the EJI, the museum looks into the history of racial injustice and the narratives that have sustained injustice across generations.

- Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner and reception at Central restaurant.

**MAY 12: DEPART B, L, D**

- Depart independently to the airport and flights home.
**Pricing**

Per person double occupancy: **$4,140**  
Single supplement: **$890**

**Subject Expert**

Your host for the trip will be **André Robert Lee**, a teacher, producer, and acclaimed documentary filmmaker who has led multiple civil-rights tours of the American South over the past several years. He directed and produced *The Prep School Negro* and has visited over 350 high schools, colleges, universities, and conferences with his film-based workshop. His most recent work includes a film about how junior- and senior-high-school students are responding to the 2016 presidential election, and a documentary about incarcerated youth who create art to fight recidivism in Richmond, Virginia.

**Included**

- Accommodations as listed in the itinerary based on double occupancy  
- Meals as listed in the program, including soft drinks  
- Bottled water on buses  
- Sightseeing and excursions as listed with all entrances fees  
- Transportation in a deluxe motor coach with air-conditioning  
- Services of a tour manager and subject expert  
- All gratuities  
- Welcome and farewell receptions

**Does Not Include**

- Airfare to Jackson and from Montgomery  
- Luggage charges  
- Drinks at included lunches and dinners, except for soft drinks  
- Personal insurance for health, baggage, and trip cancellation  
- Items of a purely personal nature  
- Any items not listed