



The Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham, Selma, & Montgomery, Alabama

with Camille Z. Charles,
Walter H. and Leonore C. Annenberg Professor in the Social Sciences

October 21 – 26, 2024

Dear Penn Alumni and Friends,

In October 2024, nearly 60 years after the passage of the Voting Rights Act and 70 years after the start of the Montgomery bus boycott, embark on an enlightening journey that offers insight into the lasting impact of the Civil Rights Movement. In partnership with the Weitzman School of Design's Center for the Preservation of Civil Rights Sites, join us in Birmingham, Selma, and Montgomery, Alabama, cities where pivotal moments unfolded, led by the passionate foot soldiers and activists who witnessed and helped shape the movement in the 1950s and '60s. Take part in private tours guided by experts who will vividly illustrate how history was forged.

Your distinguished Penn lecturer for this program is Alabama native **Camille Z. Charles**, Walter H. and Leonore C. Annenberg Professor in the Social Sciences. With her expertise and research on racial inequality and residential segregation, she will provide invaluable knowledge and insights during our journey.

Over our two-night stay in Birmingham, you will first visit Historic Bethel Baptist Church, the birthplace of the church-led Civil Rights Movement. Hear from a survivor of the 16th St. Baptist Church bombing that killed four of her friends, all little girls, on September 15, 1963 and her story of resilience. A historian will also offer inside looks at several important sites, including the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the Birmingham Jail made famous by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 1963 letter.

In Selma, you will walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in the footsteps of John Lewis and nearly 600 others who marched for voting rights, facing police batons on "Bloody Sunday." Visit historic landmarks like Brown Chapel AME Church. Dine at the Tabernacle Baptist Church, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was invited in 1964, and enjoy an exclusive talk with Black women from the nearby town of Gee's Bend, world-renowned for the artistry of its centuries-old patchwork-quilting traditions.

During our three-night stay in Montgomery, go behind the scenes at the Rosa Parks Museum; the Freedom Rides Museum, housed in the old Greyhound bus station where the Freedom Riders arrived; and the technologically innovative Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration, which charts the enduring impact of slavery in the U.S. In an incredible highlight, hear the remarkable stories of the Harris family at the Dr. Richard Harris House, named after the civil rights activist and celebrated Tuskegee Airman who offered his home as a safe haven to the Freedom Riders.

Conclude with a private tour, a traditional Southern dinner, and an exclusive musical performance at the Bricklayers Hall, where much of Montgomery's bus boycott was organized. **Join us for this extraordinary experience and reserve today by calling our partners at Arrangements Abroad (212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944).**

With warm regards from Penn,



Emilie C. K. LaRosa
Assistant Director, Penn Alumni Travel



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

ACCOMPANY Professor **Camille Z. Charles** on a powerful five-night immersion into the Civil Rights Movement's legacy in Birmingham, Selma, and Montgomery, Alabama, cities that witnessed tragedies and triumphs that changed the course of history

JOIN experts, historians, and activists as you go behind the scenes of pivotal sites in all three cities, including Birmingham's Historic Bethel Baptist Church, considered the birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement, and Montgomery's Rosa Parks Museum

ENJOY an exclusive audience with Dr. Rev. Carolyn Maull McKinstry, as she relays her story of surviving the 1963 16th St. Baptist Church bombing as a young girl and how it changed the course of her life

VISIT Selma in the company of a foot soldier and activist who participated in the Voting Rights March, and savor a private lunch at the illustrious Tabernacle Baptist Church, whose members invited Dr. Martin Luther King here in 1964

FOLLOW in the footsteps of John Lewis and hundreds of other demonstrators as you walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, an unforgettable experience

DELIGHT in a very special, exclusive visit to Montgomery's Dr. Richard Harris House, where you will privately meet with the family of Dr. Harris and learn the story of how the civil rights activist offered his home as a safe haven for the Freedom Riders

MEET representatives from the Equal Justice Initiative, founded by the author of *Just Mercy*, public interest lawyer Bryan Stevenson

CONCLUDE with a festive, private traditional dinner of soul food at Montgomery's historic Bricklayers Hall, followed by a joyful private musical performance of songs that united activists of the movement

TRAVELING WITH YOU



Camille Z. Charles is Walter H. and Leonore C. Annenberg Professor in the Social Sciences in the Departments of Sociology and Africana Studies and in the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania. Her areas of research include racial inequality, racial identity, racial attitudes, intergroup relations, residential segregation, and higher education. Professor Charles currently serves as Chair of the Department of Africana Studies and Interim Director of the Center for Africana

Studies. She also directs programs to support low-income and first-generation students. Charles has written several books, including *Won't You Be My Neighbor: Race, Class and Residence in Los Angeles*, which examines why residential segregation persists. She also co-authored *The Source of the River: The Social Origins of Freshmen at America's Selective Colleges and Universities* and *Taming the River: Negotiating the Academic, Financial, and Social Currents in Selective Colleges and Universities*, which explore racial differences in experiences at selective colleges. She is the co-author of the new book *Young, Gifted, and Diverse: Origins of the New Black Elite*, which takes an intersectional approach to understanding diversity among Black students at elite schools. Professor Charles earned her Ph.D. at the University of California, Los Angeles in 1996.

The Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham, Selma, & Montgomery, Alabama

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Birmingham Civil Rights Institute



Kelly Ingram Park, Birmingham

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21: ARRIVE IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Arrive independently this morning in Birmingham. After checking into the hotel and some free time this afternoon, transfer by motor coach to the Historic Bethel Baptist Church, which is considered the birthplace of the church-led Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and '60s. Gather for a Southern-style dinner in the church's community room, and listen to the story of a survivor of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing on Sunday morning, September 15, 1963. D

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22: BIRMINGHAM

Embark on a comprehensive exploration of Birmingham's history and civil rights legacy with expert guidance, beginning at Vulcan Park, home to the world's largest cast-iron statue—a magnificent symbol of civic art crafted by Italian artist Giuseppe Moretti in 1904. Continue to Birmingham Jail, made famous by Martin Luther King, Jr.'s impassioned "Letter from Birmingham Jail," written in response to religious leaders who opposed nonviolent protests in 1963.

Next, journey to "Dynamite Hill," a neighborhood scarred by the Ku Klux Klan's relentless bombings targeting Black homeowners, followed by a visit to Linn Park, where the removal of a prominent Confederate monument in 2020 echoed the nationwide outcry over the tragic murder of George Floyd. Finally, explore Phillips High School, where brave integration efforts starting in 1957 inspired a decade-long struggle to desegregate Birmingham's schools.

After lunch at leisure, walk through Kelly Ingram Park, the historic site where civil rights demonstrators were viciously assaulted by Birmingham police and firemen in May 1963. Continue your journey by exploring the powerful exhibits housed within the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and a key element of the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument, whose mission is to foster a full understanding of the relentless pursuit of civil rights in Birmingham. B,D

Historic Bethel Baptist Church, Birmingham



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23: BIRMINGHAM / SELMA / MONTGOMERY

Our guide, a former student activist in the Voting Rights March, will join us this morning as we depart by motor coach to Selma, where marches led to the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. A drive through Selma's neighborhoods will show us such pivotal landmarks during the campaign such as First Baptist Church and the Brown Chapel AME Church.

Conclude this driving tour at Tabernacle Baptist Church, whose members were active in the Dallas County Voters League that invited Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to Selma in 1964. After lunch in the church's community hall, hear the personal stories of two women from Boykin, more famously known as Gee's Bend, a rural, predominantly Black community near Selma whose current inhabitants can trace their lineage directly back to the enslaved individuals who toiled on Joseph Gee's cotton plantation, established in 1816. This small town has a unique patchwork quilting tradition that dates to the 19th century, and these quilts are considered some of the most important contributions to modern and American art.

This afternoon, depart Selma and walk across the landmark Edmund Pettus Bridge, retracing the footsteps of voting rights marchers, including the 600 nonviolent protesters who were attacked by police on March 7, 1965, known as "Bloody Sunday."

Afterwards, stop at the National Park's Lowndes Interpretive Center. Dedicated to the individuals who embarked on the historic 54-mile march from Selma to Montgomery for voting rights, this National Park Service site in Lowndes County stands as a repository of information and a poignant reminder of marchers' sacrifices. The center features audio-visual presentations and self-guided exhibits on the tragic death of seminarian Jonathan Daniels, the slaying of Viola Liuzzo—a white woman who aided marchers—and the creation of the "Tent City" that sheltered families displaced by white landowners.

Upon arrival in Alabama's capital city of Montgomery this evening, check into your hotel and enjoy dinner at leisure. B,L



Freedom Rides Museum, Montgomery

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24: MONTGOMERY

During a special morning visit to the Rosa Parks Museum, explore the profound legacy of the woman whose refusal to give up her bus seat launched a movement. Then join an expert for a walking tour through Montgomery's historically significant Court Square-Dexter Avenue Business District, where the dark history of the slave trade once unfolded, Rosa Parks was arrested, and the telegram that triggered the Civil War was issued. Journey on foot to the former Montgomery Greyhound Station, now the Freedom Rides Museum, where a multiracial group of Freedom Riders, including the esteemed John Lewis, arrived in 1961 to challenge racial segregation on public transportation, enduring brutal attacks.

After lunch, drive up Dexter Avenue past the Alabama State Capitol and Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, where Dr. King was pastor during the bus boycott. Continue on to the historically Black neighborhood of Centennial Hill area, where you will meet the Harris family on an exclusive visit to the Dr. Richard Harris House. Dr. Harris, grandson of Alabama State Senator John W. Jones, was not only a captain in the renowned 99th Squadron Tuskegee Airmen during World War II but also a dedicated pharmacist who owned Montgomery's oldest Black drug store, Dean Drug Store. An avid supporter of civil rights, Dr. Harris opened his home as a safe haven for the group of 33 Freedom Riders who arrived in the city in May 1961.

This evening, enjoy some time on your own, with dinner at leisure. B,L

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25: MONTGOMERY

Located near Montgomery's rail station, where countless Black individuals were trafficked and auctioned into slavery during the 19th century, the Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration explores American history with a particular emphasis on the enduring legacy of slavery. Engage with its thought-provoking audio-visual exhibits at your own pace, including a Transatlantic Slave Trade wing featuring more than 200 sculptures and original animated short films narrated by performers such as Lupita Nyong'o,



Lowndes Interpretive Center, Montgomery, photo by Chris Grainger



Legacy Museum, Montgomery

Don Cheadle, and Wendell Pierce. Additionally, meet with a representative from the museum's owner, the Equal Justice Initiative, established by renowned public interest lawyer Bryan Stevenson, author of the best-selling memoir *Just Mercy*.

After lunch at leisure, visit the Southern Poverty Law Center's Civil Rights Memorial Center and the powerful National Memorial for Peace and Justice. Conclude with a tour and dinner at the historic Bricklayers Hall, the headquarters of the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA). Originally owned by a union of Black bricklayers, this building provided a safe space for organizing and served as a distribution center for supplies during the historic 381-day Montgomery Bus Boycott, which began in December 1955. Go behind the scenes at this historic building. Then gather for a lively traditional Southern dinner here, followed by an exciting performance from some of Montgomery's most talented musicians.

B,D

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26: MONTGOMERY / BIRMINGHAM / RETURN

After breakfast and checking out of the hotel, transfer to Birmingham Airport for your flights home.

B

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ACCOMMODATIONS

**HAMPTON INN & SUITES
BIRMINGHAM-DOWNTOWN-TUTWILER**

Situated near Birmingham's Civil Rights District, this hotel features comfortable rooms and suites. Enjoy the hotel's complimentary hot breakfast, free Wi-Fi, and delicious dining at the Six Sixteen Restaurant & Bar.

SPRINGHILL SUITES MONTGOMERY DOWNTOWN

This all-suite hotel combines stylish design and functionality. Enjoy free Wi-Fi and a fitness center. Start your day with a complimentary breakfast featuring fresh selections.



Springhill Suites Montgomery Downtown

PROGRAM RATE

\$3,499 per person, double rate

\$4,499 single rate

RATE INCLUDES

- Five nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner). Purified potable water for you to refill your water bottle; iced tea and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at dinners
- Enrichment program of talks/experiences with civil rights activists and educators
- Expert-guided sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Local tour manager/guide from the Alabama Civil Rights Tourism Association
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES Airfare; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than the optional group transfer to Birmingham Airport on October 26; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



Edmund Pettus Bridge, Selma



Rosa Parks Museum, Montgomery, photo by Elaine Chu



Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, Montgomery

...UNTIL JUSTICE ROLLS DOWN LIKE WATERS
AND RIGHTEOUSNESS LIKE A MIGHTY STREAM

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR



Civil Rights Memorial, Montgomery, photo by Jamie Martin

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
THE LEGACY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
OCTOBER 21 – 26, 2024
RESERVATION FORM

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ACCOMMODATIONS

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